

Businessman murdered

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ment employee stabbed his colleague to death with a pair of scissors at Silver Star Apparel at East Rampura in the city's Khilgaon area yesterday morning.

The incident took place when Faruk stabbed Moyna, 16, in the throat and abdomen at about 9:45 am yesterday inside the garment factory.

Moyna was sent to the DMCH in a critical condition, where the attending doctors declared her dead.

Other employees caught Faruk and handed him over to Khilgaon police. Faruk said he married Moyna in 2000 but her family did not send her to him.

Moyna's family members refused the allegation saying Faruk proposed to marry her but they opposed it.

Jafar, father of the victim, filed a case with Khilgaon police station in

this regard.

Meanwhile, Badda police recovered the body of a young man from the rooftop of a tin-shed house at East Badda yesterday.

The identity of the young man, aged 25, could not be known. Police said there were marks of injury in different parts of his body.

Police sent the body to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with Badda police station in this regard.

In a separate incident, Fatema Haq, a housewife of Goran area, was seriously injured in an attack by muggers on Sunday.

The muggers stopped her auto-rickshaw on her way home and robbed her of money near the overhead water-tank at Kakirerpool in the city.

In a critical condition, she was rushed to the DMCH where she succumbed to her injuries at about 9:30 yesterday.

How the drama

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completed formalities for his surrender to the court.

Then he was taken to the court of Acting Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Atahar Ali at 10:15. The acting CMM called in AC prosecution.

Iftekhhar Saimul Chowdhury moved a surrender petition and also a bail petition on behalf of Mamun. Rejecting the bail petition, the court ordered for sending Mamun immediately to Chittagong Central Jail at around 10:20 am.

Police led by the OC of Kotwali thana drove Mamun to Chittagong Central Jail at 10:25 am.

Soon after his arrest, Mamun told UNB that he has surrendered

on instruction of Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

He said out of 20 cases against him he was released in 16 cases. "I hope to be acquitted in other cases also," he said.

Mamun was earlier jailed for 14 years in 1994 for his criminal activities but came out following a stay order against the verdict from the higher court.

Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday claimed 'his success' in sending Mamun to the court for surrender.

"I cannot support terrorism and illegal activities. When he came to my house in the morning I have sent him to the court," the Mayor told UNB.

Draft laws for BTV

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Masafuddulla, now on an overseas trip, was not available for comment.

Both the draft laws would now be sent to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs for vetting, official sources told The Daily Star.

Later, these would be tabled at the upcoming budget session of the parliament and then forwarded to the parliamentary standing committee concerned for scrutiny. These processes would eventually lead to passage of the bills by the lawmakers to pave the way for Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television.

Since independence, successive governments made commitments to give autonomy to the electronic media. In reality, these were used as propaganda machinery.

Since submission to the prime minister in August 1997, the autonomy commission's report was kept

in secret as a classified document. There had not been much of a progress in implementation of the recommendations until recently when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that her government would deregulate the electronic media before it completed its tenure.

Meanwhile, the government for the first time allowed a private television channel and a radio station to operate. It also closed down state-run dailies, The Bangladesh Times and the Dainik Bangla.

Autonomy of Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television would virtually put to an end an era of direct government control on the news media.

Back in 1991, during the BNP regime, an autonomy commission was also formed. It did prepare a set of recommendations but these never came to see the light of the day.

Tagore's birth anniversary

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people of the country during its War of Independence in 1971.

The country's eminent litterateurs Prof Mostafa Noor-ul-Islam and Prof Kabir Chowdhury, among others, will take part in the discussion to be held at the National Museum auditorium with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader in the chair.

Similar programmes will be organised in the districts and upazilas across the country by local administrations.

The district administration of Khulna has drawn up a three-day special programme to celebrate Tagore's birth anniversary in a befitting manner.

Former chief of caretaker government Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman will inaugurate the function at 4 pm today at the Rabindra Complex in Dakshinadehi under Fultala upazila of the district. The three-day programme includes discussions and cultural functions.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the occasion.

In his message the president said the spirit of humanity and spiritual thoughts was represented

in the literature of the great poet. "His contribution to all branches of literature including poems, songs, essays, novels and dramas is recognised by all," he said.

