

NEWS in brief

2 transnational criminals held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested two transnational gang members with a firearm and local and foreign fake currencies at Jindabhar in the city's Kotwali on Wednesday.

One revolver with three bullets, 50 notes of Tk 100 denomination, and 20 notes of Rupee 500 denomination were seized from Indian national Sheikh Mohammad Faruque Madraji, 55, and Bangladeshi national Biswajit alias Bishu, 32, who are residents of Jindabhar first gate in the area.

Afzalur Radio Foorti's new COO

METRO DESK

Daniel Afzalur Rahman has been appointed the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Radio Foorti, says a press release.

He is given the charge of managing all operations of the radio station. Rahman has been with Radio Foorti since its inception in 2006.

Aged 28 Rahman also becomes the youngest Bangladeshi to be given the top post of any company.

Owned by MGH Group, Radio Foorti is currently the biggest radio station of the country with operation in eight cities -- Dhaka, Chittagong, Shylet, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Khulna, Barishal, and Cox's Bazar.



Woman commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young woman allegedly committed suicide by jumping from the roof of her residence in city's Mirpur area yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Rokeya Akter Tuni alias Mousumi, 20, daughter of Abdur Rahim of Janata Housing of Mirpur-1. She was an actress. Police recovered the body around 8:30 am.

Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station said, "Rokeya jumped from the roof-top of her six-storey residence around 7:45am."

She was rushed to a local hospital where doctors declared her dead.

The reason behind the suicide could not be ascertained. Police recorded it as an unnatural death.

Fair probe into rape of adivasi girl demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday demanded impartial investigation into the incident of gang rape of an indigenous girl at Ghumdhum union of Naikkhangchhari in Bandarban.

In a statement the parishad also demanded trial of the culprits and security for the victim.

Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam urged all to build social resistance to stop violence against women.

N'ganj RMG factory gutted in fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Huge quantities of readymade garments and other goods including machineries were gutted in a fire at a RMG factory in the district's Fatullah yesterday.

No other casualty was reported, as the factory was closed during the incident. Mohammad Hatem, owner of the factory, claimed to have incurred a loss of about Tk 8 crore for the blaze.

According to witnesses and local sources, the fire originated around 2:00am on the 1st floor of MV Knit Fashion and soon engulfed five other floors of the seven-storey factory.

Twelve fire fighting units from different parts of Narayanganj and Dhaka doused the flame after about six hours.

Woman's 'murderer' arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An auto-rickshaw driver was arrested from Culvert Road in city's Motijheel area yesterday in connection with the murder of a young woman in Sabujbagh eight months ago.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Asaduzzaman of Sabujbagh Police Station said arrested Omar Faruque confessed strangling Shirin, a resident of Bhola district, on April 30 during a quarrel.

The OC, quoting Faruque, said they got acquainted over a phone conversation two years ago and started living in a rented house at Adabor two months before the murder.

Faruque fled to Sylhet after stuffing her body in a newly bought luggage and returned around one week ago, said the OC.

RU Rotaracts to celebrate 20 yrs

METRO DESK

Rotaract Club of Rajshahi University is to arrange its "20 Years Celebration" on January 14 and 15 on the university campus for the ex-Rotaractors, said a press release.

All ex-Rotaractors are cordially invited to attend the programme and requested to contact Afzal Hossain Emon, president of the RU club, for registration at 01673907103 and rotaractclubru@gmail.com.

JPC ELECTION Next hearing on Sunday

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The newly elected Jatiya Press Club (JPC) president and general secretary yesterday appeared before a Dhaka court seeking its permission to contest the case filed on Wednesday challenging the legality of handing and taking over the charge and running the function.

President Kamal Uddin Sabuj and General Secretary Syed Abdal Ahmed appeared before the Fourth Assistant Judge's Court and submitted a petition to cancel its earlier order of an ad-interim injunction against them.

On the other hand, the plaintiffs' lawyers submitted a petition seeking extension of the ad-interim injunction till disposal of the case.

After hearing both the sides, Judge Mohammad Muzahidul Islam fixed Sunday for further hearing on all the petitions filed by the plaintiffs and defendants.

Meanwhile, lawyers of eight defendants including the president and general secretary submitted written statements seeking cancellation of the case.

But Mohammad Zakaria Pintu, chairman of the election commission of JPC polls, and four other members of the commission were yet to appear before the court to contest the case though they were asked not to hand over the charge to the new executive committee.

On Wednesday, the same court issued an ad-interim injunction against the JPC election commission asking it not to hand over the charge to the new committee.

The new executive committee, elected in the polls on December 31 last year, had taken the charges before the court order reached JPC.

Doa mahfil

METRO DESK

A doa mahfil for Syed Golam Jilani, chairman of Asian Development Corporation, will be held at House No. 15, Road No. 35, Sector No. 7, Uttara, in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Jilani passed away at a city hospital on January 2 at the age of 63. He left behind his one son and wife.

