

A little girl, otherwise a budding handicraft artisan, sews sequins and spangles on a piece of cloth stretched over a wooden frame at a handicraft factory. The photo was taken in Bihari Palli of Chittagong city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Ctg boutique hub bustling ahead of Eid

SHAHENOOR AKTHER URMI, Ctg

A small tin-roofed house with some wooden frames stretching saris and kamizes and seven to eight children and teenagers are sewing beads, sequins or spangles on them. This is what is seen now in the bustling Bihari Palli, a hub of handicraft in Chittagong city, ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Artisans are working tirelessly at more than 40-50 small old handicraft factories to do “Jardowski” and “Karchupi” decoration on women’s wear at the Palli in Jhawtola area. Most of the workers here are small boys and girls.

Every Eid season, the handicraft artisans get busier with increasing demand and orders from the beginning of Ramadan.

“During Eid festival our work increases manifold, and we do not get a single moment of recess,” said Khalid Jafar Pappo, owner of Pappo Boutiques, the largest boutique house in Bihari Palli.

“This year, I have received orders for designing clothes from different stores at Mimi Super Market, Teri Bazar and Bipani Bitan in the city,” he said.

Shops apart, individual women with tastes in sequined and decorated clothes also come to

these factories with orders ahead of Eid, he said.

The handicraft factory owners however were worried over the spiraling costs of decoration accessories and intrusion of Indian products.

“Two years ago the cost of a packet of beads was only Tk 45. Now it is Tk 120. But we cannot increase our selling price,” said Mohammed Murad, owner of Murad Boutiques.

“Despite a heavy demand of our handicraft works, we do not get suitable prices because we are entirely dependent on raw materials imported from India,” he added.

A handicraftsman, Abdur Rahim, pointed out the impact of intrusion of Indian products. “Many readymade handicraft products come from India and flood our markets, causing decline of demand of our products.”

Distinguishing between Bangladeshi and Indian products, Mohammed Raju, another artisan, said, “We handcraft our designs unlike the Indian ones which are done through machine.”

“Every year we create new designs and apply these in saris and kamizes. The price also varies on the elegance of designs,” he added.

Despite facing a competition with Indian products, Raju said they would retain their traditional family profession.

Dhaka bound train derails in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Dhaka bound intercity train derailed near Sardaha Railway Station in Charghat upazila yesterday disrupting railway communications between the capital and Rajshahi.

The last four coaches of the Padma Express derailed at about 5:00pm, minutes after it left Sardaha station, said Ferdous Alam, general manger of west zone Bangladesh Railway, who had rushed to the spot.

A few panicked passengers sustained small injuries in their haste to get off the train, said Officer-in-Charge of Charghat Police Station Abdur Razzak Khan.

Leaving the four coaches behind, the train resumed its course at 7:00pm.

“Poor condition of the rail track is the reason for the derailment,” said Ferdous Alam.

At the time of filing of this report at 7:47pm yesterday, the BR west zone general manager hoped that a relief train would arrive from Ishwardi Junction in a few hours and recover the derailed coaches.

“We are trying to fix everything as soon as possible,” he said.

CTG CITY AL Factions unite on National Mourning Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Almost after three years of being divided, the two factions of Chittagong city unit of Awami League came together yesterday on National Mourning Day.

Activists of both factions were present at a meeting organised at Muslim Institution yesterday.

ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, president of AL city unit, presided over the meeting which was addressed, among others, by Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen and AL lawmaker Nurul Islam BSc, who is the vice-president of AL city unit.

Both the minister and Nurul Islam have had a long-standing rivalry with Mohiuddin.

After a rift developed between Mohiuddin and Afsarul, the minister formed a separate

faction with Nurul, who had been bitter towards the AL city unit president after the nomination in 2008 election, sources said.

Both factions have been organising programmes separately ever since, they added.

Professor Dr Anupam Sen, vice-chancellor of Premier University and member of advisory council of Bangladesh AL, yesterday at the meeting said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman not only gifted the people of this country an independent state but also a constitution.

Afsarul Ameen said at a time when the politics of Bangladesh in on the right track, the anti-liberation forces are trying to derail it.

He said the BNP-Jamaat alliance aims not only to gain power but also to foil the ongoing war crimes trial.

Nurul Islam said convicted killers of Bangabandhu would not be spared.



PHOTO: STAR

Even though the Ganges dolphin is a protected species, this one was caught in fishermen's net in the Padma river and brought to Shaheb Bazar in Rajshahi city for sale yesterday. The sellers were asking for Tk 2,400.

