

Janmashtami today

UNB, Dhaka

Janmashtami, marking the birth of Lord Krishna, will be observed with due religious fervour today.

Krishna is perceived by Hindus to be an avatar (incarnation) of Vishnu, who is regarded as the highest avatar. It is believed that all other deities are manifestations of him. Krishna is considered to be a warrior, hero, teacher and philosopher by Hindus.

Members of the Hindu community will bring out processions and hold other programmes to celebrate the day.

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia in separate messages greeted the members of Hindu community on the occasion.

In his message, President Zillur Rahman said the ideal of Krishna was to build bonds of love and harmony among people through eradicating conflicts from society.

In her message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hoped that the ideals and teachings of Krishna will inspire his disciples to further consolidate the ties of communal harmony, amity and fraternity.

BDR CARNAGE CASE
Accused confessed without pressure

Says ex-magistrate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ex-metropolitan magistrate Shamima Parvin, who recorded confessional statements of 32 BDR jawans in 2009 in Pilkhona carnage case, yesterday told a court that the jawans confessed their guilt willingly and without any pressure.

According to her deposition, she notified the jawans about the consequence of giving the statements and asked them if they were persuaded or compelled by physical and mental torture to give their confessions.

"I gave each of them about three hours to reflect on their decision of giving the confessional statements," she said.

During the reflection period, the jawans were kept under vigilance of her office assistant, she said adding that hands of the jawans were not cuffed when they gave the statements.

Shamima Parvin told these while presenting documents of the confessional statements of 30 BDR jawans before the Metropolitan Sessions Judges' Court set up temporarily at the Alia Madrasa playground in the capital's Bakshibazar for holding the BDR carnage trial.

Earlier on Monday, she presented documents of confessional statements of two other jawans before the court.

The ex-metropolitan magistrate told the court that the accused jawans did not inform her about any torture during their remands.

Replying to the defence counsels, she said, "I asked every of them about torture in CID custody. But they (jawans) did not complain about any torture. For this reason I did not mention the issue in the form of the written statements."

Citing statement of a sepoy Sumon Chakraborti, the defence lawyers told the court that starting time of the statement recording was not mentioned in the document.

There were no signatures of the magistrate and the accused on a page of the statement, they said.

But Shamima Parvin said she maintained all the legal procedures in preparing the papers of the statements.



Low income people look through clothes at a roadside mobile shop to do their Eid shopping within their means. The photo was taken at Gulshan-2 intersection in the capital yesterday.

Ten killed in road crashes

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Ten people were killed and 23 others injured in road accidents in Faridpur, Kurigram, Comilla, Panchagarh and Sirajganj on Tuesday and yesterday.

Our Faridpur correspondent reports, five workers of a jute mill were killed and 20 others injured when a bus carrying them fell into a roadside ditch on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Mollikpur area in Faridpur Sadar upazila yesterday.

Four the deceased were identified as Al Amin 13, Lavlu 14, Bina Aktar, 25, Nazmul 18.

Kamruzzaman Selim, UNO of Faridpur Sadar, said the accident took place when the driver of the bus carrying workers of AH Jute Spinners lost control over the steering and hit railing of a bridge around 3:00pm.

Our Kurigram correspondent reports, an old woman was killed in an accident on Phulbari-Shimulbari road in Shahid Bazar area in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram yesterday.

Police said Kandi Bewa, 72, was killed as an auto-rickshaw hit her from behind around 11:00am.

UNB reports from Comilla, two people were killed in road accidents in Daudkandi upazila in Comilla yesterday.

In an incident, Almas, 22, was killed on the spot as a truck hit him in Swalpa Pellai area around 3:00pm.

In another accident, truck driver Abdul Karim, 20, was killed instantly as his truck fell into a roadside ditch around 4:00pm.

BSS reports from Panchagarh, a man was killed and another injured in an accident at Monnapara on the Dhaka-Panchagarh Highway yesterday.

