

3 teenage girls rescued from traffickers, four held

UNB, Gopalganj

Gopalganj police rescued three teenage girls and arrested four alleged traffickers from a house at Fakirpool in Dhaka city yesterday.

The arrestees are Rasheda, 35, and her husband Abu Sayeed of Rugganj, Narayanganj, Hasan alias Ripon, 32, of Agailjhara, Barisal, and Akteruzzaman, 34, of Bhikargacha, Jessore.

They were placed on a three-day police remand after they were produced before a Gopalganj court.

The police said traffickers brought Asma, 14, of Aridanga, Jessore, Sumi, 15, and Mukta, 14, of Tungipara to Dhaka about a month ago with the promise of job in garments factory.

Acting on information provided by their parents, the detective police raided a traffickers' den at Bankpara in Gopalganj town on October 21 and rescued Reshma, 15, of Ghoherdanga, Tungipara. Following her statement, the police rescued the three girls and arrested four people in a pre-dawn raid at Fakirpool yesterday.

The police said the traffickers also managed to obtain passports and visas in the name of the girls in a bid to traffic them abroad.

Floods under Antarctic ice speed glaciers into sea: Study

AFP, Paris

Scientists unveiled Sunday the first direct evidence that massive floods deep below Antarctica's ice cover are accelerating the flow of glaciers into the sea.

How quickly these huge bodies of ice slide off the Antarctic and Greenland land masses into the ocean help determine the speed at which sea levels rise.

The stakes are enormous: an increase measured in tens of centimetres (inches) could wreak havoc for hundreds of millions of people living in low-lying deltas and island nations around the world.

Researchers discovered only recently that inaccessible sub-glacial lakes in Antarctica periodically shed huge quantities of water. Data collected by a satellite launched in 2003 -- the Ice, Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite, or ICESat -- revealed a complex network of sub-glacial plumbing in which water periodically cascades from one hidden reservoir to another.

But the new study, published online in the journal Nature Geoscience, is the first to measure the potential impact of this invisible flooding on sea-bound glaciers.

A trio of scientists led by Leigh Stearns of the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine matched ICESat data against a nearly 50-year record of how fast the Byrd Glacier in East Antarctica has moved toward the sea.

Flooding traps 33 in Chinese coal mine

AFP, Beijing

Thirty-three workers were trapped when a coalmine in central China's Henan province flooded yesterday, state media reported.

The accident at the Gaomendong Coal Mine near Pingdingshan city happened at about 7:20am (2320 GMT Sunday), Xinhua news agency reported.

Forty-two miners were at work at the time of the flooding, and eight managed to escape, Xinhua said, citing the Henan work safety administration.

One more miner was rescued later, bringing the number of trapped to 33, according to the agency.

It is the third coalmine accident in less than three weeks in Henan, with a total of five miners dying in the two previous accidents, Xinhua said.

China has a dismal work safety record, with thousands of people dying every year in mines, factories and on construction sites.

Preserve ethnic languages for cultural diversity

Speakers urge all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said mother language is a priceless asset of a nation and the nation who neglects its mother tongue turns into a rootless refugee.

They also stressed the need for preserving the language of ethnic minority groups in order to maintain linguistic and cultural diversity of the country.

Mother Language Lovers of the World, Bangladesh chapter in cooperation with Cambrian College, Dhaka organised the seminar marking the ninth anniversary of the declaration of Inter-national Mother Language Day.

Speaking at the programme, CHT Regional

Council Chairman Iyotirindriya Bodhipriya Larma said around 45 ethnic communities are living in the country and many of these community's languages are now at stake.

"Every community has its unique culture and language. The culture and language of minority ethnic community of the country are being exploited by the mainstream culture, he said, adding that a significant change in the social system is imperative to save the glorious traditions of the minority languages from extinction.

He further said, "A democratic, progressive and non-communal government is necessary to free the minority community from the lingual

exploitation."

Speaking as the chief guest, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddique said Bangla language is facing a crisis of existence as English language is taking the place of first language to the new generation whose first language is Bangla.

Noted litterateur Selina Hossain said mother language is a language of heart, love and emotion and the nation who fails to keep practice of its mother language eventually loses the way of doing welfare to the human beings.

Unesco Dhaka Office Director Malama Meleisea, Cambrian College Chairman Lion MK Bashir MJF and Deputy Head of Mission of Russian Federation Embassy Syed Javitov also spoke.



A doctor examines a patient at a free eye camp at 'Bhashani Hall' in Tangail yesterday. Grameenphone and Sightsavers International jointly organised the camp.

GP organises free eye camp in Tangail

METRO DESK

Grameenphone and Sightsavers International jointly organised a free eye camp at the 'Bhashani Hall' in Tangail yesterday to provide services to the economically disadvantaged people, says a press release.

