



The recently paved footpath between Malibagh and Rajarbagh Police Lines in the capital has already eroded at places. The photo was taken recently.

No piracy on Bangladesh's waterways: Seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The crimes occurring on the country's waterways should not be called piracy as those are just petty crimes, said Rear Admiral (retd) Md Khurshed Alam yesterday.

"No incidents of piracy occur in Bangladesh. There have been some incidents of robbery, which some newspapers reported as piracy," he said at a seminar styled "Maritime Piracy and Human Response" organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) in its auditorium in the capital.

Such careless reporting and wrong interpretation of crimes on waterways have tarnished the image of Bangladesh before the world, said Khurshed Alam, head of foreign ministry's maritime affairs unit..

He further said the robberies on waterways has decreased significantly over the past few years due to the government's efforts, adding that 2012 saw the lowest number of incidents in the last five years.

Regarding the release of seven Bangladeshis who were captured by Somali pirates in 2010, Khurshed said the government is trying to take necessary steps.

The MV ALBED, owned by Malaysia-based Enrich Shipping, was attacked by pirates on November 26, 2010 while en route from Mombasa to Jebel Ali, 293 miles west of the Maldives on the Indian Ocean.

Of the captured crew, seven Bangladeshis, six Sri Lankans, one Indian and Iranian are still in captivity, said Somalia Report.

MOJAHEED'S WAR CRIMES TRIAL Hearing adjourned till tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday adjourned the proceedings against Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed till tomorrow.

The court will record the testimony of the 14th prosecution witness that day. The adjournment came after the prosecution produced a seizure list witness instead of a factual witness.

The three-member tribunalled by Justice Obaidul Hassan asked Prosecutor Muklesur Rahman Badal to produce all factual witnesses first and then the seizure list witnesses or produce all three seizure list witnesses on the same day.

Only a junior defence counsel was present in court yesterday. The tribunal asked him to convey the message to his seniors that the proceedings would continue without any adjournment from now.

On June 21, 2012, the tribunal indicted Mojaheed on seven charges, including murder, torture, genocide, and conspiracy to kill intellectuals during the Liberation War.

Sylhet AL lawmaker gets death threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A ruling party lawmaker of Sylhet received a death threat over cellphone early yesterday.

Shofiqur Rahman Chowdhury, a lawmaker of Sylhet-2 constituency and general secretary of Sylhet district unit of Awami League, said he received a phone call from an unidentified caller around 1:47am.

The caller made the call using a Grameenphone number, and used abusive words toward him for his speeches, which he made at different rallies in Sylhet, against Jamaat-Sibir's recent violence.

"At one stage, he threatened to me kill by 11:00am," he said.

A general diary was filed with Shahporan Police Station.

Truck driver found dead in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was found dead in his rented room in the capital's Tejgaon industrial area yesterday morning.

The deceased, Md Shahjahan, 50, was a truck driver.

Police recovered the body after they broke open the door of the victim's room in a mess, Md Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Sources at Dhaka Medical College morgue where the body was sent for an autopsy confirmed that Shahjahan was suffocated to death.

The OC said criminals might have smothered Shahjahan as police found a pillow over his face.

Locals informed police after getting an acrid smell coming out of Shahjahan's room, said Moniruzzaman, adding that the room remained closed for four days.

Anwar Hossain, owner of the mess, told this correspondent that Shahjahan had stayed there for last seven years. He used to stay there with three other truck drivers.

According to the victim's son, Noor-e-Alam, Shahjahan's family living in Daudkandi of Comilla could not contact him since Friday as no body answered calls on his cell phone.

Shahjahan and other residents of the mess used to stay outside Dhaka most of the time as they were drivers of inter-district trucks.

SSC examinee found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of an SSC examinee was found floating in the river Buriganga near Badamtoli Ghat in Old Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

The deceased, Mohammad Kawsar, 16, lived in Armanitola.

Dakkhin Keraniganj police recovered the floating body and sent it to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for an autopsy. The body was decomposed but they did not find any injury mark on it.

Kawsar's family lodged a general diary with Bangshal Police Station on Friday. According to the GD, Kawsar went out of the house on the day as he was upset that some of his exams did not go well.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the eighth death anniversary of Farida Sarker, former newsreader of Voice of America and also a former civil servant.

Special prayers will be offered at an orphanage where food will be distributed among the orphans, said a press release.

Farida, wife of former power and energy minister Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, was a Fulbright scholar and also a teacher at North South University.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Govt working on nat'l plan for women's empowerment Says Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday said the government is forming a "National Working Plan" under the National Women Development Policy-2011 to ensure women empowerment.

The government has fixed some goals under the national working plan and determined some indicators to monitor and evaluate the progress of women empowerment projects in the country, she said.

The state minister disclosed the government's plans at a "Meet the Reporters" programme at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) while addressing the programme as the chief guest. The programme was organised on the occasion of International Women's Day on March 8.

This year the government is focusing on women's right to information regarding services which are fixed for them. As most women in the country do not have accu-

Air passengers suffer for three-day hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-day countrywide shutdown enforced by Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP has caused immense suffering to the air passengers to and from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital.

Several hundred of incoming passengers and many relatives who came to receive them got stranded in the airport for days and spent nights there.

Many even passed long hours with little or almost no food due to high price of food at the airport. Some said they could not sleep at night for mosquitoes in the terminal building.

A number of people risked going home or to relatives' houses in the capital or its surrounding districts, while many others opted to stay at hotels near the airport, passengers said.

Those who departed the airport had to pay double the usual taxi fare.

Abdul Wahab of a taxicab service at

the airport admitted that they carried some passengers outside the capital and charged almost double the fare for hartal risk.

Zakir Hossain, 25, who hails from Trishal, Mymensingh, said, "My relatives informed me about the hartal, but I had no option but to travel as my ticket was reconfirmed by then."

He said he landed at the airport from Malaysia at 10:30am on Monday and had been stuck there since then.

The victim said he thought of travelling by rail but did not dare it for reports of arson on trains at different places. So he stayed up the night at the airport along with over 200 others.

The two-day hartal by Jamaat, followed by a one-day hartal by BNP, made a lot more air passengers and their stranded relatives suffer.

Mohammad Mohsin, who arrived from Dubai around 12:00pm yesterday, said, "My wife and a niece came to receive me from my village home in Narsingdi Monday and had stayed at the airport till then."



Some of the several hundred air passengers, who had passed days and nights at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital due to the three-day shutdown, which ended yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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