

Girl strangled in hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A girl was strangled at a residential hotel in the capital's Bangshal on Tuesday. Being informed by hotel staff, police recovered the body from a room on the fourth floor of New Suvechcha International hotel around 2:00am yesterday, said Abdul Kuddus Fakir, officer-in-charge (OC) of Bangshal Police Station. The body was wrapped in a bed sheet and bore several marks of injury, said police. Quoting hotel staff, police said the unidentified girl, aged about 20 years, rented the hotel room along with a youth on Tuesday. The duo introduced themselves as husband and wife and gave their identity as

Rizvi Ahmed and Bristi respectively in the hotel register, said police. Around 10:00pm on Tuesday, the youth went out of the hotel giving excuse of buying food from outside, said police. Hotel staff waited for his return till midnight, when the hotel main gate is usually closed, said police. Since the youth did not return hotel staff went to his room to inquire and found it locked from outside with a new padlock, police added. The youth has been missing since the incident, the OC said. Police sent the body to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy. Morgue sources said the girl died of strangulation.

'The Last Sailors' screened at Star festival



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Film enthusiasts enjoyed "The Last Sailors", a film on boats, on the Zilla Shilpakala Academy premises in Chittagong city yesterday evening. The film was screened on the fourth day of the weeklong festival, "Tora Kon Kon Zabi Aar Sampanat" (Who of you will board my boat?), jointly hosted by The Daily Star and Alliance Française de Chittagong. The festival is a sequel to Odammo Chattagram festival, organised by The Daily Star last year to promote the rich history, culture, heritage and economic prospects of Chittagong. On the inaugural day (Sunday), Ritwik Ghatak's famous Bangla movie "Titas Ekti Nadir Naam" was screened. The second day's three films were "Christians and Spices Portugal's Search for India", "Bullion for Goods, the Dutch Came to Trade", and "The River". Another film was screened on the third day.

Man killed in road accident in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A pedestrian was killed when a bus ran him over in the capital's Mirpur Section-10 yesterday afternoon. Zahirul Islam Nipu, 39, was a contractor and lived in Senpara Parbata area. Nipu was crossing the road in front of Mirpur Fire Station when a Pallabi-bound bus of Bikalpa Paribahan ran him over, killing him on the spot. Mirpur police seized the bus but the driver and helper managed to escape.



1) People from all walks of life light candles and play music as they launch a sit-in to demand the death penalty for convicted war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah in front of Chittagong Press Club in the port city last evening. 2) The protest scene at the capital's Shahbagh intersection where campaigners draw images of the Jamaat-e-Islami leader and hang his effigy. 3) People sign on a broadsheet to show their solidarity with the demand during a signature collection campaign at the intersection.

PHOTO: STAR



The Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) has started building five unplanned flyovers in the port city, which, experts fear, would only worsen traffic chaos rather than improving the situation as the CDA master plan does not earmark any space for these structures. The photo was taken at the construction site of Kadamtali flyover in Dewanhat area yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Outrage explodes over verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students, teachers, socio-cultural and political organisations and people from all walks of life yesterday expressed outrage over the International Crimes Tribunal-2's verdict of life sentence against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah instead of capital punishment. The tribunal passed the sentence on Tuesday for the crimes Quader Mollah committed against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War. People's expectation was not reflected in the verdict, rather it created anger. It seems too low a punishment for grave crimes, they said through different programmes around the country throughout the day. In a statement, Ekkattur Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee said the sacrifices of millions of freedom fighters were "insulted", deprived of justice and made a "farce". "Since the tribunal's inception, we have been demanding to strengthen the tribunal, prosecution and investigation team and to appoint more skilled and competent manpower to it," said the statement, signed by the committee's General Secretary Kazi Mukul. Gonotantik Bam Morcha leaders, in another statement, said the verdict created doubts in people's minds that whether the government was trying to reach any "political compromise" regarding the trial. Expressing frustration over the verdict, Transparency International Bangladesh, in a statement, demanded for it to be reconsidered and for filing of an appeal against it following due legal procedure. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, in another statement, said if the "identified" women torturers and rapists of 1971 were not given due punish-

