

Indigenous woman, bus helper found dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An indigenous woman and a bus helper were found dead on roadsides at Jatrabari and Mirpur in the city in the last two days.

Mirpur police recovered the body of the woman beside Dhaka-Savar highway at Gabtoli at about 8:00am yesterday.

The body was wrapped in cloths, blanket and a sack, the police said, adding that marks of bruises were found in her neck.

Police suspect the killers might have strangled her somewhere else and then dumped the body on the roadside.

The identity of the women, aged around 25, could not be known.

The other victim was identified as Bellal Hossain, 30.

Jatrabari police found his body in front of a CNG refuelling station at Shanir Akhra at about 9:30 on Thursday night.

Bellal had been missing since Thursday morning when he went out of his house to join his work, his relatives said.

The motive behind the killings could not be established.

ATTACK ON JOURNO TITU Punishment to culprits demanded

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the culprits who attacked journalist Zahurul Haque Titu in Pirojpur.

Titu, district correspondent of the daily Inqilab and Baishakhi TV, was attacked by BNP-Jamaat cadres on December 28.

In a statement, BFUJ President Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, DUJ president Altaf Mahmud and General Secretary Omar Faruque expressed surprise over the silence of the Pirojpur district administration and the police in taking any action against the culprits despite Pirojpur Press Club filed a case against 19BNP-Jamaatcadres.

The journalist leaders have drawn attention of the caretaker government, specially the adviser for information, in this regard to ensure unhindered work of the newsmen.

Tribute paid to Satyen Sen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Udichi Shilpi Gosthi yesterday paid tribute to the memory of its founder Satyen Sen, an eminent litterateur and journalist, on the occasion of his 26th death anniversary.

Dhaka city committee of Udichi organised a discussion on the life and works of Satyen Sen at its central office in the city, with its vice-president Manzar Chowdhury in the chair.

Speakers at the discussion said Sayten Sen was a dedicated cultural activist, progressive litterateur and revolutionist.

He will remain as a source of inspiration to all trying to build an exploitation-free, secular and democratic country, they added.

They also urged all to celebrate the birth centenary of Satyen Sen on March 28 with elaborate programmes across the country.



A mother and her two children wrap up warmly to keep biting cold at bay. The picture was taken from Chittagong Rail Station area yesterday.

Grand alliance forced to boycott election

Ctg mayor tells EU polls observation team

UNB, Chittagong

A team of European Union Election Observation Mission (EOM) yesterday met Grand Alliance's Chittagong divisional leaders at its office in the port city and discussed various election-related issues.

Grand Alliance's Chittagong divisional coordinator and City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury welcomed the EU EOM members and attributed the present political conflict to the "ill attempt" of a certain quarter to return to power through a farcical election.

He said the present caretaker administration is the shadow of the

immediate-past BNP-Jamaat alliance government. "Not only the administration but also the judiciary is being run at the dictate of a particular Bhaban," he said.

He said the grand alliance was forced to boycott the election even after submission of nomination papers, as a congenial election atmosphere for the polls has not been created yet.

Election Observation Mission members Dariusz Tomasz Rasinski and Michael Lidauer were present at the opinion-exchange meeting.

City Awami League General Secretary Kazi Inamul Haque

Danu, LDP city convener Ekramul Karim, Jatiya Party city convener Solaiman Alam Sheth and Workers Party leader ATM Nizamuddin attended the meeting.

KHULNA

Our staff correspondent from Khulna adds: A delegation of European Union (EU) Observers' Mission yesterday exchanged views with the local leaders of grand electoral alliance at the Awami League office.

Issues related to next parliamentary election and the current political situation including the siege programme dominated the discussion.

The three-member EU team comprising Christian Cafenstainer, Gulina and Siddhartha Shankar were present at the meeting presided over by City AL General Secretary and local Coordinator of grand alliance Alhaj Mizanur Rahman Mizan.

Others, who attended the meeting, included LDP Central Vice-chairman and former Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, JSD city President Rafiqul Huq Khokon, General Secretary of Khulna city unit of Jatiya Party Molla Mujibar Rahman, General Secretary of NAP Fazlur Rahman, Awami League leaders Shyamal Singha Roy and SM Sarfuddin, Workers' Party leader Delwaruddin and Jubo League leader Shahid Iqbal Bithar.

The speakers at the meeting told the EU delegation that the next parliamentary election will be illegal without the participation of the grand electoral alliance.

They also demanded resignation of Iajuddin Ahmed from the post of the chief adviser.

Pro-BNP lawyers protest British envoy's remark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, a platform of pro-BNP lawyers, yesterday protested a statement of British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury regarding the current political situation.

