

Trader killed in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

A trader was hacked to death in Puthia upazila of Rajshahi on Tuesday night.

The deceased was identified as Saiful Islam, 40, of Bahimali village of Boraigram in Natore district.

Ziaul Alam, officer-in-charge of Puthia Police Station, said Saiful, an oil-cake (Khoil-Bhusi) trader, was killed with sharp weapon at Chakzamira village at about 11:00pm.

Saiful had a business partner named Zuel in the same village, said the OC adding that Zuel hides after the incident.

Quoting Saiful's younger brother Shafikul Islam, police said Zuel killed Saiful and looted Tk one lakh from Saiful while he was returning home.

Police said the body was recovered from an abandoned land and sent to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with Puthia Police Station in this connection.

Afghan envoy calls on PM

BSS, Dhaka

Afghan Ambassador to Bangladesh Ahmed Karim Nawabi paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of bilateral interests and establishing regional peace.

The Afghan envoy thanked the prime minister for extending highest cooperation during his tenure in Bangladesh.

Referred to her efforts for establishing peace in the region including Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina said, "We want to expedite development through establishing peace in Central Asia".

New committee for Human Rights Int'l

METRO DESK

A new central executive committee of Human Rights International, Bangladesh was formed yesterday, with National Prof Kabir Chowdhury and Hasna-uz-Zaman Hasan as its Chairman and Secretary General respectively for the period of 2010-2013, says a press release.

Other office bearers are -- President Member Dr AKM Fazlul Haque, Dr Mohammad Selim, Barrister M Amirul Islam, Barrister KS Nabi, ASM Mobaidul Islam, Anwarul Azim, Joint Secretary General - Advocate Rabiul Alam Budu, Advocate Motahar Hossain Sazu, International Coordinator (Joint Secretary General) - Moniruzzaman Babul, Organising Secretary - Advocate Sk Shaifuzzaman (Zaman), Treasurer - Mr Noor Ali, Publicity and Publication Secretary - Advocate Abdul Baki, Human Rights Secretary - Prof Farhad Hossain, Law Secretary - Barrister Abdullah Al Shaikh, Office and Administrative Secretary - Advocate Saydur Rahman, Research Secretary Dr Bashir Ullah, International Secretary - Dr Roy Ananta, Minority Interest Secretary - Advocate Shyamal Roy, Women Affairs Secretary - Shahana Chowdhury Bizli, Social Welfare Secretary - Mizanur Rahman Taslim.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Shah Nuruzzaman, a freedom fighter and a director of Power Development Board (PDB), passed away at Chittagong Medical College Hospital at about 12.10pm yesterday due to a cardiac arrest at the age of 55, says press release.

He left his wife and one daughter.

Nuruzzaman's body was sent to his village at Shibchar upazila in Madaripur after first namaz-e-janaza at PDB officers' colony in the port city.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the second death anniversary of Md Shahadat Ali, father of Md Mohashin and Md Masud Sarker, a proprietor of Mohashin Electronics at Joydeppur in Gazipur, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and oia mahfil will be held on Friday after Juma prayers at Joydeppur Baitul Falah Jame Mosque.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.



Nagorik Committee forms a human chain with lightening candles at TSC intersection on the Dhaka University campus yesterday, demanding fair investigation into the death of Ganotantri Party president Nurul Islam and his son Islam Tamohar. Nurul's wife lawmaker Rubi Rahman, inset, speaks with her voice choked at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR



Fair probe into Nurul's fire death demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of political leaders and cultural activists yesterday demanded a fair investigation into the mysterious fire that killed Ganotantri Party president Nurul Islam and his son Islam Tamohar in 2008.

At a discussion on the Dhaka University campus, the speakers strongly demanded exemplary punishment to the people behind the fire after conducting an acceptable investigation.

They also wanted unprejudiced experts to involve in the investigation, collection and preservation of evidences and detailed forensics to dig out the truth.

Rubi Rahman, wife of Nurul Islam and a lawmaker said, "My husband had fought against the enemies during the 1971 war for independence and the betterment of

the country. But, unfortunately he was killed on this land."

"I lost everything -- husband, son and family. Now, I hope that culprits behind the incident would be tried."

Rubi was speaking at a human chain at TSC intersection where political leaders, cultural activists and activists of Ganotantri Party lightened candles in demand of the quick trial of the culprits.

Nurul Islam, a nominee of Awami League-led grand alliance for Noakhali-1 constituency in the parliamentary election, died the following of a fire breaking out at his Lalmatia residence on December 3, 2008. His son Islam Tamohar was burnt alive.

The investigation of the case, filed following their death, is now under way as a sensational case.

Ganotantri Party General Secretary Nurur Rahman Selim said six investiga-

tion officers of the case have been referred since the inquiry began. The investigation is apparently stopped now, he claimed.

Awami League lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh termed the death of Nurul Islam and his son Tamohar a murder.

He claimed that it was a move to foil the ninth parliamentary election held on December 29, 2008.

Former Ducusu VP Mahfuza Khanam said the politics of murder should be stopped anyhow to establish a culture of healthy politics. She demanded fair investigation into all the political murders in the state.

