

NEWS IN *brief*

Boy's body recovered from pond

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of an unidentified boy from a pond near Mahanagar Natya Mancha in the capital yesterday.

The victim, aged around 12, was wearing jeans pants and a green T-shirt.

On information from the locals, police recovered the body around 2:15pm.

Paltan Police Station Officer-in-Charge Golam Sarwar could not ascertain whether the boy was murdered or drowned.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Man kills wife in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was hacked to death allegedly by her husband over a family feud in the capital's Pallabi area yesterday.

The victim is Jahanara Begum, 50, wife of Abdul Halim, a rickshaw puller.

Jahanara's son Mohammad Selim told reporters at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) that his parents got locked in quarrel over a trifling matter around 12:30pm and at one stage, his father hit Jahanara with an axe.

Jahanara was taken to DMCH where she died.

Reunion at Ulipur Maharani Swarnamoyi School and College

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first reunion of former students of Ulipur Maharani Swarnamoyi School and College marking its 145th anniversary of founding will be held on October 30.

The registration procedure will remain open till September 30. For detail information, students are requested to call at 01773373755 or visit

Naogaon school gets Japanese grant

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Japan has provided a grant of Tk 64 lakh for construction of a school building for indigenous community in Naogaon to provide improved education for the Adivasis.

Local NGO Rajshahi Catholic Diocese (RCD) completed the construction of the one-storey school building for Adivasi and non-Adivasi children at Porsha upazila in Naogaon, said a press release.

Tetsumi Takahashi, second secretary of Japanese embassy in Dhaka, attended the inauguration of the

UNH assistant dean due today

UNB, Dhaka

Dr Daniel J Mabrey, assistant dean of University of New Haven (UNH), Connecticut of USA, arrives here today to attend a roundtable on new media to be held on Friday.

Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC) will organise the roundtable at Cosmos Centre in the capital to assist a team of UNH researchers.

Four media experts, including Dr Golam Rahman,



A group of teachers of Dhaka University form a human chain at Aparajeyo Bangla of the campus yesterday, expressing solidarity with the teachers and students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) who are demanding resignation of the Buet vice chancellor and his deputy.

PHOTO: STAR

Uttara gets new police station

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Shahara Khatun yesterday inaugurated operation of new Uttara-West Police Station in the capital.

Addressing the function, the minister said the present government opened 14 new police stations in the capital to improve law and order situation.

Initiatives have been taken to establish more police stations in the country as the government is committed to further improving law and order situation as well as to provide police services at the doorsteps of people, Shahara said.

Admitting the scarcity of vehicles for police, Shahara said scarcity of vehicles is the main obstacle to improve law and order situation. She, however, said the government has taken initiatives to procure more vehicles for police and a number of vehicles have already been bought.

Additional IGP AKM Shahidul Haque, DMP Commissioner Benazir Ahmed and other senior police officers attended the function.

With the inaugural of the new police station, the number of police stations under Dhaka Metropolitan Police now rose to 49.

ECNEC MEETING

Tk 1,874cr okayed for river dredging

UNB, Dhaka

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) yesterday approved a Tk 1,874 crore project to dredge 2,500km waterways to make them navigable throughout the year.

The capital dredging was one of the seven projects the Ecne approved at a meeting at the NEC conference room in the capital's Shere Bangla Nagar with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Acting Planning Division Secretary Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam told reporters that the seven projects involve a cost of Tk 4,648 crore.

"Of the total cost, Tk 3,975 crore will be provided by the government while Tk 673 crore will come as project assistance," he added.

The capital dredging project covers 24 of the country's 53 river routes.

River routes are getting choked because of inflows of silt making navigation difficult.

Planning Commission sources said during monsoon the rivers carry about 2.4 billion silt accounting for 19 per cent of the total silt carried by rivers across the world. Now country's river ways have reduced to 6,000km, down from 24,000 in 1963.

The Ecne meeting okayed another project titled "Establishment of four marine academies in Bangladesh" at a cost of Tk 342 crore. The academies would be established at Pabna, Barisal, Rangpur and Sylhet.

