

AL cadres vandalise arches to welcome state minister in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENTS,
Barisal and Patuakhali

Arches and the stage for a public meeting erected at Galachipa in Patuakhali to welcome State Minister for Water Resources Mahbubur Rahman were vandalised and burnt early yesterday.

Galachipa Upazila AL leaders blamed the cadres of local AL lawmaker Golam Mawla Rony for the vandalism. The visit of the state minister was also cancelled following the incident.

Police and party sources said Mahbubur Rahman, who was elected lawmaker from Patuakhali-4 (Kalapara-

Rangabali) constituency, was scheduled to visit Sidr- and Aila-affected embankment and cross dams in Panpatty area and address a gathering there yesterday morning.

To welcome the state minister, AL activists erected five arches at different points, including Galachipa ferry ghat and municipality, and a meeting stage at Panpatty decorated with photos of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

But all arches and the stage were vandalised and burnt at about 2:00am yesterday.

Md Harunur Rashid, upazila AL president and

chairman of Upazila Parishad, Haji Abdul Wahab, upazila AL vice-president and municipal mayor, said local goons Badal, Zahid, Rano, Shabu, Ranjan led by Abbas, upazila BCL president, and Makbul Khan, brother-in-law of local AL lawmaker Golam Mawla Rony, carried out the vandalism to resist the visit of the state minister to Galachipa.

On Wednesday, the cadres of Rony also foiled a preparatory meeting for the visit of the state minister at the local party office, they added.

Denying all the allegations, Makbul Hossain Khan also alleged that those who erected the arches have carried out the

vandalism to defame lawmaker Rony.

SA Khalek, officer-in-charge of Galachipa Police Station, said the programme of the state minister at Panpatty was cancelled and the police are investigating the incident.

When contacted, State Minister Mahbubur Rahman said immaturity of some politicians and infiltrators in the party are responsible for the incident.

Local administration and the police have been asked to investigate the incident and take legal action against the persons involved, he added.



President Zillur Rahman, now on a six-day visit to Saudi Arabia, performs Umrah at the holy Kaaba in Makkah on Thursday.

Arrest of Urmi's killers demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

About one hundred people staged a demonstration under the banner of 'Sacheton Rajshahibasi' at Rajshahi yesterday and demanded immediate arrest of and punishment to the killers of housewife Urmi Akhtar.

They took out a silent procession and staged a symbolic execution of Urmi's killers at Bhuban Mohon Park to press home for their demands.

Urmi was found dead at her house at Basua in the city on August 30. According to her autopsy report, she was strangled.

The demonstrators alleged that the culprits are moving scot-free, but the police are reluctant to arrest them.

They also said that Urmi wanted to establish a Glamour Fairness Cream Company to become self-reliant, but her in-laws killed her over dowry.

A case was filed with Rajpara Police Station in the city in connection with the killing of Urmi.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Maqbool U1 Islam, son of late A B d u l Quader, a social worker and businessman, will be held at his residence after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

He breathed his last on Thursday at the age of 62.

Maqbool left behind his family members and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was buried at Jurain graveyard after a namaz-e-janaza at Baitul Nur Jame Masjid.

All friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend his qulkhwani.

AMM Aminur Rahman

BSS, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of former additional inspector general of police AMM Aminur Rahman will be held at Sobhanbagh Mosque on Mirpur Road after Asr prayers today.

Earlier, the qulkhwani was scheduled to be held at his Dhanmondi residence.

Aminur Rahman, also a former commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), passed away on Monday last.

Steps taken to check spread of dengue

Says DG of health directorate

BSS, Dhaka

The Health Directorate has taken all-out measures to prevent the spread of dengue following an outbreak of the fever in the country.

"We are fully prepared and there is nothing to be panicked about the dengue fever," Director General of the Health Directorate Prof Shah Monir Hossain told BSS yesterday.

Presently, diagnosis of dengue is easily available and more perfect treatment is possible than the past as almost every hospital has enough facilities to face this infectious disease.

