

FEUD OVER CRICKET MATCH

Injured youth dies a day after release from DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth who was beaten up by his rivals over a cricket match died yesterday, 34 hours after his release from Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Twenty-five-year-old Sajib Sarkar, a resident of Mousaid village on the outskirts of Dhaka, was beaten up by a group of youths near the Turag at Pagar village at around 5:00pm on April 30 over a previous enmity.

The enmity crept in after a cricket match between the teams of Mousaid village and Pagar village

held at the Mousaid Mission ground a couple of months ago. Sajib's team won the match.

The gang beat him with hockey sticks, chains and bricks.

Family members of Sajib said he was treated at Tongi general hospital and later shifted to the DMCH on April 4.

He was released on April 5 but died at his home in the early hours yesterday.

Police sent the body to the DMCH for autopsy.

His father Abul Hossain Sarker filed a case on April 4 with Uttara Police Station against eight youths.

Mother, daughter found dead, husband missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ishwardi thana police recovered the bodies of a mother and her two-year-old daughter from the river Padma at Pakshi on Tuesday.

The bodies were identified as Anjuara, 26, wife of Huzur Ali of Maniknagar village under Ishwardi thana, and their daughter Bristi, police said.

The family went to Bheramara to

visit their relatives last Friday but they remained missing since then, Anjuara's father said in a complaint lodged with the Ishwardi police.

Family members of Anjuara identified the dead bodies after police recovered them. Huzur Ali, however, remained missing.

Police suspected that Huzur Ali went into hiding after killing his wife and daughter.

Death threat against Duta president condemned

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (Ruta) and the Progressive Teachers' Association (PTA) of RU yesterday condemned the death threat issued by the outlaws to Prof. AAMS Arefin Siddique, president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta).

In separate statements, they also protested Friday's attack on Prof. Akter Hossain of Chittagong University.

The associations demanded that the authorities track down the culprits who issued the death threat in a letter to Prof. Arefin.

They also called for immediate arrest of those involved in the attack on Prof. Akter Hossain.

The signatories to the statements are Ruta President Muhammad Khalequzzman and Joint Secretary Sadekul Arefin, PTA convener Prof. Entajul Haque, Prof. Anser Uddin, Prof. Ananda Kumar and Prof. Hasibul Alam.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Medical Association and the health ministry jointly took out a procession in the city yesterday to mark the World Health Day.

Exchange of programmes to help bring people closer

SAARC electronic media people say

BSS, Dhaka

The third meeting of the heads of national TV and Radio stressed the need for exchanging national programmes of the SAARC countries for the benefit of the people of the region.

Akhtar Viqar Azim, managing director of Pakistan Television Corporation, said yesterday. He said the meeting played an important role specially in coordinating the programme of the various national networks of SAARC nations in the field of education, culture and politics.

Azim said Pakistan would coordinate a programme specially meant for the children. "We are also planning to have a film festival every second year, he added. He said that an exchange programme of documentary and telefilm is also slated for every year for the SAARC countries.

He said the meeting also decided to exchange TV news programme of SAARC countries every month and radio news for every week. "This will

help bring the people of this region further closer to know each other's views and share their culture and heritage," he added.

He said Pakistan would host folk music festival in July this year that would coincide with the meeting of the SAARC council of ministers to be held in Islamabad.

Brijeshwar Singh, director general of All India Radio and Navin Kumar, director general of Doordarshan (television) expressed similar views on the issue.

Kumar regretted that Doordarshan, which telecast mostly educative and informative programmes, has to face a stiff competition against the vast satellite channels.

There are about 225 satellite channels operating in India, he said. The main objective of those programmes is simply entertainment, he said, adding "But our programme must be informative and educative besides entertainment."

Singh said that the SAARC information centre located in

Kathmandu, Nepal would cater to the needs of the region. He suggested introduction of a law to force the cable operators to telecast national programmes of the SAARC member states.

