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Housewife stabbed to death, one found dead

By Staff Correspondent

A housewife succumbed to her stab injuries at a city clinic while a man was found dead at Central Road in the city yesterday, police and hospital sources said.

The dead were identified as Pira Begum, 32, a resident of Tikkapara slum at Mohammapur and Abdul Matin, 52, sources added.

Pira was stabbed allegedly by an elderly neighbour at a slum in the city's Mohammadpur area on Saturday.

Police arrested the 65-year-old alleged killer Mujibul Huq yesterday. Mujibul locked in an altercation with his neighbour Pira at the slum on Saturday afternoon. At one stage of altercation he stabbed Pira in her chest with a kitchen knife, po-

lice said. She was rushed to a city clinic in a critical condition. She succumbed to her injuries at about 11 am yesterday. A murder case was filed with police in this connection.

In another incident, police recovered the body of Matin from a house at Central Road at about 11 am yesterday.

Police said that there were injury marks in his leg while hospital sources said there were injury marks in different parts of his body.

Quoting inmates of the house police said the landlord allowed Matin to stay at the staircase of the house as he was homeless and Matin had been suffering from hepatitis.

Both the bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.



Sammilita Nari Samaj held a rally at the central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday in protest against what it said the attack on its rally on December 12 by activists of Jamaat-ul-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir.

One killed, 50 hurt as rivals clash at SHERPUR

SHERPUR, Dec 15: Street riots left one person dead and about 50 injured as well as some houses and shops torched in the town, reports UNB.

Many residents were fleeing homes as anarchy reigned in the district town amid sporadic clashes and arson attacks between two rival groups of Mirganj and Bagraksa following a quarrel over a trivial matter Tuesday night.

The dead man, identified as Fariduddin Sumon, 16, hailed from Nawabganj in Dhaka. His namaj-e-janaza was held at Kazibari Eidgah ground today. Later, his body was sent to his village home.

Residents, mainly children and women, were being evacuated elsewhere from their respective areas apprehending more clashes, gunfights, bomb explosions.

Police and paramilitary BDR were patrolling the areas to stave off further troubles as the two sides, equipped with lethal weapons, were on the confrontation course when this report came late in the evening.

Sherpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry forced all the shopkeepers to shut down their businesses demanding security and removal of the deputy commissioner and police super.

On the other hand, a nonstop hartal enforced by the liaison committee of the BNP-led opposition alliance continued in the town.

Meanwhile, police raided different areas of Mirganj, Gouripur, Bagraksa rounding up 13 people.

3 Khulna Jubo League activists held with arms

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 16: Police today arrested three activists of Jubo League and recovered one pistol and two revolvers from their possession.

The arrested activists are Shahidul Islam, 24, Alamgir, 22, and Boni, 20.

Shahjalal varsity

From page 1

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad held a closed-door meeting with the varsity authorities at Sylhet Circuit House. This morning VC Professor Habibur Rahman, Registrar Jamil Ahmed Chowdhury, Treasurer Professor Abdul Aziz, Teachers' Association President Professor Jainal Abedin, teachers representative to the syndicate Kazi Afzal, Provost of the Jahan Ara Imam Hall, Dr Yasmin Haque and Officers' Association President Abdul Hai Sameni attended the meeting.

The Foreign Minister held another meeting with the leaders of AL, JSD, CPB and Ganatantrik Party.

The meeting decided to hold an anti-communal rally in Sylhet town in the last week of this month.

On the other hand, All Party Action Committee (Opposition) has announced a sit-in demonstration in front of the DC's office on December 19.

The programme was announced at a rally held at Court Point today.

Chaired by district BNP President M A Haque, the rally demanded immediate release of four Shibir activists.

Amartya Sen arrives tomorrow

Nobel-laureate economist

Amartya Sen arrives here tomorrow to receive honorary doctorate from Dhaka University at the varsity's 40th general convocation on Saturday, reports UNB.

He will fly in Dhaka from Bangkok at 12pm on Friday. Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, along with other senior teachers of the university, will receive him at the airport, official sources said.

Dhaka University will confer honorary "Doctor of Laws" on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and "Doctorate of Science" on Amartya Sen at the convocation.

Bomb explosion in Ctg: 3 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 15: Three people were injured in a bomb explosion at Anderkilla crossing near Chittagong City Corporation office this afternoon, police said.

The injured identified as Shahidul Islam, Mostak Ahmed and Abu Taher, were admitted to hospital. They are contractors of Chittagong City Corporation, police said.

The bomb exploded at about 3 pm creating panic in the area.