A project to establish fire service and civil defence stations at 156 Upazilla headquarters at a cost of Tk 889 crore has also been approved.

The other projects are: "Introduction of machine readable passport and machine readable visa in Bangladesh (2nd revised project)" (Tk 710 crore-GoB); "English in action project" (Tk 3 crore-GoB, Tk 141 crore-PA); "Teaching quality improvement-2 in secondary education project" (Tk 114 crore-GoB, Tk 532 crore-PA) and "Conservation and improvement of native sheep through community farming and commercial farming project" (Tk 43 crore-GoB).

Ministers, advisers to the prime minister, members of the Planning Commission, secretaries and officials concerned were present at the meeting.

Jamaat's students joined Al-Badr, Razakar

Says Bangladesh Islami Oikya Jote chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Islami Oikya Jote Chairman Misbahur Rahman Chowdhury yesterday said many members of Islami Chhatra Sangha, former student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, joined Al-Badr and Razakar during the Liberation War of 1971.

Misbahur, who himself was a member of Chhatra Sangha, revealed this while being cross-examined by the defence counsel of war crimes accused Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami at International Crimes Tribunal-1.

As a prosecution witness, Misbahur testified against Nizami on August 26. During the deposition, he said he left Chhatra Sangha when asked to join Al-Badr and that Nizami was the chief of Al-Badr in 1971.

Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams were paramilitary forces that assisted the Pakistani occupation army during the 1971 war.

In a reply during yesterday's cross-examination, Misbahur said he joined the conference of Chhatra Sangha in 1968 and 1969. About 80-88 activists were present in the 1968 conference, he added.

He also said he would provide the document of his membership to Chhatra Sangha if the investigation officer wanted.

As Mizanul Islam, a counsel for Nizami, asked him whether Islami Chhatra Sangha had any constitution, Misbahur said yes it had.

Answering another question, he said, "As far as I know Al-Shams was formed with students of an Islamic party. But the political party is not known to me."

The defence counsel questioned Misbahur for about two hours and a half but

could not complete the cross-examination.

Nizami, who is facing 16 charges for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War, was present in court.

The three member tribunal led by Justice Md Nizamul Huq adjourned the proceeding till September 16.

Meanwhile, a counsel for war crimes accused BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury yesterday completed cross-examining the 10th witness, Nurul Absar.

Salauddin Quader is facing 23 war crimes charges. He was present in court yesterday.

The proceeding against him was adjourned till today.

UGANDA TEAM VISITS ICT-1

A four-member delegation of International Crimes Division of Uganda visited the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday.

Deputy Registrar of the tribunal Misbuddin Ahmed said the delegates visited the tribunal to gather and share knowledge. "They have come to the tribunal to exchange their views and expert opinions," he said.

The team comprising Head of War Crime Division Justice Aikiiki-Kiiza, Judge of High Court of International Crimes Division Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny-Dollo, Judge of High Court of International Crimes Division Justice Elizabeth Ibanda Nahamya and Assistant Registrar of International Crimes Division Judge Tadeo Asimwe observed the trial proceeding all day long.

REACTION OVER ICT AMENDMENT ACT

Barrister Abdur Razzaq, chief defence counsel for all Jamaat leaders detained over war crimes charges, yesterday said if the proposed International Crimes (Tribunals) (Second Amendment) Act-2012 was passed,

Govt reshuffles admin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday brought changes in four secretary level positions as part of its regular reshuffling in the civil administration.

Industries Ministry Secretary KH Masud Siddiqui has been transferred to the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs.

Md Abu Bakar Siddique, chairman of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) with status of an acting secretary, has been posted to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications as its acting secretary.

Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Mohammad Moeen Uddin Abdullah, who also has status of an acting secretary, has been transferred to industries ministry as acting secretary.

Besides, Nabo Bikram Kishore Tripura, an additional IGP of Police, has been promoted and posted as the secretary to the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs.



Makeshift arches which the ruling party leaders had erected to greet people on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, observed on August 20, across the capital are still to be disassembled causing problems for vehicular movement. The photo was taken near Dhanmondi Road-27 on Mirpur Road yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR