



UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon receives Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus at the UN headquarters ahead of a ceremony to award Prof Yunus the US Congressional Gold Medal at the US Capitol Hill yesterday. On behalf of the UN, Ban congratulated Prof Yunus for the achievement.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF NASIR ALI MAMUN

FATIKCHHARI ATTACK

Police hunt for instigator

ARUN BIKASH DEY and SAIDUN NABI, Ctg

Police are trying to nab a person who instigated some boys to hurl brickbats at an Awami League procession in Chittagong's Fatikchhari upazila on April 11, leading to three deaths, said a high-ranking police official yesterday.

Preferring that neither the person nor he be named, the official, of Chittagong, told The Daily Star that the arrest would reveal the attack's masterminds.

After hurling the brickbats, the boys engaged in an altercation with the anti-hartal procession in Kazirhat Bazar area. Soon, announcements were made from three local mosques that the procession was coming to attack one of them, said police.

The locals, Kazirhat madrasa students and Jamaat-e-Islami and Hefajat-e-Islam activists, in their hundreds, then attacked the procession with sharp weapons and sticks, leaving the three AL men dead and over 100 others injured, added police.

Islami Chhatra Shibir was enforcing a hartal that day.

Officials of two probe bodies, one formed by police and another by Chittagong District Administration, said "Jamaat-Shibir cadres" carried out the "pre-planned" attack.

"Video footage showed Shibir cadres of Narayanhat, around seven kilometres from Kazirhat, taking part in the attack," Assistant Superintendent of Police (Hathazari circle) AFM Nizam Uddin told the star yesterday.

"Of them, one Toufique Islam was seen brutally beating Awami League men with sticks. How did they come so soon amidst the absence of public vehicles during the hartal?"

"How did the false announcements come from the mosques in no time if the attack was not pre-planned?" he asked.

Sources said if the AL leaders of Kazirhat had been present in the procession, the local mob could not be instigated to attack.

Additional Deputy Inspector General of Police (Chittagong) Mosharruf Hossain, head of the police probe body, said a report on the findings would be submitted "as early as possible".

ELECTING PRESIDENT

HC order on writ seeking stay April 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After hearing arguments from both sides, the High Court yesterday fixed April 21 to pass an order on a writ petition filed seeking a stay on the April 29 presidential polls.

Eunus Ali Akond, a Supreme Court lawyer, submitted the petition to the HC on April 9, arguing that the "president is not elected democratically by the people" and challenging article 70 of the constitution.

The article says, "A person elected as a member of parliament at an election at which he was nominated as a candidate by a political party shall vacate his seat if he resigns from that party or votes in parliament against the party."

Eunus said the article curtails people's fundamental rights by prohibiting lawmakers from going beyond their own party's choice of presidential candidate.

Additional Attorney General MK Rahman opposed the prayer.

Bus ploughs into divider, kills one

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even dividers are no longer safe for pedestrians.

Mojammel Haque, 28, was standing on a divider waiting for the traffic to clear before crossing the road when a bus ploughed into the divider killing him almost instantly yesterday.

The accident occurred near Matsya Bhaban in the capital.

Mojammel, a junior officer of Premier Bank, was going to his office with his colleague Syeduzzaman.

Syeduzzaman said, "I saw a bus coming towards us from Shahbagh at a very high speed. Before we realised what was going on, the bus slammed into Mojammel while I instinctively jumped away." He said Mojammel was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police seized the bus but the driver and his helper managed to flee.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Mujibur Rahman Lasker, a member of Customs and Excise, passed away due to old age complications on Tuesday. He was 90.

He worked in various capacities in the Department of Narcotics Control and the National Board of Revenue, Bangladesh.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his eldest daughter's residence in the capital on Saturday after Asr prayers.

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

JATIYA PRESS CLUB

Bangabandhu's mural demanded by May 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A faction of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and another of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday asked the Jatiya Press Club managing committee to set up a mural of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman inside the club by May 25.

If the committee fails, the journalists will do it on that day, the union leaders said after a discussion with the managing committee.

"We will surely set up the mural of the father of the nation in the press club, and we want to do it in a peaceful manner, not aggressively," said BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury.

The previous deadline to set up the mural expired yesterday.

Chowdhury also said the authorities were depriving many journalists of the club membership. "We have given an ultimatum to the managing committee to give new membership to eligible journalists within the next one month."

Talking to The Daily Star, Jatiya Press Club managing committee President Kamaluddin Sabuj said, "According to the club constitution, the decision of setting up any portrait or mural of any national leader will have to be taken as per opinions of general members. We will discuss it with the leaders of journalists' unions and stakeholders by May 25."

He also said new memberships would be given within the shortest time possible.

BSTI sues 7 drinking water factories in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) yesterday lodged seven separate cases with a Chittagong court against owners of seven business organisations on charges of producing and selling drinking water illegally.

Three field officers of BSTI in Chittagong city -- Delwar Hossain, Moshtak Ahmed and ANM Farhad Hossain -- lodged the cases with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court, said a press release of BSTI.

The accused owners are Faisal Dastagir Chowdhury of M/S Oasis Drinking Water; Mir Mahmudul Haq Hasan of M/S Tastes Foods and Beverage Industries BD Ltd; Alok Das of M/S Ravino Ltd; Mosleh Uddin Siraji of M/S Asian Foods and Beverage Products; Mesbah Uddin of M/S Rahmania Enterprise; Mir Md Waliullah of M/S Safa Marwa Foods and Beverage; and Md Ismail of M/S Heaven Drinking Water.

K M Hanif, assistant director of BSTI in Chittagong, said BSTI teams found that the factories were producing drinking water in unhygienic environment; and selling those using forged trademarks of BSTI.

Moreover, the factories did not obtain the Certification Mark (CM) license which is mandatory for producing and selling drinking water, he said.

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