

GQ Chy's remark angers Ctg BNP men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A reported comment of a former BNP law maker from Rauzan, published in a section of the press, has created discontent among BNP leaders and activists in the district.

The report said that Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury, younger brother of Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, during a recent speech issued a threat to the OC of Rauzan thana.

The report also created commotion in the police administration.

The local BNP termed the news "a plot hatched by police" with the help of

some party men to take "revenge" on the family following the recent "humiliating behavior" to the district police superintendent by Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury.

Rauzan thana BNP leaders in a joint statement yesterday evening

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BCL siege at CU in its third day

CU CORRESPONDENT

A deadlock prevailed at Chittagong University (CU) for the third day yesterday as Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) continued its "siege programme" protesting murder of one of its leaders, Mortuza.

No classes or examinations were held.

The "siege programme" followed a prolonged vacation of the university.

Presence of teachers, students and officials on the campus was very poor.

University buses did not ply and the shuttle train was also late in reaching the university railway station yesterday as it started from the city after repair of the rail track.

Some fishplates were removed from the track by BCL activists

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Body of vegetable vendor found at Karwan Bazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Railway police yesterday recovered body of a vegetable vendor from behind Karwan Bazar wholesale fish market.

The deceased was identified as Anwar Hossain Monu, 27, son of Dulal Miah of Kazipara slum in the city's Mirpur area.

Family members said Anwar came out of his house Tuesday morning and did not return since then.

Being informed, railway police recovered the body, wrapped in a sack at around 8:30 am. Victim's mother Hamida Khatun identified the body.

There were marks of stab injury in his chest and a rope was tied around his neck. The victim was wearing a lungi and a red colour shirt, police said.

The reason behind the killing of Anwar could not be known.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Hamida Khatun filed a case with Railway police in this regard.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Jan 4		5-25 pm
Jan 5	6-42 am	

Prayer Timings		
Jan 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-00
Juma	12-15	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-25	5-30
Esha	7-05	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Dhaka traffic set to get a new face soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The bad news -- with the disappearance of about 1,000 rundown vehicles from the city roads, general commuters are facing tremendous hassles in moving around the capital.

The good news -- within a week or two, some 50 modern and spacious Volvo buses received from Sweden would start plying the city roads. Sixty more Volvo buses, specially designed for everyday urban commuting, would follow the first fleet soon.

The flip side of the scaled-up drives to contain pollution and traffic jam in the city is the dearth of public transports facing the commuters, though the traffic situation has improved significantly since January 1.

The decision to withdraw these vehicles from services was made apparently without thinking of an immediate replacement, sources said.

That is just the beginning of changes in the whole commuting scenario of the capital.

Officials of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) said they have already received many applications for permission to introduce new buses on various routes in the city. For the route-6 from Pir Jangi Mazar to Gulshan, a case in point, the BRTA received ten appli-

cations to introduce modern chair coaches.

Motor importers and distributors now see a huge rush for modern vehicles. Many investors are purchasing modern minibuses, which will ply the city roads and bring a change in the road communication within the next two months.

About 1,000 buses, tempos and other public transports plying 15 routes in the city are more than 20 years old, and as per a government decision, these vehicles would be scrapped.

"Thanks to money, investors are coming forward to fill the vacuum we have created in the market," said a BRTA official on condition of anonymity.

Asked how they could then issue fitness certificates to vehicles outliving their longevity for over 20 years, the official said the certificate is issued on the basis of visual inspection because Bangladesh is yet to set any standard for vehicular fitness.

Thousands of commuters are also suffering due to the government's decision to ban rickshaws on some major thoroughfares and its failure to introduce public transports, thus resulting in problems for not-so-well-off commuters who depend on cheap transports such as rickshaws, tempos and buses.

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Mockbul granted bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday granted bail to former Awami League MP Alhaj Mockbul Hossain.

Judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa passed the order upon a bond of Tk 30,000 with two guarantors.

Earlier, Advocate Rafiqul Islam Benu had submitted a criminal appeal, seeking bail to the Sessions Judge's Court against the rejection order of the CMM's Court. Later, the Judge Court heard the appeal on Wednesday.

The CMM's Court on December 4 last year rejected the bail petition of Mockbul Hossain.

Mockbul was arrested from his Mohammadpur residence in the city in the early hours of December 2 last year.

