

'Bangladesh a country of huge potentials'

BSS, Dhaka

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Matsushiro Horiguchi yesterday termed Bangladesh as the country of 'huge potentials' but said the opportunities could be harnessed in a faster way if the differences between big political parties are narrowed down.

has big potentials," Horiguchi said while he was visiting private television channel, ntv, at its Karwan Bazar office here.

The Japanese envoy said the enthusiastic and active people of the country could turn Bangladesh into a developed nation through their hard labour and intelligence.

He also wished success of Bangladesh, a tested friend of Japan.

1,353 more held, 11 firearms seized

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,353 people, including eight listed criminals, on various charges from different parts of the country in the last 48 hours as of 6.00am yesterday.

During the period, the law enforcers also recovered 11 firearms, 29 bullets and also filed five cases against four people under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.

Real estate caretaker gunned down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals gunned down the caretaker of a real estate company at Mohammadpur apparently after he refused to pay a bribe, while police retrieved the body of a youth from a hotel in Mirpur with lacerations on his neck yesterday.

Two youths approached Abdul Jalil Shikder, 45, the caretaker of Eastern Housing Golden Estate at Shyamoli, at about 4:30pm yesterday.

"The youths called Jalil out of the building and took him around the back. A few minutes later two gunshots were heard," Jalil's brother-in-law, Badsha Mian, told newsmen, quoting witnesses.

Locals ran to the scene and found Jalil groaning in a pool of blood after receiving two bullets in the head and right thigh. His assailants had sped away by this time, Badsha said.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where doctors declared him dead.

"It seems to me that the criminals have killed Jalil after being refused a toll by the owner of the building."

Badsha told reporters at the DMCH. He could not say who might be involved in the murder.

Police could not make any arrests as of 8:00pm yesterday.

In Mirpur, police recovered the body of a young man from a room at Hotel New Bilas at Bisil in Mirpur yesterday noon.

Police said they are verifying the name of the victim, listed as George Mian, son of Robin of Barisal, in the hotel registrar.

George reached room No 30 on the fourth floor at about 11:00pm on Monday, where two others stayed with him.

"Hotel boy Liton told us that he found bloodstains near the door and later found the body at about 10:00am," said a duty Officer of Mirpur Police Station.

Police later retrieved the body, its neck badly hacked, and sent it to the DMCH morgue for an autopsy.

Quoting the hotel boy, police said the two youths that accompanied George left the hotel at about 9:00am.

Police picked up two hotel employees for interrogation.

POWER SYSTEM LOSS "Introduce pre-paid meter, privatise billing system"

BSS, Dhaka

The parliamentary standing committee on Public Enterprises yesterday underlined the importance of introduction of prepaid meter and privatisation of the billing system at the earliest to check power system loss.

The committee at a meeting at Sangsad Bhaban called for social resistance against the power system loss.

Committee Chairman Abdul Aleem presided.

The meeting discussed a report submitted to the committee on progress of the implementation of the decisions taken during the period of July-2004 to February-2005 to reduce system loss.

Members of the committee stressed the regular transfer of the meter readers from one station to other after a particular period.

Members of the committee Whip Rezaul Bari Dina, Saluddin Ahmed, Dr Rustam Ali Farazi, Alamgir M Mahfuz Ullah Farid, Faruk Khan and Wadud Bhuiyan were present.

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