

Firm up raids

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ensure security of city-dwellers.

A decision to deploy additional BDR troops was also taken to maintain law and order.

Each police station of the capital were directed to seize at least 50 unauthorised rickshaws as part of a drive to throw out unlicenced rickshaws from the streets of Dhaka, meeting sources said.

The meeting was informed that an additional team of strike force equipped with tow-trucks would be deployed in the city from 11:00pm to 7:00am to take away broken down vehicles left on the road.

Police were ordered to immediately

Businessman missing for a month, feared abducted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Another businessman is feared to have been abducted in the port city as he has been missing for last one month.

Police arrested three suspects but the whereabouts of Azizul Haq Rashed, 28, is yet to be known.

Rashed, a broker of imported vehicles, is the son of Sirajul Islam of Amannazar under Hathazari upazila.

He went missing since October 19 from Reazuddin Bazar. Rashed's younger brother Azad filed a case with Panchalish Police Station, accusing five on November 15. Earlier, two general diaries (GDs) were filed on October 20 and 22.

Azad alleged that an unidentified caller demanded a ransom of Tk 50 lakh for Rashed's release and threatened him with his brother's death if the matter goes to police.

Panchalish police arrested Rashed's cousin Firoz, his wife Shamima Akther and brother-in-law Kashem on November 16 and remanded them for four days.

Police, however, believe family discord might be the reason behind Rashed's going missing.

Sources said Rashed and Shamima had a love affair that might lead Firoz to abduct Rashed.

On October 19, Rashed and Shamima went shopping to Reazuddin Bazar. Shamima returned to her residence but Rashed went missing since then, sources added.

JP (Ershad)

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He requested the JP lawmakers to return to the House.

The speaker also urged the JP to join parliamentary proceedings.

The JP legislators then entered the House amid applause from the ruling alliance lawmakers.

"We are satisfied with the statement of the minister, so we returned to the House," JP lawmaker GM Quader told The Daily Star later.

The JP legislators staged a walkout in parliament on Sunday protesting a deputy minister's remarks against party legislators from Rangpur, alleged discrimination in development works and anomalies in the relief distribution in monga-hit areas.

The government side held a meeting with the JP parliamentary party on Tuesday to resolve the problem.

Meanwhile, no initiative has been taken as yet to bring the main opposition Awami League back to the House.

Sgt Ahad

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proper conviction, the judge observed.

The judge also criticised Ahad's colleagues Sergeant Anwar, SI Moinuddin Ahmed, SI Mesbahuddin and Patrol Inspector Sahabuddin for neglect of duty.

He said the policemen, who were on duty at Shapla Chhatar in Motijheel where Ahad was killed, could have fired blank shots or teargas canisters to scare the muggers off.

The judge dubbed the police officers as 'ineligible' for law enforcement and asked the authorities to consider his view.

The convicts with death penalty are Kangali Zakir and Taleb Hossain Rana, and Zakir Hossain popularly known as Kana Zakir was jailed for life.

The convicts can appeal to the High Court within seven days from the date of delivery of judgement against the verdict.

Zakir Hossain (2), Shahidul Islam, Syed Lal Miah, Abdul Aziz, Bachchu Bepari, Alauddin, Shah Alam, Nishan, Kabir and Abdur Rab were acquitted of the charges. Of them, only Rab has been evading arrest.

The on-trial prisoners were produced before court at noon and the judge took seat at 12:15pm and read out the highlights of the 59-page judgement in 45 minutes.

The convicts cried and protested innocence on hearing the judgement, while the acquitted broke into rapturous applause.

Both the prosecution and the defence wrapped up their arguments on November 3 after statements of 36 prosecution witnesses were recorded.

Sub-Inspector Mesbahuddin filed a murder case with Motijheel Police Station on October 28, 1999, the day

expedite river patrol on the Buriganga using work boats of the shipping ministry and prevent vessel overloading to ensure safety of launch passengers.

The meeting warned against overcharging homebound passengers during Eid holidays and asked police to work with the BIWTA (Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority) to prevent harassment of passengers over fare.

Authorities were also directed to take measures against ticket sale on the black market at bus, launch and train terminals.

Three mobile courts have already been posted at bus, train and launch terminals to punish transport operators overcharging passengers. Magistrates have been authorised to increase the penalty in some cases, meeting sources said.

The meeting also discussed the traffic situation and decided to extend duration of traffic duty until 1:00am instead of 11:00pm considering the Eid rush.

The meeting was informed that 20 mobile courts filed 5,975 cases so far and realised Tk 37.58 lakh in fines for infractions. Twenty-nine people were arrested and 13 of them sent to jail for failing to pay fine.

Road mishaps kill 7 in Feni, Habiganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven people were killed and eight others injured in separate road accidents in Feni and Habiganj yesterday.

Of them, four were killed in Feni and the rest in Habiganj.

In Feni, a road mishap at Temohoni on the Feni-Majidpur Highway left four people killed and eight others injured, according to BSS.

The accident occurred in the evening when a passenger bus collided head on with a tempo.

Sources said Alamgir Hossain, 40, general secretary of ward No. 21 unit of Jubo Dal, and Bellah Ahmed, 26, were undergoing treatment at Khulna General Hospital after suffering severe stab injuries during the clash at 9:30pm.

Witnesses said the clash began following an altercation between the two groups over realising toll from drug traffickers at Kadamtala, who allegedly operate in collusion with a group of BNP activists and a section of policemen of the river traffic outpost.

Both groups used bombs, machetes, clubs and iron rods during the hour-long clash before being dispersed by police.

Police arrested three people after a case was lodged in connection with the incident. The arrestees are President of ward No. 21 unit of BNP Abdus Sattar Molla, Rob Sarder and Milton.

Two of them died on the spot while the other succumbed to injuries at Habiganj Sadar Hospital.

All the victims were passengers of the private car. Police seized the bus, but its driver managed to escape.

A case was lodged with Bahubal Police Station.

CNG set-up

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show hosted by Clean Cities International, the US Department of Energy and the Trade Centre of the US Embassy in Dhaka on November 18-19 at Hotel Sheraton, Dhaka.

The show opened up an opportunity for the US companies to meet the CNG fuelling station buyers.

Funding under an Asian Development Bank (ADB) programme is expected to be available for 30 stations by this year. But the USAID feels that hundreds of stations will be needed in future to support the rapid conversion of vehicles.

BSF kills one at Rajshahi border

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi national near Manikchak border in Godagari yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Rafiqul Islam, 35, son of Fazey Uddin of Char Alatul village in Chapainawabganj.

Rafiqul entered India to buy daily essentials from Lalgaon Tuesday. The BSF shot him and dragged his body away when he was returning home with two of his Indian relatives.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in Poladanga border area in a letter asked the BSF at Renu camp to return the body immediately.

Quader criticised the bill saying it will deprive the poor of justice. He attributed the delay in disposal of civil suits to inefficiency of law officials of the

BSF.

Japan's PM

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Later, Akram filed a criminal appeal before the High Court against his conviction order.

He was suspended from service during trial and sacked after the court ruling.

Shamim Reza Rubel, 24, a student of the Independent University, was picked up by a team of detective branch (DB) of police led by AC Akram from in front of his Siddeswari residence on July 23, 1998.

Reza was tortured to death in the DB custody the same day.

Ex-AC Akram

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any specific issue, some had inconsistencies, while others could be addressed under existing law.

Meanwhile, the speaker accepted a notice submitted by ruling BNP lawmaker Abdul Gani yesterday and sent it to the standing committee.

In his notice, Gani alleged that columnist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury undermined parliament and its lawmakers in a commentary published in a Bangla newspaper.

Khaleda performs Umrah

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia performed Umrah at Kaaba Sharif in Makkah Tuesday evening.

She was accompanied, among others, by her youngest son Arfat Rahman, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Muhammad Nasiruddin, Political Secretary to the PM Alhaj Mosaddeq Ali, Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia SK Sarji Hassan and Consul General of Jeddah Mohammad Zafar, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

The prime minister arrived at Jeddah King Abdul Aziz Airport from Madina at 13:50pm (Jeddah time) on Tuesday on her way to Makkah. Regional chief of protocol of the Saudi government and officials of Bangladesh consulate warmly welcomed her.

