

Three get 32 years for killing trader

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced three people to 32 years' rigorous imprisonment for killing Ali Islam Dewan, a small trader of Savar area, in October 2003.

The convicts are Mohammad Anar, Mohammad Tikka and Mohammad Awal. All of them are residents of Savar in Dhaka district. Of them, Anar was tried in absentia.

Judge Mohammad Altaf Hussain of the Sixth Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court handed down the verdict in a packed courtroom.

The punishment of the fugitive

will be effective from the day of his arrest or surrender.

The court, however, acquitted three other accused -- Abdul Jalil, Mohammad Fazal and Mohammad Rubel -- as charges against them could not be proved.

According to the prosecution, a group of five or six criminals led by Anar called Ali Dewan out of his house at about 11:00pm on October 23, 2003 and killed him and dumped his body.

The victim's mother filed a murder case against Tikka and six others on October 26, 2003. But the investigation officer (IO) pressed charges against Tikka and five others on January 10, 2004.

Transport workers call off strike in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

South Chittagong Transport Owners and Workers' Association called off the indefinite strike in the 19 routes of Chittagong to Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts after a meeting with the administration yesterday afternoon.

The strike was enforced protesting the vandalism on vehicles and attack on transport workers of the routes at different spots centring killing of a college student in a road accident on Sunday.

The strikers also placed their eight-point demand, including punishment to the involved persons on Sunday's attack and ensuring security of the transport workers on the routes.

The strike was called off after an assurance from the administration of fulfilling their eight-point demand following a meeting at the office of the deputy inspector general of police.

Bus services resumed at around 3:00pm following the fruitful meeting, said the sources.



Awami League Acting President Zillur Rahman speaks at the central working committee meeting of the party at its Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday.

Devise sustainable tech to achieve 100pc sanitation coverage by 2010: Adviser

BSS, Dhaka

Local Government, Cooperatives and Rural Development Adviser M Anwarul Iqbal yesterday underscored the need for devising sustainable technology and aware people about hygienic sanitation for ensuring total sanitation coverage across the country by 2010.

With the coordinated efforts of the government, concerned NGOs and the media, the country has already achieved 88.12 percent sanitation coverage till June last year from 33.21 percent in 2003 despite challenges, he said while inaugurating Sanitation Month October-2008 at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city.

Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser for Environment and Forest and CHT Affairs Barrister Raja Devasish Roy spoke at the function as special guest while LGED Secretary Sheikh Khurshid Alam chaired the function.

Local Government Division Joint Secretary Lokman Hakim Talukdar gave the welcome speech while chief engineer of Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) Mustafizur Rahman made concluding remarks.

Quoting a survey, the adviser said that the sanitation coverage in rural areas has already reached 88.22 percent in June this year.

He said the sanitation coverage in the municipal areas went up to 89.13 percent in 2008 from 53.10 percent in 2003 and in the city corporation areas to 85.03 percent in 2008 from 69.92 percent in 2003.

As many as four districts, 55 municipality, 104 upazilas and 1,325

unions have so far been brought under total sanitation coverage and same number of areas are nearing cent percent coverage.

The LGED adviser said the government has directed all upazila administrations to spend 20 percent funds of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for raising the sanitation coverage across the country.

"I strongly believe that if the present trend of sanitation activities continue, hundred percent sanitation would be possible ahead of 2010," he said. Efforts are underway to create a 'special support fund' apart from giving recognition to the concerned persons or the organisations for their successes in the field of sanitation, he added.

Anwarul Iqbal said massive awareness creating programmes about the hygienic sanitation have been taken aiming at popularising the government's efforts in this regard.

Raising awareness is very important rather than financing more in a bid to bring each and every families under environmental sanitation coverage by the stipulated period of time, said Raja Devasish.

He, however, pointed out that providing of sanitary equipments in the CHT, haor and char areas is very difficult due to lack of accessibility and also financial condition of the people of those areas. In this regard, he said, capacity of civil society, local leaders, and women will have to increase so that they can help achieve the goal.

Special steps should be taken considering the state of sanitation coverage in the remote areas, said

Devasish and focused on engaging best efforts of all in sanitation endeavours.

Sheikh Khurshid Alam said identical technology should not be applied in all areas as social and physical conditions are not same in all areas.

Foundation stone of Din Bodoler Gram laid

METRO DESK

The foundation stone of Din Bodoler Gram, a project of Banglalink to rehabilitate the Sitr victims in Bagerhat, was laid yesterday.

Banglalink with the help and cooperation of the Ministry of Land has undertaken the project to construct durable concrete houses for 140 families, says a press release.

Abu Md Maniruzzaman Khan was the chief guest on the occasion while Rashid Khan, CEO of Banglalink, was present as special guest.

The concrete houses will be built with concrete roof with parapet wall so that during floods people can take temporary shelter on the rooftop.

It will also be equipped with underground storage provision for drinking water and dry food for temporary emergency requirements and crisis situations.

