



Members of Jubo Mahila League scuffle with a policewoman in front of Metro Shopping Complex in the city during hartal hours yesterday, left, while the police chase activists of National Committee for Protection of Oil-Gas-Mineral Resources-Electricity-Port as they tried to stage a demonstration at Paltan, right.

Recruit more seamen

FM urges Cyprus envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday requested Cyprus to recruit more Bangladeshi seamen for the seafaring European country.

The plea of the FM came when the new Cypriot High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Andreas Zenonos, paid a courtesy call on him at his office.

During the meeting, the Foreign Minister also sought Cyprus's support and cooperation in obtaining greater economic and trade facilities for Bangladesh from the European Union.

He thanked Cyprus for offering scholarship programmes to the government officials as well as

other Bangladeshi nationals for higher study and training in Cyprus.

"Bangladesh and Cyprus are two friendly countries. Bilateral relations and economic cooperation would be strengthened in the days to come," he hoped.

They also discussed cooperation in education, tourism and cultural sectors.

The High Commissioner said there is huge scope for strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries.

In this regard, Zenonos stressed frequent visits of business delegations from both sides for finding new areas of cooperation.

Observe Sept 4 as 'Phulbari Day'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political and social organisations and the National Committee for Protection of Oil-Gas-Mineral Resources-Electricity-Port yesterday urged all for observing September 4 as 'Phulbari Day'.

The political parties including Workers' Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Biplobi Oikya Front, Communist Party of Bangladesh and 5 Leftist Parties in a joint press release yesterday urged all to observe 'Phulbari Day' across the country.

They also demanded for immediate unconditional release of the arrested leaders of the National Committee.

They also called for strengthening the movement for cancellation of illegal coal treaty and implementation of the announced six-point demand in this regard.

Condemning the attack of law enforcing agencies on the National Committee in Phulbari on August 26, they also demanded punishment to the persons responsible and compensation to the victims' families.

Two unidentified bodies recovered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered two unidentified bodies including a beheaded one of a minor girl from two different places in the city yesterday.

A six-year-old girl was found dead at the city's Kawla Shiyaldanga area of Dakkhin Khan at around 2:00 pm. The beheaded body was floating in a nearby ditch.

Police added the body had been left there for at least ten days.

Another body of an unknown man aged around 28 was found lying in an empty plot at Central Peererbagh area at Mirpur at around 7:30 am.

Several stab injuries were found all over his body, the police sources added.

Both the bodies have been sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Ctg customs officer strangled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered the body of a customs officer from Nasirabad Residential Area in the port city on Tuesday midnight.

Akbar Saeed Chowdhury, 40, an inspector of Customs Excise and Vat Commissionerate in Chittagong, was strangled to death by unidentified criminals, sources said.

Akbar was also an elected member of the executive committee of Bangladesh Customs Excise and Vat, the election of which was held on August 25.

Receiving an anonymous call at around 11:30pm, the police rushed to Nasirabad Residential Area only to find the body lying on a road near an underconstruction building. His identity card was found in his pocket, but his mobile phone was missing.

The body was taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) morgue yesterday morning where the doctors performed autopsy on the body.

Later, his body was taken to his village home at Machhimpur in Feni for burial.

His relatives said Akbar along with his wife and son went to Mirersarai at 2:00pm on Tuesday to attend the funeral of one of his relatives and came back to his residence at Sugandha Residential Area at 9:40pm.

He also talked to his mother

over cell phone at around 10:30pm, they said, adding that the killers might have called him out of his house after 10:30pm.

His relatives suspect that Akbar, who was honest and sincere, might have been killed either for professional or organisational reasons. During his posting at Benapole, Akbar conducted some successful drives against a syndicate of smugglers who on several occasions threatened him of dire consequences.

They also demanded a fair investigation into the murder.

Akbar's colleagues said he was a good and honest officer and a popular figure in the office and the organisation.

Panchlaish Police said they have started preliminary investigation into the killing.

Akbar is survived by his wife Shaninur Anwar Ely, only son Abrar Saeed Chowdhury, 7, two brothers, two sisters and mother Fatema Saeed Chowdhury.



Akbar Saeed Chowdhury

Bakery, shop fined Tk 2.10 lakh in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday fined a bakery and a shop Tk 2.10 lakh in the port city for

producing and marketing vermicelli without approval from Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI).

The court in a drive at Halihsahar seized 1200 kilogram lachchha vermicelli from Tamanna Fast Food and Bakery.

It fined the bakery Tk two lakh and awarded its manager Mohammad Alamgir one-month rigorous imprisonment and Tk 10 thousand to a shop and awarded 15 days imprisonment to its owner Mohammed Mahbul Alam.

Both were sent to Chittagong Central Jail yesterday afternoon.

On Tuesday, the court led by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Mohammed Munir Chowdhury in an anti-adulteration drive at the city's Kathgar area seized 250 kilogram lachchha vermicelli without BSTI approval.

BNP founding anniversary programme begins tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The ruling BNP has chalked out a three-day central level programme and a daylong programme at city, district and thana levels, marking its 28th founding anniversary on September 1.

The three-day central programme begins Friday morning with the hoisting of party flag at its central office. Later, the BNP leaders and workers will visit the mazar of the party founder late president

Ziaur Rahman. A photo exhibition will also be organised in the evening on the day.

A discussion and a cultural function will be held at Mohanagr Natyamancha on September 2 while a mass procession on September 3.

The city, district and thana level programmes include hoisting of party flag, discussion meetings and rallies.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement urged the party leaders and workers to make the programmes a success.

3 extortionists held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three extortionists were arrested on Tuesday night at Sher-e-Bangla road under Sonadanga Police Station in Khulna city.

The arrestees were identified as Faruque Hossain, 24, Jabed Ali, 28 and Mohammad Jahangir, 27, of Deben Babu Road in the city.

Police recovered six passports from their possession.

Police said the extortionists were arrested when they went to Power House area at Sher-e-Bangla Road to receive Tk 20,000 as toll and two cell phones from Md Mahmud Aziz Robin, director of Patron International Education Service.

Robin is a resident of Chamelibaig at Shantinagar in the capital.

Biogas plants can save Tk 400 cr a yr

Says study

BSS, Dhaka

Setting up of biogas plants can save Tk 400 crore annually in the energy sector, a recent study of the Ministry of Science and ICT said.

According to the study, it is possible to set up 40 lakh biogas plants across the country that will provide services to 37 per cent of the total population.

At least 22,000 biogas plants have been set up in the country during the last 10 years in public and private sectors, sources said.

Biogas technology can play a vital role in facing energy crisis in the country, the experts said and added quality fertiliser can also be produced from biogas.

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) Prof Dr M Tamim told BSS yesterday that natural forests are being reduced gradually in the country as 95 per cent of energy used for cooking come from the sector.

The initiative was taken at the government level in 1995 to develop

biogas technology. Tk 100 crore has been allocated for the current fiscal to develop the technology and an engineer has already been trained for this purpose.

Woman commits suicide in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Wife of a businessman committed suicide at her residence at Talatala Road in Khulna city yesterday, police said.

The dead identified as Monira Begum, 25, wife of businessman Noor Alam Siddiqui, committed suicide in her bedroom by hanging herself with scarf from a ceiling fan.

The reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately.

Police quoting neighbours said Noor tortured his wife Monira frequently for dowry. A case has been filed in this connection.

300 JCD men take meals without paying bills

Allege RU cafe authorities

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University central cafeteria authorities yesterday alleged that more than 300 Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders and activists had their meals on Tuesday without paying bills.

The JCD men are among thousands of leaders and activists who came to Rajshahi city from different northern districts to attend a divisional rally on Tuesday afternoon. As hundreds of JCD men rushed to the university cafeteria to have their meals, many students could not take their meals on the day.

The cafeteria authorities said the meals the 300 JCD men had cost Tk 6,000.

Cafe administrator Prof Sahadat Hossain Sarker, however, said the JCD paid some advance money for the meal.

RU JCD Convener Nuruzaman Likhon told reporters that the JCD would pay the remaining bill soon.

Earlier, the cafeteria authorities alleged that the JCD men owe over Tk 67,000 to the café on different occasions on the campus.

Despite repeated requests, the JCD is yet to pay the arrears, they said.

Students and teachers urged the university authorities to take steps to prevent incidents of taking free meals in the cafe for the interest of the students.

Youth drowns in city pond

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young boy drowned in a pond at Azimpur in the city yesterday.

The deceased, identified as Mohammad Sohan, 19, son of Ismail Hussain of Shekh Shaheb Bazar of Lalbagh Road drowned in a pond at Azimpur Staff Quarters.

The victim's friends informed that Sohan along with his friends went to the pond at around 1:00pm to have a bath after playing football.

His friends suddenly found Sohan missing.

Later his friends recovered his body at around 1:15 pm and rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Sohan who appeared for the SSC examination this year from Western High School at Azimpur did not know how to swim, family sources said.



Baby Islam, second from left, hands over a crest to Dr Enamul Haq at a memorial meeting and prize giving ceremony to mark the 30th disappearance day of Shaheed Altaf Mahmud at Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday. Shaon Mahmud, extreme left, Syed Abu Naser Bakhtiar, second from right and Shimul Yousuf, extreme right, were also present.