

Nine houses gutted in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Four people were injured trying to extinguish a fire that gutted nine houses at Hathazari upazila in the early hours of yesterday.

The blaze broke out at the house of one Fazari Talukder at South Mekhal at around 3.00am and soon engulfed the other houses, causing an estimated loss of Tk 30 lakh, sources said.

Nine families who were rendered homeless lost Tk 30 thousand, 90 tolas of gold ornaments and 80 maunds of paddy to the fire.

The injured are Rahatmat Ullah, Md Kamal, Lokman and Jamal.

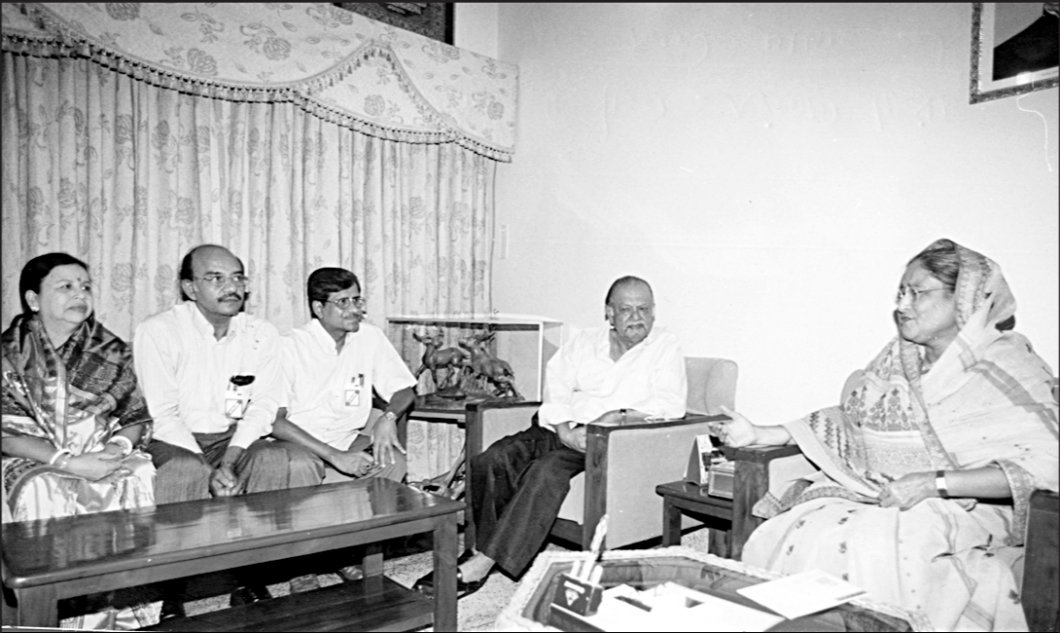


PHOTO: STAR

Leaders of the Durga Puja Celebration Committee called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence yesterday.

2,200 bottles of phensidyl seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Narcotics Control in separate raids seized around 2,200 bottles of phensidyl yesterday.

A team seized 1,725 bottles of phensidyl hidden under a pile of bricks in front of the house of an alleged drug trader at Sutrapur.

The team members went to the spot in guise of customer and bought a bottle from a seller. They caught Noor Mohammad, 40, and Mohammad Jasim, 25, red-handed and recovered the phensidyl wrapped in 18 gunny bags.

They also searched houses of Buddin and his associate Monir during the three hours raid but could not arrest them.

The team also raided the sweeper Colony in TT Para slum and seized 474 bottles of phensidyl wrapped in 10 gunny bags.

They arrested one Didar, 18, in this connection.

OIC official meets UAP VC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nabika Diallo, assistant secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), met Dr A M Patwari, vice-chancellor of the University of Asia Pacific (UAP), in Dhaka on Monday.

They discussed mutual cooperation between the two organisations.

Prof Patwari assured Diallo of all cooperation in setting up private universities in African Muslim countries.

Diallo came to Dhaka to represent the OIC secretary general at the 18th convocation of the Islamic University of Technology held recently in Gazipur.

Night guard shot dead during robbery in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A night guard was shot dead and two people were wounded during an armed robbery at a village in Satkania early yesterday.

The gang of robbers also looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 3 lakh from four houses.

The dead was identified as Mohammad Idris, 45, security guard of a market at Dastirhat in village East Keochia.

About 15 robbers stormed the houses of Abdul Jalil, Idris Ali and Mohammad Yunus at Dallipara and looted cash and goods worth about Tk 1.5 lakh at around 3.00am, police said.

When the family members tried to resist the gang members, they fired shots, leaving one Yunus and his wife Fatema Begum injured.

The gang also shot and killed the night guard when he charged them in front of his market.

Later, the robbers raided another

house nearby and looted valuables worth about Tk 1.5 lakh.

