

EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLING One person falls victim in every 38 hours

Says Odhikar report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A person fell victim to extra-judicial killing in every 38 hours, while 1.1 person were arrested in every minute by law enforcement agencies since declaration of the state of emergency on January 11, says a report of Odhikar, a human rights organisation, yesterday.

A total of 114 people were reportedly killed and 2,86,000 arrested by law enforcement agencies during the period.

Of the 114 people, 64 were killed

by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), 28 by the police, seven by the Joint Forces, seven by the Army, three by the Navy, three jointly by the Rab and the police and one by Jail Police.

Of the killed, eight are from BNP, four from Awami League, seven from Purbo Banglar Communist Party (Jonojuddho), eight from Purbo Banglar Communist Party, six from Purbo Banglar Communist Party (Red Flag), two from Biplobi Communist Party, one from New

Biplobi Communist Party, four from Gono Mukti Fouz, one from Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal, three from Sromojibi Mukti Andolok, four from Sarbarha Party and one from United Peoples Democratic Front.

Odhikar calls on the caretaker government to initiate an independent judicial inquiry into the extra-judicial killings.

The report was prepared on the basis of stories published in 11 national dailies and its own fact-finding reports.



Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury makes a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Foreign adviser calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

During the meeting, the foreign adviser apprised the president of various issues relating to his ministry.

President's upcoming visit to Singapore including medical check-up at Mount Elizabeth Hospital and the courtesy call on with the Singaporean president also came in the discussion.

The president assured him of all cooperation.

Military Secretary to the President Major General M Aminul Karim and Secretary to the President's Office M Sirajul Islam were present on the occasion.

KATALYST, DRU sign MoU

Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) and KATALYST yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote development of media for enterprise growth in Bangladesh.

Alamgir Hossain, president of DRU, and Manish Pandey, deputy general manager of KATALYST, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organisations at the conference room of KATALYST in the city.

Under the MoU, DRU will set up and operate a Trust for introducing and running a national business journalism award programme on sustainable basis, while KATALYST will help developing the seed money, the interest accrued from which will be used for managing the finances for the awards.

Body formed to probe threat to RU official

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) authorities yesterday formed a five-member committee to investigate the incident of alleged threat given to its deputy accounts director by a deputy registrar of the university.

On Tuesday, Deputy Accounts Director Asraful-Huda, in a complaint, said that Deputy Registrar Tajul Islam, also a pro-Jamaat leader of university officers, put pressure on him to sign a 'controversial' bill of Tk 1.35 lakh. When Huda refused to comply, Tajul Islam threatened him with dire consequences.

The probe committee headed by Finance Committee (FC) member Nur Muhammad was formed at the directive of Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Mamunul Keramat, campus sources said.

Other members of the committee are FC member Mahbubur Rahman, Principal of Rajshahi Medical College and syndicate member Dr Fazlur Rahman, Prof AFM Mohsin of law and justice department and Instrument Engineer Abdul Latif Talukder of applied physics and engineering department.

The committee has been asked to submit its report as soon as possible.

Road crashes kill 2

STAR REPORT

At least two people were killed in separate road accidents in Rajshahi and Chandpur yesterday.

RU correspondent adds: A minor boy was killed and three others were injured in a road accident at Puba Upazila of Rajshahi yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mofazzal Hossain alias Mithu, 8, son of one Mehar Ali of Khamagram while the injured were Golam Mostafa, Shahin and auto-rickshaw driver Ismail.

The accident occurred when a truck hit an auto-rickshaw in the

RMG worker killed, auto driver injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A female garment worker was killed and a CNG-run autorickshaw driver injured when a train hit the auto at Sitakunda upazila yesterday morning.

The victim, identified as Poly Akhter, 21, used to work at a garment in the city's Dewanhat Ashkaraband area, sources said.

General Railway Police (GRP) sources said Chandpur-bound Sagarika Express smashed a CNG-run autorickshaw in which Poly was travelling in at around 9:30am. The autorickshaw was heading towards Eco Park.

Poly died on the spot while Jashim, the autorickshaw driver, sustained severe injuries.

Jashim was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

On duty Havilder Mohammad Khaer of GRP said there was no rail gate at the point although a number of people usually cross it everyday on their way to the Eco Park area.

The arrestees and the statue were handed over to Batiaghata police station.

Touchstone statue worth Tk 5 crore recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday recovered a touchstone statue worth about Tk 5 crore in Nirla Sabuj Palli area at Batiaghata in the district and arrested three people in this connection.

The arrestees were identified as Jilal Shikder, 27, of Uttara in Dhaka, Khandaker Azadur Rahman, 42, of South Azimpur in Dhaka and Bahauddin alias Baharama of Nirla Sabuj Palli, said a press release issued by Rab-6 yesterday afternoon.

Rab members in a raid found the statue concealed in a large wooden box in the house of one Bahauddin, the press release said.

The arrestees and the statue were handed over to Batiaghata police station.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy rainfall at one or two places over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and lowest 25.5 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:19am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.1	25.7	73	69
Chittagong	31.0	26.3	79	79
Rajshahi	34.2	27.6	83	86
Khulna	34.0	27.7	77	67
Barisal	32.6	27.2	81	77
Sylhet	32.5	26.7	81	73
Cox's Bazar	31.8	25.5	76	80

Gold ornaments worth Tk 2.5 lakh looted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A gang of robbers looted valuables, including 14 tolas of gold ornaments worth about Tk 2.52 lakh and Tk 60,000 in cash, raiding five houses at Salna in Gazipur Sadar on Tuesday night and injured two teenagers.

Locals said a gang of 15 to 16 robbers encircled the houses of Prince Hossain, Abdul Kadir and Altaf Hossain of Mollapara village in Salna at 1:00am.

They entered the houses, which are situated side by side, by breaking all the doors and looted 14 tolas of gold ornaments worth about Tk 2.52 lakh, Tk 45,000 in cash and other valuables holding the inmates at gunpoint.

Later, the gang also entered the houses of Hasmat Ali and Abdul Ali of Jular Par village the same way. They beat up Hasmat's two college-going daughters and took away Tk 10,000 in cash and two cellphones sets from the houses.

Abdul Kadir and Altaf alleged that patrolling police team came to the spot once the robbers fled away with the booty although they called the police station several times. The team were patrolling three kilometres off the spot.

During their talks, they discussed various issues of mutual interest, including academic activities at the DU and different developmental endeavours. Later, the ambassador visited newly built DU Senate Building, office of Social Sciences Faculty, Institute of Modern Language and Centre of Excellence.

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