Poetry-lovers find their favourite stuff

RAKIB AHAMMED

Compact discs (CDs) filled with recitations of poems written by eminent Bangla poets have created quite a stir among the poetry-lovers visiting the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela this year.

Stalls specialising in this niche of the market have been experiencing a huge rush since the beginning of the fair.

"I love reading and listening to poems in my spare time," said Abul Kalam Shohag, an ardent fan of poetry who was seen buying an audio album containing works of Jibanananda Das.

Mahidul Islam, owner of Abritti Mela, a stall selling such CDs said, "We sell 500 to 700 audio albums of recited poems, on average, everyday."

"Romanticism and patriotism seem to be most popular with the customers, so far," said Mahidul, who also recites poems himself.

Abritti Mela has brought in 12 new albums in the fair this year.

"People have liked the way we have delivered their favourite poems in a different form," Mahidul replied to the query of selling audio CDs in the fair meant for books.

Since most of these CDs are not available in shops especially if they live outside the capital, the book fair serves as the best place to get audio albums of their desired poems, he said.

Price of a CD is not over Tk 60 and discount is provided to those who buy more than one, he added.

Double murder FROM PAGE 1

the families of the dead could ascertain the motive behind the killings.

Kohinur Begum, widow of Mohammad Ullah, filed a murder case with Kadamtoli Police Station last night accusing some 10 unknown persons.

Wari Division Deputy Commissioner (DC) Gazi Mozammel Huq said they detained the five people for questioning.

"The arrestees include two Juba League men, who were in the backseat of the car on which the Awami League leader was shot, while the rest three are locals," said the DC.

Mozammel said the investigation is being done keeping multiple suspicions under consideration.

Sources said feuds over the upcoming Dhaka City Corporation election's candidature could be a reason. The Awami League leader was aspiring for a councillor post in DCC Ward-89. Other sources said dis-

putes over his transport business and an educational institution after his name could lead to his death.

He was the senior vicepresident of Shyampur-Kadamtoli unit of Awami League and the managing director of Duldul Paribahan, a transport com-

Mohammad Ullah's daughter Jannatul Ferdaus Munni earlier said some unidentified callers had been threatening her father with death.

Nuke power

Ambassador to Bangladesh Gennady P Trotsenko and high officials of the ministry and Russian Embassy were present on the occasion. Bangladesh Atomic Energy

Commission prepared the action plan for executing the NPP to meet the growing demand for energy. "Both the sides agreed to

install two third-generation reactors, each with 1,000MW capacity," a top official of the ministry told BSS. The final deal would be

in peril. signed in April this year when the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would visit Russia, he According to the ministry,

Russia will manage the spentfuelandrecycleit. Bangladesh completed all

necessary preparations for settingupanuclearpowerplant and signed MoUs with China, Russia, USA, France and India for cooperation in the area of peaceful use of nuclear energy. It also initiated talks with South

Considering the present reserves of gas, coal and other sources of energy in the country, the revised National Energy Policy (2008) strongly favoured a nuclear power plant as other imported fuel options like coal and oil for power generation are becoming increasingly expen-

"We are moving fast to sign the agreement with Russia. We would complete all necessary procedures by one or two months. We are moving forward to fulfill our commitment to set up a nuclear power plant," saidYeafeshOsman.

No specific

for Libya. The International

Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has expressed deep regrets in the loss of lives and injuries of people in Libya violence and said it is in close contact with the Libyan Red Crescent Society, which has provided blood supplies for several hospitals in Benghazi.

It was preparing to send medical facilities and treat the injured in the North African country, the ICRC said.

IOM Egypt, UN High Commissioner for the Refugees (UNHCR) and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) is starting today an assessment on a Libyan border crossing situated close to the Egyptian town of

Bangladesh has only asked the IOM and the ICRC to help evacuate the Bangladeshis in need but has not made any formal appeal yet.

person told The Daily Star yesterday.

Libya, their employers, and relatives at home.

or no food and drinking water.

Many labour camps came under attack and loot, and in some cases the recruiting companies abandoned them

Expatriates' Welfare Ministry Joint Secretary Ashadul Islam said the Bangladesh embassy in Tripoli is asking the companies that recruited Bangladeshis to shift them to safer places in or outside Libya.

around 450 Bangladeshis who were trying to cross the Egyptian border were barred by the Egyptian immigration forces. Islam said they had no such report.

workers, he said Libya is solely dependent on food import. So, it is quite normal that food supply chain could collapse, he said.

Meanwhile, the IOM said more number of migrants crossed the Ras Adjir border into Tunisia yesterday than on previous days to flee the violence in Libya. Most of them were Tunisians.

About 15,000 Egyptians, some Libyans and more than 6,700 Tunisians have fled across the Ras Adjir border point in three days. On

Tuesday night, large numbers of Egyptian and Chinese migrant workers arrived on the border.

However, IOM is concerned that there is no evidence of large numbers of migrant workers from Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia leaving Libya for either Tunisia or Egypt.

It is unlikely they have the resources to rent vehicles to get to border areas and reach safer places, said Laurence Hart of the IOM.

Nine rapists

jurisdiction again for the same crime, said the SP adding, they were considering accusing them in the provocation case.

Meanwhile, police yesterday produced the 10 arrestees before the Additional Judicial Magistrate's Court in the suicide provocation case and prayed for remand of catholic priest Father Bernard Tudu, indigenous leaders Bishwanath Tudu and Monir Murmu.

The court fixed Monday for hearing the remand prayers and sent all of them to jail.

The law enforcers seized a resolution of the out-of-court mediation, held a Surshunipara Catholic Church on April 23 last year, from Father Tudu while arresting him on Wednesday

Fourteen-year-old indigenous girl Serafina Mardi was gang raped on April 4 last year. Failing to stand humiliation, she set herself on fire on February 17 and succumbed to her injuries on Monday.

Serafina told the court that her father forced her to file the rape case out of vengeance after Bablu Murmu, father of Nirmol Murmu (one of the rapists), refused to allow his son marry her, said Public Prosecutor Syeda Morjina Khatun.

Her father Corneleus Mardi, sister Dipali Mardi, brother-in-law Jacob Soren also made similar statements

before the court, added the PP. Police said the prosecution cross-checked the witnesses whether they were providing false statements after negotiating the matter with the accused, which the witnesses

Later on November 24 last year, judge Afzal Hossain of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal 1 of Rajshahi acquitted all the nine accused as he found the charges not proved beyond doubt.

Contacted, Nina Goswami senior deputy director of Ain O Salish Kendra, told The Daily Star that the rapists can still be tried in the suicide provocation case as several media reported they teased the victim upon their acquit-

The medical certificate attested to the fact that the victim was gang raped. So the court could easily conceive that the victim and her family members were providing false statements either under pressure or following an illegal out-of-court deal, she observed.

Referring to a recent case of another victim Hena in Shariatpur, Nina said, "It is an instance of how courts can apply their judicial mind for delivering justice."

Indian Maoists make fresh demands over hostage

AFP, Bhubaneswar

have set new conditions for the release of an abducted government official -- the latest twist in a case that has drawn criticism for dealing with insurgents.

A letter from the Maoists made it clear that district mediators said yesterday.

The letter was carried by Maoists on Wednesday.

freed by yesterday night.

Poppy fields FRO M PAGE 20

A total of 29 indigenous families received seeds and instruments at Remacry of Bandarban.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and police conducted the drive at Karaikashan, Ivaanman Jhiri, and it chopped down the plants before burning them. Region Commander Brig

Hill Tracts District Parishad Chairman Keyshau Hla, Deputy Commissioner Mijanur Rahman, Superintendent of Police Kamrul Ahsan were also with the team.

Army Ruma zone commander Lieutenant Colonel Wasim, leading the drive, said the 14-day-long drive started on February 19 and the operation will continue Remacry and Bhalupara.

drive said mainly Myanmar militant outfits lure Bangladeshi indigenous people into growing poppy.

these areas.

permanent army camp is required in the bordering area to provide indigenous so that they do not indulge in poppy cultivation.

Poppies are used for producing opium and other drugs like heroin.

Farmland, hills

FRO M PAGE 20

The directive came at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The meeting approved 11 projects of Tk 6,445 crore including those for building roads and providing schools

sea and rivers, a source present at the meeting told

The Daily Star. ATk 306 crore project was approved to introduce information and communication technology in education. Under the project, the government will provide laptops and multimedia projectors to 20,500 public and private institutions to improve the classroom

A planning ministry official said that following the list provided by lawmakers, some 3,000 schools have been selected for the scheme. Their infrastructures will be improved by 2014 and in this effort Tk 500 crore has been allocated in this fiscal year.

Under the project, the sanitary condition of the schools will be upgraded, electricity connections will be given and classrooms will

Besides, measures will be

Safe exit

FROM PAGE 1

Imam Hossain, who came to the oil-rich North African countryfrom Comillain 2009.

noted.

Alauddinsaid.

FMINPARLIAMENT

"We are like orphans here.

The company people are

helpless. And we cannot con-

Bangladesh has moved to

evacuate its nationals

living in Libya to safe

places and if necessary

bring them back, Foreign

"The foreign ministry and

the expatriate welfare ministry

are working on different alter-

natives to ensure safety of the

Bangladeshi nationals in

Libya. We are taking measures

to shift our citizens to tempo-

rary camps in Egypt and

Tunisia," Moni said in a state-

has requested Chinese, South

Korean and Malaysian com-

panies to ensure safety of the

Bangladesh nationals work-

ing for them in Libya, she

Bangladeshi citizens have died

try, the minister said neither

her ministry nor Bangladesh

mission in Libya have any such

Speaking to The Daily Star

last night, Foreign Secretary

Mijarul Quayes said the

foreign ministry would send

an additional official by

tomorrow to the Libya-Egypt

border to help stranded

Bangladeshis into safety. "If

necessary, we will send out

embassy in Libya has provided

shelter for 35 workers inside its

Bangladesh embassy in

Tripoli against charges of

inaction, Quayes said: "Scope

for the embassy to do any-

thing inside the capital is very

limited as the situation is still

volatile." But he said he would

try to increase the capacity of

lise 50,000-60,000 people out

of their homes and ask them to

leave the scene, Quayes said

It is not very easy to mobi-

He also said the Bangladesh

In an attempt to defend the

in the strife-torn African coun-

On news reports that 37

Besides, the government

ment.

added.

information.

more officials.'

compound.

the embassy.

evacuation plan.

EVACUATION PLAN

parliament last night.

tact our embassy either,"

Hossain's version of the situation runs counter to Bangladesh government's remarks that all Bangladeshi workers are safe in Libya. "Are we not citizens of

Bangladesh? Workers from other countries have already left this place. Only Minister Dipu Moni told Bangladeshis are all by themselves," he said, with an appeal to the government to rescue them. Hossain said he was saddened by the government's

inaction about evacuation of

Bangladeshis from the chaos

that stemmed from a broad-

based uprising against Libya's

strongman Muammar

Gaddafi. Witnesses said both proand anti-Gaddafi forces were firing at each other in the streets. The workers are panicked by rampant lootings and drive-by shootings.

Imam said armed goons robbed some of his co-workers of whatever they had -- from money and mobile phones to cigarettes to clothes.

Imam's co-worker Md Sajib Sarkar has been surviving on small pieces of bread, but fears of attacks run deep.

"I can't sleep at night. I'm scared. The attackers may come in anytime and beat us,' said Sajib, who was born in Narayanganj. Sajib left Bangladesh in July 2009 in search of a better life but ended up with only 180 Libyan dinars (Tk10,332) a month. The workers have teamed

up to guard the camp, owned by Al Nahar Company, against the attackers. Out on the street, many are

armed and on the prowl to rob orattack people, said Sajib. Among the victims was Md

Tajuddin, 21, from Uttara in

Dhaka, who said he lost his money and mobile phone to the attackers. A batch of more than 400 Bangladeshis was barred from entering Egypt by immigration

officials yesterday. They were stranded in the open on the border, Mominur Rahman Talukder, a migrant worker, told BBC Radio last night. Lokman Hossain of Gazipur said his brother Humayun Kabir and 4,000 other Bangladeshi workers fled

their camps in Tripoli, following looting of the sites by the Libyans. "They have some money, but cannot go to urban areas to buy food fearing attacks,' Lokman said, adding that his brother was crying over the

phone saying that he could not

even have 250 grams of rice in the last three days. Lokman said his brother and the others are now staying in a place far from downtown Tripoli. Some Korean citizens who were working for Korean Sinhan Company are also with them.

"I am seriously worried about my brother. My parents are crying. Please help us bring him back," he said.

Around 50 Bangladeshis in Altabia area of Tripoli are facing similar problems. Protesters burnt the workers' original camp four days back, forcing them to move to another site.

Meanwhile, 22 Bangladeshi workers remain trapped in Tripoli, as the flight they booked to fly back home has been cancelled. Their company could not buy any tickets as of yesterday.