SAARC Chief Scout Commissioners' Meet

South Asian Scout Forum to be formed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Chief Scout Commissioners of Saarc countries have reached an agreement to form a South Asian Scout Forum to strengthen coordination among Scouts in the region.

They hoped that if this plan can be implemented, the forum would also increase scouting activities and social programmes in the Saarc states.

The daylong meeting of the 6th Saarc Chief Scout Commissioners was held at Jamuna Resort in Tangail yesterday.

A total of six countries, including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and host Bangladesh, of the regional bloc took part in the meeting.

To make competent citizens in South Asian countries, the commissioners also took an implementation plan of the well-timed programmes and training, experience sharing and made a work plan for future activities.

Chief National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts Md Abul Kalam Azad, Chief National Commissioner of Bharat Scouts and Guides Shri LM Jain, Chief National Commissioner of Scout Association of the Maldives Ahmed Ali Maniku, Chief National Commissioner of Nepal Scouts Shree Ram Lamichhane, International Commissioner of Pakistan Boy Scouts Association Ghazufar Maskoor, Chief Commissioner of Sri Lanka Scouts Association C Batuwangala, Asia Pacific Region Director of World Scout Bureau Syd Castillo and founder of

South Asia Foundation Madniet Singh World Scout Bureau took part in the programme.

After the meeting, a cultural function was held at the same venue.

Tangail district unit of Bangladesh Scouts and Rovers and Zila Shilpakala Academy organised the function.

International Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts and Home

Secretary Md Abdul Karim, Commander of 98 Composite Brigade Brig Gen Nasimul Gani, Deputy Commissioner of Tangail Makchudur Rahman Patwari, Additional Deputy Magistrate Syedul Islam and Tangail Municipality Mayor Zafar Ahmed also attended the function.

Sources said the last meeting of Chief Scout Commissioners was held in Islamabad in Pakistan.

WANTED SUB-EDITORS

The Daily Star, Bangladesh's most read and influential English language newspaper, is going to recruit high quality SUB-EDITORS to join its National Desk.

Applicants must be able to work efficiently in a deadline-driven environment, must have a strong sense of grammar, sharp eyes for detecting mistakes in copy and be computer literate. Experience of work with English language newspapers will be given preference.

Interested candidates may send in their applications along with complete bio-data and a recent passport-size photograph to reach the following address by 20 October 2008. Previous applicants need not apply.

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Interested candidates are requested to drop their C.V in the school drop box by Monday, the 20th October 2008.

Place: House # 5, Road # 12 (New) 31 (Old), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.

THOSE WHO APPLIED BEFORE NEED NOT APPLY



The same old traffic congestion returns to the city after the Eid and Puja holidays. The picture was taken at Maghbazar intersection in the city yesterday.

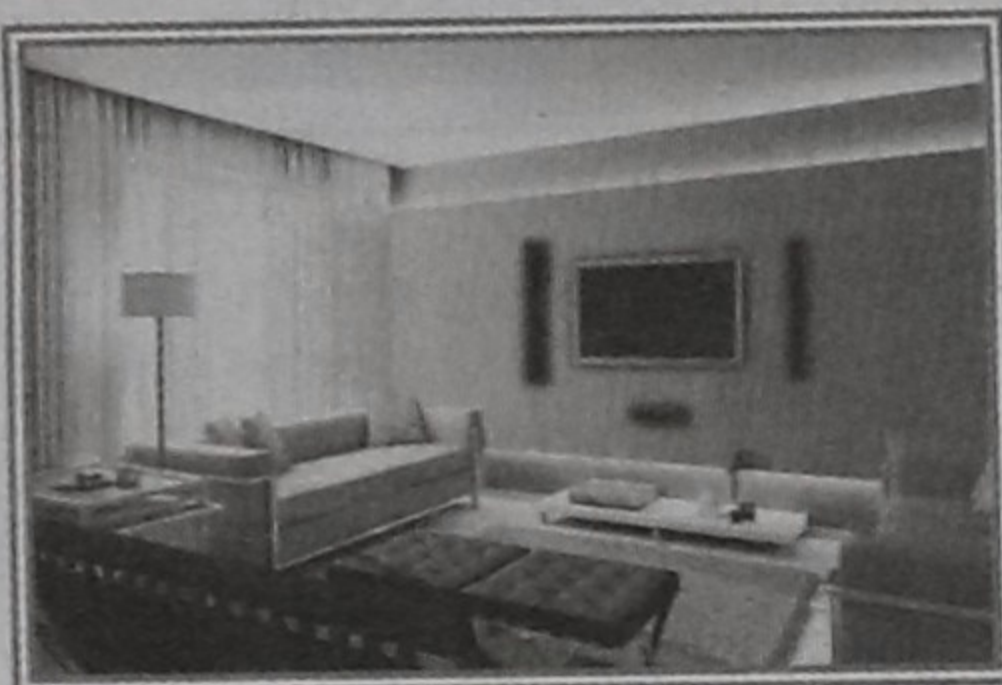
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