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Clinic, construction firm vandalised for toll refusal

Jubo League men go on rampage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local Jubo League activists yesterday vandalised a rehabilitation centre for drug addicts and a construction firm office and looted cash and cellphones at Mohammadpur on refusal of toll for the National Mourning Day programme.

Locals said equipped with brickbats, bamboo sticks and iron rods at least 40 Jubo League activists in two groups ravaged Jiboner Alo Drug Rehabilitation Centre and Salam Enterprise at Dhaka Udyan in the area around 9:30am and

looted Tk 16,600 and two cellphone sets.

Md Rashedullah Tusher, director of the rehabilitation centre, said led by Saju, Mosharraf and Kamal the Jubo League activists came to the centre around 9:00am and demanded Tk 50,000 for the programme. Denied, they returned in half an hour and attacked the office. Three of his employees—Nazmul Islam, 28, Iqbal Hossain Swapan, 35, and Lat Miah, 42—sustained injuries as they tried to resist the men, he added.

Muksedur Rahman, manager of the centre, said six months ago these men

demanding Tk 50,000 toll but the DCC ward commissioner Abul Hasem Hasu settled the matter. Later on Tuesday night, the same men came back and demanded the amount for holding a feast on the occasion of Bangabandhu's death anniversary, he added.

The rehabilitation centre authorities alleged that despite repeated request police made delay in reaching the spot giving the attackers a chance to leave.

Of the construction firm, an official seeking anonymity said the same gang

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Tremor jolts northern districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mild tremor measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale was felt in the north and northeastern parts of the country early yesterday, a day after the Met Office had issued a tsunami alert prompted by a major earthquake near the Andaman Islands.

The tremor was experienced in Rajshahi, Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Sylhet region, according to the reports of our district correspondents.

There was however no

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Moderate quake can bring Dhaka down

Experts blame it on unplanned urbanisation, violation of building code

HELEMU ALAM

Earthquake poses a serious threat to living in Dhaka city where a tremor measuring seven on the Richter scale may destroy about 35 percent buildings and kill around 25,000 people, say experts.

Mehdi Ahmed Ansary, vice-president of Bangladesh Earthquake Society and professor of civil engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), blames the risk on unplanned urbanisation and construction of buildings defying the Bangladesh

National Building Code (BNBC).

He said depending on what time of day earthquake strikes, 22,000 to 28,000 people might perish in structural collapses. The number of seriously injured may range between 86,000 and 1,07,000.

Such an incident might place a very severe strain on emergency relief and healthcare infrastructure.

Ansary, who conducted a survey on Dhaka city with a group of his students during 1999-2007, said the direct economic loss from an

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Janmastami today

BSS, Dhaka

Members of the Hindu community observe their religious festival Janmastami marking the birth anniversary of Lord Sri Krishna in the capital and elsewhere in the country today with due religious fervour and enthusiasm.

Different socio-cultural and religious organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the Janmastami in a befitting manner.

The programmes include puja, prayer and Gita Yogya, discussion, procession, cultural function, distribution of 'prasad' and feeding to the poor.

According to Hindu mythology, Lord Visnu incarnated in the universe as Lord

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



As Dhaka Metropolitan Police suddenly starts seizing unfit buses, commuters and city dwellers are left stranded without transport at major city intersections yesterday. The photo was taken at Farmgate.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

UNFIT BUSES IN DHAKA DMP role called into question

KAILASH SARKAR

Dhaka Metropolitan Police traffic department is failing to get unfit buses, buses without route permits and age-old buses off the streets. It is seizing them during the day and releasing them in the evening.

DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque said they seized 386 buses in two days—Monday and Tuesday—but had to release them, as the DMP does not have proper vehicle impounding facilities.

Sources, however, said most of the seized buses are released for handsome bribes while some are let loose as powerful people, including officials of the police department, lobby for them to be released.

They say most buses are let go after a traffic

stop in exchange for bribes.

DMP Joint Commissioner (traffic) Shafiqur Rahman told The Daily Star, "The seized unfit buses are released after the owners pay fines and sign a Tk 150 stamp paper promising not to run the unfit vehicles on city streets."

"If those buses are found plying the city streets again, they are not returned to the owners," claimed the joint commissioner, adding, "The seized buses are being kept at Rajarbagh Police Lines and Mirpur-14."

Sources, however, say that all seized buses eventually get released in one way or another and a large number of unscrupulous officials of the DMP profit from keeping the unfit buses, buses without route permits and age-old buses in the cycle of seizing and releasing.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Fair election possible under political govt Says CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A free and fair election is possible under a political government provided that security is ensured, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda said yesterday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Prayer Timing		
August 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-45	6-00
Maghrib	7-41	7-44
Esha	9-00	9-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Police fail to arrest Faridpur rapists yet

But keep victim's father at police station whole night for interrogation; no CDs of gang rape recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police failed to nab any of the culprits till last night in connection with the schoolgirl gang rape case filed on August 11 with the Women and Children Repression Prevention Court in Faridpur.

They are yet to recover any of the CDs or video footages taped and circulated by the rapists of the 14 year-old girl on July 9, 2009.

Earlier on Tuesday, the parents of the victim demanded justice for the offence of rape as well

as filming the scene and circulating them by the rapists.

Police on Tuesday night took the victim's father to Char Vodrason Police Station and kept him there for the whole night for interrogation to verify the incident.

They also interrogated some CD traders of local market yesterday, source said.

Sub-Inspector Abul Kalam, investigation officer of the case, said they verified the statements of the victim's father and need more

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

KIBRIA MURDER CASE Court further extends time for probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge Md Mahbubul Islam yesterday gave one month more time for submitting report on further investigation into the murder case of former finance minister SAMS Kibria and four others.

The judge ordered the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to submit the report by September 13 as they failed to produce it yesterday as per schedule.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Mumbai schools shut amid swine flu panic Death toll in India rises to 17

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The toll in swine flu pandemic across India mounted to 17 with seven more persons succumbing to the disease yesterday.

All educational institutions in India's financial hub Mumbai were ordered to remain close for a week from today.

Meanwhile, the number of positive swine flu cases in India went past the 1,000-mark with 119 fresh cases reported on Tuesday.

Among the 17 deaths, 13 took place in Maharashtra state. Five who died yesterday were identified as Shrawani Deshpande, 29, Balu Kuland, 33, Nita Meghani, 50, Balu Kuland, 33 and Gautham Shalar, 48, in Pune, the city in the state worst hit by the disease and also the epicentre of the deadly H1N1 attack.

Nashik city, also in Maharashtra, registered its first flu death when doctor Rupesh Gangurde, 38, was infected and died at the hospital yesterday.

A man died of swine flu in Thiruvananthapuram, capital of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

OnlinePoll

Do you think the limited power vested on the mobile courts is adequate enough for the anti-adulteration drive?

- ☐ Yes (1.9%)
- ☐ No (9.4%)
- ☐ No Comments (88.7%)

Total votes: 2593

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think government should equip the fire brigade adequately on urgent basis to tackle the post-earthquake rescue operations in Bangladesh?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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