Harim Peiris, chairman of Sri Lanka Television, called for free flow of information and ideas among the regional countries. He suggested that SAARC related programmes should be telecast by every member state.

He said the SAARC Audio-Visual Exchange (SAVE) would play a significant role in bringing the people of the region further closer.

Peiris, who is also a presidential spokesman of his country, said seven private satellite channels operate in Sri Lanka with complete freedom.

Information Minister Tariqul Islam inaugurated the two-day meeting on Tuesday with a call for reversing the existing "southward flow" of information maximising the use of information technology to protect and uphold the values and culture of the region.

Commemorative stamp on World Health day

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Post Office has issued commemorative stamp of Tk six denomination on the occasion of the World Health Day.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia released the stamp at a simple ceremony at her office yesterday.

A first day cover worth Tk six was also released on the occasion.

The stamp and the first day cover are being sold at all main post offices including four GPOs.

The stamps will also be available in upazila and sub post offices later on.

Health Minister Dr Khnadaker Mosharrar Hossain, Post and Telecommunication Minister Aminul Haque and WHO Country Representative Suneeta Acharya were present on the occasion.

Buet Rover Scout Week begins

BSS, Dhaka

The Rover Scout Week of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) began on Tuesday.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Aleemurtaza inaugurated the week at the Council Bhavan.

Students' Welfare Director Dr Fazlul Bari and Buet Rover Scout leader Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed spoke on the occasion.

The week's programmes include blood donation session, dental care, blood group test and literacy course for the socially handicapped people.

BAS executives

Prof. Dr M Shamsher Ali and Prof Dr Naiyuum Chowdhury have been elected president and secretary of Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS) for 2004-05, says a press release.

Prof A K M Aminul Haque and Prof Mesbahuddin Ahmed have been elected vice-presidents.

Other office-bearers are Prof Dr Syed Humayun Kabir - treasurer and Maj Gen Dr. A S M Matiur Rahman - associate secretary.

The members are Prof. A K M Siddique, Prof. Kamaluddin Ahmed, Prof. S Z Haider, Prof. Dr M R Khan, Dr Anwar Hossain and Prof. Hajera Mahtab.

The election was held at the annual general meeting of the council at the National Science and Technology Museum Bhavan at Agargaon on April 2.

Chest & Heart Assoc executives

Dr Mirza Mohammad Hiron and Dr Md Zahirul Islam Shakil have been elected president and secretary general of the Chest & Heart Association of Bangladesh for 2004-2006, says a press release.

The election to the executive committee of the association was held at the BCPS, Mohakhali, recently.

Other elected office-bearers are Professor Emeritus M Nabi Alam Khan, Professor Md Mostafizur Rahman and Dr AKM Kamaluddin - vice-presidents; Dr Md Rafiqul Islam - treasurer; Dr Md Sayedul Islam and Dr Md Mizanur Rahman - joint secretaries; Dr Mohammad Abdus Shakur Khan - organising secretary; and Dr Md Naimul Hoque - office secretary.

The members are Dr Md Ali Hossain, Dr Shafiqul Ahsan, Dr Md Solaiman Siddique Bhuiyan, Dr Asif Mujtaba Mahmud, Dr Biswas Akhtar Hossain, Dr Bashir Ahmed and Dr AFM Kamaluddin.

Introduction of Bangla in schools discussed

Altaf meets Speaker of New South Wales Parliament

BSS, Dhaka

Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury called on the Speaker of the New South Wales Parliament Joseph Aquilina at his office in Sydney yesterday.

He was accompanied by Bangladesh High Commissioner Harun-Ar-Rashid and Honorary Consul General Anthony Khoury.

He raised the issue of introducing Bangla in the list of LOTE (Language other than English) in the schools of New South Wales for the benefit of children of the expatriate Bangladeshis living there.

Aquilina assured him that he would write on the issue to the Minister of Education of New South Wales.

Students of Metraville Public School of New South Wales sang

national anthems of Australia and Bangladesh at the trade fair venue yesterday.

They exchanged views about how the two countries can further strengthen the bonds of friendship through increased public and private sector interactions.

Aquilina appreciated the holding of the Bangladesh Festival in Sydney and hoped that since his country has offered duty free and quota free access of Bangladeshi goods, Bangladesh can take full advantage of it to increase bilateral trade.

He said Bangladesh country festival and the trade fair in particular will have positive impact in forging closer relations between the two countries.

Earlier, Altaf visited different stalls in the trade fair and met a number of Australian importers.

'My health, my right'

Mass campaign on health awareness

The Nari Unnayan Shakti (Women's power for development) carried out mass campaign in different places across the country yesterday to mark the World Health Day, says a press release.

Street children, child labourers and rural poor took part in the programmes held in 24 places, including Badda of Dhaka city, Chittagong city and Pabna.

The campaign titled 'My health, my right' was aimed at raising awareness about primary healthcare issues.

The street children said they have no access to safe water and

basic sanitation. As a result, they have been suffering from various water-borne diseases.

The child labourers complained that they often face sexual assault by their employers and senior colleagues.

They demanded punishment to the abusers.

The children also said they were forced to work for a longer period.

Seminar on life of mystic poet I-Farid

A seminar on the life of great mystic poet Umar Ibnu 'I-Farid' was held at the Department of Arabic, University of Dhaka, recently, with department Chairman Prof. Dr Md Fazlur Rahman in the chair, says a press release.

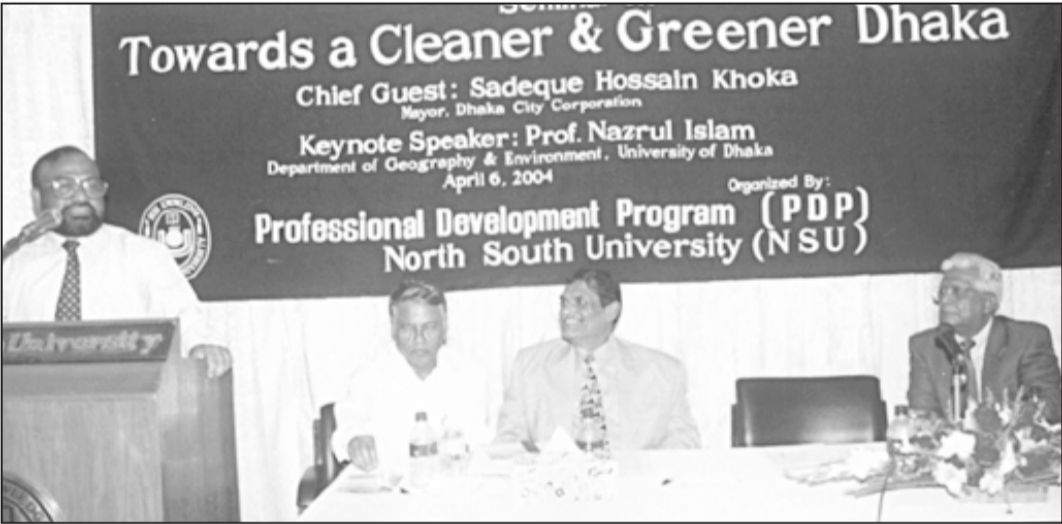
Md Habibur Rahman, a Ph.D. researcher, presented the keynote paper. Prof. ANM Abdul Mannan Khan and Prof. Dr ARM Ali Haidar took part in the discussion.

Over 900 held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 920 people during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

During the drive, they also recovered seven firearms, three other weapons and 26 bullets and filed five cases against six people under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.



Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka speaks at a seminar on 'Towards a Cleaner and Greener Dhaka' on the North South University (NSU) campus on Tuesday. Professional Development Programme of the NSU organised the seminar, with Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi, vice-chancellor of NSU in the chair.

