

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 Andolon, four from Sarbahara 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 ministries.

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 legal cell.

On Tuesday, Deputy Accounts Director Asraf-ul-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 Mehrar Ali of Khamargram while the injured were Golam Mostofa, Shahin and auto-rickshaw driver Ismail.

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

The president assured him of all cooperation.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

RAIL ACCIDENT  
RMG worker  
killed, auto  
driver injured

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 Ashkarabad 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 Havidar 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.

Kalupara area at around 10:00am, leaving Mithu dead on the spot. The injured were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

Our Chandpur correspondent reports: An unidentified old man was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus on Chandpur-Faridganj-Raipur road at Faridganj upazila yesterday.

Police and witnesses said a Raipur-bound bus from Dhaka crushed the old man aged about 60 at Kalirbazar Chowrasta (square) at Faridganj when he was crossing the road.

Local people rushed the old man to Faridganj Health Complex where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Touchstone statue worth Tk 5 crore recovered


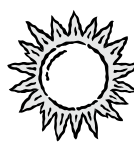
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

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

The arrestees were identified as Jillal Shikder, 27, of Uttara in Dhaka, Khandaker Azadur Rahman, 42, of South Azimpur in Dhaka and Bahauddin alias Baharama of Nirala 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

## T O D A Y

### 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 rainfalls 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 60000 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 45000 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 cellphone 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.

Chinese envoy  
meets DU VC

DU CORRESPONDENT

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zheng Qingdian made a courtesy call on Dhaka University (DU) Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz at the latter's office yesterday, says a press release.

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.

12 inter-district  
robbers nabbed  
in Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police on Tuesday night nabbed twelve inter-district robbers and recovered a revolver loaded with two rounds of bullets from their possession in Narayanganj.

The arrested are Mujibor, Moteleb, Shukkur, Sagar, Ibrahim, Shah Alam, Billal, Alam, Rony, Rana, Sumon, and Sohrah.

Acting on a tip-off, Fatulla police arrested Mujibor from Signboard area on Dhaka-Narayanganj Link Road.

Following information extracted from Mujibor, police arrested the rest hidden under a tipol on a truck.

Police recovered the loaded revolver from their possession and seized the truck.

Officer-in-charge of Fatullah Police Station Mahbub Hasan said, "The arrested are involved in killing the truck driver and helper to seize the vehicle."

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professor Khogesh Kiron Talukdar, central committee member of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and one of the organisers of the liberation war, passed away at Mymensingh Medical College yesterday at the age of 62.

He was cremated at his village home at Ranagaonin Netrokona.

Prof Khogesh, also an adviser to Bangladesh Advashis Union, took part in all the student and democratic movements, including mass upsurge of '69, the liberation war and the movement against the autocratic rule in 1990.

He also authored two books titled 'Bangladesher Lokayoto Shilpakala' and 'Nirban Pondit', both published by BanglaAcademy.

CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, Bangladesh Advashis Union President Rebecca Soren and General Secretary Mongthenhla Rakhain and Udichi Shilpa Goshthi expressed deep shock at the death of Prof Khogesh.

Body of engr Rab  
arrives today



Body of Engineer Abdul Rab, retired assistant chief engineer, Housing and Settlements Department, will arrive in Dhaka this morning by an Emirates Airlines flight, says a press release.

He passed away due to lung cancer in New York on July 9 at the age of 84.

His namaz-i-janaza will be held at Shyamoli Shahi Masjid (behind the Shamoli Cinema Hall) after Zohr prayers today.

His qulkhwan will be held at his residence (behind the Shamoli Cinema Hall) after Asr prayers on July 16.

He left behind his wife, two sons and one daughter.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed addresses the leaders of Sangbadik Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad at his office in the city yesterday.

Arsenic filter offers hope  
to millions

USINFO, Washington

The winner of a prestigious engineering prize is working hard to ensure that needy communities around the world benefit from his invention, which removes arsenic and other impurities from water drawn from tubewells.

Abul Hussam, a chemistry professor at George Mason University in Virginia, has devoted most of the \$1 million he was awarded as winner of the 2007 Grainger Challenge Prize to distributing his inexpensive water filtration system to the poor in countries such as his native Bangladesh, where between 77 million and 95 million people are drinking water contaminated with arsenic. The remainder of the prize money was donated to the university or set aside for more research.

Arsenic contamination is a serious problem in tubewells in Bangladesh, eastern India, Nepal and several other countries. Arsenic is poisonous and, even in low concentrations, can cause skin ailments, nerve damage, fatal cancers, organ failure and the loss of arms and legs, as well as death.

Hussam first became involved professionally in working on the arsenic problem when his brother, a physician in Kushtia, Bangladesh, asked him to develop a technique for precise arsenic measurement.

As part of his research at George Mason University, Hussam developed an electrochemical analyzer

and utilized it to develop a measurement protocol. "The first sample we measured was our home tubewell and we found 160-190 parts per billion [ppb] -- 50 ppb is the limit -- arsenic. We then decided to develop a water filter," he said.

Hussam found that the entire neighbourhood in which he grew up and 60 percent of Kushtia's 400,000 residents were drinking arsenic-contaminated water. While he and his siblings did not develop symptoms of arsenic poisoning, others in his community did.

The Grainger Challenge Prize was created by the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) with support from the Grainger Foundation. NAE challenged the US engineering community to develop a water treatment system that would significantly lower the arsenic content in groundwater from tubewells in developing countries.

The challenge stipulated that the winning system be low-cost, technically robust, reliable and maintainable; be socially acceptable and affordable; be manufacturable and serviceable in a developing country; and not degrade other water quality characteristics or create a toxic waste disposal hazard.

Hussam's Sono filter, as he calls it, was one of 75 entries. It was tested in a laboratory of the US Environmental Protection Agency and analysed by each of the 10 members of the prize selection

committee, according to the committee's chairman, professor Charles O'Melia of Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, who called Hussam's invention "innovative."

The Sono filter works without electricity, using three stacked buckets. The top bucket is filled with coarse river sand and a composite iron matrix, which serves as the active arsenic removal component. The middle bucket contains coarse river sand and wood charcoal to remove organic impurities. The bottom bucket contains fine river sand and brick chips to remove fine particles and stabilize water flow. The Sono filter is manufactured in Bangladesh using local raw materials at a cost of \$35-\$40. It produces 20 liters of clean water per hour, requires little maintenance, and lasts a minimum of five years. It is also "green," in the sense that it does not produce any hazardous waste.

Hussam says he has distributed 32,500 of the filters in Bangladesh, including to more than 1,000 schools. "We are beginning to see the effect of drinking clean water on patients being cured of melanosis and keratosis [skin ailments], and most people feel better," he said. People are also more aware of the importance of clean, potable water.

"We have plans to distribute the filter in India and Nepal," Hussam said.

Muggers take  
away Tk 3.35  
lakh, stab one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Muggers stabbed a person and made off with about Tk 3.35 lakh of a powdered milk distribution company at broad daylight in Nandan Kanan in the port city yesterday.

Sources said Didarul Alam, assistant accounts officer of Mutual Distribution - a distributor of Dano milk powder, and its peon Md Ferdous was going to nearby Jubilee Road branch of South East Bank with the money at about 10:00am.

As they came out of the office and headed towards the car of the bank manager, four muggers launched an attack on them, said Nurul Hoque, manager of the distributing firm.

The muggers stabbed Wahid, the driver of the car, and made off with the money holding Alam and Ferdous at gunpoint, he said.

"We have been sending the money by the car of the concerned bank manager for the last two years," Nurul Hoque said adding that the bank authorities did not send any security force in the car.

Adulterated ghee seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court in a drive seized a ton of adulterated ghee from a hidden godown at Khatunganj in the port city yesterday.

One Shahjalal Food and Chemical Works produced the seized ghee, branded 'Taza ghee'.

The mobile court became successful yesterday after its previous raids at Kazem Ali Road and Ghat Farhadbeg, the fake addresses provided by the factory in its license, went in vain, sources said.

Chittagong Port Authority Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury led the drive with the

help of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) and Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI) personnel.

Made of palm oil, the seized ghee did not have any milk fat - while ideal ghee should have 99.8 percent milk fat in it as an ingredient. Besides, the chemical test showed it as containing Iodine and Per-Oxide of higher value to cause health hazard to the consumers, said Magistrate Munir Chowdhury.

The court directed BSTI authorities to cancel the fake license, which the firm obtained by means of fraudulence, and to confiscate all of its goods.

RMG worker found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a female garment worker in the city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Jahanara Begum alias Jannat, 30, wife of Khabir Uddin.

The couple lived at Kawla in Dakkhin Khan.

Police recovered the body from an empty plot at Bonorupa Residential Project at Khilkhet at around 12:30pm and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy.

Morgue sources found marks of

injury on Jannat's head, which they said, were caused by hard objects.

Jannat's maternal aunt Rizia Khatun alleged that she was murdered by her husband Khabir.

She said Jannat went missing since Tuesday when she left home at around 7:30pm to do her night duty at a garment factory on Kuril Bishaw Road.

Khabir, who also left the house with her, had been missing since then, said Rizia.

A murder case was filed with Khilkhet Police Station accusing Khabir.

Advocate Hamid demands white papers

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corrupt, but not all. Politicians might have made some mistakes, but not all of them are dishonest."

Hamid also rejected army chief Gen Moeen U Ahmed's view that the constitution should be reviewed. He said the present constitution is "capable enough" to ensure accountability and effective governance.

"Our mindset and attitude will have to be changed, not the constitution," he said, adding, "It will bring no good even if the constitution is reviewed without changing our mindset and attitude."

On reforms in the AL, Hamid said no one should hold the posts of president and general secretary for more than two consecutive terms and this provision should take effect following the next council of the party.

Hamid, who is against excluding party chief Sheikh Hasina in the name of reforms, demanded immediate lifting of the ban on indoor politics to carry out necessary reforms. He also said the parliament

must be made functional to stop destructive activities in the streets in the name of movements.

Hamid denied any possibility of holding talks between the two former prime ministers - Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina. He said Hasina's stance over the matter is more rigid.

"Even if she [Hasina] does not go to power or opposition in future or quits politics, she will never shake hands with Khaleda Zia, as they [the BNP] are solely responsible for the current state of the country," he added.

Describing reform proposals by senior AL leaders Abdul Razzak, Tofail Ahmed and Suranjit Sengupta as their personal initiatives, Hamid said the party's Central Working Committee is the platform for placing any reform proposal as per party constitution, so it would be good if the proposals are placed before it.

He said Suranjit's proposals for going back to the constitution of 1972 and resting the executive power with the president are contradictory.

Any reform proposal reflecting national interests will be acceptable but the reform decisions will have to be taken at the national council, Hamid said, adding that the council will also decide if a person aged over 60 will be in any party post.

Hamid denied any split in the Awami League over reform issues.

On AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil's seeking mercy from the government, he said it will not be right to talk over a detainee's letter.

On the caretaker government's activities, he said although questions have arisen over some activities of the government, he supports its anti-corruption and anti-terrorism drives.

Hamid said the present government will have to continue with these drives without any motive in a transparent and neutral manner. "But ultimately, it is the people of the country who will justify the activities of the government," he added.

10-year-old  
tiger dies in  
Ctg Zoo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Chandra, a tiger at Chittagong Zoo, died yesterday noon due to a 'strangulation of intestine.'

The 'tragic' death of the 10-year-old Chandra reduced the family of tiger in the zoo to one, leaving its female counterpart Purnima, aged eight, alone.

Terming the death an accident, veterinary officer of the zoo Dr Monzur Morshed told The Daily Star that Chandra was quite sound even the day before.

"He showed no symptom of sickness till around 1.00pm when he suffered a strangulation of intestine and died in no time," he said yesterday evening.

Dr Morshed said the urinary bladder of the tiger also burst open because of the strangulation in his intestine.

Dr Masudduzaman, a professor of pathology at Chittagong Veterinary University, conducted the autopsy in the afternoon.

Zoo sources said Chandra was collected in the year 2004 from Dhaka Zoo as part of an exchange programme.

They are trying to bring a new pair of tigers from Dhaka Zoo within a month, the sources added.



Barrister Ishtiaq's  
anniversary of  
death today

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, a prominent lawyer and former adviser to a caretaker government, says a press release.

On the occasion, Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Smriti Parishad has taken different programmes. Wreaths will be placed at his grave at Banani and fateha will be offered. A milad mahfil will be held at an orphanage.

He made immense contribution to the legal arena of Bangladesh and acted as an attorney general and an adviser to the caretaker governments in 1996 and 2001. He also played a role in the democratic movement in Bangladesh.

Ohider Nessa



Today is the first death anniversary of Ohider Nessa, mother of Ayub Bhuiyan, chief reporter of the Daily Bhorer Kagoj, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at her village home Nurpur under Fulgazi Police Station in Feni.

Relatives are requested to attend the programme.

Nurunnahar Begum



Tomorrow is the third death anniversary of Nurunnahar Begum, wife of late Kabiruddin Ahmed, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Pir Dudu Mia orphanage in Shariatpur after Juma prayers.

Relatives and friends are requested to the milad and pray for salvation of the departed soul.