

Young man stabbed to death in city

Shop employee beaten by owner dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified elements stabbed to death an employee of a pharmaceutical company at Dogair in the city's Demra area in the early hours of yesterday.

The victim, Zakir Hossain, 25, was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

Zakir was a machine operator at Aerostopharma at Shyampur in the city. He hailed from Mottab thana in Chandpur and was residing with his sister.

His sister Rahima Begum said she woke up at about 3 am yesterday hearing her brother screaming, went to his room and found him lying in a pool of blood.

Family members said Zakir had returned home from work at about 4:30 pm on Sunday and went out for Esha prayers. But they did not know when he returned.

His brother-in-law said a local miscreant used to call him out of the house. He however could not give details.

Zakir was married and his wife is at an advanced stage of pregnancy.

A murder case has been filed with the Demra Police Station in this connection but none could be arrested till last night.

Meanwhile, an employee of a metal shop at Nakhhalpara, who was fatally injured in beating by the shop owner and his men on November 23, died at the DMCH in the early hours of yesterday.

Shamsul Haque, 35, and two other employees of Jilani Metal at West Nakhhalpara were severely beaten following a burglary at the shop. They were admitted to the DMCH as their condition deteriorated. Shamsul was released from the hospital on November 30 and was he was rushed back as he felt sick. He died at about 2:00 am yesterday.

A case was filed with the Tejgaon Police Station and 11 employees of the shop were arrested for their alleged involvement in the killing of Shamsul. The owner of the shop is absconding, police said.

Sedition charges

FROM PAGE 1
The court later heard the defence lawyers on their petitions for bail of the three, but rejected all of them.

Police, however, continued interrogating journalist Saleem Samad who was also arrested for his reported links with the two foreign journalists.

The two Channel-4 journalists were arrested on November 25 as they were crossing the Bangladesh border at Benapole over to India, after working for a documentary on Bangladesh.

Sources said defence counsels of the three were waiting at the CMM's court with bail petitions of the three from 10:00am. But court police authorities took the case file to the magistrate's chamber secretly and the magistrate ordered sending the two journalists to the jail as the detectives did not seek further remand for them.

The defence lawyers knew that Detective Branch (DB) police kept the two journalists at the court hajat, but they were unaware of the movement of the case file and the magistrate's order.

Meanwhile, the DB police also submitted another petition to the CMM for recording a confessional statement of Pricilla. The CMM granted the petition and sent the issue to the Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shafiq Anwar for further action.

Pricilla was later taken to the chamber of Magistrate Shafiq Anwar for recording her statement at 10:30am where she gave a confessional statement. The recording took about three hours. After her statement was recorded she was sent to the jail without the knowledge of the defence lawyers who were waiting at the court at that time.

About 50 police personnel, including the investigation officer of the case, were guarding the magistrate's chamber during the recording of the statement, although law does not permit such an action.

Later, the defence lawyers - Barrister Azmalul Hossain, advocates Syed Rezaul Rahman, Khondaker Abdul Mannan and Ela Chanda - submitted two bail petitions for the three. Moving the petitions, they said the investigation officer did not allow us to meet the arrested persons despite a court order on Thursday. They further complained that the court police authorities did not also provide them

with the FIR, the forwarding report and other necessary papers of the case.

Lawyers of Pricilla made submission before the court that they would take part in the hearing only in her presence. Magistrate Khondaker Atiar Rahman directed the court inspector Abdus Sobhan to produce Pricilla before the court. But he expressed his inability to do so before the court, as Pricilla had already been sent to the jail.

The prosecution side opposed the bail petition. After hearing, the court rejected the bail petition of two foreigners but fixed tomorrow (Wednesday) for hearing on Pricilla's bail petition in her presence.

A High Court Division Bench of the Supreme Court yesterday disposed of all the three writ petitions separately filed by the counsels of the two journalists and their two local guides.

The division bench of Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury and Justice Nizamul Huq, also directed the Attorney General to supervise so that the arrested could meet their lawyers and the lawyers are provided with the necessary documents of the case as the Magistrate Court had earlier directed the authorities concerned to do so.

