

Double murder in Joypurhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Two people were killed at a time in Akkelpur Police Station area of Joypurhat on Thursday night.

The victims were identified as Rezu, 22, and Kafil Uddin, 42. Police suspected that they might have been killed following the snatching of a motorcycle at Dupchachia of Bogra.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Akkelpur Police Station Khalilur Rahman told reporters that police have a record of allegations of crimes against the victims.

Asma Begum, wife of Kafil, alleged that Shahidul Islam of Khetlal upazila took her husband out of his residence the same day.

Around 12:00am, Shahidul informed Asma that Kafil was well, but Kafil told her that he was in danger, she added.

Police recovered the body of Kafil from Mahismunda area of Akkelpur yesterday while the Rezu's body was recovered from adjacent Barail Nayapara area.

UGC to ensure maintenance of Central Shaheed Minar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

University Grants Commission (UGC) has taken an initiative to undertake full-time maintenance and security of the Central Shaheed Minar and urged Dhaka University (DU) to take the lead to this end.

The commission has sent a letter to the DU authorities asking them to prepare a proposal regarding the manpower required for the maintenance and overhaul.

UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam said this at a press conference at his office at Agargaon in the city on Thursday.

"The Central Shaheed Minar gets due respect only on February 21, but it remains uncared for the remaining days of the year, which is a shame."



Policemen keep a watch on the Eden Girls' College campus in the city yesterday following a clash between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League. (Story on Page 16)

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

6 organisations to receive \$1.5m ANSA funds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Affiliated Networks for Social Accountability-South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR) will disburse \$1.5 million as project grants to six organisations from six countries under a three-year pilot programme.

It signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the 16 organisations at a city hotel on Thursday.

Under the agreement, the organisations from Bangladesh, Argentina, India, Egypt, Kyrgyz Republic and Sri Lanka will use the funds to work on issues related to climate change, rights to information, procurement and citizen watchdogs (third party monitoring) in their respective countries.

This is for the first time a network has brought together diverse organisations from neighbouring countries to work under a common theme of social accountability, said the organisers.

Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of Brac University, which is functioning as a secretariat for ANSA, would monitor the activities of the organisations and facilitate them with a platform to share their experiences to develop a growing body of knowledge and examples of social accountability and good governance.

Besides being a network, ANSA would also

function as a platform for the civil society organisations of the member countries to share experiences among themselves, said Barrister Manzoor Hasan, director of Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of Brac University.

Refaat Abdel Karim (Egypt), Noel Alonso Murray (Argentina), Roza Gaibullina and Nurlan Djoldoshev (Kyrgyz Republic), Sisira Kumarasiri (Sri Lanka), Mangala Vasudeo Daithankar (India) and Amitabha Bhattacharjee (Bangladesh) represented their respective parties at the MoU signing ceremony.

ANSA-SAR Chief Operating Officer Gopakumar Thampi also spoke on the occasion.

The MoU was signed following a four-day workshop on good governance and social accountability with participation from organisations representing seven countries.

Funded by World Bank Institute (WBI), ANSA is a group of three networks in the East Asia and the Pacific, Africa and South Asia and Globally.

Under a three-year pilot initiative to enhance and sustain social accountability, services and governance, the WBI will give a total of \$4.5 million as seed fund, which would be disbursed among various civil society organisations to work on various areas related to governance in its member countries.

WiMAX launched in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Banglalion Communications Ltd yesterday formally launched its WiMAX internet service in the port city with a commitment to help improve daily life and speed up industrial activities.

Banglalion Chairman Abdul Mannan made the announcement at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club.

Banglalion is introducing wireless internet facilities with a view to establishing an IT-based society through developing network, marketing equipment within purchase capacity and promoting the living standard, he said.

He observed that investment in this sector is now less than 1 percent of the income of any firm while it ranges from 6 to 8 percent in the developed countries.

6 killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

Six people were killed and 86 others injured in separate road accidents in Kishoreganj, Narail and Jhenidah yesterday.