Liaison body backs JCD-called hartal

By Staff Correspondent

The Liaison Committee of BNP-led opposition alliance has extended its support to 6-hour hartal in the city on Saturday called by JCD, the student wing of BNP.

The decision to support the hartal was taken at a meeting of the liaison committee at 29 Minto Road yesterday evening.

JCD had called the hartal in the city protesting Dhaka University Authorities' decision to confer honorary doctorate on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a convocation on Saturday.

The liaison committee meeting strongly condemned the DU authorities' decision to confer the degree through a convocation ignoring protest of teachers and students and called upon the city dwellers to observe the hartal.

The meeting condemned attack on Jatiya Party leaders and activists at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial on Tuesday.

The committee also discussed the modality of the

planned "Action Council" and decided to form the council at union, thana and district levels soon.

"We are working out the structure and modality of the action council and will try to form it by this month," meeting sources said.

BNP vice chairman M Shamsul Islam MP presided over the meeting.

Meeting sources said, the liaison committee is expected to finalise the structure of the action council in its Saturday's meeting and will place it before party chiefs for approval.

BNP leader Anwar Zahid, JP leader ABM Golam Mostafiz, Jamaat leaders Mohammad Kamaruzzaman, Abdul Qader Mollah and ATM Azharul Islam, Islami Oikya Jote leaders Fazlul Haq Amin and ARM Abdul Matin attended the meeting.

JCD secy of DU unit arrested

By DU Correspondent

The general secretary of DU unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was arrested from the campus yesterday.

Witnesses said plain-clothes police picked up Mostafizul Islam Mamun from the DU Central Library area at about 12:30 pm. He was later taken to the Ramna thana.

Police could not say on what ground Mamun was arrested. There is no specific case against him, Ramna police said.

Meanwhile, two JCD activists were stabbed by Bangladesh Chhatra League activists at Salimullah Hall yesterday.

BB employees' services essential

The government yesterday declared the services of all officials and employees of Bangladesh Bank essential, reports BSS.

An official handout said the declaration was made under Section 3(1) of the Essential Services (Second) Ordinance, 1958 to maintain necessary services in public life.

Political instability

From page 1

cut into Bangladesh's industry. "These countries are providing huge incentives to the traders to encourage garment exports," said Sinha. "Buyers can also choose to move there at any time if they get better deals."

Foreign garment buyers are entertaining offers from other countries due to political instability in the country, says the president of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

"I can give you a number of examples of buyers who were scheduled to come to Bangladesh to place orders or discuss future imports, but changed their plans when they heard news of political activities, such as a countrywide hartal," Anisur Rahman Sinha told the Daily Star after Monday's hartal.

Sinha said the party that did not call hartals for the sake of the nation would be remembered by the people forever.

The businessmen would also be grateful to leaders willing to compromise in the discussion, he added.

"The political parties are fighting without considering the interests of the people and the businessmen," said Sinha. "We have pleaded with them several times to save the sector, but nobody paid any attention to our suffering. We are going to make

similar drive again very soon." However, Sinha refused to say whether he has asked to meet with the Prime Minister and the leader of the opposition to resolve the crisis.

"We are going to meet them very soon," reiterated Sinha. "Economic issues should get priority over every other issue between the political parties."

Sinha said many garments factories operate during hartal, but they face trouble importing and exporting goods when the ports and customs offices are closed. There are almost 80 ships waiting to load or unload goods at Chittagong port, he added.

Sinha said garment exports are down and unlikely to reach this year's target.

"The garments business has become much competitive now because neighbouring countries entering the sector," said Sinha. "China is Bangladesh's main competitor because it has its own fabrics, raw materials and a cheap labour force."

"Bangladeshi traders have to import everything, which affects their competitiveness."

Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand are also starting to cut into Bangladesh's industry.

"These countries are providing huge incentives to the traders to encourage garment exports," said Sinha. "Buyers can also choose to move there at any time if they get better deals."

Banks in Ctg to remain open on Saturday

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Bank and all schedule banks in Chittagong will remain open on December 18 (Saturday).

The central bank issued an order in this regard yesterday. Transactions in banks were hampered due to countrywide hartal on Monday and in Chittagong on Tuesday.

To facilitate trade and business after two days' government holiday — today and tomorrow — the central bank issued the order to hold normal transactions in all schedule banks in Chittagong on Saturday.

Indictment of Tariqul Half-day hartal at Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Dec 15: BNP and its front organisations enforced a half-day hartal in the town today protesting indictment of Tariqul Islam in the Udichi Murder Case.

