

SNAPS

35 hurt in Ctg road mishap

CU CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
At least 35 workers of a garments factory including 20 women were injured in a road accident here on Friday.

Police sources said, the accident occurred when a hired bus of Meher Group of Industries hit a light post near Nasirabad Women's College at around 12.30pm as the driver lost control over steering.

Some of the injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) but their identity could not be known.

No case was lodged.

44 primary school teachers deprived of salaries

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Patuakhali

Forty four primary school teachers are not getting their salaries for four months in the district.

As a result their families will not be able to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr this year.

However, the Primary Education Office sources here said, the aforementioned teachers were under the ADB. They are not getting their salaries from June this year due to expiry of the project.

2 children die in wall collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Barisal

Two girl children were killed when a brick wall collapsed on them on Saturday in Aptarkhana area in the city.

Choity, 5 and Suma, 4, were playing near the old boundary wall of a property owned by BCC Ward Commissioner Selim Howlader. They died on the spot when the wall collapsed on them suddenly.

Local people alleged that they repeatedly told the ward commissioner earlier to demolish the dilapidated wall, but he ignored.

PBCP 'regional leader' held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A regional leader of Jana Juddho faction of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) -- Abdus Salam -- was arrested on Friday by joint forces from near Boyra Government Girls College in Khalishpur.

A sawn-off rifle, a gun and 15 bullets were recovered from his possession, police said.

Police said the outlaw confessed to his involvement in several murders committed in the south-Western region in last three years. He is being interrogated.

Mugging, extortion on rise in Rajshahi city ahead of Eid

Plainclothes police collect toll from markets, traders allege

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Incidents of mugging and extortion have increased in Rajshahi city ahead of the Eid despite special measures by police to maintain law and order during the Ramadan.

Police are indifferent to such incidents, many city dwellers alleged. Allegations have it that a section of policemen are also involved in toll collection.

Police officials admitted that mugging at night increased in some city areas, but they refuted the allegation of police helping the miscreants or collecting toll.

Ninety-four residents of Kalabagan area submitted a petition to the officer-in-charge of the Boalia thana on Wednesday requesting him to check incidents of mugging, especially on the Shahid Abdul Halim Road, stretching from Rajshahi Medical College auditorium to Mahanagar Clinic.

Policemen are seldom seen in the area. The road remains dark, as most streetlights are out of order for long. Muggers in the area often use firearms.

Just after sehti on Thursday, muggers took away cell phones and Tk 2,000 from two persons.

Police were informed of the incident and the alleged muggers -- Nazrul and Munnah-- were named, but the two are moving freely now.

The portion of the Greater Road from Gourahanga Crossing to TB Hospital Crossing, Bhadra-Talaimari Road, Kalpana-Sericulture Bypass Road, Bhadra-Bus Terminal Road and areas around Rajshahi University are mugging spots for the last two weeks.

When contacted, officers-in-charge of different police said they could not take any step as most of the victims of mugging did not report to police.

The Rajshahi Metropolitan Police beefed up security especially for Ramadan. The four police station areas of the city have been divided into 50 units and one contingent of police has been

deployed in each unit.

Plainclothes police have also been deployed in shopping areas in addition to police in uniform.

A police camp has been set up at the RDA Market, Saheb Bazaar. Some mobile patrol teams are on patrol at important city places.

Despite all these, mugging continues.

Many residents alleged that police are more interested in collecting toll from businessmen, road occupiers, smugglers and truckers, and sometimes from criminals.

Many businessmen alleged that extortion was almost nil even three weeks ago. It has become rampant as Eid is approaching.

"Some of the extortionist groups have links with police", said a top leader of Rajshahi Businessmen's Alliance Council.

A group of local photo-journalists during a visit to Saheb Bazar on Wednesday night found four policemen

in civil dress (known as 'cashiers' of four police stations in the city) were frequenting shops one after another and collecting toll.

Traders at the market said police took a 'fixed amount of toll' daily for what they called maintaining security in the market.

Asked why they did not complain to higher police officials, they said it will yield no result.

Aslam Iqbal, OC of Boalia police station, denied the allegation and said he did not get any such complaint.

Tolls are collected from Shaheb Bazar, RD Market, New Market, Gausia Market, Karim Super Market, Hawkers Market, Uposahar New Market and shops at Sona Dighee crossing.

