

Fish trader hacked to death in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A gang of miscreants hacked a fish trader to death in the district yesterday.

He was identified as Nazim Uddin, 28, of Kutubkhali village under Banskhal Police Station.

Police said the incident occurred at around 9.00am when Nazim was returning home from a nearby bazaar.

About five to six miscreants attacked him when he reached near his home.

Hearing his hue and cry Nazim's wife rushed to the scene and begged mercy for her husband but the goons ignored her and chopped Nazim indiscriminately to death.

Police recovered the body and sent it

to Chittagong Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Sources said Nazim had a long-drawn feud with some locals over land property and that might be the cause for his killing.

A case was filed with Banskhal Police Station in this regard.

None was arrested till writing of this report in the afternoon.

Seminar on English held in Natore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A seminar on 'Learning a second language: English in Bangladesh' was held in Abdulpur Government College in Natore on Monday.

Samyathree Bhowmik, a lecturer of English, presented the seminar paper while Professor Dr Md Hafizur Rahman, principal of the college, chaired the session.

Md Shahadat Iqbal, assistant professor of the same department, played the role of main critic.

The essay focused on the importance of learning English, the present state of English language in Bangladesh and the ways to improve the standard.

Both the teachers and students participated in discussion spontaneously showing eagerness to share their views on this issue.

Prof Karim appointed acting VC of IU

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushia

Prof Dr Anwarul Karim has been appointed as the acting Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Islamic University.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, also the Chancellor of the university, confirmed the appointment in a letter yesterday.

Prof Karim also served as Treasurer at the university.

He has been asked to carry on the duties of VC until a new VC is appointed.



PHOTO: STAR

National Front of Teachers and Employees stages a demonstration at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday protesting the police action on agitating teachers at Agargaon Technical College and demanding punishment to the policemen responsible.

Five killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and 21 others injured in separate road accidents in Narsingdi, Chittagong and Mymensingh yesterday and on Monday night.

UNB from Narsingdi adds: Two people were killed and another was critically injured in a road accident at Baburnat on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Firoz Miah, 35, worker of Pakiza Spinning Mills, and his sister Rina Perveen, 26. Firoz Miah's 8-year-old son Najmul was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Witnesses said the accident took place when a Dhaka-bound BRTC bus, coming from Narsingdi, hit Firoz, Najmul and Rina in front of the Pakiza Spinning Mills at about 9:30 am, leaving Firoz dead on the spot and Najmul and Rina injured. The bus hit them while they were crossing the road on the way home from duty.

Rina succumbed to her injuries on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

As soon as the news of the accident reached the coworkers, they took to the street at about 10:30 am and damaged at least five passing vehicles on the road.

On information, police rushed to the spot and charged batons to disperse the mob, triggering a clash between the mill workers and the law enforcers that left some 20 people injured.

The injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

Traffic on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway was disrupted for about an hour from 10:30 am due to the trouble.

The body of Firoz Miah was sent to the Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Our CU Correspondent reports: A minor girl was killed in a road accident on Chittagong-Hathazari Road at Kulgaon area under Bayezid Police Station yesterday.

The victim was identified as Surma, 12, a domestic help, hailed from Noakhali district.

Sources said a city service bus knocked her while she was crossing the road at around 11:00am. She died on the spot.

Police seized the bus while its driver and helper managed to escape.

Her body was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, sources said.

Our Correspondent from Mymensingh reports: Two people were killed and 20 others injured in a road accident at Bagunda on Mymensingh-Sherpur highway in Phulpur upazila on Monday night.

The victims were identified as Suruj Ali, 55, of Nakla in Sherpur and Mujibur Raman, 60, of Dithpur in Phulpur upazila.

Police and locals said the accident took place when a passenger bus bound for Nalitabari in Sherpur from Dhaka skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch when the driver lost control over the steering at 9.30pm, leaving two on the spot and 20 others injured.

Of the injured, six were rushed to Phulpur Upazila Health Complex while others were admitted to local clinics.

The bodies were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) for autopsy.

Rlys now prime terrorist targets

REUTERS, Sydney

More Mumbai-style train attacks are inevitable, particularly in Asia and Africa, as terrorist groups target vulnerable rail networks because of heightened airport security, say analysts.

Security has been ramped up at airports since the September 11 hijacked airliner attacks on the United States in 2001: Passengers are now randomly screened for bomb-making residue and face tighter identity controls.

Rail networks, by comparison, have had only minor security upgrades such as the installation of surveillance cameras, the removal of rubbish bins and public awareness campaigns.

Security analysts say it is impossible to make the world's ageing rail networks -- open transport systems with multiple entry and exit points -- completely secure.