National Human Rights Commission member Aroma Dutta, educationalist Prof Ajoy Roy, lawmaker Noor Afroza Lily and DU teacher Robaet Ferdous were present.

Digital maps to be used for 5th census: Minister

BSS, Dhaka

Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandaker yesterday said the government will use digital maps in the upcoming fifth population census in identifying the census enumeration areas.

Latest technology will be used in data processing so that data could be released within the shortest time, he said.

The minister was addressing a seminar titled "Celebrating Many Achievements of Official Statistics and the Core of Values of Service, Professionalism and Integrity."

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) organised the seminar on the World Standard Day 2010 at its auditorium in the city.

Statistics Division Secretary Riti Ibrahim addressed the seminar as special guest. Joint Secretary of Statistics Division Kazi Akhter Uddin Ahmed delivered the welcome address highlighting the upcoming census.

Director General of BBS Md Shahjahan Ali Mollah chaired the function, and Deputy Director General of BBS Md Sheikh Abdul Ahad delivered vote of thanks.

BBS honoured former Statistics Division secretary Dr AKM Ghulam Rabbani by giving him a crest on the occasion of World Statistics Day.

Earlier, the minister led a rally on the BBS premises in the morning.

The minister said the objective of the present government is to switch over to a Digital Bangladesh by 2021 and for reaching the objective, the government would complete computerisation and digitisation of all activities on priority basis to introduce e-governance gradually.

Welcoming all concerned for celebrating the day for the first time in Bangladesh, the minister said the observance of the day is very important for Bangladesh in light of the upcoming census 2011. "Bangladesh has decided to conduct the fifth population census in March 15-19, 2011, he said.

He expressed his satisfaction as former Statistics Division secretary Ghulam Rabbani was rewarded by BBS for his achievements in the official statistics.



PHOTO: STAR

A truck ploughs into three roadside shops after hitting five three-wheelers (tempoos) and two rickshaws killing two men near the 3rd Karnaphuli Bridge in Chittagong yesterday.

Three killed, 9 injured in road accidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three people were killed and around nine others injured in separate road accidents in Chittagong and Jhenidah yesterday.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: a speeding truck near the 3rd Karnaphuli Bridge ploughed into five three-wheelers (locally known as tempoos) and two rickshaws standing on the sidewalk early yesterday, killing two men and injuring around nine others.

Ejhar Mia, 53, of West Patiya and Robi, 18, of Chaktai died at Chittagong Medical College Hospital. The injured were under treatment at the hospital.

Police and locals said three accidents have occurred at the same point in the last three weeks for a large roundabout close to the bridge. Vehicles on the road hardly get time to slow down before the roundabout when coming from the slope immediately after the bridge.

At least five people have been killed and some 15 others injured in the accidents near

the bridge, they said.

Officer-in-charge Mahbulul Hoque of Bakalia Police Station said they will submit a report to the higher authority soon, regarding changing the size of the roundabout.

Our Jhenidah correspondent adds: an upazila health officer was killed after his motorcycle rammed a three-wheeler carrying bamboos on its roof near Ashannagar on Tuesday night.

Bazlur Rahman, 44, of Shailokupa died at Jhenidah General Hospital.

Officer-in-charge Anwar Hossain of Saikupa Police Station said Bazlur was returning home at Raninagar on a motorcycle around 9:30pm. As he rammed the three-wheeler in the dark, sharp point of bamboos penetrated into his chest.

A case was lodged with the police station. Police arrested Asaduzzaman, the driver, and Masud, the conductor of the three-wheeler that usually carries passengers.

WEATHER TODAY logo with sun and cloud icons.

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong division and one or two places over Barisal, Sylhet, Dhaka and Khulna divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:27pm and rises tomorrow at 5:59am.

Country's highest temperature 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Bogra and lowest 23.6 degrees at Madaripur.

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

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

DHAKA TODAY logo.

- Seminar: Unicef Bangladesh and Bangladesh Economic Forum will jointly organise a seminar. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel, Time: 10:30am. Dialogue: Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) will arrange a dialogue on trade promotion. Venue: Cirdap auditorium, Time: 10:00am. Book launching: The University Press Limited will organise a book-launching programme. Venue: Senate Building, Dhaka University, Time: 5:00pm. Roundtable: Prothom Alo will organise a roundtable. Venue: Prothom Alo office, Time: 10:30am. Meeting: Lions Club of Dhaka Paradise Gold will hold a meeting. Venue: Sky Moon Chinese Restaurant, Time: 6:00pm. Fashion show: E-24 Management will organise a fashion show. Venue: Emmanuelle's, Gulshan-1, Time: 7:30pm. Discussion: Bishaw Kabatankantha Parishad will arrange a discussion. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 11:00am. Cultural programme: Kendrio Khelaghar Asar will organise a cultural programme. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises, Time: 4:00pm. Conference: Centre for Disability Development will organise a conference. Venue: LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Time: 4:00pm. Award giving ceremony: Mahatma Gandhi Research Council will arrange an award giving ceremony. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 4:00pm.

Press Conference Bangladesh Airline Pilots Association (BAPA) Registration No-B-2146



PHOTO: STAR

Pilots of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, at a press conference in the city yesterday, threaten to stop flying extra hours demanding restoration of their curtailed benefits. (Story on Page -1)