The deceased was Alam, 35, and the injured was Kalimuddin.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reports, a motorcyclist was killed and two others were injured in an accident on Nimgachi-Hatikumrul road at Ramarchar in Salanga upazila in Sirajganj on Tuesday.

The deceased was Abdus Samad, 35. Police said the accident occurred when a truck hit their motorcycle around 7:30pm.



Shaikhul Hadith passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chairman of Khelafat-e-Majlish, Shaikhul Hadith Azizul Haque, passed away from old-age complications at his Azimpur residence in the capital yesterday at the age of 94.

The former chairman of undivided Islami Oikya Jote had remained out of politics for the last four years and is survived by his wife, seven daughters and five sons.

Expressing profound shock at the death, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a condolence message, prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.

Awami League earned huge flak from the people of the country on December 2006 after signing a pact with Khelafat-e-Majlish allowing alems (experts on Islamic law) to issue fatwa (religious edict) if the AL-led grand alliance was voted to power.

Amid mounting condemnation, AL later scrapped the deal.

AUTO-RICKSHAW THEFT
Gang dopes drivers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some gangs active in the capital impersonate CNG-run auto-rickshaw drivers to get acquainted with the real drivers and make them unconscious with dope to rob them of their vehicles, said Detective Branch of Police.

DB came to know of this new ploy from five member of such a gang they arrested from the capital's Kadamtali Rayerbagh last Monday with 12 stolen CNG-run auto-rickshaws in their possession.

The arrestees are Nur Ali, 19, Shipon, 35, Harun Miah, 35, Sekandar, 29, and Mokbul Hossain, 35, said DB Assistant Commissioner Muntasir Rahman.

The arrestees informed that they first develop good relations with the drivers on the road and then offer them food tainted with sedatives at a convenient spot, said DB officials.

"Each gang member gets Tk 10,000 to 15,000 for snatching a vehicle. In some cases, the criminals injure or kill the drivers to snatch the vehicles," said DB Additional Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Shahidullah.

The gang leaders take the vehicles to the capital's outskirts and call up the owners demanding Tk 40,000 to Tk 1 lakh for their return. If the owners turn them down, the vehicles are sold off, he said.

The owners usually do not come to law enforcers over fears that police would not be able to help get back their vehicles, he added.

Stolen vehicles do not ply inside the capital. They have the number plates changed to that of Sylhet or Narayanganj and ply on specific routes with the aid of some local political leaders, said Shahidullah.

The arrestees claimed that they robbed the vehicles from different parts of the capital and were planning to change the engine and chassis numbers. A case was filed against the five with Kadamtali Police Station, said Shahidullah.

DB officials said with Eid-ul-Fitr coming up, they had intensified vigilance after detecting 15 such gangs.

Nat'l Energy Security Day today

UNB, Dhaka

The National Energy Security Day-2012 will be observed in the country today, aiming to increase people's access to energy.

On the occasion, the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources has taken up an elaborate programme. The government introduced the day last year to recall the contributions of the Father of the Nation towards ensuring energy security in the country.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages appreciating the efforts to observe the day.

College student murdered in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A student of Chittagong College was stabbed to death over a financial feud in Halishahar area of Chittagong Tuesday night.

The victim Md Masud Chowdhury, 24, was a fourth year honours student of Islamic History and Culture Department of the college.

Masud, son of Anwar Chowdhury, hailed from Swandip upazilla of Chittagong.

According to police, one Mohinuddin, dealer of a soft drinks company, stabbed Masud over the feud between Mohinuddin and Jafor, a friend of Masud.

Jafor together with locals rushed Masud to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where on duty doctors declared him dead.

"I owed Mohinuddin Tk 1,700," Jafor told The Daily Star.

"He attacked on me on August 5 regarding the amount owed to him but Masud resolved the issue on that day. However, on Tuesday night Mohinuddin and his followers came to my shop and stabbed Masud after having an altercation with him," he said.

A case was filed in this connection.

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