Shop owners there alleged that toll collectors, backed by political parties take away about 40 percent of their profit.

Killing of AL leader Bappi Hartal observed at Tangail

A CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A half-day hartal was observed in the town yesterday at the call of the district Awami League (AL) protesting the killing of party leader Aminur Rahman Khan Bappi.

Unidentified assailants gunned down Bappi, 37, when he along with his friend Motiar Rahman Moti, an NGO executive, was going to mosque for Tarabi prayer at

College Para Friday evening. The reason behind the killings could not be known.

The hartal was spontaneous and no untoward incident took place during the hartal from 6 am to 12 noon. Shops remained closed and transports kept off the roads during the hartal hours.

The body of Bappi was buried at the Central Graveyard in the town on Saturday after Namaz-e-Janaza at the

Eidgah ground.

AL presidium member Abdur Razzak and other AL leaders attended the Janaza.

State Minister for Jute Lutfor Rahman Khan visited the residence of the deceased AL leader and expressed sympathy with members of the bereaved family. He ordered police to arrest the killers.

'Pritilata' film premiered in Chittagong

CU CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The premiere show of "Pritilata", a documentary film named after the veteran Bengalee woman leader who organised a mass revolt against the British rule in the sub-continent, was held at the Chittagong Press Club on Friday.

Biploby Binode Bihari Chodhury was present at the ceremony as chief guest. A discussion meeting was also held on the occasion.

Speakers at the function said Pritilata is a pride of Bengalee nation but many in the present generation do not know about the fiery leader. The documentary will help them learn about her and the history of Bengal.

Binode Bihari said the documentary will also inspire the new generation with patriotism.

Noted artist and Prof Ansar Ali of Fine Arts department of Chittagong University presided over the functions.

Among others, general secretary of Chittagong Union of Journalists Shahidul Alam, Lion AHM Kafil Uddin, cultural personality Dewan Moksud and Md. Ali Murad also attended the function.

The filmmaker and director, Rupam Chawckrabarti, conducted the ceremony.

Case filed for killing boy by Hasina's motorcade

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Dimla police have filed a case in connection with the killing of school student Kajol by a vehicle in the motorcade of Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina during her recent visit to the area.

The case (No 13) was filed on Thursday by Dimla thana officer-in-charge Abdul Hamid, but no accused was named.

The mishap took place when Sheikh Hasina was going to Chatani Colony High School ground in Dimla to attend a public meeting. She was on a four-day visit to the monga-affected areas.

Witnesses said Kajol and his friend Pear Ali were resetting their bi-cycle chain beside the road.

A microbus at the end of the motorcade hit them. The witnesses said the bi-cycle got entangled with the rear bumper of the vehicle but it did not stop. A rickshaw van puller Akbar Ali and teenager Moni took Kajol to Dimla upazila health complex in a critical condition. As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital where he died the same night.

Notorious pirate gang leader Faruk killed?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Notorious pirate gang leader Faruk Sarder was killed in a recent encounter with police on the Meghna and the body was washed away downstream, two of his arrested associates told police on Saturday.

Faruk's pirate gang, known as Faruk Bahini, maintains links with ruling party men, they also said during interrogation.

But police could not find Faruk's body and did not confirm that he was killed.

Tipped-off, detective police arrested speedboat owner Delwar from Barisal launch terminal at about noon on Saturday.

Acting on his confession, police immediately raided Vatikhana area and arrested alleged Faruk Bahini member Alam Sarder from Munshibari.

Delwar told police that four days ago, he rented a speedboat to Faruk, Jahangir and another pirate gang leader at Tk 600 per day after they were introduced to him by JCD (Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal) leader Zehad.

Since then he knew nothing about the speedboat and its driver.

Police said Alam told them that Faruk was killed in a gunfight with police on the Meghna four days ago and his body was washed away downstream.

Police officials of Barisal and Bhola are jointly interrogating the two and examining their statements.

Police also suspect that the statement of Faruk's associates could be false and an attempt to save him.

Police chase

Ershad Shikder's accomplice Saddam drowns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

'Listed criminal' Saddam Shaikh, 40, an accomplice of Ershad Shikder, might have drowned in Bhairab river during a chase by joint forces on Friday, witnesses said.

