

OWNERS PROTEST ATTACK ON STAFF No launch anchors at terminal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Launch owners yesterday anchored all launches, to and from Dhaka, off Sadarghat launch terminal protesting an assault on a fellow staff.

Police said some miscreants early yesterday attacked Faruk Hossain, 40, manager of Agarpur Navigation and Company, at a restaurant near the terminal, leaving him critically injured.

Hours after the attack, the launch owners called an emergency meeting around 12:00pm and decided not to anchor at the terminal till 2:00pm today.

The launch owners alleged that some outsiders and the terminal workers, sheltered by the terminal leaseholder Alamgir Hossain, assaulted Faruk following a month-long rivalry between the owners and workers over collection of launch fare.

Alamgir Hossain, however, denied the allegation saying neither he nor his associates has any link with the attack. The victim might have been attacked for personal rivalry, he added.

Mahbub Uddina Ahmed, Bir Bikram, chairman of Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carrier's) Association, told The Daily Star that they did not go on strike because of the November 30 hartal.

Sadarghat Port Officer Afzal Hossain said no launch was anchored in the terminal yesterday.

Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carrier's) Association leaders will hold a talk with the DMP commissioner on the situation of the launch terminal to tighten security there.

Faruk was undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.



PHOTO: STAR
The Editor, an online newspaper, launches a campaign in front of the National Museum in the city yesterday to collect signatures of people against hartal.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE JS caucus proposals for constitutional recognition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary caucus on indigenous affairs yesterday disclosed an 11-point recommendation that should be included in the constitution for ensuring the indigenous people's rights.

Caucus Convener Rashed Khan Menon read out the recommendations at a news conference at the National Press Club in the city.

Menon said the caucus will formally place the recommendations before the all-party Parliamentary Committee to Amend the Constitution.

Reflecting Bangladesh as a country of multi-ethnic, multi-culture and multi-language, giving opportunities to develop other languages alongside Bangla, recognising "community-ownership" of property are some of the 11 points.

The proposals also include recognition of traditional social structures of the indigenous communities in the local government, removal of disparities created over race, religion, language and the like, and appointment of a minister on Chittagong Hill Tracts and indigenous affairs.

Menon hoped that the all-party Parliamentary Committee to Amend the Constitution will consider the recommendations.

State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipankar Talukdar, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Land AKM Mozammel Haq, and lawmakers Amina Ahmed, Fazle Hossain Badsha, Rawshan Zahana Sathi and Abbas Ali Khan were present at the conference.

Prof Mesbah Kamal, coordinator of the technical committee of the caucus, moderated the programme.

Menon said 73 indigenous communities, now totaling around 30 lakh members, have been living in the country with their unique identities, societies, cultures, languages, religions and beliefs for centuries.

Members of the communities have participated in all democratic movements including the country's Liberation War in 1971, he added.

Menon, also a lawmaker from the ruling 14-party grand alliance, said this is the time to give constitutional recognition to the indigenous people.

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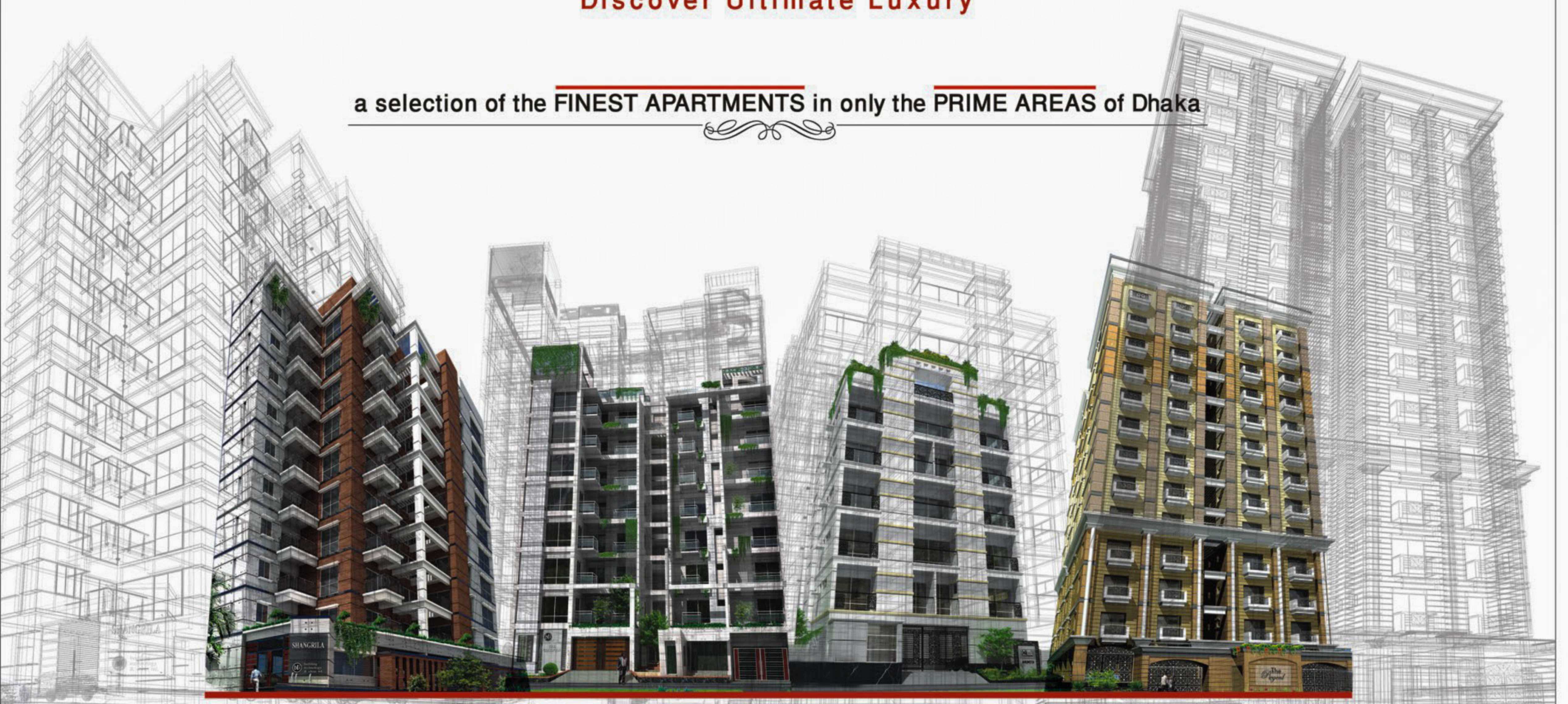
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