

Murders on rise in Ctg

TAREK MAHMUD, Ctg Murders in Chittagong city have alarmingly increased recently with 15 people becoming victims of gruesome killings in just over a month, preceding November 9. The figure was five in September and three in August, said Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) sources. Sociologists and psychologists have expressed concern, taking the peaking as an indication of degrading ethics and social values among the city dwellers. According to CMP, the 15 victims comprised six men, five women and four children while the murders occurred under the jurisdiction of 12 police stations. Analysing the murders, police found that in most cases the killer and victim knew each other. The killings were triggered by arguments over personal or petty matters. Most of the killers were non-professionals and the use of firearms was almost nonexistent. Instead the victims were stabbed, strangled or beaten to death. Nine of the victims were found indoors while the remaining bodies were thrown in the river or sea, said the sources. "Killers throw the bodies away to destroy as much evidence as possible and make it harder for law enforcers to connect them to the murder," said Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Panchlaish Police Station. He added that the recent killings were not pre-planned. One of the most notable and gruesome was that of a mother and her two children. A house tutor, Tareque Chowdhury, 22, used a knife to hack to death Doli Akhter, 30, and her children, Albhi, 10, and Adiba, 7, in their Khatiberhat residence on October 23. Initially stating it as a sequence of a failed rape attempt, the killer later tried to justify his actions by accusing the mother of misbehaving and not paying his honorarium in due time. Fourteen-year-old domestic help Sonia alias Ruma was allegedly strangled by her employer, Tasmim Rahman, 38, in a Golpahar flat on November 4 for

not duly following her employer's directions. The same day, two persons, Rahim and Ilias, beat a mason, Md Irfan, 25, to death inside Rahim's Babul Colony residence for allegedly stealing a mobile phone. "These killings are a result of a lack of tolerance among people," said CMP Additional Deputy Commissioner (North) Md Shahidullah. People must be more aware about the meaning of crime and punishment and be more tolerant to refrain from such offences, he said. Assistant Prof Syed Muhammd Sazzad Kabir of Chittagong University's psychology department blamed the decrease in people-to-people contact. "Satellite culture, modern technology and technology-based entertainment are responsible for the decrease in social bonding. People are becoming isolated with the use of technology and its impacts on their minds. "They take decisions by themselves and hence those prove to be wrong most of the time. They become serious over trifling matters and commit offences by becoming agitated very easily," he said. He suggested including more lessons on morality and social values in the education system to rid society of the evil. "Adolescents need more care and counseling too," he added. Prof Gazi Saleh Uddin of CU's sociology department said, "The country's political and economic instability have a negative influence on the social sense of citizens. We are becoming mechanical, thinking for ourselves only." Delays in the judicial process also prompt people to take law into their own hands to satisfy grudges, he added. Prof Gazi suggested law enforcement agencies and social organisations to organise social awareness building programmes to improve the country's socio-economic situation. CMP Commissioner Md Shafiqul Islam said though they succeeded in nabbing most of the killers, preventing the indoor murders was almost impossible for them. He said CMP was continuing some social awareness programmes in this regard.



BNP-led 18-party alliance organised a mass procession in the capital yesterday creating huge traffic gridlocks. The photo was taken from Mouchak foot over bridge. PHOTO: STAR

18-party march creates gridlocks in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT A mass procession of the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance protesting "the government's misuse, corruption and public sufferings" created huge traffic gridlocks in the capital yesterday. The procession, starting from BNP's Naya Palatan headquarters around 4:00pm and ending at Moghbazar intersection, left vehicular movement along the route in a virtual standstill from around 3:00pm to 5:30pm. City dwellers suffered immensely as areas including Rampura, Mohakhali, Malibagh, Bijoynagar and Palatan and Matsha Bhaban intersections were also affected. Hundreds of people were seen waiting for hours at bus stops. Whenever a bus came, they started jostling to get in. "I have been trying to catch a bus to my home in Mirpur for around two hours. But it seems I have to walk home," said one Imran Hossain at the Farmgate bus stop. Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir activists were also present in the procession, demanding release of their top leaders detained over war crimes charges. About Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's accusation on Sunday that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia played a double role by "biting like a snake and then coming to cure as a quack" in relation to the recent attacks on Buddhists in Cox's Bazar, BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said it was the government which was playing the double role. ANTI-TERRORISM ACT HC seeks judge's explanation for violation STAFF CORRESPONDENT The High Court yesterday directed Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge Md Zahirul Haque to explain by November 26 why he took charges of two cases filed under Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009 into cognizance without government approval. The court also summoned the cases' two investigation officers on November 26 to explain why they investigated the cases without the district magistrate's approval. The act's provisions state that the two approvals must be taken. The court was hearing on bail petitions filed by four Hizb ut-Tahrir activists accused in the cases filed with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and Mohammadpur police stations on June 11 and 24 respectively. Meanwhile, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said the government would immediately issue a gazette notification containing a provision for trying activists of five banned outfits under the act. The five are Hizb ut-Tahrir; Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh; Jagroto Muslim Janata; Harkatul Jihad al Islami; and Shahadat-e Al Hikma.