Meanwhile, officials of British and Italian embassies and one lawyer met Sorrentino and Malik for the first time since their arrest five days ago. Talking to the BBC, Barrister Azmalul Hossain said that the two journalists did not bring allegation of physical torture. "But they were in bad shape as they were kept in an isolated place and were not allowed to meet the officials from the embassies of their respective countries and lawyers."

Meanwhile, lawyers of the arrested said that they would appeal to the higher court seeking bail.

The Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association in a statement yesterday condemned the arrest of Saleem Samad and demanded his immediate release.

Meanwhile, Mamun-ur-Rashid, staff photographer of Bangladesh Today, who had taken snaps of the two foreign journalists that were published in a daily, will be questioned today.

Sarwan powers Windies

FROM PAGE 1
glorious cover drive and an exquisite on-drive for four.

Captain Khaled Mashud fought a lost battle with 41 and Naimur Rahman added 37 after the home side collapsed to 94 for six.

West Indies took a 1-0 lead going into the third and final game at the same venue today. The first match in Chittagong was washed out.

Sarwan and Marlon Samuels led the West Indian fightback after their explosive opening pair of Chris Gayle and Wavell Hinds failed for the second successive match. The young guns added 140 runs for the third wicket after Hinds fell for a duck in the second over and Gayle was dismissed for 21.

Playing his 28th ODI, Sarwan celebrated his finest moment when he edged the last ball of the innings for four down to the third man boundary.

The stylish right-hander instantly punched the air after reaching the cherished three figures. It also brought up his first hundred in either version of the game.

Sarwan's previous best was 99 not out against India in the recent one-day series. He struck 11 fours in his 119-ball knock at the crease.

Samuels, on the other hand, mixed elegance with raw power to score a 119-ball 82. The Jamaican right-hander smashed seven fours and two massive sixes before being foxed by a full toss from off-spinner Naimur Rahman.

Dropped on 14 by Ehsanul Haque at cover, Samuels locked into an argument with left-arm

spinner Mohammed Rafique after adding 13 runs to his total. He was responding to Sarwan's call for a single, but stopped after colliding with Rafique. Although Mashud claimed a run out, England umpire David Shepherd referred the incident to the third umpire, who later gave the batsman the benefit of doubt.

Ricardo Powel, who hammered a hurricane 80 off 51 balls in Chittagong, failed to produce the fireworks this time. The powerful right-hander made only 10 before becoming the first wicket of debutant slow medium pacer Ehsanul Haque.

For Bangladesh the new-ball pair of Monjurul Islam and Taposh Baishya once again bowled their hearts out. Left-arm pacer Monjurul bowled his ten overs without any break to finish with one for 20.

Young right-arm seamer Taposh also took one wicket giving away 42 runs in his 10 overs.

Opening batsman Al-Shahriar and Habibul Bashar carried their bad form from Chittagong when they were dismissed for first-ball ducks.

Al-Shahriar drove the first ball of the innings but missed the line completely only to see his middle stump uprooted. Bashar was clean bowled by a yorker from right-arm pacer Vasebert Drakes, who started his demolition job from where he had left off in the port city.

Drakes made it eight wickets in two matches with a career-best 4-18 in nine overs last night. (Scoreboard on page 13)

Channel-4

FROM PAGE 1
Malik and Bruno Sorrentino to Bangladesh after being selected by Channel 4 for the programme.

Meanwhile, Channel 4 and Mentorn Production Company have expressed "grave concern" at the condition of the arrested journalists and appealed to the international journalist organisations and media to press for their release.

Channel 4 alleged that two of its journalists and their interpreter were being "denied their constitutional right to consult and be defended by a lawyer."

Director of Channel 4 Tim Gardam said both Bruno and Zaiba are bona fide journalists who possess "the highest levels of integrity and fairness."

"They are genuine journalists, specialising in development stories, and have worked for BBC, Carlton and Granada Television as well as Channel 4. In addition, Bruno has had a longstanding working relation with the UNICEF."