Moreover, the Health Directorate is taking awareness programmes through the mass media about dengue soon so that people can easily take preparations against the fever, he added.

He said the authorities have already started providing all new physicians of the public and private hospitals with training on dengue fever. The training programme will be completed by the next week, he added.

After getting the training, the physicians would be able to provide dengue treatment following the government prepared module on dengue national guidelines.

During July to October, the dengue fever normally breaks out in the country, but the mortality rate is very low, he said.

While contacted, the authorities of Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital informed that presently about 14 dengue patients are admitted to the hospital. The number of patients has increased just before the Eid holidays, it said. Authorities of some private clinics in the city also informed that they are getting one or two dengue patients daily.

Army person dies falling into ditch

UNB, Bandarban

An army person died falling into a ditch at Roangchhari upazila on Thursday.

The victim was identified as Tobarak Hossain, 30, a member of Bengghari army camp. He hailed from Chandina upazila in Comilla district.

Police said Tobarak fell into a ditch when he was taking a bath in a stream. He was rushed to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) by a helicopter where doctors declared him dead.

President performs Umrah

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman, now on a six-day visit to Saudi Arabia, performed Umrah at the holy Kaaba in Makkah on Thursday.

He was scheduled to leave for Medina yesterday, according to a message received in Dhaka.

During the Umrah, the president prayed for the development of the country as well as the welfare of its people.

He is scheduled to return home on September 27.

Schoolboy stabbed to death in Habiganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A schoolboy was stabbed to death by miscreants in Habiganj town on Thursday.

The deceased Toubir Ahmed was a student of class eight of Habiganj Government High School.

Police and locals said Toubir was stabbed by a gang of miscreants when he was on his way to his private tutor's house at 5:00pm.

He succumbed to his injuries in Ashuganj at 9:00pm when he was being rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

As the death news spread, several hundred people and students brought out a procession in the town on Thursday night and gathered around the police station demanding arrest of the criminals.

The agitated people also vandalised some business establishments and the houses of the alleged killers.

Police arrested three people for their alleged involvement in the killing on Thursday midnight.

They are Idu Miah and Mosharrar of Noahati and Abdul Gafur of Anantapur.

However, the cause of the incident could not be ascertained immediately. Previous enmity with the elder brother of the victim might have caused the incident, police hinted.

The body of Toubir was laid to rest in their family graveyard after two namaz-e-janazas yesterday.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at a seminar on 'Why Bangladesh is an Attractive Investment Destination' at Hotel Grand Hyatt in New York on Thursday. (Story on Page 1)

Remain alert against conspiracies: Tuku

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku yesterday urged all, irrespective of their faiths and beliefs, to work together to build an enlightened Bangladesh.

He made the call at a meeting organised by Sarbajon Durgotsab Committee at Sutrapur in the city.

"All of us will have to remain alert to unlawful activities and conspiracies of the anti-liberation and communal forces who want to turn Bangladesh into a failed state," he said.

President of the committee Babul Kumar Saha chaired the function. Lawmaker from Dhaka-6 constituency

Mizanur Rahman Khan Dipu, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque, ward commissioner Haji Md Shahid and general secretary of the committee Lakkhikant Gowshami were also present.

The state minister said all citizens, irrespective of religion and caste, are enjoying full freedom in the country.

Bangladesh was liberated through the War of Liberation in 1971 under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman based on the spirit of secularism, he added.

"We would be able to build a Bangladesh dreamt by Bangabandhu if all of us,

including Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and Christians, work together," Tuku said.

Lawmaker Mizanur Rahman Khan Dipu said the Hindu community of the country would celebrate Durga Puja peacefully.

DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque said the members of the police force are working relentlessly to maintain law and order at all puja mandaps.

He also directed them to discharge their duties with sincerity and cautiously.

The state minister also visited different Puja Mandaps, including Mahapravru Akhra Mandir and Gaptoli Courtbari Mandap.