The prime minister then directly went to Makka Al Mukarrama and had her Iftar with thousands of devotees at Haram Sharif. After offering magrib prayers there, she performed Umrah.

She also offered her Esha prayers at Haram Sharif.

Khaleda will stay in Makkah till November 22 and leave for Dhaka on November 23.

Two Jubo Dal men hurt in clash over drug money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A fierce clash over drug money between two rival groups of the ruling BNP left two Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal leaders seriously injured at Kadamtala Tuesday night.

Sources said Alamgir Hossain, 40, general secretary of ward No. 21 unit of Jubo Dal, and Bellah Ahmed, 26, were undergoing treatment at Khulna General Hospital after suffering severe stab injuries during the clash at 9:30pm.

Witnesses said the clash began following an altercation between the two groups over realising toll from drug traffickers at Kadamtala, who allegedly operate in collusion with a group of BNP activists and a section of policemen of the river traffic outpost.

Both groups used bombs, machetes, clubs and iron rods during the hour-long clash before being dispersed by police.

Police arrested three people after a case was lodged in connection with the incident. The arrestees are President of ward No. 21 unit of BNP Abdus Sattar Molla, Rob Sarder and Milton.

Two of them died on the spot while the other succumbed to injuries at Habiganj Sadar Hospital.

All the victims were passengers of the private car. Police seized the bus, but its driver managed to escape.

A case was lodged with Bahubal Police Station.

Systems loss in electricity supply drops by 2pc

BSS, Dhaka

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Actress Prachi

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Judge handed out death sentence to 'Kangali' Zakir (Zakir Hossain) and Taleb Hossain Rana (Taleb Rana or 'Dhakar Badsha') and rigorous life imprisonment and Tk 5,000 fine to Zakir Hossain ('Kana Zakir'). The 10 others were acquitted.

"It is not just punishment for the crime they committed," Rahat, nephew of Ahad, said.

In the judgement, the court said the nature of the murder is so heinous and gruesome that lesser sentence of imprisonment cannot meet the demand of justice in this case.

"Sergeant Ahad did not compromise with the muggers and sacrificed his life for the interest of the nation, but died for the negligence of his colleagues who were stationed there with arms," the court said.

"Police officers who did not know how to use arms to protect their colleague cannot play role to protect and save life and property of the people. It will be safer if those police officers do not remain in service."

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"Who has prepared this survey and what modalities have they followed?" the minister snapped, adding the survey would portray Bangladesh as a country of child labour.

"It (the survey) should be modified taking into consideration the real life scenario," he felt.

The inaugural session of the seminar, organised at the Parishankhan Bhaban, was also addressed by, among others, Planning Division Secretary M Fazlur Rahman and BBS Director General AKM Musa.

Bhuiyan invites AL

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there be any unparliamentary word used by any member, that is usually expunged after scrutiny.

The BNP secretary general also touched upon some pressing issues like the price hike of essentials, law and order and monga in northern districts.

He admitted that prices of some items had increased for three reasons - the price hike of essentials, law and order and monga in northern districts.

"But it must be seen whether the government was sincere to bring down the prices. Of course, this increase is temporary and it would be brought under control shortly," he told the House.

About law and order, Bhuiyan said the government was making efforts to improve the situation by enacting laws and holding speed trials.

He criticised the Awami League for releasing the list of 101 "godfathers", naming members of parliament, to tarnish the country's image abroad.

Bhuiyan said people know well who were real godfathers during the Awami League's rule. He mentioned the names of Shamim Osman of Narayanganj, Joybal Hazari of Feni and Abu Taher of Laxmipur.

On the monga situation, he said this phenomenon in the months of Aswin and Kartik is not unusual in the country. The government had taken all out measures to tackle the situation, caused this year by prolonged rains. However, he said no-one had died of starvation thanks to effective steps taken by the government.