

Barisal JCD leader killed in attack

UNB, Barisal

A local leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was killed in an attack by miscreants at Kalibari road in the city yesterday.

The deceased was Rafsan Ahmed Jitu, convener of Barisal Government College unit of the pro-BNP organisation.

Local sources said he was coming to the college, located near his residence, from his house at about 7:00pm when four or five people coming in a microbus hit him with sharp weapons from behind, leaving him injured.

Local people later rushed him to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Police said they recovered two machetes from the spot near the college.

The victim's elder brother Tipu said he came under attack due to rivalry over establishing supremacy in the area.

Thief lynched in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An alleged thief was lynched by an angry mob and another injured at Jalalabad in the port city early hours of yesterday.

The deceased Mohammed Motaleb, 26, and the injured Mohammed Shukkur, 25, were hailing from Laxmipur.

Police arrested Shukkur.

Khulshi Police Station Sub-Inspector (SI) Rafiqul Islam said a gang of thieves went to a house of one Hasan Jahid at Rupashi Housing in the area at around 2:30am.

Sensing their presence caretaker of the house, Ruhul Amin started screaming and the locals came forward to chase the thieves. They caught two of them while the others managed to flee, added the SI.

Motaleb died instantly due to mob beating, Rafiqul further said.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offers fateha at the mazar of the great saint Hazrat Shah Paran (RA) in Sylhet yesterday.

Two female students, housewife commit suicide in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college girl and a housewife committed suicide, while police recovered the decomposed body of a schoolgirl in the city yesterday.

All three hanged themselves to death. Sonia Akther, 18, a first year higher secondary level student, was found hanging from the ceiling fan at her house in Mohammadpur.

She had been living with her mother and stepfather. Neither the relatives nor police could ascertain why she killed herself.

In Khilgaon, Hasi Begum, 25, wife of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, hanged herself from the ceiling fan at her Nandipara house.

Police recovered the body around 7:00pm and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue.

In Khilgaon, police also recovered the hanging body of Monica Akhter, 17, who appeared at this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations, from her house at Bhuipara.

Monica had been living alone at a fifth floor apartment in a residential building since her parents left for Oman to work there one year ago.

Parul Begum, owner of the house, said the door of the flat was locked from inside for 6-7 days. She called police after a bad smell started coming from the apartment.

The cause of her suicide was not known.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue.

Pakistani troops were involved in rape, loot, arson in 1971

Says Niazi's memo

BSS, Dhaka

A memo of the Commander of Eastern Command (Pakistan), Lt Gen Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi dismissed the Pakistani generals' claim that their forces were not involved in killings, lootings and rape during the 1971 Liberation War.

In the memo, issued on April 15, 1971, Niazi, the martial law administrator of Zone B, said, "Numerous reports of troops indulging in loot, arson and rape have been reported."

"Even officers have been suspected of indulging in such degrading activities. If this tendency is not curbed at once, it will undermine efficiency and discipline of troops."

"Director General of EPCAF (headquarters of razakars) directs immediate steps be taken to ruthlessly stamp out indiscipline, misbehavior and indecent acts. Anybody found guilty of any such acts must be given deterrent punishment."

This memo turned the certificates of Pakistani generals, who were in Bangladesh

during the Liberation War and wrote about 1971, on the innocence of their forces null and void.

Orders were issued to distribute the memo to all officers after reducing it to three paragraphs from seven.

Niazi had mentioned loot, arson and rape, but did not mention the rape of West Pakistani women and killings committed by Pakistani forces.

After receiving the memo on April 16, 1971, Lt Col M Rashid Ahmed distributed the memo to nine centres from EPCAF.

The memo was sent to Lt Col Sikander Khan in Sylhet, Lt Col Tarek Rasul Kurashi, sector commander of Dinajpur; Lt Col Abdul Rahman Awan, signal wing commander; Lt Col Mohammad Aslam, sector commander in Jessore; Lt Col Syed Anwar Hussain, sector commander in Dhaka/Chittagong; Lt Col Abdullah Khan, sector commander in Rajshahi; Lt Col Gaidin Khan Abdullah, scout; Major Gulam Ahmed, Dhaka sector; and Major Jahanzeb of the 15 Wing Command.

Gas pipe explodes in Keraniganj

BSS, Dhaka

Three people received burn injuries following the explosion of a gas pipe at Kabutarpara near Kaliganj Bazar in Keraniganj on Friday night.

The injured are Milon Miah, 40, Lalu Miah, 35, and Rubel, 25. Receiving the information Fire Service personnel from Keraniganj Fire Station rushed to the spot and took injured persons to a local clinic for treatment.

The Fire Service source said the fire originated from the explosion of a gas pipe at about 11.50pm. There was a leakage in the gas pipe.

Fellow fighters reunite after 40 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Emotions ran high at the hall of Water Development Board Rest House in Rajshahi yesterday as 23 comrades of the 1971 Liberation War were reunited for the first time 40 years after the country's liberation.

None of the freedom fighters could hold back their tears as they recalled the nine months they spent together, hand-in-hand, fighting a common foe and enduring hardships, imbued with the urge to liberate the country.

The men recalled their past days of glory when their 30-strong team carried out 14 operations in Rajshahi led by Nazir Ahmed Khan and M Azad Ali Bir Protik.

Shamsher Ali, one of the team members, died during the operations while six others died after the Liberation War.

After liberation, the men went back to reconstruct their lives. Some became industrialists, top government officials, bankers and lawyers while others remained unemployed or found petty jobs.

Nazir, who chaired the reunion, is now retired in the US while the others reside in Dhaka, Sirajganj, Natore and Rajshahi districts.

The reunion ended with discussions on how to financially help insolvent fellow freedom fighters.

