

10 hurt as hawkers, shop owners clash in capital

Dhaka-Ctg road in Iliatganj blocked for 4hrs as cops pick up shop owners' president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least ten people, including two policemen, were injured in a clash between hawkers and shop owners at Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital's Gulistan yesterday.

The injured police personnel are Motalib Bhuiyan, 42, assistant sub-inspector of Paltan Police Station, and Mohammad Ilias, 25, a constable.

Both of them were initially rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Motalib was later shifted to the intensive care unit of Square Hospitals Limited.

Police detained Jahangir Alam Sarkar, president of Ramna Bhaban Businessmen and Shop Owners Association, in this connection but released him around 9:00pm.

Witnesses said Jahangir had an altercation with a hawker around 3:00pm over a space, in front of Ramna Bhaban, on which he wanted to park his car but was occupied by the hawker.

When other hawkers protested the incident, a group of businessmen led by Jahangir assaulted the hawkers selling garments and shoes on the footpath around Ramna Bhaban, which led to the clash.

At one point, the two groups started hurling brick chips at each other.

On information, police rushed to the spot to diffuse the situation. The two policemen were injured as they tried to intervene.

Makbulur Rahman, sub-inspector of Paltan Police Station, said Motalib was on duty from 8:00am to 8:00pm yesterday in the area.

"When the clash broke out he was called over wireless with others to go there and bring the situation under control. But he sustained injuries on his head in the clash," he added.

After the clash, the hawkers held agitation programmes protesting the attack on them by the businessmen.

They stopped after police detained Jahangir. The businessmen were irate that hawkers had occupied the footpaths around Ramna Bhaban and other markets of the area, locals said.

A case was filed in this connection.

Meanwhile, protesting the detention of Jahangir, local Awami League leaders and activists blockaded Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Iliatganj area for four hours from 5:00pm to 9:00pm, reports a Daudkandi correspondent.

Masuk Mia, highway police sergeant of Iliatganj, said the agitators were requested several times to lift the blockade but they did not pay any heed.

"They lifted the blockade after hearing of Jahangir's release," he said.

Jahangir had lost the last parliamentary election while contesting from Muradnagar constituency in Comilla.



A row of female workers plant rice seedlings in a paddy field as the Aman season is drawing to an end. The photo was taken at Nashipur village under Dinajpur sadar upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Militants have no religion: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Termining Islam a religion of peace, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said those who have indulged in militancy and terrorism have, in fact, no religion.

"As they have no border, they have no religion either," she said while addressing a function arranged on launching of a website 'Al Quran: Digital' held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital. She inaugurated the website -- www.quran.gov.bd.

Sheikh Hasina alleged that killing people in the name of Islam alongside bombing was a common phenomenon in Bangladesh during the of BNP-Jamaat alliance regime.

Claiming that there is no militancy in the country now, she said people now can sleep and perform their religious rituals

peacefully.

The prime minister urged all to work with utmost devotion to ensure the wellbeing of the common people following the spirit of Islam, the holy book Quran and Sunnah.

"Let's devote ourselves to the welfare of people and establishing peace in society forgetting vendetta. Let's unite irrespective of race and creed for the sake of the country."

Hasina underscored the need for utilising the essence of Quran for the benefit of the human being after perceiving it.

State Minister for Religious Affairs M Shahjahan Mia chaired the function organised by the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

The ministry's secretary Kazi Habibul Awal delivered the address of welcome. Khatib of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque Moulana Md Salahuddin was also present.

FOOD ADULTERATION Lax monitoring blamed at Bapa seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Food adulteration continues unhindered in the country due to non-implementation of Consumer Rights Protection Act, 2009 and irregular monitoring by the government, said discussants at a seminar yesterday.

A section of dishonest businessmen who are involved in producing, marketing and selling adulterated foods are cheating consumers as the chemicals being used cause complicated diseases in the long term, they added.

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) organised the seminar, "Surplus of adulterated foods: Ways to recover", at its office in the capital.

SK Roy, a senior scientist of ICDDR'B, said people including children are now at risk of health hazards due to the regular consumption of adulterated foods.

Bapa President ASM Shahjahan also spoke at the event.

HR boss gets death threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unknown caller has threatened to kill National Human Rights Commission Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman in seven days.

Over the last two days, Prof Mizanur received death threats several times, said his personal secretary Kazi Arefin Ashik yesterday.

He said the NHRC chief sought intervention of the authorities concerned for his security.

The caller said a bullet was kept ready, and no-one could save him as a killing squad would kill him at any place any time, he added.

Prof Mizanur was quoted as saying he was issued death threat as he was vocal against war criminals.

Mizanur who is now in Gaibandha will lodge a general diary today with Dhanmondi Police Station after returning to the capital, he added.