Seven bombs on commuter trains and platforms in India's finan-

cial hub, Mumbai, on July 11 killed 181 people and wounded hundreds. It was the third major attack on a commuter train system in two years after blasts in Madrid and London.

"Trains are absolutely the new favoured target of terrorists due to the security at airports," said Neil Fergus, former Sydney 2000 Olympic chief, and now head of Intelligent Risk in Sydney.

"India's rail network is incredibly complex and huge. The notion of applying industrialised security there is almost laughable," said Fergus.

"We are likely to find there will be more attacks in India, Indonesia and the north Africa environment."

Simultaneous bomb explosions in packed, rush-hour trains in three Madrid stations in 2004 killed 191 people and wounded more than 1,800. Four suicide bomb blasts on underground trains and a bus in London in 2005 kill 52 people and injured 700.

The former head of counter-terrorism analysis in India's external

intelligence agency says rail networks may be targeted again because terrorists believe such attacks have been politically successful.

"Terrorists have convinced themselves that it was their successful strike on trains in Madrid which forced the state (Spain) to withdraw its troops from Iraq," says B. Raman, who is now director of the Institute for Topical Studies in Chennai.

"Mumbai was a copycat of Madrid. There could be copycats elsewhere," Raman told Reuters.

SOFT TARGET

Rail authorities around the world have upgraded security, installing more closed-circuit televisions, removing rubbish bins from stations and launching awareness programmes asking commuters to look out for suspicious packages. But none have implemented passenger screening for fear of causing commuter chaos and anger.

Kenya sinks deeper in corruption

REUTERS, Nairobi

A government inquiry does not know the real names of two men it is investigating, nor their nationality, nor whether they are brothers as they claim.

A lawyer trying to represent the two alleged "Armenians" was sent away and told to come back when he works out who they are.

These are two of the more bizarre aspects of a dizzying series of corruption scandals, piled one on another, which have deepened Kenya's reputation as one of the most graft-infested places in the world, rated 144th out of 158 in the latest survey by the Transparency International (TI) corruption watchdog.

And in another surreal twist, the Kenyan branch of TI last month fired its executive director for corruption.

Recently, new scandals have involved the central bank -- whose governor is on trial for nepotism -- a private bank suspected of money laundering, Kenya's biggest supermarket chain accused of massive tax evasion, and perhaps most seriously a glaring security breach at Nairobi airport.

hurried deportation of the "Armenians" and the commission itself are a cover-up to hide the fact they enjoyed protection from powerful figures.

The Arturs, known for their tight black shirts, gold "bling" and big parties, first came under public scrutiny in March when an opposition leader accused them of being mercenaries who led a police commando raid on Kenya's second biggest media house.

Internal Security Minister John Michuki staunchly defended the raid as being in the interests of national security despite a storm of domestic and international criticism.

IMPLICATIONS

Spreading corruption has serious implications for Kibaki, who is thought to be planning to run for re-election next year.

Kenya which is supposed to be the economic powerhouse of east Africa. It gives a very negative perception to potential investors particularly in the West," Taylor said.

Both analysts and diplomats agree there is one bright side to the current wave of scandals, saying a lively democratic press is playing a leading role in exposing venal politicians.

"It is encouraging that scandals are being exposed. It shows more progress in openness and transparency," said Taylor.

This is in addition to two long-running graft cases worth more than \$1.2 billion (660 million pounds) that have forced the resignation of three ministers in President Mwai Kibaki's government this year.

The new wave of corruption, stunning even by local standards, has caused deep disappointment among both Western donor nations and Kenyans who voted Kibaki to a sweeping victory in 2002 on promises to root out endemic graft.

"Until we deal comprehensively and ruthlessly with corruption, we can't even begin to talk about being proud to be Kenyan," said Lucy Oriang, a Daily Nation newspaper columnist.

An official commission of inquiry is now sitting to investigate the self-styled Armenians, known here as the "two Arturs" -- partly because despite their fraternal claims, they had different surnames, which are believed to be false anyway.

AIRPORT INCIDENT

Kibaki ordered the commission after the Arturs were summarily deported to Dubai after an incident where they stormed into the closed security area at Nairobi airport carrying guns.

According to evidence at the inquiry, the men, alleged to have wide criminal connections, also punched a customs official and drew weapons to confront a hostile crowd.

Not only had they somehow been given passes to the closed areas of all airports in Kenya, but furnished with the rank of deputy policy commissioners.

The incident caused howls of protest from Western envoys deeply concerned at the breaches in aviation security.

"This was another incident of the rot going deep," said a Western diplomat in the region who asked not to be named.

Press transcripts of the commission hearings have become compulsive reading for many Kenyans, though there is widespread cynicism over whether senior officials will be prosecuted.

Opposition politicians say the

