

Janajuddho killed 3 journos in southwest
Confesses Dada Tapan's brother
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (Janajuddho) murdered journalists Manik Chandra Saha, Humayun Kabir Balu and Mir Elias Hossain Dilip, confessed Golam Hossain Akash, detained brother of recently killed chief of the armed outfit Abdur Rashid Malitha alias Dada Tapan.

The journalists were slain in retribution for reporting to their newspapers an incident that took place in January 2002 in Khulna when Akash and his accomplices snatched Dada Tapan away from police custody while he was being produced before a court.

Manik was a reporter of the English daily New Age. Dilip was the editor of Jhenidah based Bangla daily Bir Darpan, and Balu was the editor of Khulna based vernacular daily the Janmabhum.

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20 injured as RMG workers clash in N'ganj
 OUR CORRESPONDENT

Twenty persons were injured as two groups of garment workers clashed at Fatullah in Narayanganj over joining a demonstration yesterday.

The group that organised the demonstration also barricaded the Dhaka-Narayanganj Highway for over an hour, causing acute traffic congestion in the area. They also ransacked a few garment factories in the vicinity as workers of those refused to join them.

Witnesses said workers of Time Sweater Factory came down on the street in the morning demanding withdrawal of a case filed against 20-25 unidentified workers of the factory a few days ago.

Yesterday's clash was the sequel to beating up of a worker on June 6. On that day, the workers of Time Sweater staged a demonstration near Katherpool, demanding salary hike.

During the demonstration, they beat up Kazi Ripon, knitting-in-charge of the factory, as he and a few others refused to join the agitation.

Ripon filed a case with Fatullah.

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ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH Arrest warrant against Morshed Khan, wife
Ex-MP Gias sued
 COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against absconding former foreign minister M Morshed Khan and his wife Nasrin Khan in a case filed for amassing wealth worth Tk 1.67 crore illegally and giving false information to the commission.

Meanwhile, another Dhaka court issued arrest warrant against absconding former BNP lawmaker from Narayanganj Giasuddin Ahmed after the National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed a case against him for evading Tk 6.70 crore in.

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Charge-framing hearing in Niko case deferred
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The trial court of the Niko corruption case against Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and nine other people deferred the charge-framing hearing to July 7.

Judge Amar Kumar Roy of the Special Court-2 rescheduled the hearing citing a June 19 High Court (HC) order which asked the trial court to send the case records to the HC by June 30 for judicial scrutiny.

The HC called for the case records after the Awami League president petitioned it for quashing the case.

The trial court said charge-framing hearing on July 7 hinges on HC decision on Hasina's petition.

Advocate Sahara Khatun stood in for the Awami League president who had earlier been exempted.

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37-STOREY CITY CENTRE CRACK Probe body clears resumption of work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The probe committee formed to investigate cracks developed in places of under-construction 37-storey City Centre in Motijheel in its report yesterday suggested resumption of the construction.

The report submitted to the chief executive officer of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) says the brick walls on which the cracks developed on March 29 are not part of the building's main structure.

The cracks do not indicate any weakness in the main structure and the walls can be removed or replaced, says a DCC official.

The committee headed by Prof Dr Md Zoynul Abedin of Buet during inspection observed cracks in six places, the report mentions.

The committee was formed on March 30 and was asked to submit its reports in 15 days, but it missed two consecutive deadlines.

The report says the cracks were developed due to pressure on the walls and recommends removing the walls, which were constructed on the shore pile of the ground floor. Only new walls could be constructed considering security matter, but the upper parts of the walls will not be connected to the main structure, it suggests.

The committee also suggests monitoring the building if vertical alignment changes in line with the progress of the construction.

The DCC must take proper steps to monitor the construction and ensure quality of construction materials, the report says.

It also slams DCC for not keeping a project director and site engineer to coordinate and supervise the construction and suggests presence of such officials for rest of the work.

Construction of the 37-storey building started during the tenure of BNP-led alliance government and 31 storeys have so far been built.

The skyscraper includes a 10-storey parking lot and is scheduled to be completed by December 31. It is designed to have 4.8 lakh square feet floor space including office, a convention centre, recreation areas and parking.

Other members of the probe committee are Prof Dr Khan Mohammad Amanat of Buet, Lt Col Nurul Huda, PWD Superintendent Engineer Ahmad Ali Khan and DCC Executive Engineer Md Abul Hasnat.

SSC, Dakhil results today
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC), SSC (vocational) and Dakhil examinations under seven education boards, Technical Education Board and Madrasa Education Board will be published simultaneously today across the country.

The candidates can collect the results, which will be published at 5:00pm, from their respective schools or examination centres. They can also receive the results through short message service (SMS).

Besides, the results will be available on the website of the education board.

Anyone having GrameenPhone, Banglalink, Aktel, CityCell, TeleTalk or Warid connections, has to type the first three letters of the respective board (for example DHA for the Dhaka Board), give a space and type the roll number and then send it to 2777 or 4636 to get the results.

Candidates having Grameen

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Vehicles pass by rubbles lying beside the sidewalk, completely dug out to lay drain pipes, on the west side of Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday. This footpath was constructed only six months ago.

Haunted by festering acid wounds

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Roksana has won the fight she has been waging to save her life. But she has yet to secure the final victory over those who had killed her daughter and acid-burned her body.

With wounds and aches still haunting her, Roksana has recently filed a general diary (GD) with Kaira Police Station in Khulna. She needs security for her family amid constant threats and intimidation from the accused acquitted of the acid attack charges.

"We cannot sleep at night in fear of further attacks," said her husband Mostafa, who was not at home during the attack, over phone.

She used to lead a happy life with her poor farmer husband and two children in Jaigirmohol village in Amadi union until the heinous attack on May 26, 2005.

She along with her children -- four-year-old Badsha and eight-month Mukta -- suffered severe burns when the criminals allegedly at the dictat of Jaigirmohol UP chairman Shah Ebadat poured acid on them following a feud over shrimp farming.

She woke in acute pain and saw

the assailants running away. Mukta died at Khulna Medical College Hospital the next day but Roksana and Badsha survived after a fight for six months.

Seven including Ebadat were implicated in the case. Ebadat and three others -- Zamil Shafi Gazi, Monsur Gazi and Afsar Uddin Khoka -- managed to get bail from higher court and the rest -- Arshar Ali, Yusuf and Raham Ali -- are still on the run.

The charges brought against them could not be proved in the court and the case was disposed of on May 21 thanks to poor investigation report. Soon the 'perpetrators' started intimidating the family.

"Now you have to leave the area or your body will disappear this time," Mostafa quoted one of accused as threatening after the court verdict.

Things turned more volatile after Mostafa and his wife held a press conference in the capital revealing their sufferings.

"We returned home only to face fresh threats," said Mostafa, who was so scared to talk to media fearing reprisal from the perpetrators.

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Iajuddin's condition better

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed has been moved to a cabin from the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) as his health improved.

Brig Gen M Abdul Alim, personal physician of the president and member of the medical board formed to review the president's latest health status, yesterday said Iajuddin's body temperature came back to normal on Tuesday night.

The president did not have a fever since then, he said.

The president was admitted to the CMH with a high fever at around 11:00pm Monday.

Iajuddin Ahmed, 77, underwent an open-heart surgery at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore in 2006.

MK Anwar, son sued for harassing journo

UNB, Comilla

A case was filed against detained former agriculture minister MK Anwar, his son, daughter and a Jubo Dal leader on charges of harassment and corruption in Comilla yesterday.

AKM Salauddin Ahmed of Tuzarbhangra village in Daudkandi upazila filed the case with a judicial magistrate court.

The other accused in the case are Anwar's daughter Khadiza Anwar, son Mahmud Kaizer Anwar and Meghna upazila unit Jubo Dal general secretary Zahurul Islam.

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| Prayer Timing | | |
|---------------|-------|--------|
| June 26 | | |
| | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 4-05 | 4-40 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 5-00 | 5-15 |
| Maghrib | 6-54 | 6-57 |
| Esha | 8-17 | 8-45 |

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Monsoon is the breeding season for lizards. This picture taken from the Dhaka Zoo yesterday shows a baby lizard searching for food on a tree at the zoo.

Saudi employer left 45 in the lurch

Many of them from Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-five Asian workers, mainly from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, have been deprived of their dues by a Saudi Arabian company and are stranded in the kingdom now without any money or legal papers.

The workers have been passing their days in hunger and negligence for the last seven months.

A total of 55 workers, recruited by the Nukhba House of Medical Services, were left stranded in

Riyadh after the company flouted the terms of their contracts, the Saudi Arabian newspaper Arab News reported yesterday.

One of the stranded, Abid Lateef Khan, said that 10 from the group have been able to manage to leave the country since then.

Another worker said, "The remaining workers are left hungry and are suffering from depression."

The groups' troubles began when the company refused to release the workers when their job contracts expired in December

2006. The company refused to let them go till they had found replacements for these posts.

The 55 men had to work an extra year without any contract in place and were not paid regularly for it either. In January this year, Nukhba moved the 55 workers to a different apartment in Riyadh after replacing them with new staff.

They have been living in miserable conditions since, often going hungry, as they have little or no money left.

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PHOTO: STAR

Staff of city bus services sell tickets to passengers yesterday, sitting on iron fences beside a road at Rampura in the absence of any permanent sheds.

Pak militants kill 22 pro-govt tribesmen

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistani Taliban militants killed 22 pro-government tribal elders who were kidnapped during battles for control of a strategic town near the Afghan border, an official said yesterday.

The incident happened near the town of Jandola, adjoining the South Waziristan tribal district, where rebels loyal to top Taliban commander Baitullah Mehsud have been fighting tribesmen loyal to the government.

The clashes come despite ongoing peace talks between Pakistani authorities and Mehsud, who was blamed by the previous government and US officials for the

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Nato airstrikes kill 22 more in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

US-led coalition airstrikes killed 22 Taliban militants in eastern Afghanistan yesterday after insurgents launched the latest in a string of attacks on government buildings, the coalition said.

Rebels armed with rockets and machineguns attacked the Sarobi district centre in eastern Paktika province, which borders Pakistan, but were pushed back by Afghan forces, a coalition statement and a spokesman said.

Militants later attacked the district centre of neighboring Gomal, forcing the Afghan security forces to call in coalition warplanes for help, the spokesman said.

"When coalition air support arrived, the 22 militants who attacked the (Gomal) District Centre were positively identified

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ASIA CUP SL maul Tigers

AFP, Lahore

Kumar Sangakkara hit a brilliant century to help Sri Lanka down Bangladesh by 131 runs in their Group A Asia Cup match here on Wednesday.

The 30-year-old left-hander notched 101 for his seventh one-day hundred to propel the defending champions to 357-9 before restricting Bangladesh to 226-7 in 50 overs.

Bangladesh were never on target as they lost opener Nazimuddin and captain Mohammad Ashraf for the 10th over. Only Mushfiqur Rahim (44) and Rokibul Hasan (35) offered

some resistance during their fourth wicket 78-run stand in an otherwise disappointing batting display.

Mashrafe Mortaza (34) and Abdur Razzak (22) added 49 for the unbroken eighth wicket stand but it was too late.

Sri Lanka, who were surprisingly asked to bat first on a flat wicket after Mohammad Ashraf had won the toss, were indebted to Sangakkara and Sanath Jayasuriya, who made 72. Chamara Kapugedera smashed a 67-ball 74.

Sangakkara hit 16 boundaries during his 91-ball knock and shared a 116-run stand for the opening wicket with Jayasuriya as

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CRISL (Credit Rating Information and Services Ltd.) upgrades the rating of Eastern Bank Limited to "A+" from "A" rating in long term and reaffirmed ST-3 rating in the short term. The above rating has been arrived at on the basis of bank's good fundamentals such as:

- + Good capital adequacy
- + Good non-funded earnings
- + Good asset quality
- + Good financial performance
- + Experienced top management and
- + Developed ICT

Banks rated in this category are adjudged to offer adequate safety for timely repayment of financial obligations. This level of rating indicates a corporate entity with an adequate credit profile.

EBL thanks its valued clients for making it happen.