



Amid severe cold in the morning, day labourers wait on a stair of a building at Moghbazar in the capital to be hired for work. Due to a half-day hartal enforced by four Islamist parties, very few of the labourers got work yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

ALLEGED DEFAMATION

Kaler Kantho editor, publisher sued

METRO DESK

Local leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) filed four defamation suits against five staff of the Kaler Kantho, including its editor and publisher, in four districts yesterday, a day after the Bangla daily published a report exposing the alleged corruption and extortion by the pro-Awami League student body leaders.

The accused also include the daily's chief reporter, news editor, and a staff reporter.

The complaints termed the report, "Chhatraneta Holei Dhoni" (student leadership brings fortunes) with a sub-head, "Chhatra League Sonar Dim Para Hans" (Chhatra League, a goose laying golden eggs), "false, baseless, and fabricated" and said the daily ran it to ruin BCL's image.

The report says former and current BCL top brass, including incumbent President Badiuzzaman Shohag and General Secretary Siddiqui Nazmul Alam, amassed quite a fortune soon after their rise to leadership. The money comes from, it says, extortion and bribery centering tender manipulation, appointment, and formation of BCL committees and "gifts" from various businesses.

Our Khulna correspondent reports that the Khulna district BCL president filed a Tk 10 crore defamation suit against Editor Imdadul Haque Milon, the news editor (not named in the complaint), and Staff Reporter Pavel Haider Chowdhury. The suit was lodged with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court, which fixed December 24 to pass an order.

In Pabna, the district unit BCL general secretary filed a Tk 50 lakh defamation case with the Cognisance Court-1. It asked Editor Milon, Publisher Moinal Hossain Chowdhury, and Pavel to appear on March 5, 2013.

In Bagerhat, four persons, including the above three and Chief Reporter Tipu Dutta, were sued. The Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's court will hear the case on January 30, 2013. The district unit BCL president filed it.

Our Bogra correspondent reports that the district unit BCL president filed a Tk 2 crore defamation suit with the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's court, accusing the daily's publisher and the staff reporter, Pavel.

Woman, son die in Gazipur fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman and her son died as a fire broke out in their house in Shwashanghat area in Joydevpur of Gazipur yesterday.

The deceased were Sathi Begum, 36, and her son Mohammad Rabbi, 3.

Police suspect that Sathi committed suicide by putting their house on fire following a feud with her husband, and their son was also killed in the process.

Sources at Fire Service and Civil Defence said the fire broke out in the tin shed house around 1:00pm. Two teams of fire service from Gazipur went to the spot and doused it after about 30 minutes of efforts.

Members of the fire service recovered the bodies from a room of the house, and sent those to Gazipur Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, they said.

Quoting locals, Joydevpur Police Station Sub-Inspector Bacchu Miah, told the Daily Star that Sathi and her husband Saiful Islam, a CNG auto-rickshaw driver, had been living in the rented house.

Saiful left the house after a quarrel with Sathi around 12:00 noon, he said.

Around 1:00pm, neighbours found blaze and fumes inside Sathi's house. They knocked on the door but they found it locked from inside, the SI said.

The neighbours broke the door open, but could not enter the house as the blaze engulfed it. So they informed the fire service about the blaze.

SI Bacchu said Sathi was Saiful's second wife. It was also Sathi's second marriage. They got married about five years back.

The couple had been engaged in quarrels for the last few days as Saiful recently wanted to take Sathi to his village home, he said quoting locals as saying.

Two killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Two people were killed and two others injured in separate road accidents in Jhenidah and Jhalakathi yesterday.

Our Jhenidah correspondent reports, a motorcyclist was killed instantly and another motorbike rider injured as the two vehicles collided head-on at Bhalaiapur bus stand in Moheshpur upazila in Jhenidah at around 1:30pm yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Babul Aktar, 35, son of Mosharrat Hossain of Bathangachhi village in the upazila.

Injured Abdur Rashid, 32, son of Abdul

Malek of Fulshara village in Chowgachha upazila of Jessore district, was taken to Moheshpur Upazila Health Complex.

Our Jhalakathi correspondent reports, a truck helper was killed as a branch of a tree pierced his chest when the truck hit the tree beside Khulna-Barisal highway at Bashtola in Rajapur yesterday early morning.

The deceased was Abdus Sattar, 28, son of Johur Ali of Ijal Danga of Keshabpur in Jessore, said Rajapur police.

A witness Md Faruk Hossen said another unidentified person, who was in the truck, was also injured.



Shahnaz Faruk passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shahnaz Faruk, daughter of late Golam Mostafa and Fatema Khatun, passed away at Virginia Hospital in the US yesterday. She was 58.

During her visit to Virginia, Shahnaz collapsed and was rushed to the nearest hospital where she underwent a valve replacement surgery and a bypass on December 10. Her condition further deteriorated there and she breathed her last yesterday at 9:10am, said a press release.

She left behind her husband Sheraz-bin-Faruk, son Shahzad, daughter Sahar and a host of relatives, admirers and well wishers to mourn her death.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held after Juma prayers today at Virginia Mosque and she will be buried in Virginia.

Family members have requested all of her relatives, admirers and friends to pray for her departed soul.

Attempts on to kill PM to foil war crimes trial

Says Tajul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Captain (ret'd) AB Tajul Islam yesterday alleged that a quarter was engaged at present in efforts to kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to foil the war crimes trial.

"They have already realised that only the prime minister can ensure the completion of the trial," he said, asking Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members to remain alert to protect Sheikh Hasina in order to continue the war crimes trial.

He was addressing a reception accorded to 19 decorated freedom fighters of the then East Pakistan Rifles (EPR), now known as BGB, for their contributions to the 1971 Liberation War and a subedar major, Nurul Islam, who was killed during the 2009 BDR mutiny.

BGB hosted the reception at its Pilkhana Headquarters in the capital marking its 2nd founding anniversary and the BGB Day.

Tajul said the government decided to provide 119 decorated freedom fighters of the then EPR, or their families in the case of their absence, with Tk 2,000 per month as honorarium.

The family members of two Bir Shresthas of the then EPR—Lance Naik Nur Mohammad Sheik and Lance Naik Munshi Abdur Rouf—also attended the programme and received crests from the state minister.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Hoque Tuku, Senior Home Secretary CQK Mustaq Ahmed and newly appointed BGB Director General Maj Gen Aziz Ahmed were present at the programme.

Scraping the name of EPR after the Liberation War, the force emerged as Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on March 3, 1972.

Authorities initiated a radical reorganization of the force after 74 people, including 57 army officers, were massacred at Pilkhana and a mutiny spread from the headquarters to other units across the country in February 25-26, 2009. Its name was then changed to BGB.

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