

Butcher killed in scuffle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A butcher was killed in a fight between the two groups of butchers over slaughtering of cattle at Ganakuli in the city's Hazaribagh area last night.

The victim, Mobarak, 28, son of Sardar Mia and Adnan, who was severely injured, were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the on-duty doctor pronounced Mobarak dead. The body was kept at the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

The incident took place at about 7:30pm, when Adnan, Nasir, Shahi and Mobarak in one group, and Karim and Sukkur in the other clashed over cattle slaughtering.

The Hazaribagh Police Station, when contacted last night, said a police officer went to the spot. No case was filed until last night.

Govt seeks more EU investment, dev cooperation

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday sought more investment, market for increased exports and development cooperation from European Union countries.

"There will be no major changes in the foreign policy our thrust will be on economic diplomacy" Foreign Minister Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury said at a meeting with EU ambassadors and head of the EC delegation at the foreign office.

He said the government would welcome new areas of cooperation as suggested by the envoys for further improving the economic ties.

Prof Chowdhury thanked the European diplomats for allowing duty-and quota-free access of Bangladeshi export products to the EU market.

The FM explained steps taken by the government on cases of recent violence in certain areas of the country.

He assured the ambassadors that the Home Ministry had already

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Akbar Imam

Journalist Akbar Imam dead

UNB, Dhaka

Akbar Imam, a senior journalist, died of a heart attack at Suhrawardy Hospital yesterday. He was 48.

Imam complained of a pain in his chest early in the morning and was rushed to the hospital where he died at 7:30 am.

Son of Late Hasan Imam, an MLA, Akbar Imam is survived by his wife, a son, two daughters and a host of friends and relations.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



School children crowd outside the Bangladesh Bank Colony Welfare Association office at Agrabad in Chittagong wherefrom a bomb (inset) was recovered yesterday.

Bomb recovered in Chittagong

BSS, Ctg

Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) recovered a hand bomb from Bangladesh Bank Colony Welfare Association Office at Agrabad yesterday noon.

Police said, the bomb with electric wires wrapped around it and connected with three pencil batteries, was later defused. Vigorous investigation is on in this connection, sources said.

Meanwhile, CMP arrested 62 people including one dacoit and another person for possession of illegal arms and recovered two firearms with eight rounds of cartridges in different raids in the city during last 24 hours ending at 6 pm yesterday.

Double Mooring police arrested Kajal Das, 30, from in front of Hotel Golden and recovered one pistol, one cartridge and one magazine of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Outsiders reign at DU halls

Authorities in a state of insecurity, says VC

ABUL KALAM AZAD

The Dhaka University (DU) administration is now in a state of insecurity, as outsiders and terrorists have established absolute supremacy on the campus soon after the landslide victory of the BNP-led four-party alliance in the October 1 general election.

Hundreds of outsiders and criminals under the banner of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) took control of the halls in the small hours of October 2 when the victory of the alliance became clear.

In the last two weeks, a number of bona fide students have faced ouster, and some resident students were beaten up by the gangsters.

Besides, the gangsters meddle in the hall management. They open and close the main gates of the halls at will, compelling many resident students to mount the compound walls up in order to enter their rooms at night.

The DU has held several meetings with provosts and house tutors since October 2. The hall authorities were asked to check identity cards and to take action against the outsiders. But the authorities failed to press on with the instructions due to what they called insecurity.

The 'fear of reprisal' is preventing both the provosts and house tutors from taking action against the outsiders.

and house tutors from taking action against the outsiders.

On Monday, DU Vice-Chancellor (VC) Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury told The Daily Star that the hall authorities are in a state of insecurity following threats by the outsiders and criminals.

"The criminals damaged the nameplate of a provost and have threatened many on the telephone since October 2," he added.

The VC, however, said he was communicating with the government high-ups to flush out the outsiders from the halls.

"I have already talked to the education minister and the home minister, and both have assured me of immediate action against them."

The police have taken a sit-back position despite repeated instructions from the authorities, he remarked.

A police officer, however, said the DU instruction was not enough for any action against the culprits. "We need an order from the government high-ups, otherwise we can't do anything," he said requesting anonymity.

The dormitories have become safe havens for the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

NCTB inertia raises fears of another textbook crisis

75 days to new session yet no print order

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

With only 75 days left for the academic year 2002, the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) is yet to complete the procedures for publication of textbooks for the year.

"The Board's delay in awarding tender for publication of textbooks is likely to cause a crisis of textbooks in the coming year just as in the current year," a leader of the coun-

try's printing industry told The Daily Star.

He claimed that only 75 days are not enough for printing, binding and distribution of about eight crore books for primary and secondary levels.

The NCTB had earlier floated tender concerning 4.75 crore books for primary level, involving a cost of about Tk eight crore.

A total of 455 printing firms submitted 748 quotations for the bid

but the NCTB is yet to award the job even after about 40 days, sources said.

Fifteen teams comprising NCTB officials have already visited those printing firms and sought permission from the Ministry of Education for further steps.

Since the books would be printed on the basis of competitive bidding, the World Bank is likely to share a substantial portion of the printing

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Rickshawpuller chopped to death in Magura

UNB, Magura

A rickshawpuller was chopped to death by unknown assailants at Benipur village in Sadar upazila on Wednesday night.

Police said Habibur Rahman, 18, son of Mahar Ali of Adharkhanda village, was killed while he returning home from the town.

Police recovered the body yesterday morning and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

In another incident, five people were injured in a clash between two groups of people at Purbapara in Magura town yesterday.

Three of the injured, Nazrul Sheikh, 50, Ansar Ali, 50, and Nizam, 25, were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

Laxmipur Jubo League leader shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Laxmipur

Unidentified miscreants shot dead a Jubo League leader of Kumarkhali union in sadar upazila of the district yesterday.

