

NEWS IN *brief*

40 houses burnt in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An hour-long fire yesterday burnt down 40 bamboo-made houses in Dewanbazar area of Chittagong city.

The fire started at about 6:30pm in one of the houses belonging to one Sahabuddin in Kholipha Patti of Dewanbazar and soon spread to adjacent houses.

On information, six fire fighting units from Chandanpura, Nandankanon and Agrabad Fire Stations rushed to the spot and extinguished the flames, said Subash Chandra Debnath, in-charge

2 die from electrocution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two people died from electrocution in separate incidents in Chittagong on Tuesday night.

Police said Md Farid, 20, was electrocuted as he came in contact with a live electric wire while working at a wheat crushing mill in Brickfield Road area around 12:00am.

He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

In another incident, Sohel, 28, got electric shock while pressing an electric switch at his rented house in West Madarbari area around 9:30pm.

He was rushed to CMCH where doctors

AL lawmaker mugged in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A ruling party lawmaker was mugged on Tuesday night in Zindabazar area of Sylhet.

An unknown mugger snatched AL lawmaker Syeda Zebunnesa Haque's gold chain, weighing about a tola.

"I was on a rickshaw when suddenly a young man snatched my chain and disappeared into the crowd," she told The Daily Star.

She was returning from a temple after seeing the Durga Puja celebrations. Police was informed of the matter but no one has been arrested yet.

AL presidium meet today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) presidium, the highest policymaking body of the ruling party, sits today at 6:00pm to discuss the country's latest socio-political situations and the party's organisational matters.

The meeting will be held at Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's official residence Gono Bhaban in the capital.

Hasina, also the president of AL, will chair the meeting which will be held two days before the Eid-ul Azha.

Syed Ashraful Islam, general secretary of AL, has urged all presidium members to attend the meet-

New German ambassador submits credentials

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed German Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Albrecht Conze presented his credentials to President Zillur Rahman on Tuesday.

Later, the ambassador visited the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi and paid rich tributes to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"I feel privileged and honoured to represent Germany in Bangladesh. Our countries are united in a long and uninterrupted tradition of friendship and cooperation," ambassador Conze said.

"Germany is Bangladesh's second largest export destination in the world. My government will continue to support Bangladesh's efforts to leave behind poverty and to build a modern society



PHOTO: STAR

A market for sacrificial animals in the capital's Armanitola abuzz with cattle traders and prospective buyers yesterday ahead of Eid-ul Azha.

CATTLE MARKETS IN CAPITAL

Sales rise, prices drop

HELEMUL ALAM

With two days to go before Eid-ul Azha, the sale of sacrificial animals soared in all 20 cattle markets across the capital, including the permanent one at Gabtoli, yesterday.

Though there were crowds of buyers, cattle prices dropped due to increased supply, with many traders fearing loss this year.

Several traders have sold their bulls at nominal profits or even swallowing some loss. Many others were waiting with the hope to make a better margin in last moment sale.

"I have sold one of my 13 bulls at Tk 82,000 though I bought it for Tk 85,000," said Dulal, a trader at Kamalapur Balurmath cattle market.

A trader from Shariyapur, Mohammad Shajahan, brought six big bulls to Kamalapur cattle market. He said prices of big bulls were low as

people showed little interest in them.

Shahjahan said he would have to face a Tk 40,000 to Tk 50,000 loss from each bull if he sold his six bulls at prices customers were offering.

"I will wait till the last day of eid as I do not want to face that much of a loss," he said. Prices of his bulls range from Tk 2 lakh to Tk 3 lakh.

Abu Taleb, a trader from Meherpur, is rather optimistic though he brought 13 bulls in Kamalapur market Monday and could sell none till yesterday afternoon.

"I am not frustrated like others as I know Dhaka city people come to cattle markets just before the eid day due to scarcity of place to keep their sacrificial animals," he said.

Meanwhile, most of the buyers seemed a little bit happy as they think that cattle prices have fallen down to a reasonable level.

"I have bought two middle sized

bulls for Tk 70,000 which would take at least Tk 80,000 last year," said Saifuzzaman, a resident of Narinda.

INFORMAL MARKETS

As in the last year, some people were selling cattle near their home, business places or on streets which are not formally declared cattle markets. The initiatives were seen in Gendaria, Paschim Dholaipar, Dholaikhal and Pagla in Narayanganj.

'EXTORTION BY POLICE'

A number of cattle traders complained that some patrol police of Dhaka city demanded money from them on their way to cattle markets.

"My truck was waiting for some time at Culver Road in Fakirapool on Wednesday morning where police from a patrol van suddenly came and took Tk 2,000," said Rohidul Islam, a cattle trader of Naogaon, who brought 20 bulls to Kamalapur market.

