

Viscera report Poisonous gas might have caused death of 6 in B'baria

UNB, B'baria

Carbon monoxide might have caused the 'mysterious' death of six members of a family at Aminpur here on August 8, viscera report said yesterday.

Competent sources said the report prepared by the chief chemical examiner in Dhaka found carbon monoxide but source of the toxic gas could not be known.

However, no evidence of poisoning was found in food test.

Although police started investigation into the possible sources of carbon monoxide, they are waiting for another expert report, police sources said.

Maulana Abbas Ali, his wife
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Probe body chief visits Satkhira silo Middlemen supplied wheat from 'elsewhere'

REAZ AHMAD and ABU AHMED, in Satkhira

The secretarial committee on wheat scam detected that procurement in Satkhira was done when the home-grown wheat was not available.

Civil Aviation Secretary Shafiqul Islam, the probe body head, visited the Satkhira Sadar local supply depot (LSD) yesterday morning and collected wheat samples and procurement records from the silo.

During the visit, the one-man committee found that non-availability of the homegrown wheat at the end of the extended period of 135-day procurement drive led 'middlemen' to supply wheat from elsewhere. Islam, however, did not comment on the wheat's origin -- Bangladeshi or Indian.

Satkhira Deputy Commissioner Abdul Matin Chowdhury was present at the Satkhira Sadar LSD during the visit by the secretarial probe committee.

Besides, all seven members of the district food-grains procurement committee, including two BNP leaders and one JCD leader, accompanied Islam.

Earlier, the press reported that 808MT of imported wheat was procured at the Satkhira Sadar LSD in the last few days of the extended drive from mid-March to end-July.

Meanwhile, a local probe committee formed on a directive from the Satkhira deputy commissioner has found six sacks of putrid wheat in the silo. The committee recommended chemical tests of the rotten wheat.

Last week, the secretarial probe body visited different silos in Bogra and Pabna too.

All visits found a common phenomenon that everywhere wheat was procured when growers had sold their produce out.

As a result, the country's wheat farmers were
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PHOTO: STAR

DANGER ON THE WAY: Many manholes on the city roads as in Badamtoli remain uncovered for months together, putting both vehicles and people at the risk of mishaps.

8 KU officials sued for corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The district anti-corruption bureau has recently filed four cases with Batiaghata thana against eight officials of Khulna University (KU) on charge of misappropriating 50 metric tonnes of rice worth Tk 6.25 lakh.

The rice had been allocated for 10 projects during tenure of the last Awami League government. All these four cases were recorded on June 30.

The eight accused under the four cases are executive engineer Abdur Razzak, transport officer Md. Shah Nuroze, section officers Md. Arif Newaz, Shaikh Shahadat Hossain Shadin and SM Golam Haider, administrative officer Howlader Alamgir Hadi, accountant Shyamol Kanti Samaddar and assistant accountant Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

KU sources said 50 metric tonnes of rice was allocated for earth-filling works under the projects as approved by former KU vice-chancellor Prof Dr Nazrul Islam. But the entire amount of rice was misappropriated without doing any earth-filling.

The accused are still working at the university with the blessing of a few top officials who have been influencing the police not to issue the warrants for arrest of the eight officials.

ASM NURUNNABI

Lately, a new trend in men's attire is in vogue that takes into account comfort alongside aesthetics. Normally in our country, where the climate is hot and humid for most part of the year, the general preference is for light and loose dresses that allow for ventilation to keep the body temperature as low as possible. The latest designs of men's attire have incorporated this important feature and have thus found positive response in the field casual wear. And such popular choice is reflected in the steady preference for men's punjabi (kurta) and pajama in the summer.

Gone are the days when men used to wear sherwani and tight-fitting pajama for formal occasions. Those dresses have now been replaced by knee-length kurta, particularly during religious festivals. This new trend is noticeable almost everywhere.