11 lakh ultra poor

FROM PAGE 1

the victims of river erosion, coastal surges and monsoons will be the main beneficiaries of the programme.

They will be employed in canal digging, dam and road construction, making the premises of educational and religious institutes and cyclone shelter higher, preparing organic fertiliser or in other projects recommended by the ministries concerned for rural development.

The EGP is starting besides a number of other social safety net programmes to feed the vulnerable group. Over 40 percent people of the country are living under poverty line, while natural calamities push more people to poverty.

At least 5.6 lakh beneficia-

ries will be selected under the programme from 80 upazilas of the monsoons-prone northern districts and disaster-prone coastal areas where more than 40 percent people are poor. Another 3.36 lakh people will be selected from 253 upazilas having 21 to 39 percent poor and 2.24 lakh from the rest 147 upazilas with 1 to 20 percent poor people.

"We want the hardcore poor to have work and improve their living. At the same time, we are very cautious about proper implementation of the programme, as the past experience is not very good," said Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque.

"But, we must help the poorest people," he said,

adding that the government will ensure stronger monitoring and surveillance to make the programme impeccable.

The caretaker government, in 2008-09 fiscal year, introduced a 100-day employment-creating scheme of Tk 2,000 crore where 20 lakh labourers were rolled. A total of Tk 920 crore was spent implementing the first phase of the programme.

Though the programme benefited the poor it could not contribute to the improvement of rural infrastructure, Razzaque said, adding that this is the reason why the second phase of the programme was cancelled and a new programme has been designed.

Dhaka Zoo's rare feat

FROM PAGE 16

the number of the white backed vultures has fallen since 1990 from 30 million to just 11,000. The number continues to fall by 40 percent a year.

Asian Vulture Programme of Royal Society for Protection of Bird and the BNHS bred vultures in August 2009 in India after lots of effort.

"So, we consider vulture breeding here as a major success," said a top official of Dhaka Zoo.

On breeding emus, he said, "Breeding emu is hard to create an environment for this. But we did it successfully."

At the zoo, following deaths of a tiger, a lion and a giraffe this month, a significant number of people were seen gathering in front of the cages of peafowls.

The newly born peachicks are the main attraction there, especially to children. Now there are 12 peachicks, aged one to three months, bred from three pairs of peafowls. The number of peafowl was 24 just three months ago. Now it is 36.

"All of them were hatched naturally," said Nurul Aziz.

The achievements came when officials of Dhaka Zoo are overburdened with work since around 70 positions are lying vacant at present. Many officials have to work round the clock.

"People only pay attention to the zoo when any animal dies. No one considers how we are working here. There is no shifting duty in some sections - an officer has to take care of all tasks, working round the clock," said another officer.

"The authorities should increase manpower and budget to develop treatment facilities at the zoo," he said.

There is no ultrasonogram facility, thermometers for animals and other necessary equipment to facilitate better treatment for animals.

Under the captive breeding programme of the zoo, officials have successfully bred Royal Bengal Tigers, lions, leopards, primates, deer and many birds.

The zoo has an animal exchange programme with different countries, but it does not work properly because of lack of initiatives from the government. This has resulted in overpopulation of a few species including Royal Bengal Tiger, python, lion, monkey and deer.

Dengue strikes back in city

FROM PAGE 1

been treated at the hospital in the last two weeks. On average eight to ten patients come to visit doctors every day, he added.

"Eight dengue patients are now undergoing treatment at the Central Hospital on Green Road and we have had patients over the past one month," said Assistant Director of the hospital Dr Fahim Ahmed.

Fourteen dengue patients were treated at Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital till Thursday evening, said Information Officer of the hospital HM Ashim.

The influx of patients with symptoms of dengue is more at the private hospitals and clinics in the city than the public ones. A large number of dengue patients have been admitted to private hospitals and clinics, sources at the medical service centres said.

