

Criminal shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A wanted criminal was shot dead while an engineer was shot at in two separate incidents in City's Sutrapur and Shyamoli areas yesterday.

Mohammad Manik, 28, a listed criminal is suspected to be gunned down by rivals in Sutrapur in the afternoon.

Manik's nephews Roni and Babu who brought his body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) said they have no idea of any reason behind the killing. They said unknown men brought Manik and left him by the Nawabpur Road, from where they brought him to the hospital.

DMCH doctors declared Manik dead on arrival at around 5:30pm. He had been shot on the head.

Nazmul Hossain, second officer of Sutrapur police station, said

Manik was a listed criminal and an accused in at least 10 cases for killings, arms and extortion and other charges.

Police suspect some rivals might have shot him but could not ascertain the cause behind the killing.

Manik's nephews said Manik was an electric goods broker at Nawabpur Road.

In a separate incident an engineer of Basoni Construction Firm at Ring Road in Shyamoli, Kazi Salauddin Shimul, was shot inside the office at about 12:00pm.

The injured engineer was admitted to DMCH.

He told reporters that two youths came to his office in a private car, shot him on his right leg and left the scene by the same car.

He, however, would not talk about the reason behind the attack.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed gives away crest to the relatives of fallen peacekeepers and retired injured peacekeepers at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday on the occasion of International Day of UN Peacekeepers. (Story on Page 1)

'ESHO BANGLADESH GORI' Road show kicks off today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A road show with the slogan 'Esho Bangladesh Gori' (Come forward to build a new Bangladesh) kicks off today with a view to raising awareness among the people.

Agriculture Adviser CS Karim will inaugurate the 50-day road show near Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre at 10:00am, which will travel to Tentulia in Panchagarh and come back to the capital on July 14.

During the travel, the road show will cross 55 districts but will stop in 25 districts.

Ministries of home, agriculture, food and disaster management and post and telecommunication in association with the Election Commission, Anti-corruption Commission, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission and Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation have organised the event.

The road show is aimed at raising awareness among the people about honest and quality leadership, food crisis, corruption, terrorism and drug abuse, and the importance of telecommunication as a source of employment, said the organisers at a 'meet the press' programme at the National Press Club yesterday.

Director General (seed) of agriculture ministry Anwar Faruq, convener of the road show, said it has been a bumper year for Boro paddy and potato, but the farmers have not

got the fair price for their produce due to lack of awareness.

"Through this campaign we want to promote higher consumption of potato, thereby helping the farmers get the right price for their produce," he said.

Chairman of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation Shafique Alam Mehdi said there is a huge potential for the development of the tourism sector in the country and the road show will help promote tourism.

Five vehicles for the road show will provide information to the people. The vehicles will stop at different points of 25 districts and organise

debates. Each vehicle will double as a stall of the fair. Cultural programmes and audio-video programmes will be held during the fair.

Debate and essay competition will also be organised at schools in the districts where the group will stop. Winners of the competition will be awarded. After the end of the road show, the video will be shown at district, upazila and union levels for seven days.

Pran group, AB Bank, Square Group, Monno Ceramic, Olympic Ball Pen, BSRM and all mobile phone companies have sponsored the road show.

8 lakh suffer from blindness

Experts tell conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a conference yesterday said around eight lakh people are suffering from blindness in the country, and 80 percent of them are blind due to cataract which is a preventable form of blindness.

Besides, another 1.20 lakh to 1.40 lakh people are affected every year by cataract-related blindness which could be removed through surgery, they added.

But the total number of cataract surgery in both public and private medical colleges every year is 1.40 lakh which is only 45 percent of the requirement.

Outgoing chief justice calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin, on his last day in office, paid a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

During the meeting, the president expressed satisfaction at his performance during his tenure as the chief justice.

The outgoing chief justice thanked the president for his cooperation extended during dispensation of his duties.

His successor, Justice MM Ruhul Amin, takes over on June 1.

So a huge number of people remain in dark every year that creates a backlog and to remove the backlog, at least three to four lakh cataract surgeries are needed every year, said Prof Deen Mohammad Noorul Haq at the conference.

The first annual conference of Bangladesh Community Ophthalmological Society (BCOS) was held at the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) auditorium in the city.

According to a statistics, only two percent people can go to the expert doctors for their eye treatment while 51 percent people don't have the ability to go to the doctors at all.

"Under these circumstances, it is a must for the government and non-government organisations to come forward with collaborative efforts. Though the number of ophthalmologist is higher in public sector, it is found that the government institutions are lagging behind comparing to private organisations," said Dr Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, secretary general of BCOS.

Bangladesh is also lagging behind in achieving Vision 2020 though the government has prepared a National Eye Care Plan in the light of Vision 2020-Right to Sight, said the experts blaming the problems in management, planning, bureaucratic tangle and political indecisiveness for the current situation.

Former chief adviser of a caretaker government Chief Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman was present as chief guest while Prof MA Matin was present as special guest at the conference.

BCOS President Prof Ava Hossain, Prof Rabiul Islam, and Dr Prof Muhammad Sharfuddin Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

At the conference, Prof MA Matin, Prof Mohammad Mustafizur Rahman, Prof Rabiul Husain, Prof AH Syedur Rahman, Prof Muhammad Humayun Kabir, Prof Muhammad Salehuddin and Prof Syed Modasser Ali were accorded with Lifetime Achievement Award 2008 for their contribution to respective fields.

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Joanne Wall, International Recruitment Manager, of the University of Greenwich will be undertaking individual counselling sessions and on the spot admission:

Dhaka: 3 and 5 June (11.00 to 17.00) at the office of Overseas Study Counseling Ltd., 15 Barun Bhaban (3rd Floor), Gulshan 2, Dhaka. Please phone 8854002, 9888735 or 9896516, 01914243056-66 for an appointment.

Dhaka: 4 June (11.00 to 17.00) at the office of the British Council, 5 Fuller Road. Please contact reception on 8618905-7 Ext-2 for an appointment.

Chittagong: 7 June (13.00 to 18.00) at the office of Overseas Study Counseling Ltd., House No 58, (3rd Floor), Road No 5, O.R. Nizam Road. Please phone 2550974-5 or 01914243051-55 for an appointment.

Chittagong: 8 June (12.00 to 18.00) at office of the British Council Chittagong. Please contact reception on 657884-6 for an appointment.

email: international@gre.ac.uk web: www.gre.ac.uk



Rokhsana, an acid survivor, speaks at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) yesterday. On her left is her son Badsha, also an acid survivor, and on her right is her husband Mostafa.

Acid survivor seeks security of family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An acid survivor yesterday said the accused in the acid throwing case, who were acquitted of the charges by a court, are now threatening her family.

Seeking justice, victim Rokhsana of Koyra area of Khulna at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) yesterday said that following a feud with her husband Mostafa over a shrimp enclosure, Arshad, Gaffar Morol and Yusuf along with four others threw acid on Rokhsana, her four-year-old son Badsha and eight-month-old daughter Mukta on May 26 in 2005.

The baby died the next day while the condition of Rokhsana and her son improved following a long-term treatment at the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital and Acid Survivors Foundation Hospital.

At the press conference, Rokhsana said she filed a case against seven people, but all of them were acquitted, as the charges could not be proved.

The culprits are now threatening the victim's family under the patronisation of the Chairman of the Union Parishad Shah Ebadat, she added.

She urged the government to take necessary steps to ensure security of her family.

Rokhsana's husband Mostafa, their son Badsha, Nurunnahar of Acid Survivors' Network and Kamrun Nahar Reba of Jatiya Nirjatan Protirodh Forum were present at the press conference organised by Acid Survivors Network.

Condition of Binod Bihari improves

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cig

Condition of Binod Bihari Chowdhury, an anti-British movement veteran, has improved slightly, doctors said yesterday.

Chowdhury, who was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) with old-age complications on Wednesday, is now undergoing treatment at the Cardiac Care Unit (CCU).

A medical board was formed yesterday to examine the condition of Chowdhury. The board examined his medical reports at a meeting in the morning.

The on-duty doctors said that although some complications have developed in his kidney, his condition has improved slightly.

He is now being treated for anaemia and kidney problems, they said.

Feuding Families Finish Fighting!

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