Paying rich tribute to the memory of the poet, the president said his writings opened up a new horizon in the Bengali literature.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in her message, said Poet Rabindranath has become an institution through his literary works.

It is Rabindranath who contributed to all branches of Bengali literature including poems, songs, novels, dramas and short stories, she said, adding that he (Tagore) is the only person on earth who's songs are the national anthems of two independent countries Bangladesh and India.

Paying glowing tribute to the memory of the great poet, the Prime Minister said the huge treasure of Rabindra literature had inspired the nation to achieve independence in 1971.

She said Rabindranath is our constant companion against fundamentalism, communalism and autocracy, the enemies of Bangalee culture and heritage.

BSF's role in Roumari incident

Bangladesh happy over start of investigation by India

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday expressed happiness over the start of an investigation by India into the BSF's role in Roumari episode which created sudden high tension along the otherwise friendly border, a top official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

Foreign Secretary Syed Muazzem Ali said, "we are very pleased to learn of the enquiry, as we ourselves started our own investigation" to ascertain what went wrong at the Boraibari border.

An investigation will tell under what circumstances BSF entered Bangladesh territory which led to "firing and death of people from both sides", he told a group of newsmen at his office chamber and added this (investigation) would help stop recurrence of such things in future.

Describing the current border situation as "by and large stable and normal and that there has been no untoward incident in recent time", the foreign secretary said during the last 24 hours there had been 12 flag meetings at four levels ranging from sector commander to BOP commander level.

He termed the press reports relating to troubles here and there along the 4000 km border nothing serious, but very common.

Replying to a question, the foreign secretary said about five thousand people left Boraibari area after the last month's clash, for whom the government arranged relief.

The home minister went to the area to see the progress of relief and rehabilitation and also to build confidence among the people to return to their homes.

As for official level meeting, the foreign secretary said Bangladesh

already informed India of its eagerness to attend meeting to resolve the issues pertaining to border and other matters.

He said it is yet to be finalised who will lead and at what level the meeting will take place. "We are in constant touch with India and hope that meeting will take place at the end of the month," he added.

India invited Bangladesh to send delegation by May 22-25 or any suitable date to Delhi to hold talks. To another question Ali said "Our priorities in the talks are : exchange of enclaves, demarcation of undemarcated border and exchange of land under adverse possession."

He said there would be another inter-ministerial meeting (in Dhaka) before meeting between the two countries takes place.



BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and members of the Zia Shishu Kishore Sangathan placing wreath at the mazar of late president Ziaur Rahman yesterday marking the 13th founding anniversary of the organisation.

Govt reluctant even to lodge protest

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Prime Minister's statement in which he blamed Bangladesh for killing 16 BSF personnel.

The city unit of the All Party Action Council organised the rally as part of a countrywide mass procession in all city and district headquarters.

The alliance announced an eight-day mass contact programme beginning tomorrow in all thanas, featuring joint rallies and processions.

Mannan Bhuiyan said Indian BSF intruded into Bangladesh and BDR jawans acted in defence to protect the country's sovereignty and save innocent people.

"Although the Indian BSF attacked our BDR and unlawfully intruded into Bangladesh territory, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina apologised to the Indian Prime Minister, proving once again AL's subservience to India," he observed. Bhuiyan alleged that the govern-

ment in the last two weeks allotted lakhs of tons of wheat to its MPs and leaders across the country who are looting the foodstuff instead of distributing it among the poor or to the Food For Work programmes.

About the recent allotment of RAJUK plots, he said the government again politicised the process by allocating them to its party men. He said the government continued to arrest and file false cases against BNP and other opposition leaders and activists. About 10,000 false cases have been filed against some 70,000 BNP activists across the country by the AL government, he claimed.

Acting secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami Muhammad Kamaruzzaman said that the Prime Minister violated her oath to protect the independence and sovereignty of the country by handing over Padua village to India.

Jatiya Party Presidium member Kazi Firoz Rashid said the unity of the 4-party alliance is still intact and would remain to be so. He said those who will quit the alliance would be identified as "national betrayer".

Presided over by City BNP president Sadeque Hossain Khoka MP, the rally was addressed, among others, by BNP leaders Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Abdus Salam, Jamaat leaders ATM Azharul Islam and Hamidur Rahman Azad, JP leaders Saifur Rahman and Taibur Rahman, IOJ leaders Ahmed Abdul Qader and Abdur Rab Yusufi, JAGPA president Shafail Alam Prodhon and Mohila Dal leaders Saleha Begum and Montaj Chowdhury Tutu.

After the rally, leaders and activists of the alliance brought out a big procession that paraded different city streets.

21 BNP leaders protest SQ Chy's remarks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Presidents and general secretaries of all the 21 thana units of BNP in the city have termed remarks made recently by Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, MP "incivility of the highest order".

In a statement issued yesterday, they also protested his remarks about city BNP President and veteran freedom fighter Sadeque Hossain Khoka MP that appeared in a leading Bangla daily yesterday and said those were "distasteful and devoid of common sense".

The thana BNP leaders demanded of the party leadership to take appropriate action against Chowdhury immediately. They said Chowdhury along with some of his followers, who are engaged in

misleading the party as parts of a blueprint, have gone berserk after the patriotic and devoted party leaders and activists resisted them and foiled their ill-efforts.

It is now as clear as broad daylight to all that they were acting within BNP as stooge of the government," the leaders said. They added that Chowdhury also made anti-party statement at a discussion recently organised by a Freedom Party man.

"We are ashamed, concerned and agitated as a person like Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury is still existing in BNP. On one hand, he is acting as a stooge of the government while on the other he is seriously damaging the party..." the BNP leaders in a statement said.

AL factional clash Situation tense at Ambagan area in Rajshahi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Tense situation was prevailing at Kadirgonj Ambagan area under Boalia thana in the city following AL factional clash that left one person killed and 25 injured on Sunday.

The clash began as a sequel to previous enmity over submission of tender documents of a development work under the Barind Multipurpose Development Authorities (BMDA).

Four seriously injured were undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH). They were identified as Khoiulunabi, 60, Suman, 22, Murad, 18, and Sohel, 25.

Two separate cases were filed in this connection.

None was arrested till writing of this report at 7.15 pm on Monday.

BSC ship seized at S'pore port

UNB, Dhaka

Banglar Shikha, a ship of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC), was seized in Singapore Port on Saturday to settle the claim of a cargo that was missing from another ship in 1999.

According to a message received in the city from Singapore yesterday, the port authority arrested the ship on a court order to create pressure on the BSC management to settle the claim of the cargo stolen from Banglar Kakoli.

The cargo went missing from Banglar Kakoli during its voyage from Europe to Chittagong Port in 1999 for which about Tk five crore was claimed by the consignee.

Confirming the incident, a source here said arresting a ship to dispose of any case of claim is a common practice. The consignee files a claim if a cargo is lost during any voyage of a ship.

A BSC source said the arrested ship is usually freed upon a bond, a court order or a bank guarantee.

Election

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"It's a national duty, it's a sacred duty, it's a duty for the public. No negligence or partiality by anyone will be tolerated," he said. The EC would apply all the laws in checking corruption and vote fraud, he added.

However, deviation is an exception. But, he asserted, if anyone goes for wrongdoing, he or she will be punished.

On foreign observers, the CEC said they would enjoy absolute freedom to go everywhere. "They are our friends, our donors. They have strong democratic practices," he said. He has confidence that the foreign observers will be independent in observing the polls, he added.

Rain forecast

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late afternoon, flooding a number of city streets. High winds and driving rains totalling 39 mm until 6 p.m. disrupted the normal life.

A squall was blowing over the Khulna city between 5 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The day's highest amount of rainfall of 95 mm was recorded in Madaripur followed by 77 mm in Majidi in Noakhali, 68 mm in Bhola, 61 mm in Jessore, 57 mm in Tangail, 51 mm in Faridpur. Rajshahi experienced 34 mm rainfall followed by Comilla with 32 mm, Mymensingh and Sylhet 28 mm, Chandpur 34 mm, Rangpur five mm, Bogra four mm and Dinajpur one mm.

Budget session

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triggered a debate on the issue.

The BNP-led opposition that started boycotting the parliament proceedings nearly two years ago is unlikely to return to the House. However, the two factions of Jatiya Party - one led by former president HM Ershad and another by Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju - will join the coming session.