Sources at the Shaheed

Suhrawardy Hospital said as the number of swine flu patients dropped the authorities are now using the swine flu corner for treating dengue patients.

The government's Dengue Control Room failed to provide the number of affected people but unofficial sources said it is already much higher than last year.

City dwellers of different areas, including Goran, Basabo, Dhanmondi, Khilgaon, Shantibag, Rajarbagh, Mirpur and Gandaria said the mosquito eradication programme of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) was not visible.

"I did not see any activities of DCC to control mosquitoes this season though the area is dirty and water-logging is very common," said Sheikh Sahidul, a resident of Shantibag.

DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka told The Daily

Star, "Fogging is going on in residential areas and we are spraying larvicide on water bodies after removal of garbage."

A meeting with lawmakers of Dhaka and DCC officials concerned would be held soon to work out a plan to create mass awareness among people as the situation is worsening, he said.

According to the dengue study group of the Department of Disease Control of the Health Directorate, the mosquito-borne disease disease has emerged as a public health problem in Bangladesh since its first outbreak in 2000.

Senior Scientific Officer of Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), a government institute that monitors prevalence of a disease, Dr M Mushtaq Hossain said the number of dengue patients had increased in the hospitals because of

6 labourers injured as wall collapses on them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Six labourers were injured when a wall collapsed on them while they were breaking the old building of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) yesterday morning.

The injured were identified as Ripon, 20, Monir, 28, Rafiqul, 25, Saiful, 32, Khalil, 35, and Sohel, 18.

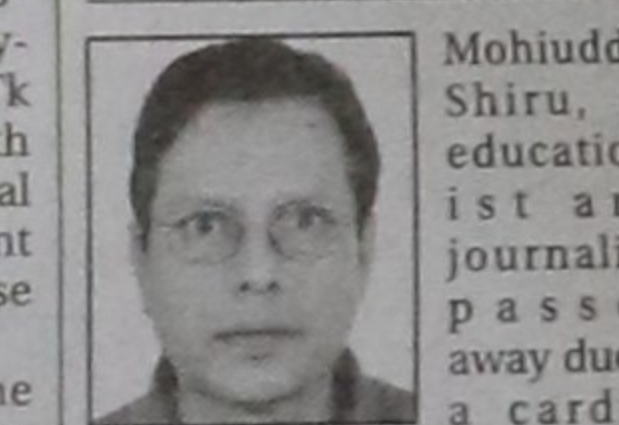
Sources said the workers were engaged for demolishing the century-old administrative building of CCC for constructing a new one there.

Suddenly, a wall collapsed on them when they were breaking it down with hammer at around 10.00am.

The injured were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Mohiuddin Shiru passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet



Mohiuddin Shiru, an educationist and journalist, passed away due to a cardiac arrest early yesterday at the age of 54.

Mohiuddin, principal of Balaganj College and also the district correspondent of The News Today, had been suffering from heart disease for long.

The author of 'History of 100 years of journalism in Sylhet region', he also served as general secretary and vice-president of the Sylhet Press Club. He was also an enlisted composer of Bangladesh Betar.

He was laid to rest at the graveyard adjacent to the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) in Sylhet city.

Before his burial, his body was kept at the Sylhet Central Shaheed Uddin Hossain Kamran and leaders of different social and cultural organisations paid their last respects. His body was also taken to the Sylhet Press Club later.

Mohiuddin Shiru left behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives, friends and admirers to mourn his death.

Sylhet Press Club will organise a milad mahfil tomorrow.



Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls is also likely to occur at places over the country, Met Office said.

It said the day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:51pm today and rises at 6:49am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Comilla and lowest 23.9 degrees Celsius at Sandwip.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.9	26.1	82	75
Chittagong	32.5	25.5	80	79
Rajshahi	31.5	25.2	90	73
Khulna	34.5	26.0	83	80
Barisal	32.8	25.6	79	88
Sylhet	34.2	24.5	79	80
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.0	71	78