

Attack on Sramik League leader in Khulna

Slain AL leader's son arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Arifur Rahman Mithu, 30, eldest son of slain Awami League mayoral candidate SMA Rob, from his residence at Noornagar under Sonadanga thana on Wednesday midnight.

He was sent to district jail yesterday afternoon.

Mithu, complainant of Rob murder case, has been named as one of the three accused in the FIR recorded under Speedy Trial Act on charge of assaulting Alauddin Al Azad, convener of Khulna city unit of Jatiya Sramik League, on Wednesday night.

The injured Sramik League leader is now undergoing treatment at Khulna Surgical Clinic at Sonadanga thana.

According to the FIR recorded with Sonadanga thana, Mithu along with three others stormed a medicine store at Erfan market at 8:30pm on Wednesday and looted money and medicines.

Sramik League leader Azad, owner of the medicine shop, was beaten up for protesting the incident. The accused also vandalised the shop.

Meanwhile, Awami League, Sramik League, Jubo League and Chatra League brought out a joint procession in the city yesterday evening to protest against the incident.

Thai woman tortured for dowry: 5 held

UNB, Narayanganj

Five members of a family were arrested in Nagarikandi of the town on Wednesday night on charge of torturing a Thai woman for dowry.

Police said Nazrul Islam, 32, son of Taleb Ali, went to Thailand two years ago and developed a relationship with the Thai woman, Darwan Thongkhom, 30. He later returned to Bangladesh with the Thai woman and married her.

Nazrul and his family members often used to put pressure on her to bring dowry worth 500,000 baht (Thai currency) from her father. They also tortured her as she refused to bring the dowry.

On Wednesday night, Nazrul and other members of his family again pressed for dowry. As Thongkhom refused, they tied her hands and legs and tried to strangle her. But their attempt was foiled as neighbours rushed to the house in aid of the Thai woman and informed police about the matter.

Later, police took the woman to the thana and arrested Nazrul, his father Taleb Ali, 76, brother Shahid Ullah, 18, sisters Ratna Begum, 23, and Rina Begum, 20.

Receiving the information, officials of the Thai Embassy in Dhaka went to Narasingdi and took the Thai woman along with her son Nazim in their custody the same night.

A police official of Sadar thana filed a case in this connection.



A large number of visitors throng the Novo Theatre in the city yesterday as Eid holiday hangover lingers on.

PHOTO: STAR

Bishwa Ijtema begins Dec 3

BSS, Dhaka

The three-day Bishwa Ijtema will begin at its regular venue in Tongi on December 3.

Tens of thousands of pilgrims are expected to attend the Ijtema from home and abroad. Many of them have already arrived in Dhaka from different countries.

The Ijtema will end on December 5 with Akheri Munajat.

Preparations for holding the Ijtema on 160-acre land on the bank of the river Turag are in full swing. Various government, private and religious organisations, Tongi Pourasava, local administration and Ijtema authorities are jointly attending the meeting.

The meeting was told that two special trains from Jamalpur to Tongi, one special train from Akhaura and one from Noakhali would be pressed into service from November 30 to facilitate travel by

the pilgrims.

A total of 21 special trains would also be operated on different routes throughout the country on the day of Akheri Munajat. Besides, extra bogies would be attached to all regular trains.

Four entry roads around the Ijtema venue are being widened for smooth movement of the pilgrims. Five deep tube wells and seven-km lines have been set up to supply 25 lakh gallons of pure drinking water daily.

Apart from the private medical teams, some 18 government teams would be working in three shifts for providing health care. The number of beds in Tongi hospital has also been increased, the meeting was told.

Four criminals held after clash with police

Four criminals were arrested after clashes with police in the town and Fatullah on Wednesday night.

Ali and Dibba Halim and drug peddlers Sattar and Kholan were arrested with bullet injuries. They are close associates of Rakmat who died in crossfire few days ago. Light gun, revolver and shutter guns were recovered from them.

