

Man dies in custody

Police term it suicide, wife alleges torture

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

A man died in police custody in Goshairhat upazila of Shariatpur district Tuesday evening.

The deceased was identified as Mokhesur Rahman, 40, of Mashurgaon village of the upazila.

Though the law enforcers described his death as an act of suicide, family members and locals denounced the police claim terming it false.

Locals brought out a procession carrying the body yesterday afternoon demanding a fair probe.

Mokhesur's wife Morsheda Begum alleged that her husband died of police torture.

Goshairhat police arrested Mokhesur, a sweeper by

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E-stalkers on the prowl

Faceless criminals use cell phones, internet to harass women of all ages; law largely inadequate to tackle the silent epidemic

RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR

While conventional stalking has received much attention lately, harassment through mobile phones and the internet has grown to be a silent epidemic in the last few years.

The Daily Star has recently interviewed 30 women at random about the issue, and found every one of them has been harassed electronically by ex-boyfriends or strangers.

"It is sexual harassment of the new millennium," said Sultana Kamal, rights activist and former adviser to the caretaker government.

"And almost all the victims are women." Kamal said the anonymity of the electronic communication devices makes it more likely for a person to indulge in stalking. "Some people are turning to these tools to do and say things they otherwise would not do."

The women interviewed were middle and upper class professionals, students and a housewife.

One was a schoolgirl who spent sleepless nights because of crank calls; another was an

industrialist's daughter who stumbled across obscene pictures and her personal details on a Facebook profile someone else had opened in her name.

Naima Hossain, a college student, was taunted and teased over the phone for a week by a person she had never met. The stalker, who asked her out several times, threatened to throw acid on her face for refusal.

"That they [stalkers] do not have a face makes it even more traumatic for the victims," said Shamim F Karim, a psychology professor at Dhaka University.

Getting stalked by someone the victim knows can be no less unnerving.

Shamrin Afia Adiba, a BBA student, knew her stalker. For three years, she got taunting phone calls almost every hour.

About the nightmare she had gone through, she said it felt like her life was being slowly poisoned.

The stalker, a jilted male friend working at a telecom operator, used her cellphone

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"That they [stalkers] do not have a face makes it even more traumatic for the victims."

"Adiba felt like her life was being slowly poisoned"

BNP vows to oust govt

Observes its 32nd founding anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP yesterday vowed to oust the government as its activities go against the interests of the people and the country.

"This government will be removed from power through the people's movement for its anti-people and anti-nation activities."

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said this while talking to reporters after placing a wreath at the grave of Ziaur Rahman to mark the party's 32nd founding anniversary.

BNP was established on September 1, 1978, under the leadership of the then president and military chief Ziaur Rahman.

"BNP will foil all conspiracies as people stand beside it and the next election will prove how much popularity the government has," Delwar said.

He called for unity in BNP to build up effective movement to foil the "blueprint of the government".

Delwar said the party at present is strongly united under the leadership of its chairperson Khaleida Zia. "BNP is getting stronger and moving forward despite all the hurdles in its way."

The government is conspiring to destroy BNP, but it was Ziaur Rahman who gave legitimacy to the Awami League after 1975 changeover, BNP secretary general said.

The main opposition

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Smoke emitted from this re-rolling mill, in a residential area of Kadamtoli in Shyampur of the capital, envelopes the neighbourhood like this on a regular basis. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

2 factories, shanties gutted in fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire gutted two makeshift plastic factories and three shanties at Kamalbagh, Chawkbazar in Old Dhaka early yesterday, leaving two people injured.

Kamal Hossain, 27, and Pappu, 28 residents of the affected houses received primary treatment for burns at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Fire brigade sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a plastic toy factory around 3:15am and spread rapidly to an adjacent factory along with three tin-shed houses.

Abdur Razzak, sub-inspector of Chawkbazar Police Station said the fire started from a factory of Jahangir Plastic Toys.

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ANTHRAX INFECTION 41 more people await lab test

STAR REPORT

At least 41 people in Kushtia, Tangail and Pabna are feared to have contracted anthrax yesterday.

The health officials of the affected areas said they are yet to confirm the cases and sent blood and skin specimens of suspected anthrax patients to Dhaka for tests.

Of the patients, 16 are from Kushtia while 14 and 11 from Tangail and Pabna.

Meanwhile, records of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) till yesterday morning confirmed 234 infected people across the country.

IEDCR Director Prof Mahmudur Rahman told The Daily Star, "Human anthrax victims have been confirmed in Pabna, Sirajganj, Faridpur, Tangail and Kushtia to this day (Wednesday)."

Besides, livestock department and rapid response teams of health ministry are examining people and cattle in Patuakhali and Jamalpur after getting some suspected anthrax cases, said a senior scientific officer of IEDCR.

The current spate of anthrax outbreak started from Sirajganj on August 20.

Daulatpur Upazila Health Officer Saleh Ahmed yesterday

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Cattle brought to city mostly unchecked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Almost two-thirds of the cattle slaughtered in the capital go unexamined.

Every day nearly seven thousand cattle are killed in Dhaka for meat. Of them, around two and a half thousand are slaughtered in five city corporation slaughterhouses, where it is possible to examine the animals, said a city corporation source.

The rest of the cattle are taken care, slaughtered and processed without any supervision by health inspectors.

These animals are risky for, if they are infected with anthrax, they can spread the disease to people who take care of the cattle and slaughter them and process their hides and cook or consume the meat, said health officials.

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Shikalbaha power plant opens Sept 8

Uncertainty over gas supply

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR, Ctg

The state-run 150 megawatt peaking power plant at Shikalbaha in Patiya upazila is going into production after formal inauguration by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September 8.

Uncertainty, however, looms over running the plant as supply of gas to all gas-fired plants

in Chittagong is being made keeping the Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company (Kafco) shut during the Ramadan.

One of the two units of the gas-fired 420MW capacity Rautan Thermal Power Plant and 116MW Shikalbaha Plant and the two barge mounted units had remained almost shutdown

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ইত্তেফাক



আলহাজ্ব গিয়াস উদ্দিন আহমেদ গত ৩১ আগষ্ট ২০১০ রোজ মঙ্গলবার রাত ৩:৩০ মিনিটে ঢাকাস্থ স্কয়ার হাসপাতালে শেষ নিশ্বাস ত্যাগ করেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন)। তিনি গত ০৩ বছর ধরে দূরারোগ্য ব্যাধিতে আক্রান্ত ছিলেন। তার মৃত্যুতে কুমিল্লা ফুড এন্ড এলাইড ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, পপুলার ফুড এন্ড এলাইড ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, পপুলার জুট এক্সচেঞ্জ লিমিটেড, পপুলার জুট মিলস্ লিমিটেড, তেজগাঁও ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড কন্সট্রাকশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এর পরিচালক, কর্মকর্তা কর্মচারী এবং মতলব থানায় অবস্থিত রয়মেনন নেছা মহিলা ডিগ্রি কলেজ এর শিক্ষক শিক্ষিকা, কর্মকর্তা কর্মচারী ও ছাত্রীদের পক্ষ থেকে আমরা গভীরভাবে শোক প্রকাশ করছি এবং মরহমের শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবারের সকল সদস্যের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জানাচ্ছি। মরহমের পরিবারের পক্ষ থেকে আমরা সকলের নিকট দোয়া প্রার্থী। মরহমের কুলখানী আগামী শুক্রবার বাদ আসর ধানমন্ডি ৭ নম্বর রোডে অবস্থিত বায়তুল আমান জামে মসজিদে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

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