Bangladesh National Society for Blind (BNSB), Sirajganj is the local partner of this eye camp.

Md Maksudur Rahman Patwari, deputy commissioner (DC) of Tangail, was present at the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest. Arkanul Islam, manager, Corporate Social Responsibility, Grameenphone, and Dr Wahidul Islam, country representative, Sightsavers International, were also present.

About 2000 patients were given routine examinations. More than 200 patients were referred for and administered Intra Ocular Lens (IOL) or cataract surgeries.

Photographic field guide to wildlife launched

UNB, Dhaka

The first ever definitive field guide to the wildlife of protected forest areas of Bangladesh was released in the city on Sunday.

Prepared by the young Cambridge-educated zoologist Monirul H Khan, an assistant professor at Jahangirnagar University, this full colour guide includes detailed information and photographs helping nature visitors to identify each of nearly 400 different species found in Bangladesh's protected forest areas.

The book has been financed by the US government through USAID and by the Forest Department's Nisorgo Programme.

In his comments at the launching ceremony, Dr Khan expressed his hope that the book would help encourage young nature lovers to get out and explore our system of forest protected areas.

President, CA greet sultan of Oman

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed have greeted the Sultan of Oman, Qaboos Bin Said, on the occasion of the National Day of his country today.

In a message, President Iajuddin said, "I am confident that the existing bilateral friendly relations between our two fraternal countries will be further strengthened and diversified in the coming years."

In a separate message, Fakhruddin Ahmed expressed his firm belief that the existing excellent bilateral relations between two brotherly countries would be further cemented to the mutual benefits of two peoples in the days to come.

Use of insecticide-treated mosquito nets can reduce malaria deaths

Speakers say at roundtable

BSS, DHAKA

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said insecticide-treated mosquito nets could help reduce deaths due to malaria effectively.

They said the outbreak of the disease is taking a serious turn in 13 districts particularly in mosquito-infested areas in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) of the country as 98 per cent people of the areas are under the risk of malaria.

The media can be a most powerful apparatus to make people aware of the disease, the speakers said, adding that most of the malaria-caused deaths happen due to lack of awareness among the rural people.

They were addressing a roundtable on 'Role of the media in controlling malaria' at Brac Centre in the city.

Vice-President of Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) Parvez Khan chaired the

roundtable jointly organised by the DRU and Brac.

Bureau Chief of AP Farid Hossain spoke on the occasion as the special guest.

The disease attacks over 30 crore people every year in the world, while it claims 11 lakh mostly under five children and expectant women, said Dr Moktadir Kabir, a professional of Brac Health Programme (Malaria), while presenting a keynote paper on the topic of the roundtable.

Professor Imran Bin Yusuf of Chittagong Medical College favoured strengthening monitoring activities in the rural areas, where health workers are providing the malaria-infected people with treatment. The spraying of mosquito killing insecticide needs to be expanded to five percent areas of the country where access to the areas is not easy, said Dr Yusuf.

Dr Mohammad Abul Fayeze, director general of Health Directorate, said the government has taken a number of programmes to reduce the risk of malaria by 50 percent by 2012.

Health workers working in remote areas are providing early diagnosis test (EDT) of the disease free of cost within 15 minutes, Dr Fayeze said, adding that the recovery becomes possible within three days after the malaria attack.

Dr Rashidul Haque of ICDDR,B said malaria has posed a serious threat to public health and suggested inventing vaccine to check the disease permanently in future.

Farid Hossain said the media networking is a must to create awareness of the disease among rural people especially tribal communities. Scientific terms of the disease should be easier for media men so that they can understand those for reporting on malaria.



National Front of Teachers and Employees forms a human chain at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday to press for their various demands, including payment of full bonus and salary of November and December before Eid.



Winners of Aga Khan Award for Architecture-2007 pose for photograph with Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman and Aga Khan Award for Architecture Director Farrokh Derakhshani at a programme at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

Bamboo-clay school architects receive Aga Khan Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two architects of the hand-built bamboo-clay school at Rudrapur in Dinajpur, which won the prestigious Aga Khan Award for Architecture-2007, received the awards at a programme at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

Local community and volunteer architects from Germany and Austria -- Anna Heringer and Eike Roswag -- built the school in four months. It was among the nine awards that were selected by an independent master jury for having attained the highest standards of architectural excellence while reflecting the values of the specific environments.

The defining features of the winning projects were meaningful collaboration and exchange of ideas between architects, craftsmen, governments, international development agencies, clients and users.

Expressing his satisfaction over winning the award by a Bangladeshi school, Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman as the chief guest said the award recognises the talents and philosophy which would inspire the young generation.

Brac University Vice Chancellor Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury was present at the programme as the special guest.

Films on the award-winning projects were screened at the function and the projects were discussed by distinguished panellists, including Aga Khan Award for Architecture Director Farrokh Derakhshani, Prof ASM Ahmed, Prof Shabbir Ahmed, Prof Zainab Faruqui Ali, Prof Perween Hasan and Anna Heringer.