Zaiba Malik and Bruno Sorrentino were arrested while crossing the Bangladesh border at Benapole into India identifying themselves as an architect and a teacher on November 25. Later their two local associates - Priscilla Raj and Saleem Samad - were also arrested.

Another associate, Indian national Ruchira Gupta, however, returned home three days before their arrest. After her return, she sent several emails to the international media and persons indicating their works on "Bengali identity against the backdrop of rising Muslim fundamentalism and growing power of the Army" for Channel 4.

Meanwhile, the sources said, two brothers of Bruno had applied for Bangladesh visas that are likely to be issued in a couple of days.

But they said Bangladesh High Commission refused visa to Channel 4 reporter Stifen Smith who applied for it to see Zaiba Malik.

The sources said visas were being issued to the relatives of the journalists. "But visas for any foreign journalists are given on Dhaka's decision upon consultation."

Hasina

FROM PAGE 1
The graft case was originally filed with Ramna thana on December 11 last year by the Bureau of Anti-Corruption against former state minister for Power Prof Rafiqul Islam.

According to the case, Prof Islam awarded a contract to the China National Water Resources and Hydropower Engineering Corporation (CNHEC) for development of the site for installation of the AES 450MW Meghnath Power Plant Phase-1 for securing "personal benefit."

The contract involving Tk141.65 crore was given to the company ignoring the lowest bid of Tk123.76 crore, causing a loss of Tk17.89 crore to the public exchequer, it was alleged.

Sheikh Hasina's name was not mentioned in the FIR and there was no specific allegation against Hasina in the graft case in the charge sheet submitted to the trial court.

Subsequently, the Investigation Officer added in the charge sheet names of Hasina and two others as further investigation allegedly revealed their involvement in the scam.

Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud appeared on behalf of Hasina.

PM: Prayers

FROM PAGE 1
iftar and offered other prayers, including tarabi, at the holy mosque.

Members of her entourage, including State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Muhammad Nasir Uddin and Prime Minister's political secretary Musaddek Ali, and Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia SK Sharif Hassan offered their prayers alongside the PM.

Besides, Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid, Salahuddin Ahmed MP and other elite staying in Saudi Arabia also said their prayers and took part in the Munajat at the mosque.

The prime minister is expected to return home Wednesday at the end of her pilgrimage.

BNP hawks

FROM PAGE 1
tion charges against the Awami League president.

Most BNP policymakers, however, feel that instead of a sedition case, a media campaign should be launched against the former prime minister and let the people know what she has said about the country during her stay abroad.

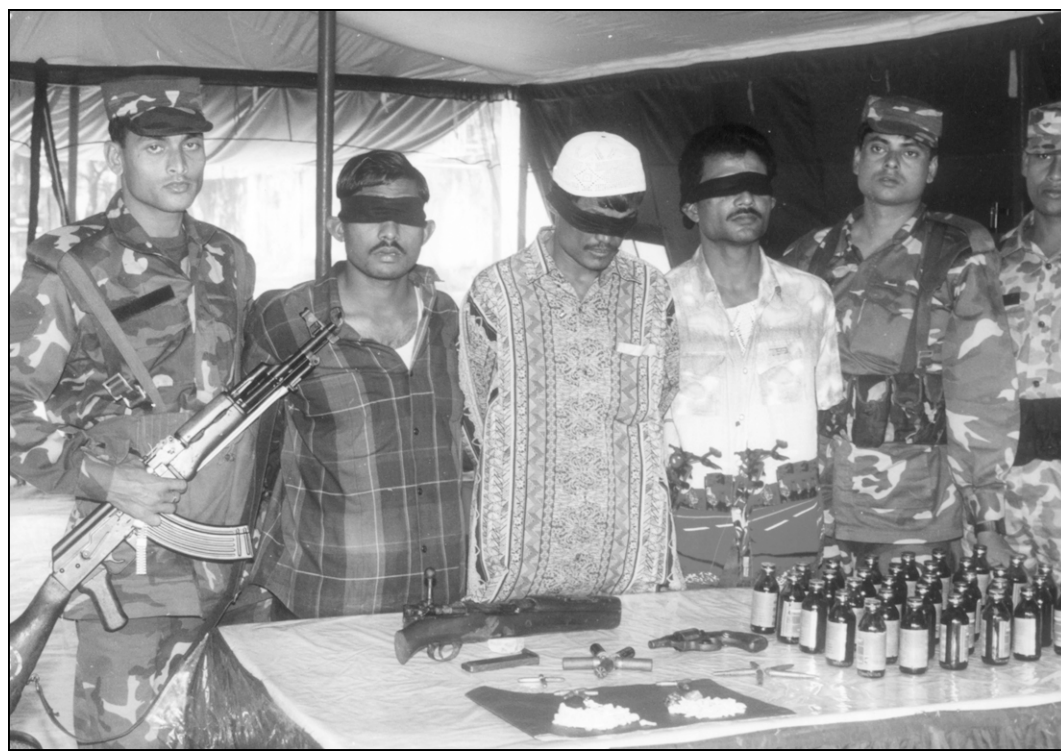
Many suggested airing of special radio and television programmes on Hasina's remarks against the government and the country and their implication.

