

Biman worker files case

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around 12:30pm when Sergeant Shafiuallah stopped him for riding a motorbike inside the bazaar and ordered him to go to the MP check-post. Motiur refused saying that he didn't break any law as he had gotten down from the bike before entering the bazaar and pushed it instead.

The sergeant then left and came back shortly with Lt. Col Mohiuddin, Major Mamun and seven military policemen and cordoned off the bazaar.

At this, the Motiur was scared and went to a nearby shop to make a phone call for help. But on his return, he could not find his motor-

Jalal murder

FROM PAGE 12
When The Daily Star published a story on January 11, negating his claim after tracing the family in three hours, a Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Ali Asgar Khan and Justice S K Sinha issued a suo moto rule on January 14, asking the government to show cause why the PP should not be removed from the case. They disposed of the rule on January 28, directing the government to remove him from the case.

Jalal, a microbus driver who worked as a source of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, was tortured to death and his body was found in the overhead water tank of the DB office on March 25, 1999.

An Inspector of DB and three other plainclothes and canteen manager were charged with the murder.

Fabulous fern to fight arsenic

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Research is now underway for devising a way of disposing of arsenic-enriched fern by burning it in ovens, which would provide a source of energy, and enable the element to be recovered in the form of a gas.

Ma, a native of north-eastern China, said that brake fern held out promise for helping Bangladesh, where between 35 and 77 million people out of a population of 125 million are at risk of being exposed to arsenic in their drinking water.

The peril stems from the creation over the past two decades of water pipes that have been drilled into shallow rock containing naturally occurring arsenic.

"Conceptually, the water in Bangladesh could flow through reservoirs planted with brake fern to filter out the arsenic," Ma told AFP, stressing however that further tests would be needed to check out this suggestion.

Hazari's men on hunt

FROM PAGE 1
enjoyed virtual immunity from law. He has turned Feni into 'a state within a state' where all opposition to him has so far been brutally suppressed, they alleged.

Tipu, filed a case with Feni Sadar thana accusing 15 persons including Hazari for beating and injuring him.

The accused also include Bidhan Majumder Suman, Executive Editor of Hazari's own weekly "Hazarika", Shajahan Shaju, a Union Parishad Chairman and Kohinur, an armed cadre of Hazari.

In his FIR, Tipu alleged that in the presence of Hazari, his armed men kidnapped him on the night of January 25 and beat him mercilessly following a UNB report on Sultana Memorial Junior School. The report was published in different dailies on January 16.

Tipu was brought to Dhaka. He was operated upon at the Orthopaedic (Pangu) Hospital Saturday afternoon. His legs and hands were fractured.

He was operated upon for the second time yesterday. Doctors said they are now desperately trying

Naaf river

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and BDR on January 8. The helicopter carrying Bangladesh delegation reached Ulubunia border at 3:00 pm yesterday.

Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs Mohammad Janibul Haq will lead a 12-member Bangladesh team. The delegation includes DC of Cox's Bazar, DDG of BDR Brigadier M A Salam and representatives from Joint River Commission, National Security Intelligence, Bangladesh Water Development Board, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority and Surveyor General's Office.

A 15-member Myanmar delegation was led by Deputy Director General of Foreign Ministry U Ong Bah.

The sources also said Bangladesh side may propose a number of steps to maintain peace. The steps include regular meetings at different levels.

The Myanmar authorities on January 16 proposed the joint survey that was immediately accepted by the Bangladesh government to maintain friendly relations between the two neighbours.

bike where he had kept Tk 50,000 inside the toolbox.

Shopkeepers and local people told him that the military policemen brought by Lt. Col. Mohiuddin took away the bike in a pick-up. Motiur immediately called the OC of Kafrul thana and informed him about the matter.

The complainant filed a General Diary with Kafrul thana after the incident but Kafrul police allegedly is not taking any action in this regard.

The complainant also urged the court to give him police protection as he alleged that ever since the incident occurred, DGF men and military policemen are seen loitering around his house. Also, he said that Lt. Col. Mohiuddin filed a false case against him. He urged the court to order proper investigation into the matter.

Intellectuals

FROM PAGE 12
the barbaric attack on him.

Quoting specialist physicians, they said Tipu should be immediately sent abroad for proper treatment, otherwise he may be disabled.

They also expressed concern over the situation at Feni where journalists could not move freely due to the 'audacity' of an individual and 'deterioration' of law and order.

The signatories to the statement are poet Shamsur Rahman, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Prof Anisur Rahman, Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof Mozaffar Ahmed, Prof Wahiduddin Mahmood, Faiz Ahmed, Ataus Samad and Ahmed Kamal.

Sumon knew it all

FROM PAGE 1
nearby places and was getting all information from Sharif, the sources said.