IFJ worried over press freedom in Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has voiced concern over the recent reports that journalists and media in Bangladesh continue to be subjected to threats and harassment.

"Nineteen journalists in the south-western district of Pirojpur presented themselves to the district police station on March 14, demanding protection from threats made against them by the district's ruling party, the Awami League, at a public rally the previous day," said the Brussels-based media rights watchdog in a web article.

It said the journalists were threatened with violence following their publication in local newspapers of critical reports about two parliament members. The reports alleged that two local politicians were involved in corruption and nepotism, and were subsequently republished in daily newspapers and news channels based in Dhaka.

"It is alleged that members of the Awami League threatened the journalists that if they published critical reports about the two parliamentarians again they would be forced to leave the city or would be "chopped into pieces and buried," the article stated.

Further to this incident, the IFJ associates in Bangladesh expressed concern over a notice issued to Ekushey Television (ETV) by the National Board of Revenue for failure to submit tax returns for three years. The private channel claims that it is yet to complete its financial audit for the years in question as it is preparing for an initial public offering (IPO) of shares.

This notice follows intervention by Bangladeshi authorities on March 12 to prevent ETV, and two other television channels, from broadcasting a speech by the leader of the opposition at a political rally.

Friction between the media and the government (ruling party of Bangladesh) persists at the local and national levels, said the IFJ Asia-Pacific.

"We call on the Government of Bangladesh to demonstrate greater tolerance of legitimate media criticism and to take action to ensure those politicians and public officials who intimidate journalists or the media in the performance of their duties are investigated and charged," said the article titled 'IFJ Concerned by Intimidation and Harassment of Media in Bangladesh'.

Established in 1926, the IFJ was re-launched in 1946 and again it took the present form in 1952. Today, the Federation represents around six lakh members in more than 100 countries.

It promotes international action to defend press freedom and social justice through strong, free and independent trade unions of journalists whenever they are fighting for their industrial and professional rights and has established an International Safety Fund to provide humanitarian aid for journalists in need.



Army personnel demonstrate unarmed combat in Arms and Ammunition Display and Fair of Bangladesh Army on the Outer Stadium premises in the port city yesterday.

702 Yaba tablets seized, 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two persons and seized 702 pieces of Yaba tablet at Chandgaon in the port city yesterday afternoon.

The arrestees are Rashid Din Mohammed, 41, and Anwar Hossain, 28. Both were hailing from Teknaf.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-7 conducted a drive at around 3:05pm on the road in front of Eastern Automobiles and CNG Filling Station under Chandgaon Police Station and held the two persons, said Mizanur Rahman of the team.

They seized 702 pieces of Yaba tablets from their possession that is worth about Tk 2.8 lakh, added the Rab member.

AMINBAZAR 6 KILLINGS

2 suspects on fresh remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two arrested sand traders, believed to be the main suspects of the killing of six students in Aminbazar on the outskirts of Dhaka last July, were placed on a four day remand yesterday.

The fugitive traders, Abdul Malek, 35, and Abdul Hamid, 40, were arrested from the capital's Mirpur area on March 19 and initially placed on a three day remand.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday produced the duo before the court of the chief judicial magistrate seeking the four-day remand and the court granted the prayer.

"We want to verify the information the duo gave during the first three-day remand," said CID's Assistant Superintendent of Police Sirajul Haque, the investigation officer of the case.

He, however, declined to disclose the details of their findings.

The six students were beaten to death on July 18 last year, on the night of Shab-e-Barat, when they went to Bardeshi village.

They are Tipu Sultan of Tejgaon College,

Towhidur Rahman Palash, Kamruzzaman Kanto and Ibrahim Khalil of Mirpur Bangla College, Shams Rahim Shamam of Maple Leaf International School and Sifat Jabi Munif of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology.

Their friend Al Amin, who was with them at that time, is the lone survivor of the incident.

The next day of the incident Malek filed a robbery case against the seven youths, including the six deceased, while Savar police filed a murder case against 500 to 600 unnamed people of Bardeshi village.

So far 10 people, including the sand traders, were arrested in connection with the killing.

After the incident, a one-member judicial probe body was formed and the probe body in its report on September 8 determined that the students were innocent and some officers of Savar police were also "involved in the killing".

Following the report and its recommendations, eight policemen of Savar Police Station were suspended for their alleged involvement in the killing and negligence of duty.

Female doctor accuses DU lecturer of denying marriage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A doctor yesterday alleged that a Dhaka University lecturer had married her in 2008 but was now denying that the marriage ever happened and had been torturing her physically and mentally for Tk 5 lakh as dowry.

But the accused, Dr Nuruddin Alo, lecturer in the political science department, refuted the allegations and on the contrary claimed that the doctor, Nur Nahar, was only an acquaintance and embezzled Tk 30 lakh from him.

Dr Nahar at a press conference in the city's Dhaka Reporters Unity claimed that Nuruddin married her on September 19, 2008 with the consent of both their families.

But, within a week of their marriage, Nuruddin started demanding Tk 5 lakh and began torturing her physically and mentally, she said.

Dr Nahar, a Chittagong resident, said, "I could not bear the torture and filed a case against Nuruddin on May 5, 2009 with Khulshi Police Station of Chittagong district."

She said Nuruddin filed a "false" case with Shahbagh Police Station on January 17, 2012 accusing her and five of her family of embezzling Tk 30 lakh from him.

Dr Nahar also alleged that Nuruddin had threatened to kill her over phone several times.

Yesterday she presented some photographs showing her with Nuruddin but she failed to provide any legal document of the marriage.

Talking to The Daily Star, Nuruddin termed the accusations "fabricated and ill-motivated".

"I did not marry her and she must have not been able to prove the matrimony. Nahar staged a drama to get rid of the charge of embezzling Tk 30 lakh," he said.

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