He was arrested under Section 54 of CrPC. No specific case was filed against him.

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Buses stay off Dhaka-N'ganj route

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Buses and minibuses on the Dhaka-Narayanganj route are not operating for the last two days.

All buses have suspended their services because of the new rule by the government since January 1, resulting in an enormous problem to about 50,000 regular passengers on the route.

There are about 300 buses and minibuses regularly plying the Dhaka-Narayanganj new and old routes.

Only 30 air-conditioned buses and 22 BRTC double-deckers are the only means of travelling to Dhaka, with thousands of people now depending on the said buses and trains.

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Violating environment preservation laws, a five-katha area of the Gulshan Lake has recently been demarcated by its so-called owners by sinking bamboo poles and a signboard into the lakebed.

Fresh bid to gobble up Gulshan Lake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another attempt to grab part of the Gulshan Lake is on in clear violation of laws governing preservation of water-bodies and open spaces in the city.

A five-katha area of the lake along Gulshan Road no. 35 between Gulshan and Banani TNT Colony has been demarcated by sinking bamboo poles into the lakebed.

A signboard bearing the names Sultana Akhtar and Sajjadur Rahman Bhuiyan as owners has been put up claiming possession of the area by right of purchase. Local people said the signboard and the poles were installed about four days ago.

Residents of Gulshan to the east of the lake as well as fishermen dwelling in slums to the west however said they did not know anything about the so-called owners of the demarcated water-body, which has been earmarked for the lake in the Rajuk Master Plan.

"The signboard and the bamboo poles were installed secretly and we suddenly found out about it a few days ago", said Mizan, an employee at an apartment com-

plex on the road. The signboard has been installed in a place that is hardly noticeable from nearby roads.

A few demarcation pillars could also be seen in the water east of Gulshan road no. 33. Local people said the pillars have been there for more than ten years.

Rajuk Superintendent Engineer Emdadul Haq while talking to The Daily Star yesterday said that the installation of the signboard and poles are illegal and that Rajuk is going to take immediate action against those responsible for installing them.

A section of unscrupulous land-grabbers claim to have obtained court orders regarding their ownership of parts of the lake although environmental laws provide that the lake cannot be filled up or structures built on areas that have been earmarked for the lake in the Rajuk Master Plan. It also provides for violators to be fined or imprisoned.

According to official sources, a vast area of the 200-

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Industrialist Alam murder Police arrest two sons, suspect family feud led to killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested two sons of murdered industrialist Mohammad Alam late last night after preliminary investigations by the Detective Branch indicated that family feud over inheritance might have led to the gruesome murder of the late industrialist.

Industrialist Mohammad Alam was brutally murdered at his Alambagh residence Tuesday night along with three housemaids.

Detective Branch (DB) of police, which is investigating the murders, arrested Nur Alam alias Babul and Jahir Alam alias Khokon, Alam's two sons from his first marriage, late last night. Besides, two housemaids, Farida and Henowara, who confessed before police to have been Alam's mistresses, were also arrested.

Detectives suspect the two arrested sons of the deceased of masterminding his murder as part of a

blueprint to grab the huge property of the deceased millionaire.

Sources said Alam's two sons were arrested on the basis of information provided by Farida, who told police that the strained relation between Alam and his sons deteriorated when Alam recently stopped giving them money.

She told police that Khokon along with his elder brother Babul and a local group of terrorists masterminded the killing of his father. The three maids were chopped to death, as the killers did not want to leave any witnesses, she said.

Farida also told police that Khokon, Babul and their associates had a meeting near the Shyampur Bridge just the day before the killing took place.

Alam had a total of eight children from his two marriages. His three sons, Babul, Khokon and Labu, and a

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Bangladesh (L) and Pakistan cricketers doing some stretching during practice sessions at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Thursday. The visitors open their tour with a three-day match against Bangladesh A at the BKSP in Savar starting tomorrow.

'National convention' on gas denounces export option

Countrywide protest announced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A declaration adopted at a 'national convention' here yesterday said export of gas through pipeline would be against the interest of the country and the people and announced a programme to launch a countrywide movement to resist the move.

It also gave the government a deadline till March 20 to cancel the two committees formed to assess the gas reserve and its utilisation.

The committees have been formed with "agents" of multina-

tional companies to hand over the gas resource to them through "conspiracies", the declaration said. It demanded utilisation of gas in different sectors including power and industry for the country's development, instead of exporting it.