The two youths were murdered on September 15 last year and their bodies -- cut into six pieces each -- were recovered from a manhole at nearby Loharpool on the following day.

Sumon then went into hiding and was arrested from Comilla recently. He

Sharif was arrested soon after the murder and sent to Dhaka Central Jail following a confessional statement. He was again placed on one-day DB remand.

Sumon further told DB police that earlier, President of the Rifle Club Sohrab and Secretary Advocate Jalil controlled it. But after the death of Sohrab in mid-2000, one Jalu was in control of the club and finally he took control of it a few months before the killings.

Following Sharif's arrest several

months ago, he confessed that he had informed Sumon about the death of Mohsin.

But Sumon yesterday contradicted this and claimed he was told that one of the two youths -- Mohsin - had become unconscious.

According to some sources, Sharif had also said at that time Moshin was killed at about 3 am on September 15. In the evening, Sumon went to Awami League office and returned to Sutrapur at around 7: 30 pm. The other youth -- Saem-- was being kept a hostage at the store-room behind the club. He was strangled at about 3 am on September 16.

A butcher, Munna, was then brought to the club at gunpoint and forced him to cut the two bodies into pieces.

Minto, an auto-rickshaw driver, took away the bodies in another auto-rickshaw and dumped those in the manhole.

Lawmakers create

FROM PAGE 12
was also irregular during the session.

The Deputy Speaker, with the help of five Panel of Chairmen, mainly ran the dull businesses.

One of the Panel Chairmen, Abdul Latif Siddiqui, hit newspaper headlines by allowing a minister to speak on a "closed item", going beyond a ruling by the Deputy Speaker. Siddiqui also bothered many by his irrelevant utterances.

Shortage of questions and notices, coupled with lack of important issues, made the proceedings dull. In fact, general discussion on a thanks-giving motion on the Presidential address helped the proceedings drag on. The monotonous and one-sided discussion was also cut short by more than one hour.

BNP lawmaker Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan, who attended a day's sitting to save his membership, triggered a lively debate on the persistent parliamentary crisis due to continuous boycott of sessions by opposition legislators.

Akhtaruzzaman, who finally lost his seat for joining the parliament session defying his party decision, kept the House vibrant to some extent, fighting a lone battle against the Treasury Bench in the last few sessions.

The session passed six bills including one that provides for three months' imprisonment and a penalty of Tk 10,000 for disregarding Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Scraping of the century-old Dramatic Performance Act was however a commendable job by the session.

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4 traffic constables arrested in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of police yesterday arrested four traffic police constables for their alleged involvement in snatching Tk 5.15 lakh from a foreign currency trader in front of the Shilpa Bank at Motijheel in the city on Tuesday.

The arrested are Wahid Mollah, Iqbal Hossain, Main Uddin and Mofizur Rahman.

The four along with one Shahabuddin and an unidentified driver mugged Tk 5.15 lakh from currency trader Motin of South Mugga on Tuesday evening, police said.

The six stopped Motin in front of the Shilpa Bank at about 5:10 pm and snatched away the money, identifying themselves as DB men.

Motin went to the DB police and complained about the incident. Later a DB team raided several places in the city and arrested Wahid on Wednesday. According to Wahid's statement, police also arrested three others, police said.

Beware

FROM PAGE 1
absence of any complainant, police filed a case against the three charging them with 'obstructing police from performing their professional duties'.

Mujahidul Islam Selim came there and asked the state minister about the attack on their procession. They had a heated exchange of words and Maya then left the spot.

Youths from the anti-hartal procession then chased Selim and others with him. They also hurled bricksbats one of which hit Selim.

Later, a number of processions of AL and its front organisations

passed through the road in front of the CPB central office. Bricksbats were hurled at the CPB office from one of the processions at about 1 pm.

The alliance also brought out processions in the city and nearby places.

Anti-hartal activists went to Fulbaria bus terminal at about 9:30 am and compelled drivers ply their vehicles, witnesses said.

When contacted last night, Maya said Selim (CPB leader) had told him of attacks on leftist activists but "I said our men were not involved" in those attacks.

"Immediately after the incidents of attacks, I directed all the processions of Awami League and its front organisations to our party office and we stayed there for the next one hour," claimed Maya, rejecting the allegation of leading the attacks.

Earlier, Selim however told Daily Star reporters that after the first attack at Zero Point he tried to talk to Maya. "But we were attacked for the second time at Paltan."

Anti-hartal activists were more active than those of the 11-party alliance during the first half of the day.

Pro-hartal activists did not resort to violence. A large number of rickshaws and a limited number of motor vehicles including state-run BRTC buses plied on the city roads almost without any obstacle.

Most of the shops, market places, schools and business establishments remained closed in the city. Attendance in offices and transaction in banks were very thin.