Popularity of kurta is evident in almost all city shops selling readymade garments for men. The buying spree for this dress is set in

DOWN TO EARTH

Changing trend in men's wear

motion particularly with the approach of a big religious festival. These dresses are adorned with such a large variety of beautiful pieces of embroidery on the shoulder and on the front that making a selection for purchase becomes difficult. Lately, a number of fashion houses in Dhaka City have come up with different varieties of this attractive wear in cotton, silk, grameen check etc. with beautiful embroidery works that are simply a feast for the eyes. Prices range from 100 to several thousand taka.

Punjabis with a variety of special new designs, such as Pathan Punjabi, Nawabi Punjabi, Zamindar Punjabi etc., have lately been put up for sale in the market. There is a variant of this dress known as Peshwari or Kabuli suit with a loose-fitting shirt reaching down below the knee and a loose shalwar. Although this dress is sometimes worn on formal occasions, it is however less popular because it is more expensive than the embroidered kurta. It is a pleasant development that

this new trend in casual wear offers a vast scope for colourful designs and styles, free from the straightjacket of convention and affordable for most people.

The kurta for men, however, falls behind in comparison with the so-called three-piece for women, which is more variegated and gorgeous as well as expensive. This kind of women's dress is also getting very popular due to its greater functionality.

The main shopping centres for
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Bodies to prove alleged JU irregularities

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University (JU) Syndicate has formed two committees to probe alleged irregularities in construction and publication works done by the university administration during the tenure of the immediate past Awami League government.

The bodies were formed at Wednesday's meeting of the Syndicate where one of its "pro-BNP" members brought allegations of irregularities against what he called the past "pro-AL administration of JU", sources said.

Nazimuddin Alam MP from Bhola-4 constituency heads the body which will probe alleged irregularities in publication works while Dr Dewar Salauddin MP from Dhaka-12 will head the other body. The government recently nominated the two MPs as JU Syndicate members.
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One beaten to death in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A man identified as Kamrul Islam, 34, was beaten to death at midnight on Thursday at Star Jute Mills in Digholia upazilla of Khulna district.

Police and locals said Kamrul was a professional burglar. He entered the mill premises scaling boundary wall.

Night guards caught Kamrul red-handed and beat him to death.

Police recovered the body from a drain near mill gate yesterday morning.

A case has been recorded with Digholia thana at noon yesterday naming two night guards of the mill as accused.

Hepatitis-B vaccination under EPI postponed

Fresh focus on polio threat

NAIMUL HAQ

The government has postponed launching of hepatitis-B vaccination under the Extended Programme of Immunisation (EPI) till October this year, officials said.

The decision was taken at a high level meeting at the health ministry recently.

A top official said the decision was taken so that the government could focus on expanding Sub-National Immunisation Days (SNIDs) and intensifying surveillance in the wake of identification of seven confirmed polio cases in Murshidabad and Birbhum districts of West Bengal in India, near the Bangladesh border.

The postponement has caused concern because of high mortality rate from hepatitis-B, which costs lives of about 22,000 children under 15 annually in the country.

The government announced last month that hepatitis-B vaccination would be launched this month for children under one-year initially in six districts and one

city corporation as a pilot project. The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) committed to provide \$40 million for this for five years.

As many as 10 lakh people will die from hepatitis-B in Bangladesh in the next decade or so and about five per cent of the population are carriers of the deadly hepatitis-B virus, a WHO report said.

Meanwhile, WHO officials said there has been no confirmed case of polio in Bangladesh since August 2000.

But in India, 232 confirmed cases of polio have been reported till now this year. This is a substantial increase compared to that during the corresponding period last year. Most cases of polio are occurring in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, they said.

The confirmed wild polio cases, seven between May 22 and June 26 this year, was identified by the West Bengal government. There may be more cases of wild
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Thursday's gunfight 2 JCD activists arrested in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet Kotwali Police have arrested two activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday morning in connection with a gunfight between two rival groups of the JCD Thursday night.

The arrested were identified as Lutfur Rahman, son of late Jahur Ali of Kuarpar, Sylhet, and Shafiqul Islam Bullet, son of Abdul Mannan of Laksham, Comilla. Both were arrested from the Kuarpar area.