Youth's body recovered in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT South Keraniganj police recovered the body of an unidentified youth five hours after it was discovered left in a drum at Sadarghat Launch Terminal in the capital yesterday. Locals said a youth on a rickshaw-van brought the drum to the terminal and left that on Ghat No-7 in the morning. Around 9:00am, some street urchin noticed the drum and found the body inside. Later, locals informed the police of the matter. The police informed the locals that they would not recover the body as the area is under Kotwali Police Station. Amirul Islam, sub-inspector of South Keraniganj Police Station, told reporters around 11:00am that it would take time to recover the body as they were trying to take a decision. Kotwali Police Station SI Johirul Islam said they would not recover the body as Ghat No-7 is not under their area. After a discussion between the two stations, the South Keraniganj police recovered the body around 3:00pm, said Keraniganj police Officer-in-Charge Shakhawat Hossain.

CLIMATE INDUCED MIGRATION Policy sought to tackle displacement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT A large section of slum dwellers in cities consists of migrants from coastal areas who have been victims of natural disasters and these cities should take adequate measures to accommodate them, speakers said at a seminar yesterday. At the seminar styled "Climate Induced Migrants: Adaptation and National Policy" held at Jatiya Press Club in the capital, climate change activists urged the government to do proper homework and prepare a national policy on climate displacement. Environment and Forests Minister Hasan Mahmud said the government would commission a study in this regard, which would help to place arguments in international level and prepare a national policy. The seminar was organised by a group of NGOs.

PM wants closer ties with Belarus

She hosts a banquet for her counterpart

UNB, Dhaka Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday underscored the importance of building closer relations between Bangladesh and Belarus, including in business and trade, for mutual benefit. "If we could develop mutually beneficial partnership, we could contribute significantly to our economies for the benefit and wellbeing of our two peoples," she said at a banquet hosted by her at Sonargaon Hotel in the capital in honour of visiting Belarus Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich. Myasnikovich arrived on Sunday afternoon on a three-day official visit

to Bangladesh to sign a number of deals. Hasina informed her counterpart that both countries can help each other as Belarus has advanced technology and know-how while Bangladesh has human resources. She said she is very confident that Bangladesh and Belarus are destined to strengthen deeper and broader linkages in various areas. "The range of legal instruments that our two countries have signed today will surely vindicate my expectation." Hasina mentioned that Bangladesh is on the way to be the economic hub of the region connect-

ing South and South East Asia. "Similarly, Belarus may offer our business and industry a gateway to your Custom Union and to the European neighbourhood." She also mentioned that in the South Asian region, Bangladesh deeply values Belarus' growing interest and engagement. In this connection, she referred to concrete proposals on agriculture, education, science and technology by Belarus. Belarus Prime Minister Myasnikovich also spoke on the occasion and underlined the need for bolstering ties between the two countries.



Artists perform a dance in Dhakeshwari National Temple in the capital yesterday on the occasion of Bijoya Conference-2012. PHOTO: STAR

CANCELLING PRAN'S LICENCE Why move not illegal

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks why its move to cancel Pran Group's licence for making fruit-flavoured drinks should not be declared illegal. The Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) in October cancelled Pran's licence on charge of not using the minimum 10 percent fruit pulp required in the drinks. The HC bench came up with the rule following a writ petition filed by the company yesterday challenging the legality of BSTI's action. The petitioner claimed that BSTI cancelled their licence without issuing any show cause notice. Contacted, Deputy Attorney General Mokhesur Rahman said concerned officials of commerce ministry and BSTI have been made respondents to the rule. On November 4, the same HC bench issued a rule upon the government to explain why it should not be directed to stop production, marketing and sales of Pran's fruit-flavoured drinks, following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Manzill Murshid claiming that there was no element of pure fruits in Pran's fruit-flavoured drinks.

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka inaugurates Information Centre in Jessore on November 15, 2012. This is an initiative of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka to give information support & health care services for Doctors and Patients of Jessore and surrounding area. Apollo Information Centre Jessore Mobile: 01755 649745 69, Jail road, R. S. Bhaban (Ground Floor) Jessore info@apollodhaka.com | www.apollodhaka.com | www.facebook.com/apollodhaka