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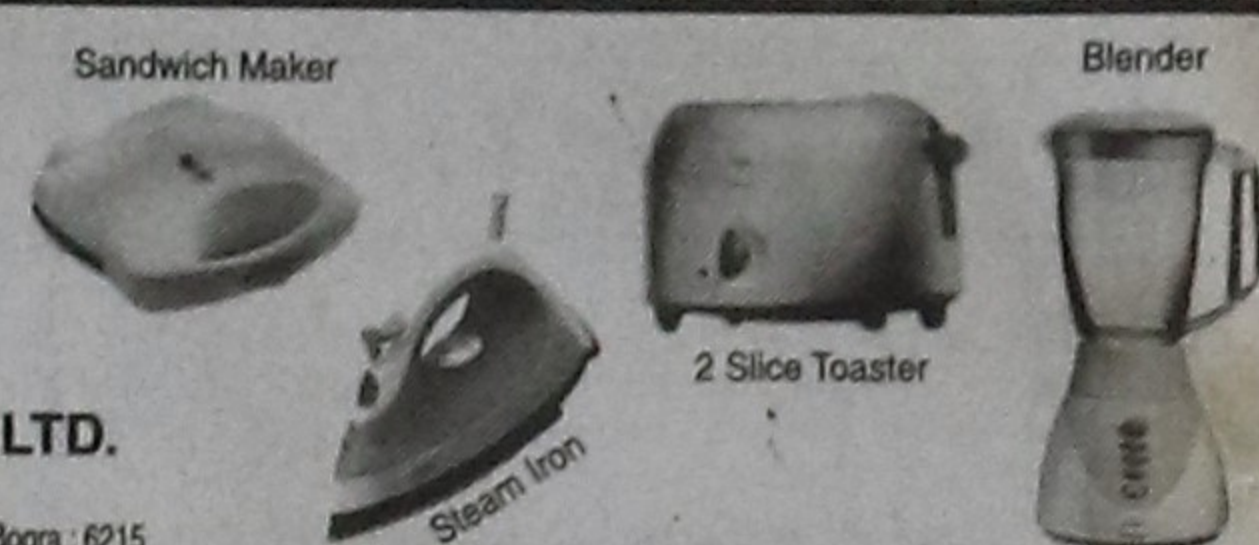
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KNP workers loot houses of MD, CBA leaders

Non-payment of salaries

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, June 22: Angry workers of the state-owned Khulna Newsprint Mills (KNP) attacked and looted the official residence of the Managing Director and houses of five leaders of CBA on Wednesday night, police and witnesses said.

Armed with lethal weapons, the workers stopped functions of KNP electric sub-station before storming into the residence of MD Abdul Baten.

They looted valuables after causing extensive damage to all the rooms of the house.

The MD along with his family members took shelter at a safer place to save their lives.

From there, the angry workers went to the officers' colony and raided the houses of the president and secretary of KNP Employees' Union. They ransacked their houses and looted valuables.

The workers also attacked the houses of three other leaders of the employees' union and took away gold and other valuables including TV sets.

Lawlessness prevailed in the entire mill and residential areas for over an hour while the unruly workers backed by some hired goons went on the rampage.

According to police and aggrieved CBA leaders, the armed attacks were launched when the MD of the mill failed to pay salaries for the month of May and other financial benefits to workers and employees as committed earlier.

The workers and employees were kept waiting for their salaries till 8 pm. But they flew into a rage when the MD expressed his inability to make payment of salaries due to non-availability of the requisite fund.

The situation was brought under control after police

swung into action breaking open the main gate which the unruly workers had locked earlier.

Power supply was restored at midnight and all official residences were put under police guard apprehending fresh attack.

Additional forces were deployed in and around the mill where production and all official functions remained suspended till filling of this report at 7 pm today.

When contacted, high official of KNP said that there was no sufficient money with the authorities for full payment salaries. All efforts to collect the required amount have failed, the official said.

The deputy security officer of the mill M Mamtazuddin Ahmed filed a case this evening accusing 23 people of launching armed attacks on the residences of MD and five other officials. The case has been recorded under relevant Section of the Public Safety Act.

Meanwhile, supply of newsprint has again been stopped from today until further orders.

Manoranjan Dhar dead

MYMENSINGH, June 22: Advocate Manoranjan Dhar, a former minister, died of old age complications at his Amlapara residence in the town at 10:05 am today. He was 97, reports UNB.

He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers.

During his long political career Dhar was a Finance Minister of East Pakistan and Law Minister in post-independent

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Neighbours of Julekha Huq Mirdha (inset) at Khilgaon in the city took out a procession yesterday demanding withdrawal of the 'false' case against her and punishment to the policemen for beating up her family members.

—Star photo

Housewife demands trial of police

By Staff Correspondent

Julekha Huq Mirdha, a middle-aged housewife from Khilgaon area in the city, yesterday demanded trial of the policemen who forcibly entered her house after midnight on June 17, arrested her and her husband without any charge or warrant and beat the family members including her daughters.

The policemen arrested them failing to find their son, she said at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club here.

Julekha alleged that she and her husband were beaten at Sabujbagh thana as they refused to give a statement that their son and daughters tried to

snatch arms from police when they entered the house.

The couple was released on bail on June 19.

Julekha, joined by her family members, alleged that additional police force was deployed around their house and in the area. The policemen threatened their neighbours not to join the press conference and asked rickshawpullers and auto-rickshaw drivers not to carry them to the press club, they alleged. They said they walked to the press club.

"While arresting, police did not even allow me to change my nightgown," Julekha said showing marks of injury in her hands.

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Book publishers urge govt not to let Ananda Publishers in

By Staff Correspondent

Deshiya Prakashana Sartha Sangrakshana Parishad, an organisation of book publishers, has urged the government not to allow Ananda Publishers of India to establish its business in Bangladesh to 'protect the growing local publishing industry'.

"If Ananda Publishers is allowed to set up a joint venture here, it would cripple the growing publishing industry in the country," Convenor of the parishad Hamidul Islam said at a press conference in the city yesterday.

Parishad leaders termed Ananda Publishers as a 'communal organisation' and apprehended it would spread communalism in the country.

They said Ananda's plan to set up a joint venture company for publication of books in Bangladesh is part of a 'deep rooted conspiracy' and the proposed company would do 'one way business' to transfer foreign currency from here.

"It would publish books of Bangladeshi authors but would

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10,000 fake candidates in Dakhil exams

By Asad-us Zaman

The Madrassah Education Board (MED) authorities have detected at least 10,000 fake candidates who appeared at the Dakhil examinations this year by submitting forged registration papers, officials concerned said.

"We have been working to find out fake examinees since the examination ended and their number might even exceed 10,000," a senior official told this correspondent.

Asked why the board authorities did not take initiative to detect them before the examination, he said it is not possible to examine each and every document of about 1.5 lakh students of madrassahs.

When contacted, acting Chairman of the board Prof ATM Sharifullah admitted that

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180 feared dead as boat capsizes on Yangtze

BEIJING, June 22: More than 180 people are dead or missing after an overloaded boat capsized today on the Yangtze River in southwest China, the semi-official China News Service (CNS) reported, says AFP.

The agency said the boat was crammed with more than 200 people when it overturned in large waves and poor visibility, adding that so far only around 20 survivors and seven

bodies had been found.

The boat capsized at around 7:00 a.m. and the strong current quickly swept the stricken vessel three km downstream on the lower reaches of the Yangtze near Luzhou in Sichuan province, said CNS.

Rescuers are still at the scene searching for survivors, said the official Xinhua news agency without giving further details.

CNS blamed the accident on overcrowding, saying the privately-owned boat was packed to the rafters and that no tickets had been distributed.

An official from the port authorities in the nearby town of Rongshan said most of those on board were local farmers returning from a market.

The boat capsized just before it arrived in port. The captain was struggling with very bad visibility and when the boat overturned nearly all the passengers were thrown into the water," he told AFP.

It is the second major boat capsized in the region within 10 days, and just the latest in a string of tragedies this year.

As many as 40 people are

missing and presumed dead after a boat capsized on June 15 on the Jialing River near the central Chinese city of Nanchong also in Sichuan province.

Around 50 were rescued from the boat, with around 40 being pulled ashore by rescue teams and another 10 swimming to safety unaided.

However rescuers said they had no idea exactly how many people were on the overloaded vessel.

Official sources in Nanchong said overloading and inexperience had probably led to the accident as the vessel was designed to carry only 40 passengers.

The skipper of the vessel, Xiao Shengmei, did not have a licence and has been arrested, the official press said.

On June 10, a vessel carrying 26 tourists sank in Dongting Lake in Central China, killing three and leaving six missing.

Boat accidents have occurred in Sichuan, Gansu and Guangdong provinces and Chongqing municipality in the last six months with more than 20 people reported dead or missing, according to the official press.

Servant beaten to death in Mohammadpur

By Staff Correspondent

A 13-year-old domestic help was beaten to death allegedly by his employer's son at Zakir Hossain Road in city's Mohammadpur area early Thursday.

The victim identified as Rashid, 13, was from Nilphamary district and was employed by Mansurul Islam since June 9, police said.

Mohammadpur police arrested Shahed Islam, 17, and Morshed Hasan, 13, sons of Mansurul Islam for their alleged involvement in the killing.

The victim was beaten up mercilessly by the members of the family after they suspected him of stealing Tk 600 from the house two days ago, said police and hospital sources. Rashid collapsed following severe beating.

The family members then sent Shahed to hide Rashid's body. Police caught Shahed from Science Laboratory while he was taking Rashid in a rickshaw at about 3:30 am Thursday.

The body of the victim was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

জাতীয় বৃক্ষমেলা/২০০০

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা ১৪ জুন আগারগাঁও

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