The high commissioner on Thursday said that participation of all major political parties in a parliamentary election is required to form a legitimate and credible government in Bangladesh.

In a joint statement yesterday, Ainjibi Forum Convener Advocate Khondkar Mahub Uddin Ahmed and Member Secretary Shah Khasruzzaman said that making such comments is nothing but interference in the internal political affairs of the country.

They rejected the envoy's remark, saying that it goes beyond diplomatic norms.

They also said that only election would prove what the people want and what is acceptable with regard to politics.

Rehana leaves for London

UNB, Dhaka

Sheikh Rehana, sister of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, leaves Dhaka for London today.

Rehana came here with her children on December 20.



Rangamati lake has become a safe haven for birds this winter as a number of shoals surface, with its water level dropping.

Khulna in grip of acute power crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Electricity generation in 110-MW power plant remains suspended as a big fire broke out due to leak in its turbine on Thursday midnight.

The fire was brought under control by fire service personnel with the help of power plant employees.

The plant was likely to resume power generation last night or today, said official sources.

The 110-MW power plant at

Goalpara power station used to supply 80 megawatt electricity in the peak hour everyday.

Meanwhile, the 60-MW power plant at Goalpara power station remained out of order since July last year.

It is yet to be put into operation due to non-allocation of fund needed for necessary repairing, the sources added.

Khulna Metropolitan City is already in the grip of severe power crisis as two important power plants have become inoperative.

Resignation of Iajuddin as CA demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Awami League-led grand alliance staged a demonstration in the town yesterday demanding resignation of Iajuddin Ahmed as Chief Adviser to Caretaker Government for holding a free and fair election.

The demand was placed at a rally at Ganginarpar Intersection in the town. Advocate Sadik Hossain, Advocate Badar Ahmed, Aminul Islam Tara, Prof Atikur Rahman, Dr Sujit Barman and Ziauddin Ahmed spoke at the rally.

Prices of rice, vegetables fall in city markets

BSS, Dhaka

Prices of vegetable and rice fell in the city markets this week while prices of pulses and other items remained at previous levels.

Prices of most of the spicy items also remained unchanged but the green chilli marked a rise in the markets.

In the wholesale markets, price of new variety of potato went down

to Tk 12 to 14 per kg this week against Tk 14 to 16 per kg last week. The price of the same in the retail markets was between Tk 18 and 20 per kg this week.

In the wholesale markets, papaya price ranged between Tk 3.50 and 4.00 per kg while it was Tk 8 and 10 per kg in the retail markets.

The price of bean went down to Tk 5 to 8 per kg in the wholesale

market this week against Tk 8 to 10 per kg last week. In the retail market, the price of the same fell to Tk 12 to 15 per kg this week compared to Tk 18 to 20 per kg last week.

In the wholesale markets, brinjal (better quality) was sold for Tk 8 to 10 per kg this week compared to Tk 15 to 16 per kg last week, while at the retail markets, brinjal (better quality) was sold for Tk 20 to 24 per kg this week from Tk 26 to 28 per kg last week.

Green chilli was sold in the wholesale market for Tk 16 to 20 per kg this week while it was Tk 10 to 12 per kg last week. In the retail markets, the price of the same was Tk 30 to 40 per kg this week compared to Tk 20 to 25 per kg last week.

The price of local onion remained between Tk 10 and 11 per kg in the wholesale market this week while at the retail markets it was between Tk 14 and 15 per kg.

In the wholesale market, the price of newly harvested najirshail rice (better quality) went down to Tk 20.35 per kg this week compared to Tk 21.20 per kg last week, while the old variety najirshail price was Tk 22.25 per kg this week against Tk 22.50 per kg last week.

The price of miniket (better quality) was Tk 24.00 per kg this week against Tk 24.11 per kg last week.

In the retail markets, the price of sugar remained unchanged at Tk 39 to 40 per kg this week, moshur (local) pulse at Tk 60 per kg, imported moshur pulse at Tk 44 per kg, moog pulse at Tk 70 per kg, khesari at Tk 30 per kg, soyabean oil at Tk 52 per kg, palm oil at Tk 48 per kg and mustard oil at Tk 65 per kg.

The prices of fish also remained unchanged.

Hilsa (big size) was sold for Tk 330 to 350 per piece while medium-sized hilsa for Tk 150 to 170 per piece, ruhi (big size) for Tk 200 to 220 per kg while medium-sized ruhi for Tk 160 to 180 per kg.

The prices of shrimp (large size) were between Tk 560 and 600 per kg, while the prices of medium-sized shrimp were between Tk 300 and 360 per kg.