

NEWS IN *brief*

3 female schoolteachers stabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A drug-addicted youth stabbed three female teachers of Bethuazani Government Primary School under sadar upazila in Manikganj yesterday.

The injured teachers are Mehnaz Tania Moonmoon, Afroza Parvin and Deizi Akter.

The school's head teacher Arifa Begum said the youth, Kala, 20, attacked Mehnaz with a kitchen knife when the teachers were coming out of the school after a milad around 2:00pm.

He stabbed Afroza and Deizi when they came to rescue Mehnaz, she said.

The teachers were immediately rushed to Manikganj sadar hospital from where doctors later shifted Mehnaz to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, she said, adding that Kala often harassed the school's female teachers.

Arifa lodged a case against Kala with Manikganj Sadar Police Station.

Officer-in-Charge Abu Taher Mia of the police station said police are trying to catch the accused.

Youth found slaughtered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the slaughtered body of an unidentified man aged around 25 from an under-construction building in Karwan Bazar in the city yesterday.

Tejgaon police said the body was fished out from a sack on the fourth floor of a nine-storey under-construction building adjacent to the local kitchen market.

A knife, which is thought to have been used as the killing weapon, was found stuck in the victim's neck, said the police.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. A murder case was filed with Tejgaon Police Station in this connection.

2 MLM company officials arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested two senior officials of Speak Asia, a multi level marketing (MLM) company, in Chittagong city yesterday.

Suman Chowdhury, an investor, filed a case with Kotwali Police Station yesterday against Abdul Aziz Razu and Morshed Monjur of Speak Asia for 'conning' investors.

On Sunday night, some angry investors of Speak Asia confined these two officials at the company's office in Kadom Mobarak for one hour.

Police recovered and detained the two on that night and arrested them yesterday. Kotwali Police Station Sub-inspector Masuk Karim said they will pray for remanding the two.

Giant Group staffs donate blood

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A garment factory, Giant Group, has organised a daylong blood donation campaign on its office premises at Joydevpur in collaboration with Quantum Foundation recently.

Giant Group employees donated 120 bags of blood for humanitarian cause and as part of the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR), says a press release yesterday.

Giant Group Chairman Feroz M Hassan, Managing Director Faruque Hassan, Director Majedur Rahman, and Quantum Foundation coordinator Masuda Akter Abedin were present on the occasion.

GRAFT CHARGES AGAINST EX-IGP
ACC begins enquiry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on Sunday initiated an enquiry into the allegation of former inspector general of police (IGP) Nur Muhammad possessing property disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Sources in ACC said the commission received the allegation last Thursday made by an individual from Kishoreganj, village home of the former IGP. The address of the complainant is not properly written.

"This is a preliminary enquiry and it will take at least twenty days to complete," said an ACC official preferring anonymity. He explains that if the enquiry finds the allegation true, Nur Muhammad will be asked for his asset declaration. ACC would file a case if assessment of the asset declaration finds inconsistency with results of the preliminary enquiry.

Filing of the case would be followed by a full-fledged investigation.

ACC sources said the allegation is also lodged with a number of govern-

ment offices at the same time including the office of prime minister and ministries of home and law.

After scrutiny, the commission decided to look into the allegation as it has some specific complaints. ACC Deputy Director Abdullah Al Zahid has been appointed as enquiry officer.

Sources in ACC brushed aside the reports published in two Bangla national dailies in the last two days stating that ACC, in preliminary enquiry, found merit to an allegation of corruption against Nur Muhammad involving Tk 350 crore.

"The stories published in the newspapers are imaginary and made up. In many cases the story does not match with the allegation submitted to the commission.

"We did not get any estimate of corruption involving any specific amount of money like Tk 350 crore," said an ACC official preferring anonymity.

He, however, denied elaborating on the allegation as the matter is currently under enquiry.

Poverty: A face of injustice

Says Nobel laureate Amartya Sen at the launch of Prof Rehman Sobhan's new book

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel laureate Amartya Sen yesterday stressed the need to strike a fine balance between the idea of free market and the views against it, saying that it would be a mistake to consider market as the ultimate truth or simply deny its necessity.

Prof Sen shared his views with an audience at the launch of a book by Prof Rehman Sobhan: "Challenging the Injustice of Poverty: Agendas for Inclusive Development in South Asia".

"Market is an economic necessity and there is nothing to be astonished about. But if we consider it as a profound achievement, it will reflect nothing but a lack of our consciousness."