"Contacting the travel agency was not possible as phone or fax shops were closed," Md Alauddin told The Daily Star from a warehouse, around 10km off Tripoli airport, where they were transferred from their original labour camp after it was looted on January 13. The worker, who came

from Dohar in Nawabganj, said the company has not paid them for two months, saying they would be paid before flying to Bangladesh. "We are eating twice a day as the company cannot supply

closed, he said.

bread in the morning," he said adding that they do not have money to buy food on their All the three projects of the Libyan construction company that recruited around 2,000

Bangladeshis in Tripoli are now "We had intelligence that it was coming. The car was The situation suggests the located, there were two unrest is not going to end suicide bombers in it. Our anytime soon, and unless Bangladesh government officers shot at it and killed takes immediate measures to one of the bombers after it evacuate them, they would be did not heed their order to in even graver trouble, he stop," he told AFP.

Minister's nameplate stolen!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

city

The nameplates of Social Welfare Minister Enamul Hoque Mostafa Shaheed and some other officials were stolen from their Secretariat offices last night, exposing security lapse in the country's administrative hub.

The officials whose nameplates went missing are Shahidul Haq Bhuiyan, deputy secretary of Women and Children Affairs Ministry and AKM Humayun Kabir and Maksuda Khatun, deputy secretaries of power division. Officials and employees of the secretariat said both the

collapsible gates on the second floor of the 20-sotrey building are not regularly kept locked since there are offices of different ministries on that floor. "The stealing incident has alarmed us. We are investigat-

ing the matter," said Maruf Hossain Sardar, additional deputy police commissioner at the secretariat. Sources, however, said valuables disappearing from the

secretariat have become a common phenomenon in the recent months. Bikas Chandra Das, deputy secretary of women and chil-

dren affairs ministry, lost his nameplate last week while a computer went missing from local government and rural development ministry two weeks ago.

Other forces

FROM PAGE 1 and submitted it to parliamentary standing committee on home affairs. The committee forwarded the draft to the home ministry, which is now examining it. Maj Gen Chowdhury

Hasan Sarwardy, director general of Ansar, said, "We took the initiative to amend Ansar Battalion Act, 1995 taking into consideration all the offences committed during the BDR mutiny in All provisions needed to

keep the force of around six million members, from BCS officers to battalion Ansars to volunteers-undercontrol, have been incorporated in the draft as the existing law does not define the crime and punishment in case of anarchic situation, ruling out any large-scale the Ansar DG told The Daily

then BDR mutiny and said

the case had been investi-

were submitted following

which the trial has already

deserve to be reviewed time

He, however, said the laws

Meanwhile, intelligence

activities among the armed

forces and the intelligence

have been strengthened so

that all forces can give

proper information about

other forces and can alert

the authorities for necessary

steps before any untoward

and sharing of information

were supposed to be prac-

tised among all the forces, it

came to notice in the wake of

the BDR mutiny that they

A total of 50 more BGI

jawans may get included in

the supplementary charge

sheet of the BDR carnage

case as the Criminal

Investigation Department

(CID) found evidence of

their involvement in the

mutiny during further inves-

submitted charge sheet

against 824 BGB jawans

started a fresh investigation

as names of 77 other BGB

jawans surfaced during the

course of mutiny trial in

The trial court during its

last proceedings on

February 3 allotted CID one

month to complete the

investigation and submit the

supplementary charge sheet

during the next hearing date,

Besides, 6,052 BGB

The CID which earlier

tigation, said CID sources.

were not quite doing so.

MUTINYTRIAL

Although the monitoring

incidents take place.

started.

to time.

"But Bangladesh would do Asked whether the police everything possible if someare mulling stringent law body arrives on the border to regarding mutiny in the cross into another country," he force, the Inspector General of Police said there are laws but not specifically for mutiny. He referred to the

News agency AFP quoted foreign ministry spokesman Syed Masud Khandker as saying Bangladesh had no evacuation plans, but was trying to move its citizens to safe places. "So far, we have news that

Bangladeshi workers are safe and still we are trying to find a way to move them to safer places, so that if conditions deteriorate further, they will not be in danger," he said.

Other Asian countries are using planes, ships and land routes to Egypt to secure their citizens' safety.

Thousands of Chinese

began landing yesterday at the port of Heraklion on the Greek island of Crete after their evacuation from Libya aboard chartered Greek ferries. India said that a passenger ferry with the capacity to carry

evacuating some of its 18,000 nationals. With additional reporting from Shakhawat Liton, Rashidul Hasan and Md Fazlur

1,200 people would arrive in

Libya on Sunday to begin

Rahman. Suicide blast kills one, wounds 26 in Afghanistan

AFP, Kandahar

A suicide car bomb attack killed an intelligence agent and wounded 26 other people in an Afghan town on the Pakistan border yesterday, officials said, in the latest in a wave of blasts.

