

SNIPPETS

Newsman protest attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Journalists formed a human chain and held a rally in front of Mymensingh Press Club yesterday, protesting the attack on newsmen by Jamaat-Shibir activists in Dhaka and other districts during Friday's violence across the country. The speakers at the rally demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the attackers. They also threatened to go for tougher programme if the demand was not met immediately. Among others, Mir Golam Mustafa, secretary of the press club and its vice president AZM Imam Uddin Mukta, spoke.

Acid thrown on man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A man sustained severe burn injuries as criminals threw acid on him at Panpatti village in Galachipa upazila on Wednesday night. The injured, Nizam Akon, 38, of the village, was admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital. Police arrested one Didar, 30, of the same village, in connection with the acid attack. Police said a gang, allegedly led by Didar, hurled acid on Nizam at around 8:00pm while he was returning home from a nearby bazar. A case was filed in this connection, said Md Ziaul Haque, officer in-charge at Galachipa police station.

11 held while being trafficked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested 11 people, including women, while they were being trafficked to India through Putkhali Border here yesterday. BGB-26 company commander Rafiqul Islam said, on secret information, they raided the border area and arrested four women and seven men while they were crossing the border illegally. However, the traffickers managed to flee, sensing the presence of the BGB men. The arrestees hailed from different areas of Norail and Bagherhat districts, said the commander.

'Criminal' held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police arrested an alleged criminal along with a gun and one bullet at Bhaturia village in Harinakundu upazila yesterday morning. Police said the arrestee, Aminul Islam, 35, son of Rahim Bakhs of the village, was wanted in at least 20 criminal cases. Rezaul Islam, officer in-charge at Harinakundu police station, said on secret information, they raided a house in the area and arrested Aminul along with the arms and bullet.

Kuakata boat looks like schooner

Shifting the 50-ton 'ship' to a safer place remains a challenge

MORSHED ALI KHAN, from Kuakata, Patuakhali

Experts now believe that the "ancient boat" that surfaced from beneath the Kuakata beach in July last year was probably a small ocean going ship similar to a 'schooner' used by the Western traders in the 17th century.

Schooner was a two-sailed ship well known for its elegance and speed.

Earlier the workers at the site painstakingly removed the sand and sticky soil from the hull of the ship.

Yves Marre, a French born Bangladeshi expert in traditional boat heading the salvage team, said that close examination of the ship's structure reveals striking resemblance with schooner, a rigged vessel with fore and aft sails on its masts.

"We are amazed by the architectural shapes of the remains of the hull and can imagine the beauty of the entire ship," said Yves.

Yves added that drawings would be made with advanced naval architectural software to find out the probable shape of the entire ship.

"We will also compare the remains with other such ships at naval museum archives and look into the records of former trading companies to try and find out if any ship was reported missing," he said.

The workers also unearthed pieces of artifacts including a 200-foot-long chain, used for anchoring. The anchor so far remains missing. The hull on the outer side of the



Rescuers of the 'ancient boat' in Kuakata, Patuakhali have finally lifted the 'small ocean going ship like schooner'. Their next challenge is to shift it to a proposed museum in the area.

PHOTO: STAR

ship is entirely covered with a strong copper sheet to protect the heavy wooden structure from erosion.

"Now our challenge lies in moving the 72 feet long and 23 feet wide ship to a safer place nearby," said Yves. "Then we shall make our plans to move it to the designated site of the museum," he added.

"With proper research and tests of the artifacts, we shall try to learn more about the ship," said Afroza Khan Mita, Assistant Director, Department of Archaeology and a member of the rescue team. After frantic efforts for

over a week and fighting a series of odds, the team of rescuers has finally lifted the ship, weighing over 50 tons.

During low tides, the rescuers used traditional pulleys first to dislodge the grip of the hull from the sand and sticky soil about six feet below the surface. Then mechanical pulleys were used to lift the extremely heavy wooden boat to the level of the surface.

With furious high tides threatening to crush the man-made barriers and chronic shortage of proper equipment, the rescue team were facing fresh challenges to their every

move to salvage the ship.

While the Patuakhali district administration is helping the salvage operation with whatever local resources available, the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) under the local government and rural development ministry is now working to earmark a land for setting up a museum in Kuakata to house the ancient ship with all its artifacts.

Hundreds of local people and tourists coming to Kuakata are visiting the salvage site of the ship about three kilometres East of Kuakata's zero

point. Motorbikers are also making brisk business ferrying people to the site, where dozens of specialised workers are toiling to lift the ship to a safer site.

Mohammad Jalil, a young motorbike driver who makes a living by transporting people, said that the museum was sure to add a unique aspect to Kuakata as a tourist spot.

"We are already carrying hundreds of people every day who want to have a glimpse of the ship while it is being rescued and when it is kept in a museum, I can assure you, it will attract thousands more," said Jalil.

Girl rescued, another found dead

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police rescued a schoolgirl, who was abducted allegedly by a youth 15 days ago, from Muktirchar area in Kalmakanda upazila town of Netrakona yesterday.

The victim of Modhyo Bazar area is an SSC examinee, reports our correspondent.

Golock Chandra Boshak, officer in-charge at Kalmakanda police station, said Tarikul Islam, 23, son of Nurul Islam of the town, picked up the girl from Purbo Bazar area on February 8 while she was returning home from the examination centre.

He then forcibly took her to the house of one Santu of Muktirchar, confined and raped her several times.

Meanwhile, a schoolgirl was found dead in Asrafpur area of Indian territory, opposite to Bhabanipur village of Gomostapur upazila in Chapainawabganj yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The deceased was identified as, Maskura Khatun, 15, daughter of the village. The girl was a class eight student at Begunbari High School.

Bazlur Rashid, officer in-charge at Gomostapur police station and the girl's family members said, Maskura went to her maternal grandfather's house at Anarpur on Friday and there she went missing.

Local farmers saw the body and informed the BGB.

Maskura was found dead with a scarf tied around her neck, some 100 yards away from zero line, said police.



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- 9:00-10:00 **Registration:** Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel  
*Master of the ceremony:*  
**Mr. Daniel Seidl**  
Executive Director- Bangladesh German Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BGCCI)
- 10:00 - 10:10 **H.E. William Hanna**,  
Ambassador, The Head of Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh
- 10:10 - 10:20 **Mr. Sakhawat Abu Khair**,  
President Bangladesh German Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BGCCI)
- 10:20 - 10:30 **H.E. Gerben de Jong**,  
Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Dhaka.
- 10:30-10:40 **Dr. Hasan Mahmud**,  
Honorable Minister of Environment and Forest of Bangladesh
- 10:45 - 11:15 **Key Notes speakers:**  
**Mrs. Uta Böllhoff**,  
Director General for Europe, Middle East and Asia-German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development  
**Prof. Jan Pronk**,  
Dutch politician and diplomat. Former minister of environment and development cooperation of the Netherlands.
- 11:15 - 11:30 Coffee break sponsored by **BASF Bangladesh Limited**
- 11:30 - 12:30 **Green Economy Panel:**  
*Introductory notes:*  
**Robert Juhkam**  
Country Director A.I.-UNDP

*Panelists:*  
**Stefanos Fotiou** (Senior Regional Coordinator, UNEP);  
**Dr. Saleem Huq** (Director, ICCCAD); **David Hasanat** (MD-Viyella tex Group); **Mr. Folkert de Jager** (Resident MD-Vitens, Bangladesh); **Kamran Bakr** (Chairman & MD, Unilever Bangladesh Ltd.); **Khondkar Morshed Millat**, Green Banking Cell Head (DGM- Banking Regulation and Policy Department: Bangladesh Bank)

- 12:30 - 13:00 **Q&A**
- 13:00-14:00 **Lunch**
- 14:00-14:30 **Bastiaan Mohrmann**  
Head of Water South Asia Sustainable Business Advisory IFC
- 14:30 - 15:15 **Water Panel:**  
*Introductory notes:*  
**Dr. Carel Richter**  
Head of Economic Affairs and Development Cooperation, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Dhaka.  
*Panelists:*  
**Eng. Taqsem A Khan** (Managing Director, DWASA); **Saroj Dash** (Head of Context - Concern Worldwide); **Lars Doemer** (Environment Responsible, Global Production -H&M); **M.A. Jabbar** (MD- DBL Group); **Mr. Ganesh Pangare** (Head, Ecosystems and Livelihood Group and Head, Water Programme, IUCN)
- 15:15 - 16:00 **Alternative Sources of Energy Panel:**  
*Introductory notes:*  
**Dr. Ijaz Hossain**  
Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, BUET  
*Panelists:*  
**Erich Otto Gomm** (Program Coordinator- Sustainable Energy: GIZ); **Munawar Misbah Moïn** (Group Director-Rahimafrooz (Bangladesh) Ltd.); **Mahmood Malik** (CEO- Infrastructure Development Company Ltd.); **Shouvik Bhattacharya** (Managing Director & CEO: Siemens Bangladesh Ltd.);
- 16:00 - 16:30 Coffee Break Sponsored by **Tchibo Bangladesh**
- 16:30 - 17:15 **Waste & Recycling Panel:**  
*Introductory notes:*  
**Ms. Anna Heringer**  
(Director of BASEhabitat and visiting professor at the University of Arts Linz, Austria)  
*Panelists:*  
**Maksud Sinha** (ED & Co-founder-Waste Concern); **Sk. Bashir Uddin** (MD-Akij Group); **Pavel Cech** (Vice President-Industrial Ecology South-West and East Asia: Lafarge); **Md. Saiful Islam** (MD-Picard Bangladesh Ltd.);
- 17:15 - 18:00 **Compliance Panel:**  
*Introductory notes:*  
**Magnus Schmid**  
Program Coordinator-PS&S (GIZ)

- 18:00 - 18:15 **Final remarks and Conclusions:**  
**H.E. Dr. Albrecht Conze**  
German Ambassador-Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bangladesh
- 20:00 - 22:00 **Dinner**  
Dinner at the Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel Dhaka.
- 20:00-20:05 Opening speech:  
**Olaf Handloegten**  
Country Director- GIZ
- 20:10-20:15 Speech
- Registration**  
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