They believe an effective media campaign through repeated airing of Hasina's speeches and relevant news reports at home and abroad would earn her condemnation from all quarters.

A majority of BNP leaders are also critical of the government's inclination to frequently bringing sedition charges against criminals whereas corruption or criminal cases would have been enough.

Some senior leaders feel corruption or abuse of power cases could have been brought against low-ranking Al leaders Bahauddin Nasim and Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir instead of sedition charges.

They said "sabotage" was a popular term with the Awami League regime and has now become popular with the BNP government as well while "sedition" was a popular term with the Pakistani military junta.



Troops keep three arrestees blindfolded at a Mohammadpur army camp yesterday. The alleged criminals were arrested in the ongoing anticrime operation.

107 held, 26 firearms

FROM PAGE 1
man of negligence in duty. High police and army officials later went to the Tejgaon station to settle the matter. Till filing of this report at 9:00pm, they were in talks to resolve the issue.

In Chittagong, the joint forces yesterday recovered five firearms including a German rifle in the crime-prone Fatikhari upazila.

Meanwhile in Khulna, the coastguards rescued 84 children at Dublar Char near the Hiron point yesterday.

They also seized five firearms during the same period.

A Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) press release said 232 people, including a wanted criminal, were arrested in the city yesterday during a special raid.

Earlier, the coastguards rescued 62 and 39 minor children from the Dublar Char fisherman's colony in two separate raids on November 21 and 27.

They were kidnapped from different parts of the city and used as domestic hands, said sources.

In Jhenidah, the joint forces yesterday arrested five people including three listed criminals and recovered a revolver and a pipe-gun, our correspondent reports.

Our Magura correspondent reports that the army arrested a suspected criminal in Sreerampur village of the district's sadar upazila and later handed him to police.

In Pabna, the joint forces arrested a listed criminal in Ishwardi and recovered a pipe-gun.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reports that the joint forces arrested here.

two people and recovered a gun at Bahirgola Goshpara.

In Bogra, the army arrested four persons including a listed criminal and expelled Jubo League activist Abul Hasan Darpan.

Meanwhile, according to a press release issued by the police headquarters, police arrested 1,255 people, including 12 identified criminals, across the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

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Foreigners

FROM PAGE 1
said the government would not have arrested them had they not faked their identity. "They might have ill motives behind their visit," he added.

The information minister said any government in the world would take action against any foreign national involved in activities other than their declared plan.

He said some of the journalists who visited Bangladesh in the last one year, went back and filed baseless reports which portrayed a negative image of Bangladesh. But the government did not interfere with their works while they were here.

PCJSS

FROM PAGE 1
nals for repression and killing of non-trial.

They demanded that CHT Regional Council chairman Santu Larma should be put in the dock for the killings.