On Thursday night, the activists of Mizan Group and Shahin Group traded around 100 gunshots during an hour-long encounter at Kuarpar of Sylhet town that left about 20 people injured. During the encounter, some pellets also fell on the house of ex-CEC Justice Chowdhury ATM Maswood, where former advisor of the caretaker government Brigadier (ret) Professor MA Malik was staying. Police were dispatched to the area after Brigadier Malik himself phoned police officials. By the time police reached the spot, the gunfight had already subsided, local people informed.

One Ahab Hossain of Kuarpar area lodged a case with the Kotwali Police accusing 18 people for their involvement in Thursday night's incident. He alleged that furniture and other valuables were damaged and a motorbike was stolen during the encounter.

Sources said the clash, which was a sequel to the long-standing rivalry between the two JCD factions,
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AL public rally in city tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League will hold a public meeting at Paltan Maidan in the city tomorrow demanding execution of the court verdict in Bangabandhu murder case.

The public meeting, part of AL's month-long programme on the 27th anniversary of assassination of Bangabandhu, will be presided over by party chief Sheikh Hasina.

Meanwhile, AL general secretary Zillur Rahman in a statement yesterday condemned the killing of four people at Malibagh on Thursday.

He demanded arrest of those involved in the killing and prayed for the departed souls.

Hasina calls for mass upsurge to oust govt

UNB, Gopalganj

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for waging a mass movement to unseat what she called heavy-handed BNP-Jamaat regime. "Today we'll have to take a decision -- a united decision -- about this autocratic government. It needs a mass upsurge to oust this repressive regime and rid the nation of a suffocating rule imposed on the people since the October 1 election," she said.

Hasina, the immediate-past prime minister, made the call while addressing half a dozen wayside rallies on her way from the capital to Gopalganj to pay respects to the late founding father of the country, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, marking the anniversary of his demise.

Continuing her tirade against the government, the Awami League chief observed that people, being frustrated and fed up with the rule of "the mother and the son", had already started building resistance against it across the country. Thursday's successful hartal bears the testimony to it, she said.

She rebuked the government for the killing of innocent Madrasah students by "BNP cadres" and Ansars at Malibagh on Thursday.

On the current situation, Hasina observed that murder, rape and extortion became the order of the day after the alliance government "captured power."

She alleged that although "BNP cadres" were arrested with sophisticated arms, "false cases" were being filed against AL leaders Obaidul Kader, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Kamal Majumder.

Referring to the restrictions on hoisting national flag at half-mast on August 15, Hasina said it is unfortunate that the government created obstruction to the observance of the death anniversary of the father of the nation. She also complained that police and BNP cadres were let loose on the people at different places on the day.

"It is now clear to the people that both BNP and Jamaat are out to protect the killers of Bangabandhu and destroy the democracy and rule of law," she told her audience.

Bringing charges of corruption against the government, the AL chief said ruling party ministers and MPs and their relatives were amassing illegal fortune on the one hand and on the other, thousands of workers were left jobless by closing down Adamjee Jute Mills and banning auto-rickshaws.

She addressed the rallies at Paturia ferry ghat, Faridpur bus-stand, Biswa Road Crossing, Moksdepur and Tekerhat.
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3 criminals held with arms in Ctg

BSS, Dhaka

Detectives and Doublemooring police in a joint raid arrested three criminals from the city's Haji Para area and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession yesterday morning.

The seized weapons include one 303 rifle, one magazine and 22 bullets.

The arrested criminals are Mohammad Jasim, 28, Mohammad Mujibur Rahman, 28, and Quddus, 26.

Acting on a tip-off, the joint squad conducted a raid on a thatched house in the area at about 6.30 am and nabbed the criminals.

In another raid, the joint team arrested Jasim, a listed criminal
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BNP factions clash at N'ganj: 10 injured

UNB, Narayanganj

At least 10 people were injured in an armed clash between two rival factions of the ruling party at Masdar in the town yesterday.

The clash erupted between the supporters of two factions-one led by Halim and the other by Muhammad-at about 11am over establishing supremacy in the area.

Police rushed to the spot and dispersed the clashing groups.

The injured persons were admitted to different private clinics.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Aug 17		6-30 pm
Aug 18	5-34 am	

Prayer Timings		
August 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-00
Zahr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-35	6-40
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation