



HAY FESTIVAL CONCLUDES

1. Ridwan Mujib Siddique, grandson of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, presents a copy of "The Unfinished Memoirs" written by Bangabandhu as a gift from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Indian journalist Kuldip Nayar at the concluding session of Hay Festival Dhaka at Bangla Academy in the capital yesterday.
2. Tahmima Anam, novelist and co-producer of the festival, addresses the concluding session.
3. Local and foreign writers who joined the festival.
4. Arif Ali Baul and his team render mystic songs of Lalon Shah.
5. Artists of Pallavi Dance Centre enthrall guests with a musical of Rabindranath Tagore "Shapmochon".

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

PARAG'S ABDUCTION New suspects identified

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers claimed to have identified a few more suspects involved in the abduction of six-year-old schoolboy Parag Mondol, raising the total number of suspects to 13.

Of the 13, seven were arrested. Law enforcers said the remaining six at large suspects had turned off their cellphones.

Parag, son of Bimol Chandra Mondol of Shuvadda Pashchim Para in Keraniganj, was abducted on November 11 and found three days later at Atibazar.

Those at large are—the gang leader Ameer Hossain, his second wife, Mohammad Faisal, Aminul Islam Jewel, Al Amin and Akash.

Among the new suspects, Faisal of Keraniganj had coordinated the abduction while Aminul, Shubhadda Juba League unit president, gave the guidelines.

Ameer led the abduction with Al Amin, Akash, Zahidul Islam and Mohammad Al Rifat. The wife had helped drop the boy off, informed law enforcers.

ABDUCTIONS, KILLINGS

State not duly worried

NHRC chief tells Prothom Alo roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite repeated incidents of killing after abduction and other sorts of unnatural deaths due to criminal activities, the state does not seem to be as worried as it should be, said Dr Mizanur Rahman yesterday.

"Any kind of unnatural death should be a reason for the state's headache."

"But seeing the number of such incidents in Bangladesh, it is not visible to us that the state has a headache or is worried," said the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chairman.

The rights body chief was speaking as chief guest at a roundtable titled "Child abduction, killing-demanding ransom: Where is the end" organised by the Bangla daily Prothom Alo at its office in the capital.

Referring to the contradictory statements of Rapid Action Battalion and police over whether ransom was paid to secure the release of abducted six-year-old schoolboy Parag Mondol, he said such contradictions create anxiety among people.

The economical and political states of the country as well as a lack in the rule of law are the main reasons for the increase in criminal activities in Bangladesh. Incidents of crime also rise when state machineries are used for political interest, he said.

Addressing the discussion, Ain O Salish Kendra Chairperson Hamida Hossain alleged that negligence in duty by police

after different incidents of abduction were observed in the last few years.

Salma Khan, former chairperson of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), said people were losing trust on the rule of law and law enforcement agencies day by day.

Echoing Salma, former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder said if law enforcers failed to regain public trust, it would bring dangerous consequences in the future.

The culture of impunity is increasing crime in the society and the country's laws must be enforced strictly to reduce incidents of crime, he said.

Quazi Zia Uddin, assistant inspector general (crime-4) of Bangladesh Police, emphasised concerted efforts from people of all the sections of society to put an end to crime.

Prothom Alo Associate Editor Abdul Quayum suggested setting up a special cell under the home ministry to monitor different abduction related cases.

In the roundtable, family members of Sheikh Farid, a seven-year-old child who was killed after being abducted from Munshiganj last March, demand punishment to the killers.

Prothom Alo Feature Editor Shumana Sharmin moderated the roundtable where Dhaka University's Criminology and Criminal Justice Programme Director Al Mahbubuddin Ahmed also spoke.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Md Abdul Matin Chowdhury, former additional chief architect of the Department of Architecture under the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, died on Friday. He was 75.

He left behind his wife, sons, daughters, and grandsons.

He was buried at Mohammadpur Graveyard in the capital yesterday.

Some of his iconic architectural creations are Bangladesh Secretariat Building, Matsya Bhaban, state guest house Jamuna, and Sobhanbagh Mosque in the capital.

Mokaddes Ali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Valiant freedom fighter Mokaddes Ali alias Chand Ali died of cardiac arrest at his residence in Kaliganj Upazila Complex area in Jhenidah Saturday night. He was 62.

He left behind his wife, three sons, and a daughter.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Bhutitargati village under Jhenidah sadar upazila.

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Bangladeshi man beheaded in Saudi Arabia

AFP

Saudi Arabia yesterday beheaded a Bangladeshi, who had been convicted of killing a Syrian man, the interior ministry said.

Madhaheb Shanadra had been found guilty of beating Nabil al-Awdat with a hammer before stabbing and hacking him to death over a dispute, the official SPA news agency quoted the ministry as saying.

Shanadra was beheaded by a sword in Riyadh, it said. The execution has so far brought the number of people put to death in Saudi Arabia this year to 66, according to an AFP tally based on official reports.

Amnesty International says 79 people were executed in the ultra-conservative Muslim kingdom last year.

Rape, murder, apostasy, armed robbery and drug trafficking are all punishable by death under its strict version of sharia or Islamic law.

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