"It will be a mistake to take market as the ultimate truth and brush aside other things. Similarly, it is wrong to think that everything will go well without the market mechanism," said Sen.

Market opens opportunities, but a lot of other things are needed to allow all to enjoy the opportunities, said Sen, citing education, health, and people's purchasing power as examples.

"There should be an opportunity to access the market." He stressed the roles of state, non-governmental organisations and political parties to address these issues.

Sobhan, a friend of Sen and also chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), unveiled the book in a packed auditorium of Brac Centre Inn in Dhaka.

The author dedicated his book to Amartya Sen, "whose enduring commitment to end poverty and challenge injustice has been an inspiration to all of us".

The 486-page book published by Sage Publications has been



Nobel laureate Prof Amartya Sen, third from left, holds a copy of the book "Challenging the Injustice of Poverty: Agendas for Inclusive Development in South Asia" by Prof Rehman Sobhan, fourth from left, at the book's unveiling ceremony at Brac Centre Inn in the city yesterday. Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman, former finance minister M Syeduzzaman, Finance Minister AMA Muhith, and Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, among other distinguished personalities, are also seen.

PHOTO: STAR

priced at Tk 670 for sale in Bangladesh.

"Poverty remains endemic across South Asia. In spite of some progress in every country in reducing the proportion of people living below the so-called poverty line, South Asia remains home to the largest concentration of income-poor people across the globe," he writes.

"Income poverty has been compounded by the growth of inequality and the widening of social disparities in every country regardless of its rate of growth and poverty reduction. Poverty and inequality compromise the character of our institutions of governance."

Sobhan argues that persistent poverty and inequality originate from the unfair nature of social

order, which effectively excludes the resources and equitable opportunities to participate in development process from the poor.

Prof Sen said the book sees poverty as a visage of injustice. "Poverty is not only harmful for some people, but it is also a manifestation of injustice from the social viewpoint. That is why we need to ensure the end of it," he added referring to the book.

In the preface of his book, Sobhan writes: "Unless the structural injustices which underline poverty can be corrected, poverty will persist across South Asia."

The author advocated for agrarian reform, market power enhancement for the excluded, and democratisation of educational opportunities. He also

favoured policy and institutional interventions to promote structural change.

According to Sobhan, as globalisation widens the market opportunities for both agricultural products and manufacturers of the developing world, little of its benefits percolate to the poor.

"Today, for example, rapidly expanding global market for garments has opened up opportunities for the textile and garment manufacturers of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, who between them have exported \$45.32 billion in this sector in 2006, which comes to 8.6 percent of global exports. Yet, the small cotton growers of India and Pakistan or the young women working in the garment factories of

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka hardly share in the rewards from the growth of this market."

"It's a great book," said Finance Minister AMA Muhith, sharing his observation about the publication. He said he liked Sobhan's suggestions on financial policy for inclusiveness.

Former caretaker government advisers Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud and Akbar Ali Khan, Prof SR Osmani of University of Ulster, UK, Dr Binayak Sen, research director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, and Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman also spoke.

M Syeduzzaman, former finance minister and member of CPD's board of trustees, chaired the programme.

JATIYA PRESS CLUB

Court allows new body to function

UNB, Dhaka

The district judge court in a revision petition yesterday allowed the newly elected committee of the Jatiya Press Club to function.

After a lengthy hearing for two days, Judge Jahangir Hossain also ordered the lower trial court to dispose of the case within 45 days.

Golam Sarwar and Saiful Alam who lost the December 30 polls of the press club had filed a case challenging the election of their rivals Kamaluddin Sabuj and Syed Abdal Ahmed as president and secretary.

The lower court had restrained the new committee from functioning following the case.

The Supreme Court on a revision petition referred the case to the District Judge Court to dispose of it by January 31.

MAIMING BOY

HC asks cops to place probe report by Feb 9

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed police to place a report to it by February 9 on the progress of investigation into the case filed over the incident of maiming seven-year-old Neyamul and forcing him into begging.

The victim is the son of Umed Ali, a rickshaw-puller of Ashrafabad in the city's Kamrangirchar.

An HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain passed the order during hearing the matter concerning the incident.

Earlier on January 2, the bench issued a suo moto rule on the government to stop such incidents and ordered police to enforce the rule of Dhaka Metropolitan Ordinance 1986 that restricts begging in the capital.