The Criminal Investigation Department of police yesterday indicted 24 people, including BNP Vice-Chairman and former minister Tariqul Islam in connection with the bomb attack on a concert of Udichi cultural group at Jessore in March this year.

During the hartal, all shops and educational institutions remained closed and vehicles

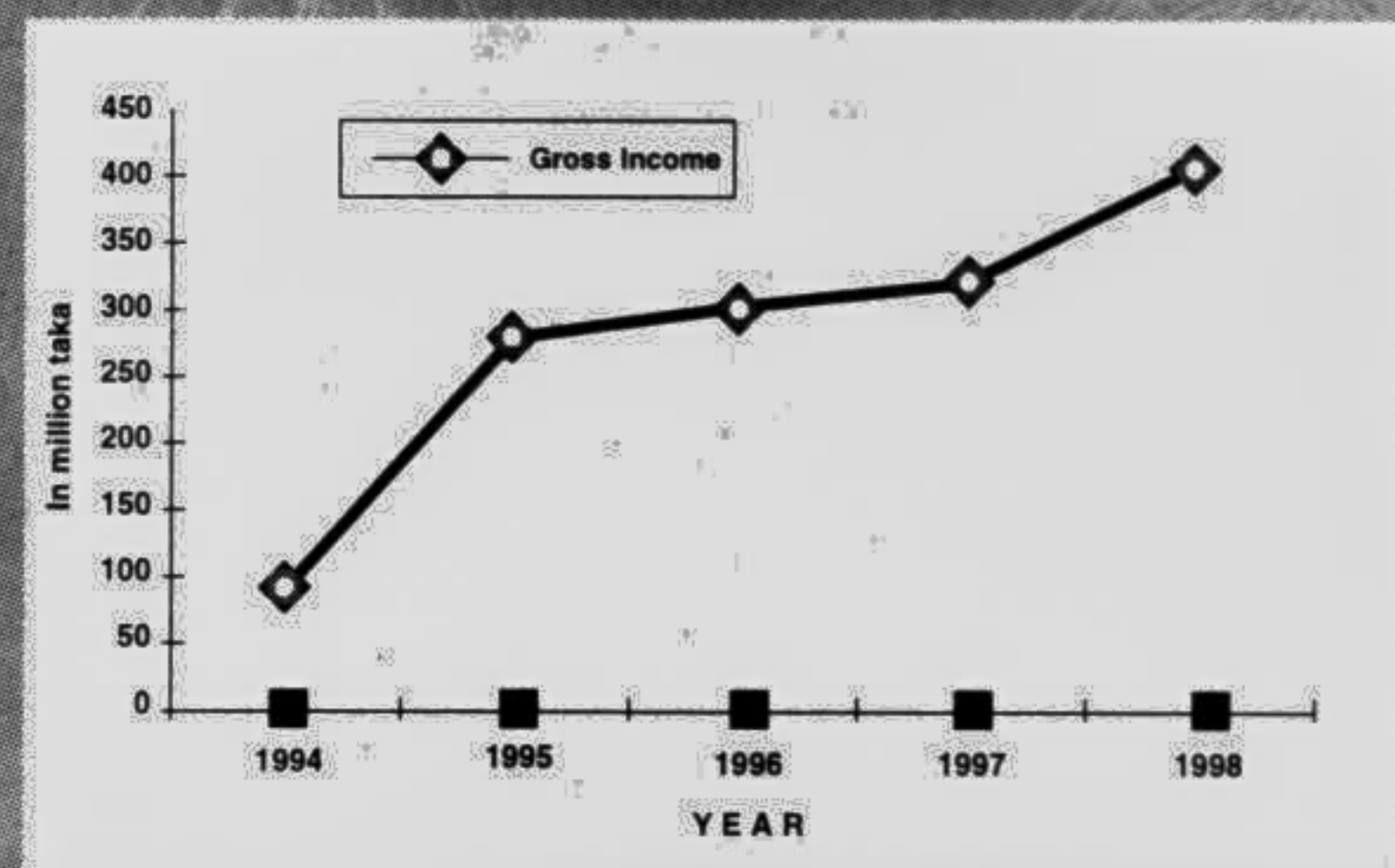
were off the road. BNP and its front organisations brought out a procession in town and burnt the effigy of Home Minister Mohammad Nasim.

Police rushed to the spot and resorted to lathicharge. Later, the BNP and its front organisations held a rally at Daratana.

Chaired by BNP district unit president, Chowdhury Shahidul Islam Nayan, the meeting was addressed by former minister Khaledur Rahman Tito, District BNP Secretary Advocate Kazi Monirul Huda,

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বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স

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