

Decorator staff murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A decorator employee was murdered at Khilgaon in the city yesterday.

Nasir Uddin, 22, employee of Model Electric Decorator at Malibagh, was found slaughtered inside the warehouse of the decorator at 11:00am.

Mohibur Rahman Firoz, owner of the decorator, said, "Nasir and his co-worker Nazmul Hossain went to sleep to the warehouse at 11:00pm as usual. He said a carpenter found the door of the warehouse locked from outside in the morning and asked him to open it for repair work.

Firoz said he and the carpenter found Nasir slaughtered on the floor as they had entered the warehouse at 11:00am.

Police recovered a knife from beside his body at noon. Police suspect that Nazmul might have committed the murder.

Nasir and Nazmul had been working in the decorator for the last two months. They used to sleep in the warehouse.

Nazmul has been missing since the murder, police said. A case was filed with Khilgaon Police Station in this connection.

ODHIKAR REPORT

89 killed by law enforcers in 4 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 89 people were killed allegedly by law enforcement agencies in the last four months since January 12, according to a report of Odhikar, a human rights organisation.

Besides, 1,75,435 people were reported arrested on various charges.

Of the 89 victims, eight people belonged to BNP while four to Awami League, the Odhikar report said.

Odhikar has prepared the report on the basis of reports published in 11 national dailies and its own fact-finding reports.



Two children admire a photo of a migratory bird at a photography exhibition at Teacher-Student Centre on Dhaka University Campus yesterday. Bangladesh Bird Club and Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh organised the exhibition to mark the International Migratory Bird Day.

Remove misconceptions about cancer

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday underscored the need for cancer awareness programme at grass-roots level to remove misconceptions about the disease.

As per WHO, one-third of total cancers is curable if diagnosed at early stage, another one-third is preventable while the rest can be kept symptom-free with the provision of palliative care, they

observed.

The roundtable titled 'Creating public awareness about the scourge of cancer in Bangladesh' was organised jointly by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and the weekly Financial Mirror at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Inaugurating the programme as chief guest National Professor Dr MR Khan said the exact cause of cancer is yet to be known but certain risk factors are related to external

agents including solar radiation, tobacco, alcohol, air and water pollution and genetic factors.

He underscored the need for public awareness programme on early diagnosis of cancer at the grassroots level eliminating various superstitions and misconceptions.

While presenting a keynote paper titled 'Some facts and figures of cancer in the context of cancer awareness and prevention in Bangladesh' Prof AMM Shariful Alam said the actual picture of cancer in Bangladesh is not clear due to lack of National Cancer Registry Programme.

"Hospital-based cancer registry started at the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH) in the city from January 2005. Besides, population-based cancer registry in a small scale is going on at Gazipur by Bangladesh Cancer Foundation," said Prof Shariful, director of Radiation Oncology of NICRH.

He said illiteracy, ignorance, lack of cancer awareness, religious prejudice, social stigma, low socio-economic status and inadequate cancer diagnostic facilities in cancer centres are mainly responsible for late detection of cancer.

The symptoms of cancer relate to changes in bowel or bladder habits, unusual bleeding, thickening or lump in the breasts or elsewhere, indigestion or difficulty in swallowing and nagging cough or hoarseness of voice, he added.

DAM President Qazi Rafiqul Alam stressed the need for developing lifeskill among the people to curb the risk of cancer through media campaign.

He also called for establishing more palliative care centres for those who are at incurable stage.

The programme was moderated jointly by Editor Qazi Jahangir Alam and Executive Editor Nurul Karim Nasim of the Financial Mirror while S Ranganathan, country manager of Commercial Bank of Ceylon Ltd, and Nazmul Hassan, chief executive officer of Beximco Pharma, took part in the discussion.

Outlaw arrested in Rajshahi

UNB, Rajshahi

Police arrested an activist of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (Lal Pataka) at Ramrama village in Bagmara upazila early yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Abul Kalam Azad, 32, of Ramrama village, from his house at about 4:00am.

Police said Azad is wanted in a number of cases, including murder.

BOAT PROCESSION IN CHITTAGONG

'Protect Halda river from pollution'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Environmental activists organised a unique boat procession in Chittagong yesterday with a view to protecting the Halda river, the lone natural breeding water-body for fish, from pollution and other acts of human insensitivities.

They also demanded that the river be declared as 'World Heritage' by the government and urged it to take immediate steps for saving the vital river from rampant netting of mother fish during the breeding season.

Paribesh Andolan Chittagong, an environmental organisation, arranged the boat procession from Firingibazar Bridge Ghat of Karnaphuli to the estuary of Halda in order to raise mass awareness on netting of mother fish in Halda river.

Prof of Economics Department of Chittagong University (CU) Dr Moinul Islam inaugurated the boat procession at Firingibazar Bridge Ghat yesterday morning. A rally was also held near Kalurghat Bridge.

On the occasion, speakers urged the local people to come forward against netting of mother fish during spawning or breeding period (March to May) that cause serious crisis of fish in the country.

They said production of fish fry at the river decreased at an alarming rate due to lack of awareness

among people.

They also urged the government to rehabilitate the fishermen when they do not have any work during the spawning at the Halda.

Prof Md Shah Alam of CU Zoology Department, Prof Hari

7 clinics, labs fined in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Seven clinics and diagnostic centres in Khulna have been fined Tk two lakh for unhygienic condition and inexperienced staffs.

A mobile court led by Metropolitan Magistrate Atiqul Haque fined them during a drive yesterday.

The clinics and diagnostic centres are Rupsha Nursing Home, Welcome Nursing Home, Shatadal Clinic, Amanullah's Clinic, DAB's Hospital, Doctors' Diagnostic Centre and Pushpa Kundu Laboratory Diagnostic Centre.

According to Magistrate Atiqul Haque, these clinics and laboratories were cheating patients in the name of medical treatment and amid shortage of life-saving drugs.

Earlier, the mobile court also fined Shahed Store Tk 28,000 and Alamgir Store Tk 15,000 for selling date-expired food items.

Shankar Jaladas of Chittagong Govt City College, Advocate Rana Das Gupta, Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Ward Commissioner Rehana Kabir Ranu

and Chairman of Madarsha Union Parishad Abul Kashem spoke on the occasion.