But police said could not find his body till Saturday. Search by divers was continuing.

The witnesses said fleeing bullet-hit Saddam jumped into the river and is missing since then.

Saddam's wife said her husband was killed by joint forces.

But AC of Kotwali zone MA Alif refuted the allegation and said joint forces traded shots with Saddam and his gang Friday night at Skid Ghat.

Saddam's younger brother Elias Hossain said his brother died after receiving bullets on head.

A woman handling worker at Skid Ghat --Champa Begum --said she saw bullet-hit Saddam jumped into the river from the ghat. Since these he has been missing.

Saddam was the ringleader of an organised gang of pilferers of goods from rail wagons. He went into hiding after arrest of Ershad Shikder, but surfaced again early last year with the blessing of a top BNP leader.



A discussion meeting on 'Role of Mass Media in Strengthening Local Government' jointly organised by BCDJC and Saidpur Press Club was held in Saidpur on Wednesday. Picture shows BCDJC Director Samar Roy (3rd from left) speaking while leaders of different professional groups and local government bodies took part.

'LGRD ministry-UP leaders conflict weakens local govt'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Conflict between LGRD Ministry and Union Parishad (UP) leaders, non-cooperation of law makers (MPs) with local government representatives, unwillingness to fulfill polls pledges by elected representatives, apathetic

attitude towards representatives of the opposition political parties, tendency to keep women representatives non-functional and insolvency of administrative institutions at the grassroots level were identified as some of the major obstacles to strengthen local government.

Discussions identified the problems at a lively discussion meeting titled "Role of Mass Media in Strengthening Local Government," jointly organised by the Bangladesh Centre for Development Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) and Saidpur Press Club with the economic assistance of USAID and in collaboration with ARD 'Local Government Initiative' at the club of the railway city on Wednesday.

Participants suggested the mass media to motivate people and inspire local government representatives to interact with people more frequently and more closely. They opined that

mass media would pinpoint their burning problems and would also suggest probable solutions to strengthen local government institutions.

Leading personalities of different professions including Chairman of Nilphamari municipality Dewan Kamal Ahmed, President of Nilphamari District UP Chairmen Association Md Shah Jahan Chowdhury, Principal Abdul Gafur, woman leader Rabeya Alim, school teacher Wazeda Islam, ex-lawmaker Abdul Alim, ex-Saidpur municipality chairmen Bakhtiar Kabir and Ijahar Ahamed, ex-upazila chairman Abdul Hamid and journalists of various national dailies took part.

BCDJC Director Samar Roy who conducted the entire programme thanked the participants for coming up with valuable suggestions.

An Iftar party followed the discussion meeting.

Arson at Jubo league leader's house: Six held at Jhalakathi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A case has been filed in connection with Friday night's arson at the house of Jubo League leader Saidur Rahman Swapan at Rajpasha in Shekherhat in Jhalakathi district.

Swapan's maternal uncle Amirul Islam lodged the case with Jhalakathi Sadar thana under sections 307, 433, 433, 440 and 448 of CrPC without naming any accused.

Swapan, Shekherhat union Jubo League president, and five members of his family were injured in the arson.

Some sources claimed that Swapan's rival local JCD (Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal) leader Hasan was behind the arson.

Police arrested six suspects from the area.

They are Jalal Ahmad, Farid Khan, Abdus Salam, Akkas Ali, Sheikh Likhon and Motalab Howlader.

Quoting eyewitnesses, police earlier said the attackers cordoned off the house, locked its doors from outside and set it on fire.

Seeing flames, neighbours rushed there and saved the trapped victims. The attackers left a banner of Santrash Nirmul Committee (committee to root out terrorism) at the spot.

Local people said Swapan has enmity with local JCD leader Hasan, also accused in several cases including murder cases.

High officials of police said the incident is under investigation.

Some sources claimed that policemen at the police outpost barely 100 yards away did not take any action when the house was in flames.

Some other sources claimed that the house was torched by people who acme from outside the area.

Swapan's mother Rawshan Ara, 65, sister Chhabi Begum, 25, wife Rehana Begum, 30, son Fahad, 5, nephew Maruff, 4, were also injured in the incident. They are under treatment at Barisal-Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. Condition of Rawshan Ara and Fahad is serious, doctors said.