

2 Gano Mukti Fouj leaders gunned down in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two leaders of Gano Mukti Fouj (GMF) were gunned down allegedly by the cadres of Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) at village Razapur under Kumarkhali upazila in the early hours of yesterday.

The GMF leaders were identified as Abdul Berek, 40, and his associate Harun alias Hiru Sheikh, 32.

Police and local people said BCP cadres stormed into a home at the village where Gano Mukti Fouj activists were holding a meeting.

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8 KU officials sued for corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Inspector Zahid Hossain of District Anti-corruption Bureau filed four separate cases with Batiaghata thana on June 30 against eight officials of Khulna University on charge of misappropriating 50 tonnes of rice worth Taka 6.25 lakh allocated for ten projects of the university.

All the eight alleged officials are still in service. They are Executive Engineer Abdur Razzak, Administrative Officer Howlader

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PM's directive Recruit teachers, doctors and law-enforcers in vacant posts

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday instructed the ministries concerned for quick recruitment of teachers, doctors, nurses, law-enforcing agency personnel and computer technicians in vacant posts.

The instructions came at a review meeting she chaired at her office on the basis of reports of different ministries on the prevailing conditions in the economic and administrative sectors and law and order of the country.

The Prime Minister asked all concerned to maintain utmost administrative discipline in the management of production and supply in all important sectors, including electricity. She told the authorities concerned to reduce the number of under-trial prisoners through quick disposal of cases and increase facilities for jail inmates.

The meeting decided to hold similar review meetings in future on the basis of monthly reports to be supplied by all ministries. Analysing the latest index and indicators, the

meeting viewed that the economy has become dynamic and the production of food, agriculture and other commodities was satisfactory. It was further observed that significant balance is being maintained in the macro-economy sector.

The meeting took some decisions for adopting appropriate measures based on specific programmes and structures in those areas of administration and law and order where further improvement was needed.

The meeting was attended by Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Industries Minister M K Anwar, Post and Telecommunications Minister Barrister Aminul Huq, PM's Political Secretaries Haris Chowdhury and Alhaj Mosaddek Ali, PM's Principal Secretary Dr. Kamal Uddin Siddique, Cabinet Secretary Dr. Sadaat Hussain, Establishment Secretary A B Chowdhury and Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan.

Tk 2 lakh looted from Al-Razi Hospital in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted Tk. two lakh from Al-Razi General Hospital at Farmgate in the city's Tejgaon area in the early hours of yesterday.

A gang of five entered the accounts section on the first floor of the hospital by cutting the grills.

The armed gang beat up night guard Abdul Haq Mollah, took away the keys of almira and looted Tk. 1.95 lakh.

A case was filed with Tejgaon Police Station in this regard. None was, however, arrested till last night.

Accused in Muhuri Murder Case arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An absconding accused in the sensational Principal Gopal Krishna Muhuri Murder Case was arrested here in the early hours of yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a task force of Detective Branch (DB) raided Segun Bagan area under Khulshi Thana at around 1.45 am and arrested Mohammad Sharif alias Mintu alias Milton, 25.

Police said, Sharif is the close associate and relative of Md. Shahjahan, one of the prime accused in the principal Muhuri Murder Case.

Gopal Krishna Muhuri, the Principal of Nazirhat College, was killed by gunmen allegedly loyal to Jamaat-Shibir in November last year.

Death threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The executive engineer of Rajuk has been threatened with death unless he withdrew a case he had filed against a real estate developer in Ashuliya.

ASM Raihanul Ferdous filed a general diary yesterday with the Motijheel Police Station saying that he was verbally threatened during a visit to Ashuliya, after he filed the case against the Jamuna Group.

He said in the diary that when the earth filling operation was stopped by the government, the contractors at the site asked him not to return to Ashuliya and warned him of dire consequences.

Ferdous also said in the diary that on June 30, an anonymous caller threatened him of 'personal harassment' for lodging the case against the developer.

Vast majority of young people lack knowledge about AIDS

Epidemic just beginning, warns new UN report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A United Nations report released yesterday says the vast majority of the world's young people still have no idea how HIV/AIDS is transmitted or how to protect themselves from the deadly disease.

Three UN agencies that published the report globally called for unparalleled political commitment to raising financial and human resources to fight HIV/AIDS.

The report is an effort to provide young people with knowledge about HIV infection and how to avoid infection, the UN organisations said.

Jointly produced by UNAIDS, WHO and the Unicef, the landmark report titled "Young People and HIV/AIDS: Opportunity in Crisis" is the first comprehensive look at the behaviour and knowledge relating to HIV/AIDS of young people at 15 to 24.

The report stresses that young people are at the centre of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. They are both hardest-hit by the disease and the key to overcoming it. Yet, strategies for responding to the epidemic generally disregard young people.

Overall surveys from 60 countries indicate that more than 50 per cent

of young people aged between 15 and 24 have serious misconceptions about HIV/AIDS.

AFP from Paris adds: The AIDS epidemic which has already killed more than 20 million people in 20 years is still in an early phase, a new UN report for 2002 said yesterday.

The disease is projected to cause the early deaths of 68 million people between 2000 and 2020 if prevention and treatment are not greatly stepped up, the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) warned ahead of an international AIDS conference opening Sunday in Barcelona, Spain.

"The AIDS epidemic is still at an early stage. We knew it was the case for Asia and the former Soviet Union," Peter Piot, UNAIDS executive director, told the wire service.

"But in addition it shows no sign of running out of steam in the worst-hit countries, in other words in southern Africa," he said. In Zimbabwe, one-third of adults were HIV-positive by the end of 2001 compared with one-quarter in 1997, the report said.

Theories that the epidemic could level off in heavily hit countries are

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Alleged killer husband of Bakul still at large

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police could not arrest the alleged killer husband of Noor Jahan Akther Bakul till last night.

However, three people were arrested and placed on a two-day remand. The arrested were Abdul Kashem and Noor Jahan Begum, the father and mother of the absconding husband, and Mohamad Sobhan, guard of the hotel where the murder took place.

Bakul, 21, daughter of Haji Noor Mohammad was declared dead at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in the early hours of Monday after she was found fatally injured at her Topkhana Road residence, situated on the ground floor of Hotel Al Jewel owned by her husband, Alhaj Rashid Jewel.

The inquest report showed there were marks of bruises around her neck and both her hands were tied up with a rope while she was tortured. Police however believe she was strangled after being beaten up.

A three-member team led by Associate Professor Mizanur Rahman of the forensic department of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) carried out the

postmortem from 11:00am to 2:00pm yesterday. Later, Mohammad Hanif, a relative of the victim collected the body around 3:30pm from the hospital morgue.

According to the team, they have found injuries in different parts of the dead housewife's body but these might not be the only reason behind her death, experts said. They further said the board would sit to find out the cause of death.

The victim's father filed a murder case with the Ramna Police Station under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000, accusing the victim's husband and his parents.

Bakul's parents claimed their son-in-law frequently tortured Bakul on accounts of dowry and did not allow her to visit her parents.

They also said Rashid, the husband, was given Tk 15 lakh as dowry after his marriage with Bakul. However, he had also been given Tk 2 lakh on different occasions and was pressing the family to provide a car for him.

Rashid has been absconding since the incident. The couple was married about 2 years ago and has a nine-month son.



PHOTO: STAR

Sheikh Hasina walks up to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday. The court granted her bail on a graft charge during her tenure as PM.