Int'l Standard Day today

BSS, Dhaka

'International Standard Day' will be observed in the country today as elsewhere in other member states of the International Standard Organization (ISO).

The day is observed every year with a call to maintain quality of products in line with the international standard aimed at improving the living standard of consumers.

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), the lone public organisation to oversee the quality of industrial and agricultural products, has taken various programmes to observe the day.

Trader commits suicide, woman found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the body of an unidentified woman at Uttara while a trader allegedly committed suicide at Malitola Lane in the city.

On information, Uttara police recovered the body of the woman aged about 20 from the north-west side of Zia International Airport runway at Dalipara.

The body bore marks of injuries.

Police suspect killers might have raped her before killing her.

In another incident, 20-year-old Mohammad Sajib allegedly shot himself to death after his proposal to marry his cousin was refused.

Victim's father Najir Hossain said Sajib, a trader in old Dhaka and resident of 6/2 Malitola Lane, gave a proposal to his aunt Samsun Nahar to marry her daughter Afrin on Monday night which she refused.

Sajib shot himself in his head in his bedroom at about 1:30am. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died after two and a half hours.

Anti-tobacco award for 10 personalitis

UNB, Dhaka

Students Anti-smoking Committee (SASC) Alumni Society of Bangladesh will formally award 10 personalities in December in recognition of their contributions to anti-tobacco movement and formulation of Tobacco Control Act.

The recipients are former President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, founder of ADHUNIK and National Professor Dr Nurul Islam, ATP Chief Advisor and National Professor MR Khan, CAT President Amanullah Khan, SAS Special Advisor and former Secretary Monjur-ul-Karim, Prof Dr Ahsanul Haque, Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury, Ali Neyamat and Bangladesh Rifles College lecturer Esha Khan (posthumously).

An exchange of opinion meeting on 'Tobacco Control Act' was held at the office of SASC Alumni Association of Bangladesh (SAS) here yesterday.

The meeting thanked the government for approving the act by the Cabinet Committee.

ATP and SAS President and SASC founder Ali Neyamat, Manas President and Bangladesh Anti-tobacco Alliance (BATA) leader Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury, Adhunik vice-president M Shahidul Islam, SAS General Secretary M Ali Azam, ATP Vice-president Dr M Harun-ur-Rashid, LIFE Chairman and CAP secretary general Quamrul Islam Sony and SAS vice-president Sri Niranjan Biswas took part in the discussion.

Rab nabs five at Keraniganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested five people with arms and ammunition at Keraniganj in the early hours of Tuesday.

A team of Rab-4 raided old Panchdona village and arrested Tarek Imam Babul, ruling BNP president of Shakta union unit.

Following his statement, Rab recovered five bullets, two knives, four spring sets and two pipe guns and arrested Humayun Kabir, Yuhin Ahmed and Sarawar Kabir. Keraniganj police, however, could not confirm their identity.

The Rab also arrested Mahbub Alam Abu from Ghataarchar village in Keraniganj and recovered one automatic pistol, one knife, two bullets and one magazine from his possession.

Keraniganj police filed cases against them under Arms Act and produced the five before the court yesterday.

FM dismisses cool Dhaka-Delhi ties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday dismissed suggestions of a 'cool' in Bangladesh-India relations, saying it would be a 'pleasure' to meet his Indian counterpart Natwar Singh during his daylong visit to Delhi at the end of the month.

"If he (Singh) is available, it will be a pleasure to meet and talk to him," Morshed told reporters at his office at the ministry yesterday.

Asked if his relations with Singh had cooled down, the foreign minister said, "Physical distance is not a barrier to good relations between us."

He also said he has rescheduled his next week's visit to India to the end of this month between October 30-31.

He will give a letter of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Khaleda in the letter invites her counterpart to the 13th Saarc Summit to be held in Dhaka on January 9-11.

The foreign minister will also visit Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, the Maldives and Pakistan to hand over the prime minister's letters of invitation to the heads of the Saarc countries within the next one and a half months.

Morshed termed the \$2 billion

Tata group investment a stamp of approval on Bangladesh's investment climate as "stable, suitable, and congenial." It is an encouraging sign for foreign direct investment in the country, he said.

PBCP cadre lynched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An armed cadre of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho) was lynched by an angry mob yesterday at Barochohola village under Fakirhat upazila of Bagerhat district.

The PBCP cadre was identified as Imdadul Huq Farazi, 30.

The incident occurred when a group of extremists were planning to attack a shrimp enclosure. Other accomplices of Imdad managed to escape when the night guards and villagers challenged them.

The slain outlaw was a listed criminal and wanted in six murder cases, including murder of Awami League leader and eminent shrimp exporter Farhad Hossain, police said.