Political leaders, noted intellectuals, former officials and hundreds of representatives from professional groups attended the convention, organised by the National Committee for Protection of Oil-Gas Resource for National Interest, held at the Osmany Memorial Hall.

The declaration said the committee will hold demonstrations in districts and upazilas, which will culminate into a "people's march" towards Bibiyana gas filed in Sylhet on March 20. There is a proposal to the government for pipeline export of gas from the Bibiyana filed.

The declaration was read out by Prof. Anu Mohammad of Jahangirnagar University.

Besides intellectuals, professionals, officials and political leaders, the convention was addressed by representatives of 52 district committees of the National Committee.

The convention also decided to

form units of the Committee in rest of the districts soon.

After the day-long convention, a big procession was brought out. The processionists carrying banners and chanting slogans against gas export paraded different city streets.

Speakers at the convention said despite ideological differences, the major political parties Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party have "joined the same league" to export gas by depriving the people.

They called upon all patriotic forces to build a united resistance against the move.

The characteristics of Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party are different but they are of the same view on the issue and are "conspiring" to export gas, noted educationist Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury said.

Dr. Hossain Mansoor, former chairman of Petrobangla, said national interest was not considered

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Mugging: ASI of Special Branch, 3 others held in Thakurgaon

UNB, Thakurgaon

Four people including an ASI of District Special Branch were arrested on Wednesday for their involvement in a mugging incident here on December 10.

The arrested ASI, Mustafizur Rahman, was suspended for his negligence in arresting a gang of muggers and failure to give protection to a businessman. He was taken on a three-day remand.

The arrest was made after Dulal Hossain, a businessman, filed a case on Tuesday (Jan 2) accusing six people in connection with robbing his staff Karim of Tk 2.57 lakh.

Sources said a gang of muggers led by one Liton snatched the money from Karim at the town's old bus stand on December 10.

ASI Mustafizur Rahman rushed to the spot but he did not arrest the snatchers. Local people requested him to give protection to Karim but he did not pay heed.

The muggers fled the scene taking Karim with them. They also threatened Karim who somehow managed to escape from the hands of the miscreants.

The three others arrested in this connection are Dalim, Madhusudan and Nitai. Liton is absconding.

Bus-truck collision kills ten in Tangail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 people were killed and 45 others injured in separate road accidents in Tangail, Rajshahi and Thakurgaon yesterday.

Of them, 10 were killed in Tangail, three in Rajshahi and the rest two in Thakurgaon.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports: Ten people were killed and 40 others injured in a bus-truck collision on Mymensingh-Tangail road at Roktipara under Madhupur upazila of Tangail district yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred when the Dhaka-bound bus from Dhanbari collided with a speeding truck coming from opposite direction at 7.30 am, killing eight on the spot and two others on way to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

Eight of the dead were identified as bus driver Swapan, 40, truck driver Rafique, 30, Nurul Islam, 40, Jobber, 40, Shamim, 45, Moniruzzaman, 40, Raihan, 30, and Azim, 35. The identity of two others could not be known.

Of the injured, 20 were admitted to MMCH.

According to our Rajshahi correspondent, three people were killed in two separate road acci-

Windies-Pak series in Dhaka?

BCB receives draft itinerary

HASAN MASOOD

The Bangladesh Cricket Board has been proposed Thursday by its Pakistan counterpart to host their home series against West Indies as a neutral country after the latter pulled out of next month's scheduled tour citing security concern.

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) however informed the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) that it is ready to send its team to play the series at a neutral venue.

But the details of the itinerary that includes three Tests and as many one-day internationals could not be collected as the BCB does not want to disclose it until it is announced officially.

Talking to The Daily Star Sport at a players' reception at the Pakistan High Commission last night, Board director Syed Ashraful Haq only admitted of having received such proposal from the PCB.

"You see, it is just a proposal that PCB has sent to us. We will first see whether the fixture suits us as there will be Eid-ul-Azha in between," said Ashraful.

West Indies, who were scheduled to reach Pakistan on January 25, are

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admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

In another accident, Subodh, 30, of Chapainawabganj district, was killed on the spot when a bus knocked him down in Amnura area of Pabna upazila in the afternoon.

In Thakurgaon, two officers of Anwarul Haque, 25, and Tareque, 38. Two of the injured people were

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