The forthcoming session has crucial significance for the ruling Awami League, since it still has a lot of legislative businesses to have cleared by the parliament.

Tipu

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Tipu had reported on the criminal and inhuman activities of the local politician and his nearly 500-men strong army.

Feni police refused to accept a case against the criminals at first. Later, the police initiated an investigation following a High Court order. All accused in the case are roaming freely, however.

Until recently, Tipu was undergoing treatment at Pangu Hospital. Doctors there had recommended that Tipu be treated abroad because there was nothing else that could be done for him here.

When contacted last night, Tipu expressed his gratitude to all who contributed towards his treatment. He said that the response of the people was a silent protest against all kinds of terrorism in the country.

India relaxes passage thru' Tin Bigha

BSS, Lalmonirhat

Indian authorities have recently made arrangements to keep the Tin Bigha corridor open from 6 am to 7.30 pm with only an hour's break.

Just four weeks back Indian authorities used to allow passage through the corridor every other hour for a total of six hours during daytime.

A couple of days back they changed the timeframe for access to the mainland. Under that system, the corridor was open for six hours with an hour's break between the two periods.

Local people said a couple of months back, the permanent residents of Dahagram and Angarpota enclaves were confined in their territories for 18 hours.

The residents said they are nurturing the hope that after successful high-level dialogues between Bangladesh and India, the people in the landlocked enclaves would be able to enjoy uninterrupted

passage through the corridor throughout the night.

Some 15,000 people of Bangladeshi enclaves (inside Indian territory) of Dahagram and Angarpota got the right of access to the adjoining mainland through Tin Bigha corridor in the historic Mujib-Indira border accord in 1974.

Residents said the border skirmish in Roumari left almost no impact on the people of the two enclaves. The Indian authorities did not obstruct movement of the enclaves' people to and from the mainland.

The local people were more concerned about severe erosion of the Teesta river than developments in the bordering areas. Various parts of Antapara and Poshchimpara-Sabupara were devoured by the mighty Teesta.

Local farmers said they had bumper production of rice this season. They said they would get reasonable price for their produces if they could send those to markets in Patgram upazila, some 12 kilometres from the enclaves.

As Tin Bigha corridor is the only way to reach Patgram, the local people have urged the Bangladesh authorities to pursue the Indian authorities to keep the corridor open round-the-clock.

ICDDR,B

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ence.

The amount received as award will be utilised for innovative programmes of the centre, he added.

Sack said discovery and development of oral rehydration solution (ORS), which has been saving lives of millions of children across the world, could be one of the main reasons for selecting ICDDR,B as the first recipient of the award.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, based in Seattle (USA) and having an asset of 21 billion dollars, launched the annual award in December last to give recognition to groups dedicated to promoting better health for all in the world.

William H Gates Sr, father of Bill Gates, is one of the leading personalities of the foundation. Bill Gates owns the world's largest software company, Microsoft.

PM: Violence-free campus

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"We have taken up a project to launch the first satellite, 'Bangabandhu Communication-1'."

The prime minister said she was happy to see that normal academic atmosphere has been restored at educational institutions, particularly on the university campuses, and there are no more gunfight or killing.

"We want politics free from violence.... We want secure and peaceful education for the students and that's why we are trying to ensure a congenial academic atmosphere."

The PM hoped that students, teachers and administrators would keep up the congenial academic atmosphere.

She asked the students to acquire proper knowledge so that they could lead the country and face future challenges. "Your first and foremost duty is to read and write and prepare yourselves to lead the nation."

Referring to some programmes taken up by the Dhaka University, the prime minister said that her government would try to materialise

its dream of making the university an institution per excellence if Awami League is voted to power again.

She thanked the university authorities for naming a new hall for female students after Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib, who inspired and encouraged Bangabandhu in all crucial junctures of his political career and helped him make right decision.

She also thanked the authorities for naming another hall "Amar Ekushey Hall" commemorating the martyrs of the Language Movement.

The prime minister also announced that two more halls for female students would be constructed on the campus to reduce the accommodation problem facing the university.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof. AK Chowdhury chaired the function while Education Minister ASHK Sadique attended as special guest. DU Registrar Mohammad Selim conducted the programme and Treasurer Prof Abul Hashem gave the welcome speech.