

Boy killed in Keraniganj clash

UNB, Keraniganj

A teenage boy was killed and six others were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers over a trifling matter at Baghna village in Keraniganj yesterday.

The boy was identified as Babar Hossain alias Babu, 18, son of Badsha Mia at West Subadda in South Keraniganj.

The police and witnesses said an adolescent boy, Rana, was locked in an altercation with a woman on Friday evening after a ball hit her when the boy was playing cricket with his friends.

As a sequel to the incident, relatives of both Rana and the woman attacked each other with lethal weapons at about 11:00am, leaving six people, including Babu, injured.

Babu was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died at about 1:00pm.



A boy tries to solve a jigsaw puzzle at 'Sajeeb Shishu Utsab' (young children's festival) on the Kalabagan playground in the city yesterday, the last day of the festival.

PHOTO: STAR

All necessary steps taken to start war crimes trial

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday visited the old High Court building where a tribunal will be set up for holding trial of 1971 war criminals.

During his visit, he told The Daily Star that the government has arranged almost all necessary logistics, including venue and relevant offices, to start the process of the long-awaited war crimes trial.

He said the government will appoint a six-member investigation agency, and a 12-member prosecution team and form a three-member tribunal before March 26 to start the process.

The people, who committed crimes against the humanity during the country's liberation war in 1971, will be put into trial, he added.

The minister further said that the government will hold the trial maintaining international standards so that there remains no confusion about it.

Int'l workshop on counter-terrorism begins today

BSS, Dhaka

A five-day international workshop on 'Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building' begins at Hotel Sheraton in the city under the auspices of Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies today.

Representatives from defence services, police and intelligence, civil officials, academics, journalists and bank officials will take part in the workshop supported by the British High Commission.

Experts in counter-terrorism capacity building from abroad will present module lectures on related subjects. BIPSS held similar workshop in January.

12,000 rotten eggs seized, 2 held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized some 12,000 rotten eggs brought here for selling at different bakeries and arrested two people in this connection.

Rab officials said the rotten eggs, which were brought to the port city to sell those to different bakeries, are regularly used in preparing food items.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-7 raided the city's Pahartali area in the afternoon and seized a truck loaded with the eggs.

They arrested one Mojaher Ahmad, 50, of the area while he was unloading the eggs from the vehicle.

According to his information, the elite crime busters raided a godown adjacent to Pahartali Police Station and arrested its owner Abdul Matin, 32, of Langalkot of Comilla.

Maj Md Sabbir said both the arrestees confessed that they used to buy those rotten eggs at cheaper rate from different poultry farms of Dhaka, Gazipur and Savar and deliver those to different local bakeries.

They also confessed that they used to deliver around 20,000 rotten eggs to different local bakeries in a week, he added.

The arrestees were handed over to Pahartali police.

Marginalised women demand end to discrimination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marginalised women from excluded communities raised their voice yesterday demanding an end to gender and racial discrimination they face in their everyday life.

Sufia, a scavenger at DCC landfill in Matuail, said: "Just because we work with waste materials, people generally express a feeling of repulsion towards us. We are the ones who toil behind the recycling industry without any recognition. My children get the same treatment and we get half the amount paid to men."

Women from Rishi and Buno communities along with those involved in sericulture, waste scavenging and construction industry shared their personal experience of dejected lives at a press conference.

Research Initiatives, Bangladesh (RIB) organised the press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to be observed today.

All of the women present at programme mentioned a common experience of getting

less payment in their areas of work. Their daily life struggle also includes harassment by male co-workers and lack of maternity leave.

Women in the sericulture sector mentioned that they do not have rights to labour union.

Construction worker Lovely said, "I get paid Tk 150 for 10 hours at workplace whereas my male colleagues get double. Besides, most people think this work is not dignified for women. So, they look down upon us as if we are doing something immoral."

Parvin, who is involved in

sericulture industry in Rajshahi, said: "We get maternity leave but without pay, which makes it hard to survive just after childbirth. If we take any additional leave for health complications, we get sacked from work."

Marginalised women demanded women-friendly working atmosphere, personal security, equal wage, equal opportunity in life, fixed working hours, health services in case of accidents, day care for children and massive awareness programmes among the mainstream population to change their perspectives.

Shefali Rani from Buno community in Kushtia and Shamsul Bari, chairman of RIB, also spoke at the press briefing.



Chairman of Research Initiatives, Bangladesh (RIB) Shamsul Bari speaks at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city yesterday on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

PHOTO: STAR

Researchers to study poverty, climate change in Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

Researchers at the University of Manchester's School of Environment and Development have been awarded £500,000 to study poverty and climate change in Bangladesh.

The project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and the Department for International Development for over three years will bring together a team of leading Bangladeshi and UK researchers and policy activists.

The programme will work with the Brac Development Institute at Brac University along with other leading research agencies in Bangladesh, Manchester University sources said.

The Brooks World Poverty Institute team of Dr Manoj Roy and Prof David Hulme along with Prof Simon Guy form the Manchester Architecture Research Centre will examine how the urban poor in Bangladesh are responding to the increasingly dire effects of global warming.

Prof Simon Guy said: "The project responds directly to three of the grand challenges facing society globally -- poverty, rapid urbanisation and climate change."

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