

Transport leader shot dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A transport leader was shot dead by unidentified criminals at Mohammadpur in the city last night.

Kamruzzaman Mithu, 32, of Tikkapara of the area, had formed an organisation called Tempo Sramik Federation and used to introduce himself as the general secretary of its Dhaka (north) unit, police said.

The organisation was unregistered, they added.

According to his younger brother Moniruzzaman Monir, Mithu was at his office at Tikkapara around 7:30pm. As he went near Suchona Community Centre on Ring Road of Mohammadpur with one of his aides after receiving a phone call, four persons in two motorbikes turned up there and fired several shots at him.

Locals rushed him to National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) where he died around 8:15pm. His body was later sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue.

At least four to five bullets pierced his body, police said. Monir added his brother was the president of Tikkapara unit Awami League. He was involved in trading old automobiles.

Mithu had been receiving threats from some members of Tempo Sramik Federation for the past few days, Monir said, adding the organisation was plagued with internal feud.

Officials of Mohammadpur Police Station said a group led by Mithu used to extort money from drivers of human haulers on Mohammadpur-Mirpur. They suspect a feud centring extortion might have led to killing.

No one was arrested in this connection till filing of this report around 10:30pm.



The mangled remains of two passenger buses, Eagle Paribahan and Sarbik Paribahan, which collided head-on while the first was trying to overtake a nasimon, an engine-run three-wheeled improvised vehicle, on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Muljan of sadar upazila yesterday. At least two people were killed, including the driver of Eagle Paribahan, and 48 others injured.

PHOTO: STAR



Obituary

METRO DESK

Shayera Ahmed, a well-known social activist and wife of late Mahiuddin Ahmed of Sylhet, passed away due to old-age complications at United Hospital in the city at 10:00am yesterday, Friday, at the age of 92.

Shayera, also founding vice-president of Chhayana, left behind her seven daughters, grandchildren, relatives, friends and a host of well-wishers to mourn her death.

She was laid to rest at Azimpur graveyard after her namaz-e-janaza at Gulshan Azad Mosque after Asr prayers yesterday.

Her only son Kamal Ahmed passed away on August 28 at the age of 69.

Kazi Nazrul Islam
OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gaibandha

Kazi Nazrul Islam, a businessman of Kachari Bazar, passed away due to prolonged illness at his Munshipara residence yesterday at the age of 62.

He left behind his wife, two sons and one daughter.

Death anniversary

Today is the 4th death anniversary of Dr K Mahiuddin, a physician, social worker and founder of the Dr K Mahiuddin Treatment and Diagnostic Centre, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at Boro Mosque at Gouripur Bazar under Daudkandi upazila in Comilla.

BILATERAL TALKS WITH UAE IN CITY TODAY

Dhaka wants unified job contract, minimum wage

PORIMOL PALMA

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) should design unified job contracts for the Bangladeshi workers going to the UAE to check deception by the employers.

The issue will be raised to the UAE delegation arriving in Dhaka today to hold a bilateral meeting with Bangladesh at the state guest house, Padma.

The UAE labour ministry Undersecretary Mubarak Saeed Aldhaheri and Bangladesh's Expatriates' Welfare Secretary Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan will lead the respective countries at the meeting today.

"We want that all our people going to

the UAE have unified job contracts. It is because many a times their employers modify the contracts to pay them lower amounts than agreed upon," Dr Zafar told The Daily Star yesterday.

Unified job contract refers to similar type of work contract approved by the UAE that cannot be changed without the government permission.

The UAE, which now employs around 15 lakh Bangladeshi workers, is the second highest employer of Bangladeshi migrants after Saudi Arabia, said the government sources.

According to The National, an Abu Dhabi-based newspaper, thousands of Asian workers, mainly unskilled workers,

are victims of job contract substitution in the Gulf country.

The foreign workers either got a reduced salary or other benefits such as medical insurance and housing were removed from their contracts, said the newspaper on August 29 last year quoting a labour attaché of a labour sending country in Abu Dhabi.

Most often, the workers sign the new contracts under threat of retaliatory termination, it added.

"We also want the UAE authorities to have a system by which we can check the validity of the unified contracts online. This will, to a great extent, better ensure the labour welfare," Dr Zafar said.

The other issue that will dominate the bilateral talks is the minimum wage.

Presently, the minimum wage for the Bangladeshi workers in the UAE is 700 dirhams (1 dirham equals Tk 19.97).

"We want to increase the ceiling to 900 dirhams, which is the minimum wage for the Indians now," he said.

Apart from this, Bangladesh will ask the UAE authorities to streamline their medical testing system.

It observed that a good number of workers going to the UAE were sent back only a few days after arriving there just because they were not found medically fit in the tests conducted in the UAE.

Before going to the UAE, the workers

go through medical tests in Bangladesh and it is not understandable then why they are to return home.

The total system of medical testing of the jobseekers to the UAE has to be discussed, he noted.

The UAE delegation will be in Dhaka mainly to listen to Bangladesh's concerns that it could present in the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, a process of the Gulf Cooperation Council on foreign workers.

The next meeting of Abu Dhabi Dialogue will be in Philippines soon. The UAE as the present chair of the process is holding bilateral talks with different labour-sending countries.



PHOTO: STAR

Fire fighters trying to douse fire that breaks out at a chemical depot at Armanitola in the old part of the city yesterday.

Fire at chemical depot, two fire fighters injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two fire fighters were injured while trying to douse a fire at a chemical depot at Armanitola in the old part of the city last night.

Of the injured, Ziaul Haque, 30, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while Harun-ur-Rashid, 32, to Mitford Hospital.

The fire originated around 8:15pm from the shop, situated on the ground floor of a two-storied building and containing bleaching powder and acid, Masudur Rahman Akand, deputy assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence, told The Daily Star.

The inhabitants managed to escape unhurt soon after the fire broke out, he said.

Six units of the fire brigade rushed in and doused the fire around 8:55pm.

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Dr. S. K. Basu completed his MBBS in 1985 from Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) at Pune, India. He served in the Army Medical Corps for 5 years wherein he was awarded Yudh Seva Medal (YSM) for meritorious service in 1990 by His Excellency the President of India. He thereafter did his MS in General Surgery from Delhi University and DNB from National Academy of Medical Science (NAMS), New Delhi in 1994 & 1995 respectively. He did his basic Laparoscopic training under renowned Laparoscopic Surgeon Dr. P. K. Chowbey in Sir Ganga Ram Hospital from 1994 to 1996. Furthermore, he did his fellowship in Laparoscopic Surgery in 2010 and has been awarded MNAMS from the National Academy of Medical Science, New Delhi, in 2011. He has presented papers in many seminars home & abroad and published many papers in different scientific journals.

Before joining Apollo Hospitals Dhaka as Private Consultant in General & Laparoscopic Surgery Department, he was involved with the private medical sector of India, serving at the Alchemist Hospital at Panchkula, Haryana and Indus Super Speciality Hospital at Mohali, Punjab, India.

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Apollo Hospitals
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Girl violated in Kulaura

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar

A minor girl was violated at Kadipur village in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila on Thursday.

Police yesterday arrested the alleged rapist Nahim Khan, 22, son of late Sultan Khan of Chungar area under Kadipur union in the upazila.

According to police and family sources, on the day of incident, the ten-year-old victim went to take a bath when Nahim took her to a latrine and raped her.

The minor was later admitted to Kulaura Health Complex and was sent to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital yesterday for medical test.

Kanti Bhattacharjee, a medical officer of the hospital, confirmed that the girl was raped.

Taposh Chandra Roy, sub-inspector of Kulaura Police Station, said a case has been filed in this connection and the rapist has been arrested.

Enclave people call off fast-unto-death for 7 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Leaders of India-Bangladesh Enclave Exchange Coordination Committee here on Thursday evening suspended a fast-unto-death programme of people living in enclaves in Bangladesh for seven days as per the district administration's request.

Over one hundred people of different enclaves in Panchagarh began fasting at Panchagarh Shaheed Minar in the morning to press the government to immediately swap enclaves with India under the 1974 Mujib-Indira treaty.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Ahasanul Pervez, who came to meet the people, said they are unable to meet the demand as it is an international issue but the high-ups in the government and the ministry concerned were informed.

Shalbari Enclave Chairman Sirajul Islam, also a leader of the committee, said, "We do not bother about who inked a protocol about enclave swapping with whom. We want to be Bangladeshi citizens. If the exchange does not begin, we will restart our programme."

"We no longer want to remain in an adverse and uncertain situation. We want to know from the prime ministers of both countries which country we belong to."

He also said the enclave people of Shalbari will not light their lamps till the exchange.

Afterwards the committee held a discussion, where speakers expressed their frustration as no timeframe was mentioned in the agreement signed on Tuesday between India and Bangladesh for implementation of the exchange.

It was just a renewal of Mujib-Indira Treaty of 1974. Nothing new was added to the deal to relieve enclave people, they alleged.

They said people in enclaves live in awful conditions amid lack of adequate employment opportunities, infrastructure, educational institutions, electricity and medical facilities.

Sirajul, Puthimari enclave Chairman Toslimuddin and Garati enclave Chairman Mofizer Rahaman led the programme.

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