Awami League that signed the peace accord with PCJSS five years ago in a separate rally said the government by stopping implementation of the remaining provisions of the peace accord is trying to return the region to turmoil.

Local leaders of the party said criminal activities increased manifold since the BNP came to power. They demanded arrest of the criminal and recovery of illegal arms.

The Awami League leaders urged for forging unity of the parties supporting the peace accord.

Ovi

FROM PAGE 1
November 16.

Four days later, the body was handed over as unclaimed to the Anjuman Mufidul Islam, a charity, for burial.

Police have so far arrested Tinni's husband Shaikat Hossain Piyal and housemaids Shefali and Bina.

Police interrogated Ovi's brother-in-law Aminul Islam, friend Swapan Gazi and seven members of the cultural team actor Mir Sabbir, cameraman Sohail Awiad, Tamalika Karmakar, scriptwriter Ejaj Munna, producer Ejaj Khan Swapan, actor Shahriar Najim Joy and Kazi Naser.



A policeman passes a bottle of alcoholic drink on to an army man at a camp in the port city of Chittagong yesterday. A team of joint forces seized huge foreign alcoholic drinks in a midnight raid.

Admission test results

FROM PAGE 1
frustrated and they alleged unfair means.

"We were shocked when we saw the result on the board of the institute on Friday. We very well know the top scorers in the exams. They are basically political elements belonging to the ruling BNP and they have no records of good result in the past," said one of the candidates.

A teacher seeking anonymity said, "BNP elements and leaders of the Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) are behind this all. As a teacher, I have never even received any request from any quarter to favour any student. We never compromised on quality of education and we vow to maintain the tradition of the institute."

The foul play was carried out allegedly in cooperation with the academic director of the institute, Prof. Selim Sakur. At least five senior teachers requesting anonymity complained that without Sakur's help, such cheating could not be possible.

However, Sakur refuted the allegations. When contacted, Sakur explained, "The system was very strict and I was not alone to deal with the question papers. There were six other senior professors who supervised and sealed the question papers the night before the exams. Again, the same teachers and moderators supervised unwrapping of the question papers. So, the question of unfair means does not arise at all."

It is alleged that the multiple-choice question papers were leaked

out to nine students seeking admission to masters in medicine course, all of them allegedly belonging to the DAB. The nine candidates allegedly filled out the papers before the exams and then submitted them to the authorities.

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In reply to a question, Sakur said, "The incident is very unusual and unexplainable. But an investigation is going on and so far, most of the allegations were found baseless."

In reply to another question, he said, "Three candidates who obtained unusually high marks belong to the DAB, but they are not hardcore activists as far as I know. In fact, they are also meritorious students."

A total of 200 candidates appeared in the one-hour post-graduation admission exams held on November 15 at the BICH exam hall. A total of 18 candidates will be admitted to the courses.

Writ petitions

FROM PAGE 1
at Uttara in the early hours of Friday.

Barrister Azmalul Hossain appeared in the court for Zaiba and Sorrentino and Barrister Amirul Islam stood for Salim Samad while advocate Mahmudul Islam for Moniza.

Textbook approval

FROM PAGE 1
gested establishing textbook approval authority for more coordination on producing better textbook.

Pointing out the deficiencies in the present system of textbook development and approval, he said functioning of the present system of textbook writing and approval is partly satisfactory and leaves much room for improvement.

Chowdhury said selection of authors and writers are not always done strictly in accordance with criteria and guideline. Besides, preliminary professional scrutiny is not always done according to the criteria laid down.

The education minister however said, "I don't see any overwhelming reason for consideration for separation of the NCTB other than some irregularities and inefficiencies."

Termining the proposal unnecessary, he said, formation of separate entities is not the solution to the textbook problem.

Farruk said the existing NCTB setup is capable enough to deliver good quality textbooks provided necessary manpower in curriculum wing were there and the staff had a proper job description.

The minister observed that skilled manpower could be engaged for printing and distribution for textbooks to reach books to the students in time.