The award was established by the Aga Khan in 1977 to identify and encourage building concepts that successfully address the needs and aspirations of Muslim societies.

Hail loan, bill defaulters

FROM PAGE 1
ment amended the Representation of the People Order (RPO) last August, making a provision that an individual must reschedule defaulted loans six months before filing application for candidacy in the parliamentary polls.

The new provision shut the door for loan defaulters who were planning to contest the upcoming polls by rescheduling their loans as it did not give them the required six months' time before the election.

But the government later relaxed the provision, allowing rescheduling of defaulted loans until 15 days before filing nomination.

Even this could not satisfy the political parties. In the face of their demands, the government had to reduce the timeframe to seven days.

The August amendment to the RPO also says a person shall be disqualified for election and for being a member of parliament if they have failed to pay the telephone, gas, electricity,

water or any other bill of any service-providing organisation of the government even after being served with a notice of three months or more from the date of submitting nomination paper.

The caretaker government first amended the timeframe to 15 days and then re-fixed it to seven days.

The BNP secretary general still demands providing opportunity to reschedule loans up to the day before filing nomination like the previous elections.

It is to be seen if the caretaker government relaxes the provision further.

The EC had recommended these strict provisions to end the culture of our politicians to default on loans and keep utility bills unpaid.

However, the reality is completely different. Loan defaulters are back to the scene again. Some of them are going to be elected members of parliament and they will make laws for the country.

Those who themselves do

not abide by the laws will be tasked with making laws for the people!

Now, there is something that is discriminatory.

Loan defaulters seeking candidacy in the upcoming upazila elections are not lucky enough.

According to the upazila parishad ordinance enacted last June, individuals seeking candidacy in upazila elections must reschedule their defaulted loans one year before the date of filing application for the polls.

No loan defaulter got the opportunity to reschedule their loans this time because there was not enough time for that.

If any loan defaulter now wants to contest the upazila polls, they will have to repay the full amount of the loans.

Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda earlier said the EC would ask the government to amend the upazila parishad ordinance reducing the timeframe for rescheduling defaulted loans. But the commission did not do it.

Trial in Aug 21 attack

FROM PAGE 16
(Huji) chief Mufti Abdul Hannan, were produced before the court.

Two cases were filed for launching grenade attack on the rally on August 21, 2004 that left 24 people dead and scores injured.

In his deposition, Faruque told the court that he was on duty on Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, 2004. AL chief Sheikh Hasina and other party leaders joined a rally there. When Hasina was about to get down from a truck after delivering her speech at about 5:00pm, a grenade exploded in front of the truck.

In the grenade attack, he said, several AL leaders and activists were injured and Hasina left the scene with the help of AL men and police personnel. After a while, seven to eight grenades exploded, leaving more than a hundred people injured.

The complainant went on that he along with others took immediate steps for sending the injured to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH). Another patrol police team came to the spot and found a grenade in front of Ramna Petrol Pump at about 9:20pm.

In the meantime, Faruque said that he came to know that 10 people succumbed to their injuries at DMCH while three at Orthopaedic Hospital.

He said the then officer-in-charge (OC) of Motijheel Police Station directed him to

prepare inquest reports on the dead. "As per the directive, I went to DMCH and made inquest reports on four identified and nine unidentified bodies, which were later sent to the hospital morgue for post-mortem examinations."

He further said that no cases in connection with the grenade attacks were filed with the police station concerned as of 9:00am of the following day. So, he filed a case with Motijheel Police Station.

"After filing of the case, I came to know that AL leader Ivy Rahman succumbed to her injuries," Faruque said.

On June 11 this year, senior assistant superintendent of police (ASP) of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Fazlul Kabir, also the investigation officer of the cases, submitted two charge sheets to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, showing 412 people as prosecution witnesses.

Journalist murdered in Philippines

AFP, ZAMBOANGA, Philippines

A journalist and radio show host who frequently criticised corruption was shot dead in the Philippines yesterday, local radio reported.

Aristeo Padrigao, who worked for a radio station in Gingoog City on the southern island of Mindanao, had just dropped his daughter at school when a gunman on a motorbike shot him in the face, Radio Nation reported.

It was the seventh killing of a media worker in the country this year.

The gunman, who was wearing a crash helmet, escaped on his bike after the attack and was being hunted by police, the radio said.

It said the motive for the attack was not immediately known.

আন্তর্জাতিক মান সম্পন্ন শপিং সেন্টার-এ

রেডি দোকান
১৫০-৬০০ বর্গফুট (প্রায়)

কল্লনার সবকিছু যেখানে বর্তমান
যোগাযোগ: ০১১১১১১১১১, ০১১১১১১১১১, ০১১১১১১১১১