9 killed, 48 injured in road accidents

METRO DESK

Nine people were killed and 48 others injured in road accidents in Dhaka, Gazipur, Madaripur, Bogra, Khagrachhari and Chittagong yesterday.

Our staff correspondent reports, a vegetable trader died as a truck hit him while crossing the road near Purnima Cinema Hall in Karwan Bazar area in the capital yesterday morning.

Akbar Sarder, 60, from Bhashantek slum of the capital's Kafrul, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A correspondent from Gazipur reports, two workers were killed and two other people injured when a truck rammed their rickshaw at Bonomala in Tongi early yesterday.

Abdul Khaleq alias Khalid, 32, and Iman Ali, 35, died instantly. They worked at AB Oil Mill in Cheragali market area of Tongi.

In another accident, a man and his wife were killed and five other people were injured when a bus rammed a ‘tombtom’ (a three-wheeler) at Borohor Nutun Bazar in Kapasia upazila of the district yesterday.

Asaduzzaman Sikdar, 70, and his wife Sufia Khatun, 55, of Bamonkhola village of the upazila died on the spot.

Tombtom driver Rajib, 20, was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while others to Kapasia Upazila Health Complex.

Later, agitating local people barricaded the road for an hour.

Our Madaripur correspondent adds, a motorcyclist was killed and another injured as a bus hit their bike at Tekerhat Bandar in Rajoir upazila yesterday.

Ali Mia, 40, son of Sohrab Munshi of Musarkandi village of the upazila, died on

the spot.

Police seized the bus.

UNB Bogra reports, two people were killed and 40 others injured when a bus fell into a road side ditch after it was hit by a truck on Dhaka-Bogra highway at Ghoga in Sherpur upazila early yesterday.

Mominul Islam, 35, son of Abul Hossain of Panchthupi village and Aynal Hossain, 27, son of Gendu Sheikh of Jatrapur village in Bogra sadar upazila, died on the spot.

The injured were admitted to Sherpur Upazila Health Complex and Bogra Shaheed Zia Medical College Hospital.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent reports, a young man was killed as a bus hit his motorbike at Mishon Tila in Ramgarh upazila yesterday.

Mohammad Kamal Hossain, 28, son of Abdul Barak Sardar from Tintahari area in Manikchhari upazila of the district, died at Matiranga Upazila Health Complex.

Police seized the bus and arrested its driver Mohammad Monju.

UNB, Chittagong reports, journalist Fakhru Islam Riaz, injured in a road accident in the port city on Tuesday, died at a local hospital yesterday noon.

Riaz, 24, was the Mirsarai upazila correspondent of Janakantha and a senior sub-editor of local fortnightly ‘Khororika’.

Riaz was injured as a bus hit his motorcycle on his way to the upazila headquarters from Jorarganj on Tuesday afternoon.

He was taken to a local clinic and later shifted to Holy Crescent Hospital in Chittagong where he died at noon.

He was the son of late Abul Kashem Master of West Moliash village of the upazila.

BNP celebrates Khaleda Zia's birthday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP and its front and associated bodies yesterday celebrated the birthday of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia by cutting a 68-pound cake at her Gulshan office in the capital.

Senior leaders of the opposition party attended the programme to celebrate the 68th birth anniversary of the leader of the opposition in parliament.

However, Khaleda herself was not present at the programme as she is now in Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah and Iti’kaf (special prayer).

Khaleda started observing her birthday on August 15, which is regarded as the National Mourning Day, a few years ago that created controversy in the political arena.

The day is mourned as Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members and others were assassinated on this day in 1975.

According to Khaleda’s marriage certificate, her birthday falls on September 5, 1945 while in her first passport its dated August 19, 1946.

However, according to Khaleda’s biodata distributed to the media after taking oath as the prime minister of Bangladesh in 1991, she was born on September 19, 1945 in Feni.

The ruling Awami League always criticises the BNP chairperson for celebrating her birthday on August 15.

Amid this controversy and debate over her birthday, the BNP leaders including Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Moudud Ahmed, Rafiqul Islam Mian, Nazrul Islam Khan and Selima Rahman, cut the cake around 12:30am.

Nokia X2-05
MRP **৳৫,৯৯০**

Nokia C2-05
MRP **৳৫,৭৫০**

Nokia X2-02
MRP **৳৬,৮০০**

Nokia Asha 300
MRP **৳৯,৮৫০**

Nokia Asha 200
MRP **৳৭,৩০০**

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জিতে নিন ফ্রি নকিয়া ফোন অথবা নিশ্চিত ডিসকাউন্ট!

* এই অফারটি নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের জন্য উপরের ফোনগুলিতে প্রযোজ্য

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