Stressing the need for upgrading the textbooks after every two or three years, the education minister said it is crucial to upgrade books to inform the students about the latest invention and discoveries.

The director general of Bangla

Academy, former and present NCTB chairmen, educationists and experts in the sector participated in the workshop presided over by Education Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Alam. International consultant Dr. Ernesto A Franco moderated the workshop.

Eid fever

FROM PAGE 1
But since the Ramadan started, offices did not start till at least an hour later than the scheduled time and most staffers going for the Zohr prayers did not bother to return to their chairs.

With the Eid round the corner, staff attendance is dropping fast in offices. In different ministries, over the last week, a list of 'long leave seekers' has been submitted to the ministers concerned. Many have appealed to the heads of their respective departments to consider the leave applications on grounds of 'family reunification' in villages.

Many were found already on an official leave. They said they took the leave to do shopping for their families in villages. ENDS.....

Stampede

FROM PAGE 1
Sunday. Several thousand destitute had gathered at the mill gate to collect Zakat clothes donated by the owner of the Nahid Cotton Mills.

Twenty of the 70 injured admitted to the local hospital after the incident were released yesterday.

Meanwhile, a three-member investigation team led by Additional Secretary of the Cabinet Division Zulfikkar Haider Chowdhury is expected to reach Gaibandha today.

VU closure

FROM PAGE 1
acres of land - mandatory for establishment of a private university, but it was later found that they had only three acres.

"There were many other flaws which breach the Private University Act," he added.

Asked if there is any possibility of reviving the now-defunct university, he said anybody could have the permission in compliance with the Private University Act.

The permission of the university home to 133 students was cancelled under the Private University (amendment) Act, 1992. On Saturday, the education ministry in a notification showed a series of malpractices.

Asked about the future of the students, who passed three semesters, the minister has said that 67 have already enrolled at other universities.

The ministry asked the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the authorities concerned to cooperate in enrollment of the students.

The university was established

mostly with infrastructure and funds of the VNSC for a five-year run. But upon a VNSC complaint, the ministry formed a committee to probe the irregularities.

The committee recommended cancellation of the permission as it detected numerous malpractices.

The notification also abrogated the university's authority to get back Tk 5 crore in deposit with a bank. Now, government approval will be required for that.

The investigation committee headed by Professor Monirul Huq, a UGC member, revealed that the university did not have an FDR of Tk 5 crore and five acres of land of its own.

The committee also said the Viqarunnisa University Foundation registered under the Joint Stock Company Act was abolished when one of its life members died and five others resigned.

It also said the former VNSC principal Hamida Ali gave five acres of land of the VNSC to the university and Tk 5 crore in violation of rules.

Schoolboy

FROM PAGE 1
nal of their locality (Kafur area) Nafeuzzaman Nafi alias Nafuil had kidnapped Shifat because they used to prevent him from going out with Nafuil.

They were addressing a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium.

"Nafuil, who claimed himself to be an art teacher, used to persuade our son to go out with him. But when we came to know from local people that Nafuil is a criminal and drug addict, we prevented our son from going out with him. This had angered him," said the missing boy's father Nazrul Islam Talukdar.

He mentioned that local people had seen Shifat in front of Nafuil's house while he went out for a morning walk on the day of his missing.

Although Nafuil was arrested on the basis of their allegation, police failed to get any information from him about Shifat, his parents said. While Nafuil is now in jail custody, his accomplices are "threatening us over telephone," they said.

Greening embankment

FROM PAGE 1
kilometres out of thirty, said the sources in the forest department.

Official sources said that after completion of the five-year afforestation project, the government expanded it by two more years. But this expansion had little impact on the process of implementation of the green belt project.

Meanwhile, encroachers are taking advantage of non-implementation of the project. Different parts and plots of the embankment, earmarked for extensive tree plantation and the green belt project, have already been grabbed. Along the embankment, the encroachers have raised shanties, makeshift shops and concrete structures. The worst affected areas are Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Hazaribagh and many other parts of old Dhaka including Lalbagh, Islampur, Nababgonj and Shahidnagar.

In Mitford area,