ment, it would increase the present trend of women repression and rape. The verdict does not reflect people's expectation, Dhaka city Awami League (AL) General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya told a protest rally Sammilito Awami Samarthok Gosthi organised in the capital. Bangladesh Krishak League; Jatiya Gonotantik League; Imarat Nirman Samik Union, Bangladesh; Gonotantik Biplobi Party; Freedom Fighters Journalist Command; and Bangladesh Trade Union Centre also protested the verdict. Our Chittagong correspondent reports: Thousands of Chittagong city residents spontaneously thronged Chittagong Press Club area at Jamal Khan and staged a mock execution of Quader Mollah while artistes performed songs over the demand. BSS reports: AL and Bangladesh Chhatra League organised a rally at Lalkhan Bazar area and set fire to effigies of war criminals. Chittagong Medical College (CMC) students arranged a sit-in programme at Probortak intersection while CMC Students' Union and CMC unit BCL expressed solidarity with the agitation. Jahangirnagar University (JU) teachers and students and JU unit Bangladesh Chhatra League formed two separate human chains on Dhaka-Aricha Highway. They also brought out processions and a rally at JU Central Shaheed Minar, reports our JU correspondent. Our Sust correspondent reports: Some 3,000 students and teachers of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) brought out a procession and staged a rally on their Sylhet campus. Addressing the rally, Dr Muhammed Zafar

Iqbal said, "We appreciate the verdict as it undoubtedly proved Kasai (butcher) Quader's offence but are frustrated and angry as well, alongside every Bangalee, for this heinous killer getting only life imprisonment." Holding a one-hour token fast programme at "Sector's Commander Forum Chattar", they marched to Central Shaheed Minar in Sylhet city to join thousands of social and cultural activists. These activists, with placards, festoons and banners, vowed to continue their movement till the demand was met, reports our Sylhet correspondent. Sylhet city and district unit AL, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Jatiyatadabi Samajtantrik Dal, Sylhet Press Club, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon and Sust Teachers Association expressed solidarity with the demand. Our RU correspondent reports: Some 600 teachers of "Progressive Teachers Society" and RU Teachers Association, in separate statements, also expressed disappointment over the verdict. Our Rajshahi correspondent reports: Hundreds of people, including Language Movement veteran Abul Hossain, joined a human chain and a rally organised by Sammilito Sangskritik Jote at Shaheb Bazar in Rajshahi city. They also hanged effigies of war criminals, paraded the city streets and held a rally at Alupotty intersection, where they were to stay till midnight. The Awami League-led 14-party leaders also held a procession and rally at Shaheb Bazar. Shilpi Somaj of Rangpur organised a sit-in at Rangpur Central Shaheed Minar premises and performed songs of the masses, reports our Rangpur correspondent.

Ctg BTV to be independent

BSS, Ctg

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday said the Chittagong centre of Bangladesh Television (BTV) will be turned into a six-hour independent transmission centre within the tenure of the present government. "The objective of the present government is to develop the Chittagong centre of the state-run television channel into a 24-hour independent television station," the minister said. Inu was addressing a views-exchange meeting with officials and employees of BTV, Chittagong station. The information minister said Chittagong has its own individuality, unique geographical attributes and diversity and he urged the authorities to reflect the unique characteristics and rich cultural heritage of the region in the television programmes. "Here live people of different communities who have diversified lifestyle and rich culture," the minister viewed. The minister also directed the authorities to convene a views-exchange meeting with eminent citizens of Chittagong in order to get their opinions in this regard. Moniuddin Khan Badal, MP, and Rafique Uddin Mahmud, general manger of BTV, Chittagong station, were present among others.

RU physics dept wants action against BCL vandals

RU CORRESPONDENT

The physics department of Rajshahi University yesterday submitted a complaint to the university administration calling for stern action against some Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men, who vandalised the department offices a day ago. The submission followed an emergency meeting of the department's academic committee. On Tuesday, Nasim Ahmed Setu, deputy library affairs secretary of RU unit BCL, and first year student of physics, led some 40 BCL men and vandalised the teachers' chambers after he failed to enrol in the next year's courses for unacceptably low attendance rate and tutorial marks.



Udichi Shilpi Goshti forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, demanding a ban on Jamaat-Shibir politics.

PHOTO: STAR

Folk cultural festival tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A daylong folk cultural festival will be held at DC Hill in Chittagong city tomorrow. Samaj Samiksha Sangha, a Chittagong-based socio-cultural platform, is organising the event with Grameenphone as its title sponsor. SSS President Kazi Mahmud Imam Bilu made the announcement at a press conference in Chittagong Press Club yesterday. The festival will include performances by noted flutist Mrinal Das Gupta, singers and dancers of different folk forms, and a discussion on the country's folk culture.