Five others were arrested on the first night of fresh anticrime drive launched across the district on Wednesday night. The clashes took place at Shibu Market of Fatullah, Masdar and Charargop areas.

Processions were brought out in the town and adjoining areas yesterday rejoicing the arrest of the criminals.

State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar during his visit to the town on November 11 had given green signal to the police to nab the criminals. He asked the police to free the district of terrorism within a month.

Sources further said police prepared a list of more than 200 criminals and drug peddlers.

Vehicles urged to avoid cantonment roads on Nov 21

BSS, Dhaka

All vehicles except those carrying cantonment residents and the invited guests have been requested to avoid the roads inside the Dhaka Cantonment area from 6am to 10am and 4pm to 9:30pm on November 21 on the occasion of Armed Forces Day.

The condition of Arup Singh Apu, a city leader of the Nirmul Committee, is still stated to be critical and undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit of the Metropolitan Hospital in Mohakhali.

Of the five injured, Kazi Biplob was released on Wednesday, while Sheikh Meraj Miju is undergoing treatment at the hospital.

A number of programmes have been arranged at the Dhaka Cantonment on that day.

Memorial meeting

Bangladesh Afro-Asia Gano Sanghati Parishad will hold a meeting in memory of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time: 4:30pm.

Film show

Bishwasahitya Kendra will screen a film titled 'Journey of Kafiristan' directed by Donatello Dubini and Fosco Dubini. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhannondi. Time: 10:30am, 3:30pm and 6:30pm.

Buddhist congregation

The holy Kathina Ceyava Dana (Offering of yellow robes to the monks) and Buddhist Congregation 2004 will be celebrated with the State Minister for Religious Affairs as chief guest. Venue: International Buddhist Monastery, Merul Badda. Time: 2:00pm.

Prize giving ceremony

The prize giving ceremony of GrameenPhone

SAIDPUR ROAD CRASH

Judicial inquiry demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They said the government involvement in the incident was also proved from the fact that the Detective Branch of police pressed the family members of Kabir not to file any cases regarding the accident.

The SAPUFC leaders said after assuming the power the BNP-led coalition government harassed Kabir on many occasions as he is very vocal against fundamentalism and communism.

They also expressed their deep sympathy to the family members of Abdul Hakim Pial who succumbed to his injuries following the road accident.

The signatories to the statement included Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Hena Das, Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan, Poet Shamsur Rahman, KM Sobhan, Mazharul Islam and Kalim Sharafi.

Medical board formed to treat Shahriar Kabir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-member medical board of orthopaedics specialists has been formed for the treatment of noted writer and journalist Shahriar Kabir who was critically injured in a road accident in Saidpur on November 11.

Kabir's family members told The Daily Star yesterday that the board had examined him and taken a decision to make an operation in his right leg today.

The board also suggested sending Kabir abroad immediately for better treatment.

Meanwhile, General Secretary of Ekatturer Ghatak Dal Nirmul Committee Kazi Mukul, also injured in the accident, underwent a surgery in his left leg on Wednesday night.

The condition of Arup Singh Apu, a city leader of the Nirmul Committee, is still stated to be critical and undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit of the Metropolitan Hospital in Mohakhali.

The decision has been taken with a view to keeping the roads inside the cantonment (from Shaheed Jahangir Gate to Staff Road of the main road) free of traffic jam on the occasion, said an ISPR press release yesterday.

A number of programmes have been arranged at the Dhaka Cantonment on that day.

DHAKA TODAY

Memorial meeting

Phone Corporate Cricket League Cup will be held with City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium. Time: 6:00pm.

SPCA meeting

The first meeting of the advisory council of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Bangladesh will be held. Venue: House-7, Road-4, Apartment C-5, Gulshan-1. Time: 4:00pm.

Muldhara film show

Academy Film Society will screen an Indian film titled 'Chokher Balli' (2003). Venue: 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6:30pm.