Ashik said they informed Detective Branch of Police and Rapid Action Battalion of the threat.

Man dies falling from moving train

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rickshaw-van puller died after he fell from a moving train at Tejgaon in the capital yesterday.

The victim is Shah Alam, 30, son of Amir Hossain of Gauripur upazila in Mymensingh.

Railway police and locals said Shah Alam fell when he was trying get off the moving train at Tejgaon Railway Station around 9:00am.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries around 1:15pm.

STUDENT POLITICS

80pc youths have adverse perception: Survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 80 percent of youths have an adverse perception on student politics while 55 percent of them disapproved of the involvement of youths in politics, states a national survey.

Only two percent of the youths admitted to have any political affiliation, it added.

However, it might be a case of underreporting over fears of being targeted by opposing groups and stigmatisation, said speakers at the survey's disclosure in the capital's Brac Centre Inn on Thursday.

The survey, "Giving Youth a Voice Bangladesh Youth Survey 2011", was conducted among approximately 6,500 youths in 65 districts by Institute of Governance Studies of Brac University.

Nearly 80 percent of the respondents also professed an opposition for hartals, with most of the rest supporting it only somewhat.

Most of the youths defined democracy as

having a "free and fair election" and a strong election commission was seen to be a strong preference among them.

The majority of the respondents also objected to holding elections under the ruling party as it would compromise the level of transparency.

The survey revealed that the majority of the youths ranked both of the previous politically elected governments lower than the last caretaker government.

Over 60 percent also said a free and fair election could only be achieved if political parties respected each other while most professed to being very dissatisfied with the performance of the lawmakers.

More than 80 percent had reservations about the involvement of political leaders in the process of justice delivery, with over 30 percent being highly opposed to the notion.

The survey identified the police and judiciary as the most corrupt institutions.

7 DU BCL activists suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Dhaka University (DU) unit yesterday suspended its seven activists for their involvement in infighting on the campus on Thursday.

They are DU unit Organising Secretary Sanjoy, activists Sharif, Al Nehean Khan Joy, Farukuzzaman Saikat, Touhidur Rahman Taj, Mehdi, and Hannan.

They could not take part in any organisational activities till the suspension was not withdrawn, BCL DU unit President Mehdi Hasan told The Daily Star.

A student of the university was stabbed and another was hacked by three other fellow students on the campus over a trifling matter on Thursday.



The steel footbridge on Hatkhola Road of the capital's Tikatuli, whose stairs have worn down, spells dangers for users. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

2 arrested after 'shootout' with Rab in capital

One bullet-hit among the duo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two criminals, one bullet injured, were caught following a shootout between the duo and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel in the capital's Shahjahanpur area yesterday.

The arrestees are Altab Hossain Sagar, 38, of Siddeswari in Ramna, who was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet wounds in his back, and Mohammad Masum, 29, of Shahjahanpur.

Rab-3 personnel seized four pistols, 16 bullets, 37, bottles of Phensidyl, fake notes amounting to Tk 1 lakh, two magazines on pistols and Tk 8.8 lakh cash from the duo's possession.

Acting on a tip off, Rab-3 set up two check posts at Malibag and Rajarbag intersections respectively near Shahjahanpur around 1:30am, Major Ahmed Hossain Mohiuddin of Rab-3, who conducted the drive, told The Daily Star.

Sensing the presence of Rab, the private car carrying Sagar and Masum tried to flee while in close vicinity to the check posts but instead hit the road divider and halted.

While trying to flee leaving the car behind, Sagar and Masum opened fire prompting Rab men to retaliate triggering a gun fight, he said.

Rab men arrested the duo and seized four pistols and 10 bullets from the duo's possession following the shootout.

Major Ahmed said, "We found four hidden pockets inside Sagar's car meant to carry fire arms."

Later, on raiding Sagar's house, the elite force seized more bullets, Phensidyl bottles, fake currencies and cash money, he said.

"Sagar used to carry arms, fake notes and drugs using several new private cars to douse law enforces in the area for a long time" he said.



Stacks of round caps and other prayer accessories, including prayer beads and fragrances, saturate the Baitul Mokarram Market in the capital ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

LINKING YOUNG MINDS TOGETHER

COMING OUT TOMORROW

LINKING YOUNG MINDS

This week's Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, has an array of exciting articles for its readers. This week's Spotlight is on the various problems students have to face while trying to find and manage transport to go back to their home towns for Eid celebrations with their families. The Young Crafts section has an exclusive story on amateur astronomer, Shafayet Azad, as he shares his experience on how he built his own telescope. The Star Chat this week is with young actor Orchita Sporschia as she shares stories from her childhood and talks about her inspirations, aspirations and goals. Do not forget to grab your copy of Star Campus as it hits the country tomorrow, Sunday. And, as always, have a great read!

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