MIRPUR FREE DAY OBSERVED

Call to speed up war crimes trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee observed Mirpur Free Day yesterday amidst fresh demand for immediate trial of war criminals and banning of anti-War of Liberation political parties.

The committee organised a discussion meeting followed by a rally in Mirpur.

Speakers at the discussion meeting said war criminals must be tried to free the country of the shame that has been haunting the nation for such a long time. They also demanded protection of 10 mass killing fields in Mirpur from land grabbers.

Mirpur was actually liberated on January 30, 1972, one and a half months after the country's liberation on December 16, 1971. Since then January 31 is being observed as 'Mirpur Free Day'.

Shahriar Kabir, executive chairman of the committee, said, "Those who gave their lives in the battle of Mirpur still did not get state honour for their sacrifice. Their name is not in the list of Shaheeds."

Bangladeshi freedom fighters under the command of Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiullah fought a two-day battle against Biharis and a segment of Pakistani soldiers hiding in Mirpur from January 29 in 1972, leaving around a hundred people dead.

The martyrs should be given the proper respect they deserve, one of which is by bringing the war criminals to trial before this government's tenure ends, demanded Kabir.

He also said most mass killing fields of that time is in a really appalling condition and state should take steps to protect them.

Sector Commander Maj Gen (retd)

KM Shafiullah said very few people, especially the new generation, know very little about what happened in Mirpur even after the country was liberated from Pakistan.

"Many people sacrificed their lives when the rest of the country was celebrating victory," he said.

State Minister for Liberation War Capt (retd) Tajul Islam criticised the opposition party for their recent statement that BNP wants to join parliament with Salauddin Quader Choudhury, currently under investigation for crimes against humanity.

He urged the opposition party to set their stance properly on the matter of bringing war criminals to justice.

Sakhina Helal, daughter of Shaheed journalist Abu Taleb, and Mohammad Shakhawat Hossain Mithu, son of Shaheed freedom fighter Enayet Hossain, also addressed the meeting.

Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee brings out a procession at Mirpur 10 in the city yesterday on the occasion of the 43rd Mirpur Free Day.

PHOTO: STAR

Termination of Biman's director Aminul legal

Rules High Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld the decision of Biman Bangladesh Airlines terminating its director Aminul Huq.

The court, however, declared Biman's decision to send another director Syed Khaja Zunayed to forced retirement illegal.

An HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Farid Ahmed also asked the authorities to give retirement benefits to Aminul Huq in accordance with law.

The bench delivered the verdict following two separate writ petitions filed by Aminul and Zunayed challenging the Biman authorities' decisions in September last year.

Advocates Mahbubey Alam, Khandker Dilruzzaman and Ekramul Haque appeared for Biman authorities while Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud and Barrister Mustafizur Rahman Khan argued for the petitioners.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Marghub Mawla Marnu passed away on Sunday at the age of 64, says a press release.

He left behind his wife and one son.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held after Maghrib prayers at his residence at Urban Crystal, House No-2, Road No-104, Gulshan-2 tomorrow.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul and attend the programme.

Bangladeshi jailed in UK, 47 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The UK has sentenced a Bangladeshi national to 16-month in prison for his involvement in illegal entry of migrants to the country and arrested 47 others in last two months.

This January a Bangladeshi man was jailed in Scotland for facilitating unlawful entry of migrants to the UK, says a press release of British High Commission in Dhaka yesterday.

"He will be liable to deportation on release from prison." The release adds 46 men and a woman of Bangladesh were found with other nationalities working illegally in the UK.

They were apprehended in restaurants, takeaways, a food factory, and a shop during widespread enforcement operations in England, Scotland, and Wales over two months.

"Steps are being taken to return all those apprehended to Bangladesh." They were held for entering the UK illegally, overstaying there, and working violating visa conditions.

Bangladeshi nationals entering the UK illegally or working illegally are amongst those migrants from many different countries apprehended regularly by UK Border Agency.

The employers will be fined up to £10,000 for every illegal worker unless the employers can prove that they carried out the correct right-to-work

checks on their employees.

UK Immigration Minister Damian Green said, "Illegal immigration puts huge pressure on public finances at a time when the country can least afford it." The clampdown on foreigners working illegally would continue, added the minister.

Moreover, a Bangladeshi man was stopped at Birmingham airport as he attempted to use a forged document to pose as a student to work in the UK. He was returned home.

"Too many students arriving to study at below degree level have been coming here with a view to living and working, rather than studying. We need to stop this abuse," he said.