In Narayanganj, Shibnath Chakrabarty was injured in an attack by anti-hartal activists. The attackers beat him with rifle butt while he was picketing.

A number of blank shots were also fired.

Pro hartal activists stopped movement of trains in Narayanganj for several hours.

Meanwhile, 11-party leaders alleged that Dr Dibalak Singh, son of legendary communist leader Moni Singh, and a former upazila parishad chairman, Abdullah Haq, were seriously injured in an attack on a pro-hartal procession Wednesday night at Durgapur in Netrokona district.

Our Chittagong correspondent reported observation of peaceful hartal in the port city. Delivery of goods to and from Chittagong Port remained suspended and work in mills and factories was also disrupted due to the shutdown.

Our Staff Correspondent in Khulna reported that over 100 women activists of CPB-backed Chhatra Union brought out a procession carrying sticks in their hands. They demanded immediate arrest of those responsible for the bomb blast at the CPB rally in Dhaka.

Reports from Barisal, Sirajganj and other districts also said hartal was observed peacefully.

Industrial Batteries Ltd. (IBL), a subsidiary of Rahimafrooz Batteries Ltd., is the manufacturer of lead-acid specialised industrial batteries with capacities ranging from 20AH to 2500AH in a single cell. The batteries are used in telecommunications, power stations, railway systems, electric vehicles, forklift trucks, ships, buoy lighting and solar power systems.

"We are now in 17 countries and export is going up. We opened our first international office in Ahmedabad, India in January 2000. We have been marketing our batteries under the brand name Volta for two years in India and have achieved an extensive distribution network of 350 dealers all over India."

The company has an extensive distribution and a network of dealers in Europe, the USA, Middle East and South East Asia. It earns three million US dollars per year by exporting its Volta brand batteries to different countries.

"The world is gradually converging towards non-conventional, renewable energy sources. Rahimafrooz has dedicated itself to making that transition possible in Bangladesh," said Niaz Rahim.

Initially, the company plans release of two- and three-wheelers on trial. These vehicles will be battery-run and have zero emission and minimal noise. Driven by DC motors running on battery, the vehicles will travel 35 to 40 km per hour and cover a distance of 80 km with a single charge.

The battery recharging and maintenance cost will be by far lower than the current fuel cost. If the government and people can fathom the severity of pollution-related problems, this initiative would help lower the pollution level in the city, Niaz Rahim said.

"These battery-driven vehicles would reduce the number of polluting public vehicles. Motorcycles, baby taxis, and tempos won't run on diesel," added the director.

Rahimafrooz Batteries Ltd., an ISO 9002 certified company, is the largest lead-acid battery manufacturer ever in Bangladesh, producing extensive range of automotive and specialised industrial battery. The manufacturing of over 300 different types of batteries with excellent export growth record has put the company in the front line as a regional player in South Asia.

11-party procession

FROM PAGE 1

Witnesses said alliance central leader Khalequzzaman came under attack when the anti-hartal procession from Zero Point led by Maya was passing by a small pro-hartal procession led by the BSD (Khaleq) chief near Mukhtangan at 10:30 am.

Some youths from the anti-hartal procession attacked the pro-hartal procession. One of the attackers hit Khalequzzaman on his face.

Some pro-hartal activists were injured there. Two of them were identified as Asma and Abhi, witnesses said.

The AL procession then moved to Tophkhana Road where a number of pro-hartal pickets including Mafizur Rahman of the CPB-backed Krishak Samity were beaten by youths from the procession. Mafizur was seriously injured in his head and required 10 stitches.

The procession then returned to Paltan crossing. A huge contingent of police deployed there was not allowing vehicles to move on the road in front of the CPB central office.

The state minister then asked police to leave the spot and allow traffic movement on the road. When contacted later, Maya admitted this and said, "I wanted vehicles to move on the streets. Police should not create obstacles unnecessarily."

Mujahidul Islam Selim came there and asked the state minister about the attack on their procession. They had a heated exchange of words and Maya then left the spot.

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NBR

FROM PAGE 12
General of Customs Intelligence Department has been given the responsibility to pursue the matter.

The Finance Minister's initiative followed a report in The Daily Star yesterday that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not "properly handle" a letter from the NBR, seeking permission for a probe into the matter.

The sources however claimed that the NBR chairman informed the Finance Minister that he would send another letter to the foreign ministry.

NBR officials suspect that a significant number of cars imported for foreign diplomats without payment of duty were sold to local citizens, causing huge revenue loss to the government. They estimated a revenue loss of around Tk 50 crore in last five years.

They said a section of foreign ministry officials might be involved in it.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues duty exemption certificate for import of car for foreign diplomats and also clearance certificate if the car is sold to a local citizen.

Electric vehicles set to hit

FROM PAGE 12
country, he said.

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