Our staff correspondent in Bogra reports: Two people were killed and 45 others injured in a road accident at Sonatola in the district yesterday.

The accident took place at around 8:00am when the bus carrying local traders towards Swapnapuri, a picnic spot in Dinajpur, lost control and fell into a roadside ditch.

The dead were identified as Khalilur Rahman, 45, a helper of a bus, and Jibon Chandra Roy, 22.

Among the injured, 17 were rushed to Sonatola Health Complex and Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital.

A correspondent in Kishoreganj adds: A man was killed and 40 others injured in a road accident at Nandala in Kishoreganj Sadar.

The victim was identified as Siddiq Mia, 55.

The accident took place at around 9:00am when a passenger bus from Brahmanbaria skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch.

Among the injured, 17 were rushed to

Kishoreganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital.

A correspondent in Narail adds: A woman was killed and her husband seriously injured in a road accident yesterday.

The accident took place at around 11:00am when a speeding passenger bus knocked the motorcycle Selina Rahman, 37, and Masudur Rahman were riding on near Chitra Bridge.

Our correspondent in Mymensingh adds: An old man was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Hazir Bazar at Bhaluka in the district yesterday.

The victim was identified as Agustin Ghaghra, 60.

The accident took place at around 1:00pm when a Dhaka-bound bus from Mymensingh knocked him down while he was crossing the road, leaving him critically injured.

He was rushed to Bhaluka Upazila Health Complex and later, as his condition deteriorated, taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries at around 4:30 pm.

Our correspondent in Jhenidah adds: A man was killed after he fell from a speeding bus in the Lautala bus stand area at Kaliganj in the district.

The victim, identified as Mohidul Islam, 32, was standing at the gate of the bus.

Seriously injured after falling from the bus, he was rushed to a Kotchandpur hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.



Artists perform at a cultural programme at the TSC road island on the Dhaka University campus in the city yesterday. Sector Commanders' Forum and Sammilita Sangskritik Jote organised the event to mark the Independence Day.

PHOTO: STAR



Members of Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Save the environment movement) conduct a clean-up campaign in Sikkatuli pond in the old part of the city yesterday in an effort to preserve the water body.

PHOTO: STAR

Two commit suicide in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolgirl and an employee of a private firm committed suicide in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Family sources said Anghi Akter, 15, a class IX student of Dhaka Cotton Mills High School at Shyampur, was found hanging from the ceiling fan with a scarf inside a room of her residence at around 12:00 noon.

Her brother Mohammad Likhon rushed her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the on-duty doctors declared her dead, they said.

Mozammel Haque, officer-in-charge of Shyampur Police Station, quoting the family members said her family had scolded her several times in the last few days, which prompted her to commit suicide.

Meanwhile, Rocky Ahmed Arun, 36, an employee of a buying house at Banani, committed suicide at his residence at Ulon in West Rampura.

Family members of Arun found him hanging from the ceiling fan with a rope inside his bedroom at around 12:45am and rushed him to DMCH, but the doctors declared him dead.

Family members could not say the reason behind the suicide, but police alleged that family feud was the reason.



Noted writer Rabeya Khatun inaugurates the PBS, an international standard chain bookshop, at Shantinagar in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Bank officer held on bribery charges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A bank official was arrested in Phulpur upazila on Thursday night on charges of taking bribes from a client.

A team of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) caught Abdus Salam, investigation officer of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Phulpur upazila branch, red-handed from a tea stall when he was receiving Tk 2000 from Azizul Islam, a farmer of village Rupshi in Phulpur, Mymensingh.

Abdus Salam was produced before a Mymensingh court yesterday. The court sent him to jail.

Earlier, Azizul informed the ACC that Abdus Salam demanded Tk 10,000 in bribes from him in exchange for a loan of Tk 1,00,000 for him. Following a negotiation, Salam agreed to take Tk 4,000.

When Azizul gave Salam the money at the tea stall, the ACC team, who had already been there, arrested Salam with the money. Later, he was handed over to Phulpur Police Station.

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