**PROBARANA PURNIMA
Fanus to be released
as security assured**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Buddhist leaders have called off their decision of not flying fanus (paper lanterns) in their upcoming religious festival Probarana Purnima as a protest against the recent attack on the community in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong.

They overturned the decision after a meeting with Industries Minister Dilip Barua at Chittagong Circuit House on Tuesday evening when he assured them of adequate security during the festival.

"As the government will provide adequate security, we will release fanus in the upcoming Probarana Purnima," Prof Banasree Mohathero, president of Bangladesh Buddhist Bhikkhu Mahasabha, told The Daily Star.

He said they would celebrate the festival with due religious fervour and festivity.

One of the biggest religious festivals of the Buddhists, Probarana Purnima, will be celebrated on October 29.

Earlier on October 15, Buddhist leaders declared not to fly fanus in the programme to protest the recent onslaught on their temples and houses in Ramu, Ukhia, and Teknaf of Cox's Bazar and Patiya in Chittagong.

**MOTHER, CHILDREN
MURDER IN CTG**

Police yet to identify killer

STAFF CORRESPONDENTS, Ctg

Law enforcers are yet to identify the motive and persons responsible for murdering a mother and her two children who were found hacked to death in their fifth-floor residence in Khotiber Haat area in Chittagong on Tuesday night.

The deceased are Doly Akhter, 30, wife of expatriate Anwar Hossain, and her son Albhi Ibn Anwar, 10, and daughter Adiba Payel, 6.

Police said they were looking for an unidentified male tutor who used to come to the residence every day around the time the murder occurred.

The footprint of a male person, presumably the killer's, was found on the bloodstains in the house. Police also recovered a knife and a cleaver from the house, said police.

Five people -- the building's gatekeeper Abul Hossain, Doly's friend Shila and Shila's mother, and Doly's friend Mukta and Mukta's niece Irin -- have been interrogated by police.

Meanwhile, Anwar, reaching Bangladesh yesterday morning, told police that he found Doly's cellphone switched off from Tuesday afternoon.

Doly's father Md Ishaq filed a case with Panchlaish Police Station yesterday accusing unidentified persons.



Grief-stricken relatives of Doly Akhter, 30, a housewife, and her two young sons aged 10 and 6, who were killed in their home in Khotiber Haat area of Chittagong city on Tuesday. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Sunil Gangopadhyay to be cremated today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The body of eminent Bengali litterateur Sunil Gangopadhyay will be cremated in Kolkata today.

The writer's son Souvik, who reached Kolkata from Boston yesterday, said the last rites of his 78-year-old father would be performed at the Keoratala Ghat tomorrow [today] afternoon.

Now at the "Peace Heaven" mortuary, the body of the writer would first be taken to the office of Anandabazar Patrika where Gangopadhyay began his career as a sub-editor and remained associated with 'Desh' magazine published by them. From there, the body would be taken to Rabintra Sadan where Gangopadhyay's fans and many cultural and literary personalities will pay their last respect to the writer who died at his south Kolkata residence after a heart attack in the wee hours of Tuesday.

Besides his son, the writer, who was honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1985 for his historical novel 'Sei Samoy', is survived by wife Swati and grandchildren.

Man shot by extortionists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists shot and injured an elderly man in the capital's Jurain area early yesterday as he refused to pay them extortion money.

The victim, Abdul Kader Sarder, 65, runs a grocery shop at Jurain. His family claimed that he was a freedom fighter.

Kader had a bullet lodged in his back while another bullet grazed his head. He is now under treatment in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The shooting took place when Kader Sarder was returning alone to his Kusumbagh residence on foot from his nearby shop around 12:15am.

The criminals fled as locals came to his rescue.

Kader's daughter Bably Akhter filed a case with Kadamtoli Police Station against

four persons, including a local named Khokan.

The accused are on the run.

Sub-inspector Abu Bakar Siddique said Khokan and the other accused were demanding extortion from Kader's another daughter over a piece of land.

Bably said nine months ago, her sister and sister's husband bought a tin-roofed house in the area for Tk 30 lakh but could not take its possession.

Khokan and his accomplices demanded Tk 10 lakh from them, saying they could help them get the land's possession, she said.

Later they settled on Tk 5 lakh, Bably said, adding that her sister paid Khokan Tk 1 lakh but he had been pressing for the rest.

WEATHER TODAY

Slight fall in night temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:24pm and rises tomorrow at 6:01am.

Country's highest temperature 34.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Kutubdia and lowest 17.4 degrees at Dinajpur.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.0	22.7	47	45
Chittagong	30.8	23.7	79	72
Rajshahi	32.0	17.5	84	74
Rangpur	30.8	19.5	62	65
Khulna	32.3	20.8	73	74
Barisal	32.2	20.6	67	82
Sylhet	32.5	21.1	73	64