



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

RABIUL AWAL 28, 1442 HIJRI

16 PAGES WEEKEND PRICE : Tk12.00



"None will be spared... those who are involved in violent activities, including setting fire to buses."
HOME MINISTER ASADUZZAMAN KHAN KAMAL ON ARSON ATTACKS



"I'm not a big fan of Facebook. I don't know what they have been doing but I know they've been part of the problem, all along."
US SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI ON SPREADING MISINFORMATION



"This administration will not be going to a lockdown. Hopefully the, uh, whatever happens in the future - who knows which administration it will be? I guess time will tell."
TRUMP APPEARS TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT BIDEN COULD SUCCEED HIM



TEEN GANG CULTURE

Too dangerous to be ignored

Sprouting like weeds, blessed by 'big brothers'; 40 such gangs operate in the capital, a hundred in Ctg

MUNTAKIM SAAD and FM MIZANUR RAHMAN

From petty crimes to murder, stalking to rape, mugging to drug abuse -- teen gangs have been making headlines again for the last few months.

These gangs are often backed by a section of ruling party leaders, who act as the influential "elder brothers".

Most of the gang members trade and abuse drugs, while some have illegal firearms and local weapons to show-off their strength. The gangs often engage in turf-war over trifles.

Over a dozen people have reportedly been killed in the last four months by juvenile suspects.

Criminologists fear that it will be difficult to rehabilitate the gang members to normal life.

In a monthly crime review meeting on October 18, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Md Shafiqul Islam asked police to be vigilant against teen gangs in Dhaka.

The commissioner asked the DMP's crimes unit to handle the issue with caution and urged beat policemen to identify the gangs and keep them under watch.

He also said there should be temporary checkpoints across Dhaka to combat gang activities.

Teen gangs in the capital first hit the headlines after 14-year-old school student Adnan Kabir was beaten to death in Uttara by boys about his age in 2017.

There were over a dozen gangs in Uttara alone, law enforcers found. In Savar, schoolgirl Nila Roy was murdered in September by the teenage

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Teen killed by rival gang in Kamrangirchar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At the early age of 17, Mohammad Apu began working at a cosmetics store to support his family after his father left a couple of years ago.

Despite struggles, he and his family were living contentedly at his grandmother's house in Kamrangirchar in Jaulahati area.

But the family's future suddenly turned bleak on Friday evening.

As Apu went to mediate a dispute between his gang of teenagers and another at Jhawchar "Seven-up" playground, one of the groups launched an attack, led by one Sanju and one Ibrahim, with bamboo sticks.

During the clash, Apu was hit on the head and instantly fell to the ground, witnesses said.

He was rushed to a local hospital with a critical head injury and was later taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Around 7:30pm, DMCH doctors declared him dead.

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Ginger, garlic, and onions are piled up and rickshaw vans are parked in front of Ruplal House, a 200 years old heritage site in Dhaka. A traders' body has grabbed the front corridor of the elegantly designed European style dance hall and made it its office, bottom left, while a tea stall has sprung up there, bottom right.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

TORCHING OF BUSES

Cases riddled with questions

BNP men allege harassment

SHAHEEN MOLLA

Hazrat Ali was selling grocery items at his shop on the first floor of Shegunbagicha kitchen market when a bus was set alight near Aziz Super Market in the capital's Shabagh area around 1:40pm on Thursday.

Ali, vice-president of Ward-20 BNP, is the prime accused in a case filed by Shahbagh police following the arson attack.

The 75-year-old was unaware of the case until around 9:00pm on Thursday night when some plainclothes men identifying themselves as detectives picked him up from his shop -- Al Amin Store.

"My father went to the shop early in the morning on Thursday and stayed there the whole day. He took his lunch inside the shop. Yet, police intentionally implicated him in the case only to harass him and our family," Ali's son Al Amin told The Daily Star.

"His fault is that he is a BNP leader... He is not active in politics due to his old age and present political situation," he added.

Speaking to The Daily Star, many traders of the market gave similar narratives and claimed Ali was at his shop the entire day.

The complainant of the case, Sub-Inspector Kazi Jahangir Alam of Shahbagh Police Station, however, mentioned in the case statement that Ali along with 36 others, mostly leaders and activists of the BNP and its affiliates, and some unnamed people set the bus on fire.

Contacted, Jahangir refused to make comments and asked this reporter

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DEATH IN RAB CUSTODY

Akram died due to 'blunt force trauma'

Autopsy report says

FM MIZANUR RAHMAN, Ctg

Akram Hossain, who died in Rab custody in Chattogram on August 16, was hit with blunt objects before his death, according to his postmortem report.

Akram, 33, was arrested by a team of Rab-7 during an alleged mugging attempt on the port city's Akhtaruzzaman Flyover around 4:30pm on August 15. He was later admitted to the medicine ward of Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

He died the following day.

Rab claimed that Akram was beaten up after he was caught by a mob during the mugging attempt and was admitted to the hospital after he complained of chest pains. Seeing the body, his family members, however, alleged that he was tortured to death by Rab men.

Interestingly, Rab did not mention anything about the mob beating in the

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MOST CITED RESEARCHERS

26 from Bangladeshi institutions in top 2pc

ZYMA ISLAM

Twenty-six researchers from 17 Bangladeshi institutions were among the top two percent of the most cited researchers throughout their careers, found a research on metascience by Stanford University.

Metascience is the "study of studies" using scientific methods.

Stanford University professor John Ioannidis worked alongside US-based Kevin W Boyack and the Netherlands-based Jeroen Baas to release the exhaustive list of 1,59,683 scientists of various disciplines.

The database, which analyses the career-long impacts by researchers, was published publicly in mid-October in the journal PLoS Biology.

The first comprehensive data of its kind, it was first published in August last year and was released this year with updates.

Some of the 17 Bangladeshi institutions hosting these top researchers include International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research Bangladesh (ICDDR,B), Jahangirnagar University, Gono Bishwabidyalay, University of Dhaka, BRAC University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Independent University Bangladesh, Rajshahi University, Noakhali Science and Technology University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University, BRAC and North South University.

Of these institutions, ICDDR,B and DU had the most researchers on the list -- four and three respectively.

Dr John D Clemens, former executive director of ICDDR,B, holds the position of most citations, with 20,130 of them between 1996-2019, while eminent scientist Dr Firdausi Qadri came in second with 14,423 citations.

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FEARS OF 2ND WAVE

Screening revamped at HSIA

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN and RASHIDUL HASAN

The government appears to have scaled up screening at the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport amid fears of a possible spike in Covid-19 cases in the coming winter.

The airport authorities have already increased the number of health screening booths at arrival and departure points to nine and 12 respectively. There were only two screening desks at the arrival during the early stage of the coronavirus outbreak.

Inbound passengers are required to present Covid-19 negative medical certificates at the screening desks, which are operating on a 24/7 basis. The desk provides information on symptoms, quarantine and when and how to seek treatment, said airport officials.

Similarly, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has increased its manpower at the Dhaka airport. Now, 40 doctors, 40 nurses and 33 sanitary

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Ahmad Shafi was 'murdered by Jamaat-Shibir men'

Claims his brother-in-law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former Hefajat-e Islam chief Shah Ahmad Shafi was murdered by Jamaat-Shibir men for his stance against anti-liberation forces, claimed his brother-in-law Moin Uddin.

While attending a press conference at Chattogram Press Club yesterday, Moin made the statement and urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to conduct a judicial probe into the matter.

At the press conference, under the banner of Hefajat-e Islam, followers of Ahmad Shafi demanded cancellation of Hefajat-e Islam representatives' conference which is scheduled to be held today.

The conference has been arranged to handover the apolitical organisation to the grip of BNP-Jamaat, they alleged.

Hefajat-e-Islam Joint Secretary General Moinuddin Ruhi spoke at

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A man waits on a chair behind a bench to get service at the entrance to the Emergency Department of Mughda General Hospital yesterday. The hospital is making sure patients seeking service there are kept at a distance so that the doctors and nurses don't get infected with Covid-19.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

DAY TO REMEMBER ROAD CRASH VICTIMS

They lose hope every day

Victims' families endure agonising wait for justice

TUHIN SHUBRATA ADHIKARY

An SSC examinee of the capital's Wari High School Abir Ahmed was killed in front of his school on January 27 this year, the day he received farewell from the institution.

A water tanker of Dhaka Wasa run him over. According to witnesses and police, the driver of the tanker was reckless on the road that was usually used by pedestrians.

Locals caught the driver, seized the vehicle and handed over to police.

It has been over nine months now but the family members of Abir have not served with justice yet.

"We are losing hope about getting justice day by day," Abir's sister Liza Akhter told The Daily Star yesterday.

A visibly frustrated Liza said, "The incident happened on broad daylight and he [the driver] was caught on the spot. There was huge outcry after the incident. Even then, he [the driver] got released on bail within a few days of the incident."

Liza had earlier told reporters that many approached them on behalf of the accused not to run the case "as it would not bring any good to them".

"They no longer approach us as the driver got released on bail a long time ago," she said, adding, "We do not want compensation or anything of that sort. We want justice for my brother."

Liza's family is in a way lucky to have police pressed charge sheet in the case.

Still, it will be an agonising long wait for Abir's family to see the end, considering the lengthy legal process.

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