Chehlum

DU CORRESPONDENT

Chehlum of Golam Rahman Moti, adviser of Swadesh Samaj Kalyan Sangha and Subandhan Samajik Kalyan, will be held at his house at Lalbagh in the city after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

He died on December 5 due to old age complications.



Human chain

Jatiya Nagorik Samaj will form a human chain. Venue: In front of National Press Club, Time: 10:30pm.

Meeting

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will hold a meeting. Venue: DRU, Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

Department of World Religions and Culture of Dhaka University will organise a seminar. Venue: Lecture Theatre, DU, Time: 10:00am.

Reunion

Buet Alumni Association will hold its grand reunion. Venue: Buet playground, Time: 8:30am.

Theatre festival

Save the Children, Sweden-Denmark, will organise children theatre festival and child protection information fair. Venue: Rabindro Sarobar, Time: 2:15pm.

Classical vocal music

High Commission of India will arrange a classical vocal music programme. Venue: House No. 35, Road No. 24, Gulshan-1, Time: 6:30pm.

NID PROGRAMME FIRST ROUND JAN 8

2.20cr children to get polio vaccine



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the 19th National Immunisation Day (NID) programme administering polio vaccine to a child at Gono Bhaban in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday launched the 19th National Immunisation Day (NID) programme to make the country free from polio and night blindness.

Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque said 2.20 crore children under 5 years of age are targeted to be provided with polio vaccine on January 8, the first round of the programme. Children aged between 1 and 5 will get vitamin A capsule additionally.

The minister was briefing journalists at the Extended Programme on Immunisation (EPI) auditorium in

the city following the programme launching at Gono Bhaban in the city.

Haque said these children will again be provided with the polio vaccine at the second round on February 12. Children aged from 2 to 5 will be given deworming tablets additionally.

There will be 20,000 mobile EPI centres at rail stations, bus stands, launch terminals, and ports to reach the children on movement along with 20,000 permanent centres, he said.

The minister asked parents to bring their children to the EPI centres from 8:00am to 4:00pm on these days.

After long gap, polio recurred in

the country in 2006 when 18 polio cases were detected, said Haque.

"As our neighbouring country India is still experiencing polio cases especially at its bordering area Murshidabad, our country is highly at risk of the disease. So the government is organising immunisation campaign against polio regularly."

State Minister for Health Dr Mozibur Rahman Fakir, Director General Prof Khondoker Shefayetullah of the health directorate, National Professor MR Khan, and IPHN Director Prof Fatima Parveen were present at the press briefing among others.

RESCUE OF HIJACKED SHIP, CREW

No progress in talks with Somali pirates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Owners of hijacked ship MV Jahan Moni claimed they could hardly make any headway over the rescue of the ship and its crew in yesterday's conversation with the Somali pirates.

However, families of several crewmembers on hostage blamed the owners for delaying in paying the ransom to the pirates. The crewmembers talked to their family over telephone on

Wednesday night.

The ship owner Mohammed Shajahan denied the allegation saying they could not progress much as the pirates were not regular in contact.

He said the last evening's conversation is not worth mentioning.

Families of at least 11 crewmembers yesterday visited the office of SR Shipping Ltd, the owner firm of the ship, in the port city to urge the owners to pay the ransom soon.

A senior crewmember was quoted by his family members as saying the pirates had already told the owner firm officials how and whom to pay the ransom.

Mohammed Shahajahan, also chairman of SR Shipping Ltd, claimed that the person who was dealing with them on behalf of the pirates did not stay on board the ship much time and the pirates at times snapped the contact.

Minister lauds role of women entrepreneurs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Industries Minister Dilip Barua said self-reliant women could play a vital role in building a prosperous nation.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a seminar titled 'Home based entrepreneurs and artisans-2010' at Khulna Public Hall.

ADORE and UDDOMI, two non-government organisations, jointly organised the programme in cooperation with Manusher Jonno Foundation.

Dilip Barua said women entrepreneurs have come a long way during the present government's tenure.

Their role in socio-economic development and industrialisation of the country is very much appreciable, he said.

Dilip Barua said women should be provided easy access to raw materials on top priority basis to turn every house into a small industry.

He said efforts to create a congenial atmosphere for women entrepreneurs are continuing through research and advocacy programmes.

Later, the minister handed cheques, certificates and crests to 14 successful women entrepreneurs in recognition of their endeavours.

Presided over by ADORE Executive Director Mahmud Hasan, the seminar was addressed by Khulna Business and Professional Women President Begum Ferdousi Ali, Manusher Jonno Foundation Director Governess Farzana Naeem, UDDOMI President Rokeya Rahman, educationist Prof Anwarul Kadir, civil rights leader Advocate Feroze Ahmed and freedom fighter Sheikh Abdul Kayyum.

Earlier, the organisers brought out a colourful procession in the city.

Later, the mayor inaugurated a four-day fair.

Speakers informed that Adore organised 800 women entrepreneurs from 31 wards in the city and Phultala, Batiaghata and Paikgacha upazilas of the district.

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