

Tight security for New Year's eve

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) is going to beef up security from this evening on New Year's Eve till tomorrow to prevent unwanted situations and facilitate festivities.

Additional forces will be deployed and seven mobile courts with alcohol detectors and speed guns will be posted at major points of the city, DMP Commissioner Benazir Ahmed told a press briefing yesterday.

Anyone arrested with drugs or alcohol will be tried instantly by mobile courts, he said, adding that roadside bars have to be closed by 6:00pm.

He said at least 14 special teams with five wreckers would be on duty to seize speeding vehicles.

Benazir requested outsiders to avoid diplomatic zones of Gulshan, Baridhara and Banani after 11:00pm and urged students and teachers of Dhaka University to carry their identity cards on the campus.

He asked the city dwellers to avoid disruptive activities like exploding crackers, driving recklessly and gathering on roads.

According to a press release of DMP, commuters are requested to use Phoenix, Amtoli, Kakoli, DOHS-Baridhara-United Hospital and Natun Bazar road crossings to enter Shahbagh, Banani and Baridhara areas.

To enter DU campus Old High Court, DMCH and Nilkhet road crossings should be used. All other crossings will be kept closed from 7:00pm (today) to 5:00am, it said.



Nobel Laureate Economist Amartya Sen receives an honorary fellowship from Bangla Academy on the academy premises in the city yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was present on the occasion. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: PID

Worker dies in machine

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A 13-year-old worker met a tragic end yesterday when the dress he was wearing got caught in a clay mixer machine in a brickfield in Baralekha upazila.

The victim Shariful Islam was mixing clay in the machine when it swiftly pulled him inside the mixer's revolving drum.

Coworkers claimed that he suffocated under the force of the impact inside a pile of clay before they realised what happened and were able to turn off the mixer's diesel-run engine.

Shariful, working in Sawdagor Brickfield, is the son of Babor Ali Sarar of Payradinga village of Satkhira district and was living with his uncle Atiar Rahman at Baralekha upazila.

Poor boy burnt with hot water

Physician fears losing one eye

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Swapan Kumar Devshorma, 22, owner of a salon in Aditmari upazila sadar, entered a nearby tea stall and ordered the boy, Mohsin Ali, 12, to bring him a glass of hot water. As it was a chilly evening of December 21, Mohsin came late with the water. An angry Swapan soon went wild. He just poured the hot water right on Mohsin's head.

Eight days later, (Thursday), the parents of the victim felt compelled to admit him to Aditmari upazila health complex, as his burn wounds were intensifying.

"Mohsin has suffered burns in the head and the left eye. Having no proper care, his wounds have got infection. He needs proper treatment immediately. Or else, he may lose an eye", said Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, residential medical officer of the health complex.

"I have already advised Mohsin's parents to take their son to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for better treatment", he added.

Mohsin, son of rickshawvan puller Osman Ali of Malipara village of the upazila, has been working at the tea stall of Hamizar Rahman at Burirbazar for the last three years.

"I read in class-II at Malipara Primary School. I wanted to study, but my poor parents couldn't afford. So, I had to work as a day labourer at the tea stall. I get a daily wage of Tk 40 and give it to my parents to maintain livelihood", Mohsin said.

Early Tuesday (December

27), Mohsin's wounds worsened further, forcing his parents to take him to a clinic in Lalmonirhat town. Osman, however, brought his son back home after some locals told him that they would fine Swapan in arbitration so that they can treat the boy with the money.

Osman said, "A village arbitration was called in my house on December 27 night where local Union Parishad member Unus Ali, Burirbazar leaseholder Ibrahim Miah, tea stall owner Hafizar Rahman and Swapan Kumar and his relatives were present. In the arbitration, Swapan was fined Tk 25,000 to be given by December 30".

Before paying the fine, Swapan was arrested on Thursday night after Osman lodged a case with Aditmari Police Station on the very night. Aditmari OC HM Mahfuzur Rahman said police arrested Swapan and will soon prepare a charge sheet.

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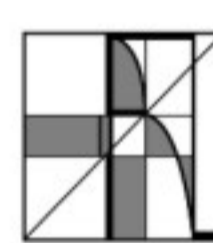
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Convention

Campaign for Good Governance will hold its national convention. Venue: LGED-RDEC auditorium, Agargaon, Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Freedom Fighters Council will hold a discussion. Venue: Liberation War museum, Segunbagicha, Time: 4:00pm.

Roundtable

Disabled Rehabilitation and Research Association will hold a roundtable. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 10:00am.

Workshop

Katalyst, Buett and CPD will organise a workshop. Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Mohakhali, Time: 10:00am.

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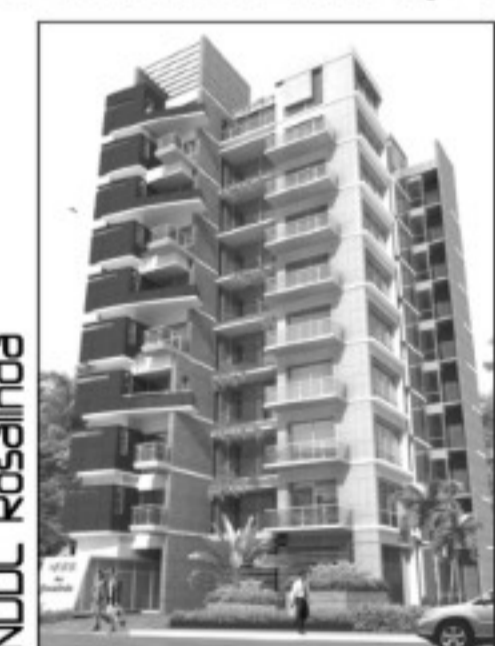
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