Police said the miscreants shot Nurul Huq, 30, when he was taking a bath in a pond near his home at noon. He died on the spot.

Police suspected that Nurul Huq was killed as a sequel to previous enmity with 'Solaiman Bahini'.

A tense situation was prevailing in the area, police said.

ETV hearing deferred till October 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The hearing on the stay order on the terrestrial transmission by the Ekushey Television (ETV) was deferred till Sunday, as the Chief Justice did not attend the court yesterday.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court comprising Justice Maniur Reza Chowdhury, Justice Mohammad Golam Rabbani, Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin and Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim shifted the hearing date.

The Appellate Division will now hear the case on Sunday. Earlier, the same bench extended the High Court stay order regarding the suspension of the ETV broadcast further till October 21.

On September 19, the High Court, following a writ petition, issued a show-cause notice on ETV Chairman A.S Mahmud and on the secretary to the Ministry of Information asking them to explain why the licensing agreement forged on March 9, 1999 between the private television channel and the ministry should not be declared illegal.

Prof. Chowdhury Mohammad Hossain of the Department of Pharmacy and Prof. Abdur Rob of the Department of Geography of Dhaka University and President of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Gias Kamal Chowdhury jointly filed the writ petition.

Prepare for a movement against vote dacoits: AL

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League yesterday called upon the people to prepare to wage a movement against "vote dacoit, killer and repressive government."

Addressing a protest meeting, AL central committee leaders said repression by the government across the country crossed all limits and is only comparable with that of 1971 atrocities carried out by the Pakistani occupation forces.

The meeting was organised by the AL Dhaka City unit to protest against on Zillur Rahman at Mirpur on

October 15. Strongly condemning the attack on the party general secretary, the leaders of the former ruling party said the very birth of BNP was "through terrorism," so such attack on the AL general secretary is nothing unusual.

The speakers called upon the people to unite for building movement against the "repressive government that came to power through a blueprint."

Abdus Samad Azad said attacks on Awami League leaders, workers,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

No step yet to remove polls camps

Most built illegally on public land in city

RAZIUR RAHMAN

The authorities are yet to take any step to demolish the election camps, most of which were illegally built on the public land in the city.

Most of the candidates in the October 1 general election violated the electoral code of conduct by not removing their camps two days ahead of the polls.

To make things worse, different wings of the ruling BNP, are making bids to convert these camps into permanent offices, which are looming over the cityscape with signboards galore.

As per the electoral code of conduct, a candidate is supposed to set up not more than one camp in a ward, but the case was a lot different in reality -- the number of camps for a candidate was more than one.

In the run-up to the election, the activists built some camps at the roadside creating obstacles to the traffic movement and most on the illegally occupied public land.

However, Additional Police Commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Election camps of the BNP, Awami League and Jatiya Party erected in the city are in the process of being converted into permanent party offices.

15 villages go under water as embankment washed away

UNB, Satkhira

Some 15 villages and shrimp enclosures on 20 thousand bighas of land in two upazilas of the district were submerged as a portion of the WDB flood protection embankment at Dubaria in Ashasuni upazila was washed away by strong currents Wednesday night.

Over 200 mud-houses also collapsed while several thousand people of Ashasuni and Shayamnagar upazilas were displaced from their houses due to the sudden flooding.

The WDB embankment was damaged following due to strong currents in the Kapotakkha, which swelled by about 5/6 feet due to the impact of low in the Bay of Bengal.

Water was still entering inside the embankment submerging fresh areas of Protapnagar and Shayamnagar.

A citizen speaks

Alien in homeland

Anguish of being Bangladeshi Hindu

P CHOWDHURY

Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed is a known writer to the readers of The Daily Star. He often writes from the United States representing views and perceptions of the expatriates on different issues. This time, on October 15, The Daily Star published his article, "The anguish of being a Muslim American."

The article has caught my sight and feeling. I share his pain and sorrow exactly the same way he has been feeling being a Muslim American after the incident of September 11, as being a Bangladeshi Hindu I have been feeling it since the October 1 election. I really find it hard to believe that this is the country where I was born! This is the country where I grew up! This is my dearest motherland! Feeling like an alien in own land is much more painful than what Dr Ahmed is experiencing in a foreignland.

The atrocities the Hindus and other minority communities are facing today in Bangladesh are unparalleled! No civilised society could embark upon such unjust acts, as these are just without any logic and reason! What is the fault of these innocent people? Nothing but alleged voting in favour of the Awami League! Nothing but for having exercised our democratic

rights! Is this the democracy that we fought for and longed for? In fact, nobody exactly knows why are suddenly all these raping, killing, grabbing of belongings and lands for? An invisible excuse has been set to materialise the vested interest of a particular power hungry group. And regrettably enough, there are not enough people to stand up against this vicious crime. This is the difference between pre- and post- 1997.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Dacoity at a city house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed robbers looted money and other valuables from the residence of the secretary of Bangladesh Computer Council at Ameddabab in the city's Sabujbagh area in the early hours of yesterday.

The gang entered the one-storey building by cutting grills at about 3:30am. The gang confined the family members in a room and looted money and gold ornaments worth about Tk 62,000.

The gang also threatened that the family members would face dire consequences if they filed any case with police.



Students of USEP School-1 took out a rally in the city yesterday in observance of the Child Rights Week and Child Conference 2001.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 19		5-29 pm
Oct 20	5-58 am	

Prayer Timings		
Oct 19		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-25
Juma	12-15	1-20
Asr	3-55	4-15
Maghrib	5-38	5-42
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation