

Missing girl found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of a three-year-old girl was found in a ditch in Munda area of the capital yesterday, half-an-hour after she had gone missing.

The victim was Zannatul Ferdousi Mim, daughter of Raihan Uddin of Comilla.

The child, along with her parents, came to her aunt's house to attend a family programme yesterday.

Police and family members suspected that Mim fell from the roof of the three-storey building.

Mim's grandmother Komola Begum said she was feeding the child on the second floor.

Suddenly, the child went missing.

After searching the house, her body was found in the ditch beside the house.

Kuakata ancient boat salvage work restarts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A team of experts yesterday restarted salvage operations of an ancient boat that surfaced on June 29 last year near the River Gangamati on the Kuakata beach, three kilometres east of Kuakata zero point.

The salvage operation was postponed on January 20 due to high tides invading the site. As per Bangladesh Navy, the lowest tide will be on February 20 and the experts chose to work for a week centring this date.

The 72ft-by-23ft boat has a hull protected by a bright copper sheet and is believed to be belonging to the first Rakhine settlers from Arakan province in Myanmar over 200 years ago.

Uchasi Matubbar, 70, a leader of the Rakhaine community in Kuakata, said over 150 Rakhaine families had come to the area, fleeing atrocities in Myanmar in 1784.

It will be transported to a site near the zero point earmarked for a museum by the Local Government Engineering Department.

Yves Marre, an expert on traditional boats of Bangladesh and the head of the technical team for salvaging the boat, said it would be a challenge to lift the boat, weighing about 30 tonnes.

"In our first phase of operation last month, we found that the remaining wooden parts of the boat have been well preserved by nature but all other features on its top have either been stolen or erased by nature," he said.



Salvage operations of an ancient boat, *inset*, presumably dating back 200 years, being carried out on the sandy beach of Kuakata in Patuakhali yesterday.

PHOTO: SYED WASARA DOJA



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her son Sajib Wazed Joy receive Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Queen Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck at the prime minister's official residence Gono Bhavan yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

Only full implementation can bring lasting peace: PCJSS

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti (PCJSS) yesterday said lasting peace in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) could result only from full implementation of the 1997 peace accord.

If it is not implemented fully, more destabilisation and tension would occur in the region, the indigenous leaders told a mass gathering on Rajbari Gymnasium premises in Rangamati town, organised to celebrate PCJSS's 41st founding anniversary.

PCJSS chief Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, known as Santu Larma, said this government spoke of full implementation but they saw "zero result".

He also suspected that the government had a "blue print" to make the hill tracts a

Muslim-dominated region. He said "undeclared military rule" was continuing in the CHT.

The Adivasi leader also labelled Dipanker Talukder, state minister for CHT affairs, and Bir Bahadur, chairman of CHT Development Board, betrayers of the jumma people, saying they were playing anti-accord role.

Larma demanded a ban on United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), another Adivasi organisation.

Gonoforum leader Pankaj Bhattacharya said the government must stop Bangalee settlement in the CHT and that "Somo Odhikar Andolan", a platform of Bangalee settlers, backed by army, was disturbing peace and communal harmony in the hills.

Indian FM due in Dhaka today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid will arrive in Dhaka today for a two-day visit to review and consolidate India's relations with Bangladesh by holding the second high-level meeting of the Joint Consultative Commission (JCC).

The Indian minster will also call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other senior leaders of the government besides co-chairing the JCC meeting with his Bangladeshi counterpart Dipu Moni where a whole range of bilateral issues will be discussed.

Khurshid and Dipu Moni, after the JCC meeting today, will also sign several bilateral documents on cooperation in various sectors.

They are to sign two memorandums of understanding (MoU) -- the construction of Akhaura-Agartala rail link and the setting up of a think tank named Bangladesh-India Foundation.

An addendum to the Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement between the two countries will also be inked.

Besides, 1094 out of 1129 Bangladesh-India strip maps will be exchanged. A solar lamp will be handed over to Bangladesh as symbol of Indian assistance in the Sidr-affected areas.

Meanwhile, in a major development the Indian cabinet on Feb 13 approved draft of the constitutional bill to amend the LBB, which will facilitate the implementation of the India-Bangladesh Boundary Agreement signed in 1974 and its protocol signed in 2011.



Rokeya University BCL attackers of teachers, students free on bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Three leaders of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) have been released from jail on bail on Thursday.

Earlier on January 11, they were arrested on charge of their involvement in an attack on teachers and students of the university on January 10.

The three BCL men allegedly attacked the teachers and students when they were holding a sit-in demonstration programme demanding resignation of Vice Chancellor Prof Abdul Jalil Miah on the campus on that day.

The leaders are Mehedy Hasan Shishir, Md Ali Raz, and Hadiuzzaman.

Road crashes kill five

METRO DESK

Five people were killed and two others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Tangail, Chittagong and Rangpur on Thursday and yesterday.

UNB reports, a man was killed and another injured when a bus rammed a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on Paltan intersection in the capital yesterday morning.

The deceased was Liakat Hossain, 45, a food inspector of Barisal zone and son of Abdul Aziz of Barisal.

The injured was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Liakat died at about 8:00am.

Our Tangail correspondent reports, two motorcyclists were killed and another injured when a truck ran over a motorcycle on Gangabandhu bridge approach road in Poulee area of Kalihati upazila yesterday afternoon.

The deceased were Mohammad Alif, 20, and Anik Ahmed, 18, of Adalat Para area in Tangail town.

The injured, who was yet to be named, was admitted to Tangail General Hospital.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, an auto-rickshaw driver died as a truck hit his vehicle from the opposite direction in Anwara upazila of Chittagong yesterday morning.

The deceased was Amir Hossain, 45, hailing from Mohalokha Bazar under Karnaphuli Police Station in the city.

Our Rangpur correspondent reports, an unidentified youth was killed as a truck ran him over while he was riding a motorbike in Lalbag area of Rangpur city on Thursday.

Locals and police said the goods-laden truck crushed the motorcyclist in the area around 8:00pm, killing him instantly.

The Daily Star

Star Campus

LINKING YOUNG MINDS TOGETHER

COMING OUT TOMORROW

LINKING YOUNG MINDS

This week's Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, has heart warming articles for the young readers. The Spotlight focuses on the on-going historic movement in Shahbag protesting against the verdict of Qader Mollah's life sentencing. The Post Campus will also have insights on how this emotional journey has been so far for the youth of Bangladesh as they finally stand-up and fight for those who had lost their lives for the country. The Campus Trends this week is on how the trend has now changed for the youth and they are now getting involved massively into arts and other cultural activities. The Star Chat is with singer Rushnaf Wadud as he shares stories of his childhood and inspirations. Grab your copy of Star Campus as it hits the country tomorrow, Sunday. And, as always, have a great read!

Dhaka worried over N Korea's nuclear test

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has noted with deep concern the nuclear test conducted by North Korea and called for nuclear free zone in the Korean peninsula.

"Such action, it believes, is not conducive in maintenance of peace and stability in the Korean peninsula and the world in general," said a statement issued by the foreign ministry on February 13.

Bangladesh, as a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NNPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), strongly supports all international measures for nuclear free zone in the Korean peninsula, the statement said.

Bangladesh considers that nuclear testing of any kind undermines nuclear non-proliferation, both horizontal and vertical, and constitutes a major threat to international peace and security.

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