Inaugural ceremony

The inaugural ceremony of a fund-raising campaign for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts will be held with City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club Auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 4:00pm.



Thousands of people flocked to the Nandan Water World in Savar during Eid holidays.

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Saarc to fix its third decade's agenda in Dhaka summit: FM

AGENCIES, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday said the forthcoming South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) summit was expected to fix its course reviewing the activities of the regional grouping in the past two decades.

"The Dhaka summit will add a new dimension to the Saarc fixing its new course for the 3rd decade of the regional grouping," he told newsmen at Zia International Airport as he embarked on a visit to

Nepal, the Maldives and Pakistan as special envoy of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

The foreign minister visits the three countries as part of his tour of South Asian capitals to hand over the official invitation of the prime minister to Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom and Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz to attend the summit.

The foreign minister will also brief the Nepalese, Maldivian and

Pakistani sides on organisational preparation for the Saarc Summit.

He will seek their support for making the summit in Dhaka a turning point for Saarc by launching an era of implementation of commitments, promoting regional programmes and projects, and undertaking steps towards realising a vision of a South Asia Economic Union.

Earlier, the foreign minister visited India, Bhutan and Sri Lanka in this regard. He is expected to return home on November 26.

Concord Amusement World opens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Concord Amusement World was formally inaugurated in the port city yesterday.

Nasiruddin said on completion of the whole project within the next two years, the Concord Amusement World would be one of the prime tourist destinations in South Asia.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Md Nasiruddin inaugurated the park and valley in the Foy's Lake area as chief guest.

He said the project is an example

JUBO DAL LEADER MURDER

3 AL leaders among 23 named in FIR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Twenty-three people, including three Awami League leaders and four women, have been named in the FIR as accused in the Jubo Dal leader Abdur Rahim Fakir murder case.

Rahim, organising secretary of Jubo Dal unit of Morrelganj upazila, Bagerhat, was hacked to death at Jilbunia village on Saturday night.

According to the FIR recorded on Wednesday, the leader was hacked and poisoned to death with political motive. But the Officer-in-charge of Morrelganj Police station ruled out any political link and termed the murder a sequel to previous enmity.

According to police, the slain leader was closely linked to an underground organisation.

Eight out of 23 FIR-named accused have so far been arrested. They are Sobhan, 35, Barez Shaikh, 30, Salam Sarder, 45, Ansar Uddin, 50, Shahida Begum, 28, Jotsna Begum, 28, Swarupjan Begum, 63, and Monowara Khutun, 28.

Three AL leaders named in the FIR are Fazlur Rahman Shikder, Malek Sarder and Nanna Shaikh. Fazlur Rahman was APS to former state minister Dr Mozammel Hossain who is now president of Bagerhat district Awami League.

of public and private collaboration in developing a tourist spot of international standard.

Nasiruddin said on completion of the whole project within the next two years, the Concord Amusement World would be one of the prime tourist destinations in South Asia.

State Minister for Communications Salahuddin Ahmed attended the inaugural function as special guest.

Concord Entertainment Co Ltd completed the 1st phase of the project at a cost of Tk 102 crore. It included the amusement park and the paradise valley.

Implementation of over Tk 300

crore project began after its foundation stone was laid by the prime minister on April 19 this year.

Under the project, a five star hotel, motel, honeymoon cottage, club and installations will be set up in phases within 2006.

Concord Limited Chairman SM Kamal Uddin said 90 percent of the installation of all rides would be completed within the next two weeks.

PC Chairman Mahabubur Rahman and Concord Director Manager SK Lal also spoke.

Additional General Manager of Bangladesh Railway (East) FMA Halim was present.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light rain or drizzle is also expected at one or two places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Mymensingh during the period, Met Office said.

Light rise in night temperature is expected over the country during the period.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 30.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangamati and Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 14.6 degrees at Srimangal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:17am tomorrow.