The explosives-packed vehicle with two bombers inside blew up in Spin Boldak after intelligence agents acting on a tip-off opened fire in a bid to stop it, Lutfullah Mashal, a spokesman for Afghanistan's national spy agency, said.

jawans, including those facing carnage charges, are facing trial for mutiny in 57 cases under the BGB laws. Of the cases, 11 were filed against 4,098 jawans on charge of mutiny in Pilkhana and 46 were lodged at different places outside Pilkhana accusing 1,954 others.

Pilkhana.

March 3.

The special courts trying the mutiny have already handed down verdict in 26 cases in which 994 accused BGB jawans have been jailed on different terms ranging from six months to seven years while 22 were acquit-Recovering form the

shock of February 25-26, 2009 BDR mutiny that claimed 74 people including 57 army officers, the border force has started functioning smoothly with its members seizing various contraband items including narcotics and liquor worth 546.27 crore in 2010 and captured 735 people in this connection.

In addition to that, the BGB authorities have promoted 3,817 junior commanding officers after around two years.

Latest on ME **FROM PAGE 1** the east fell to opposition

control and others into lawlessness World governments scrambled to evacuate expa-

triates and world crude prices soared close to \$120 a gated and charge sheets barrel. BAHRAIN: Top US military officer Admiral Mike Mullen arrived in Bahrain for talks as thousands of protest-

> uprising against the monar-YEMEN: President Ali Abdullah Saleh ordered his forces to offer "full protection" to anti-regime protesters and loyalists, as a second unemployed man died after

> ers staged a march in

Manama, pressing an 11-day

setting himself ablaze. -- MPs from his General People's Congress urged Saleh to implement a reform plan and 11 lawmakers from

the ruling party resigned. EGYPT: The prosecution orderd two ex-cabinet ministers and a top member of the former ruling party face criminal trial for corruption as police made further arrests over alleged graft under the

Hosni Mubarak regime. IRAQ: Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki called on Iraqis not to participate in planned demonstrations in Baghdad today, describing their organisers as insurgents and loyalists of Saddam Hussein.

JORDAN: The powerful Islamist opposition geared up for a "day of anger" today to demand reforms as Jordan evacuated nearly 1,100 out of its 9,000 citizens from Libya.

TUNISIA: A UN human rights mission called on Tunisia to open investigations immediately into alleged violations carried out by security forces to suppress the country's recent popular uprising.

-- The IOM said more than

30,000 Tunisian and Egyptian migrants have left Libya since Monday, with tens of thousands more expected to leave. ALGERIA: US envoy

William Burns arrived in Algiers to meet President Abdelaziz Bouteflika after Washington called for greater political freedom.

"We are very concerned for all

those migrants who may wish to leave, but cannot. Many countries without the adequate resources to evacuate their nationals are now asking IOM for help. We are therefore urgently appealing to donors for funding to allow us to intervene," said Laurence Hart, IOM's chief of mission

Meanwhile, a team from

The IOM headquarters is waiting for the Bangladesh government to make a concrete request for evacuation. Then only, the IOM can start assessment what is required for the task," an IOM spokes-

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment opened a control room to create an efficient communications system with the Bangladeshi expatriates in

It is still at the level of monitoring the situation when over 50,000 of its citizens are trapped and many thousands are passing days with minimal

There is a report that

On food shortages of the

Maoist rebels in eastern India

administrator Veneel Krishna would now only be freed once five jailed Maoists, which the Orissa state government had already agreed to release, were actually handed over,

another kidnapped official who was released by the One of the three official

mediators, G Hargopal, urged the Maoists to stick to an original agreement that should have seen Krishna -kidnapped eight days ago --

Myanmar border to discourage poppy cultivation and preserve indigenous culture.

A joint team of the army,

Gen Md Emdadul Hoque,

to clean up areas between Officials related to the

The army had destroyed 122 poppy gardens in 2010 in Sources claimed that a

people with alternative work

with laptops and projectors. The premier suggested that earth should be collected through dredging of

teaching-learning process. The meeting also gave the nod to a project of the education ministry involving Tk 2,115 crore for infrastructure development of selected private secondary schools.

be expanded. taken so schools in the river erosion-prone areas can also be used as shelters.