

RECENT ATTACKS ON HINDUS

Lalmonirhat victims Barisal victims living in fear of another attack

Visiting Ain o Salish Kendra team tells journalists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Hindus who were recently attacked in two Lalmonirhat upazilas are living in fear as the perpetrators are walking free and threatening to kill them if they do not withdraw the cases, said an Ain o Salish Kendra team yesterday.

Lalmonirhat Deputy Commissioner Habibur Rahman and Superintendent of Police Habibur Rahman have assured of providing security, Abu Ahmed Fajlul Kabir, leading the five-member team, told journalists at one of the spots.

The team visited the crime scenes, around 92 kilometres apart from each other, on Thursday and yesterday and talked to the victims.

The victims blamed BNP-Jamaat-Shibir men of vandalising and looting 16 shops, torching some in the process, of only Hindus in Shafinagar village of Patgram upazila on

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PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

Boy Scouts yesterday help rebuild Hindu houses in Nomopara of Char Kawa village, about six kilometres east of Barisal city, which were torched by some 1,000 residents of neighbouring Char Aicha village on November 15. The attack was fueled by the murder of a college student, Parvez Gazi, and wounding of three others of Char Aicha in a clash over a badminton game in Nomopara the day before.

Cops, 18-party men clash leaves 20 hurt in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

At least 20 people including six police were injured in a clash between law enforcers and the BNP-led 18-party activists in Tangail town yesterday evening.

Witnesses said some Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir activists vandalised several billboards, set up by pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League men felicitating Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina, near Shaheed Minar where the 18-party men were holding a meeting.

Police fired rubber bullets and tear shells to disperse them prompting the JCD and Shibir men to throw brick chips at police, said Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Tangail Model Police Station.

Seven people were detained on the spot, the OC said.

ARCHITECT OF INT'L MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY Rafiqul will live on in people's hearts

Say speakers at a memorial meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As long as Bangla language exists and International Mother Language Day is celebrated, Rafiqul Islam, one of the architects of the day, will live on in people's hearts, said speakers yesterday.

They were paying tribute to Rafiqul Islam, who passed away on Wednesday at Vancouver General Hospital in Canada, at the central Shaheed Minar. Sammito Sangskritik Jote organised the ceremony.

Different ministries, social and cultural organisations and educa-

tional institutions also placed wreaths at the portrait of Rafiqul Islam.

Mofidul Haque, one of the trustees of the Liberation War Museum, said the initiative taken by Rafiqul and Abdus Salam, members of Vancouver-based NGO "Mother Language Lovers of the World", in 1998 inspired the then government to work towards achieving UN recognition of the Language Movement.

Responding to Bangladesh's proposal, the Unesco in 1999 declared February 21 as

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PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka North City Corporation not only turned nearly half of this section of the capital's DIT Road into a garbage collection point but also transports the trash right in the middle of the day instead of the dead of night when people are less likely to suffer. Inset, this rickshaw passenger makes it clear how disgusting the situation is.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Mainul Islam, former principal of Kazi Jalal Uddin High School and College in Sylhet city, died in his Mazumdari residence on Thursday. He was 70.

He left behind six sons and five daughters. He was buried at his family graveyard at Shekhergaon.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 18th death anniversary of Masudur Rahman, former controller of Kolkata rationing department and headmaster of Ghorasal Pilot High School.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil, Qurankhwani and a discussion, will be held today at Ghorasal, says a press release.

Road crashes kill six

CITY DESK

Six people were killed and 30 others injured in road accidents in the country yesterday.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports, a person was killed and 27 others, including two children, were injured when a bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Anwara in Chittagong.

The deceased could not be identified immediately. Seventeen of the injured are undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital while the others at Anwara Upazila Health Complex.

Our Jhenidah correspondent adds, Ajgor Ali, 65, of Moheshpur upazila, died when a microbus ran him over at Kaliganj Bus Stand on Jhenidah-Jessore road.

A Comilla correspondent reports, two children were killed and three other persons injured when a bus of Janata Express collided head-on with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them at Alekharchar in Sadar upazila.

The dead were Md Ruhul Amin Roney, 10, son Abu Taher, and his cousin Aklima Akhter, 7, daughter of Arsad Miah. The injured were admitted to Comilla Sadar Hospital.

Our Savar correspondent adds, two unidentified persons died when a bus hit their motorbike at Shimultala in Savar.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj



Former state minister for jute Moslem Uddin Khan popularly known as

Habu Mia died of old age complications at a clinic in Manikganj town Thursday night, aged 83.

Habu Mia, who was also a freedom fighter and local Awami League leader, left behind his wife, a son and a daughter.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held on Jatiya Sangsad premises yesterday. He will be buried today after janazas at his Garpara home in Manikganj around 11:00am and at Manikganj Government Devendra College after Zohr prayers.

Four BNP men held in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Palma

Four BNP leaders and activists of Sirajganj district were arrested in a hotel in the district headquarters yesterday in connection with several cases filed for creating violence during different hartal hours.

The arrestees are Abdur Razzak Mondol, former secretary of BNP Belkuchi upazila unit, Nasimul Haque Nasim, chairman of Dhukuria union, Aminul Islam, member of BNP upazila unit, and Abdur Razzak, an activist, said Sirajganj Sadar police.

Fire guts 15 makeshift shops in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen makeshift shops of fruits and vegetables were gutted by a fire at Bashpotti in the capital's Shanir Akhra yesterday.

No casualty was reported.

Fire fighters doused the fire after one and a half hours' effort around 8:30am.

Fire service officials suspected that the fire started from a burning cigarette.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

Homework

If you believe mischievous children over the ages, vast proportions of humanity's homework have been consumed by the dog. However, joking aside, homework plays a critical role in our intellectual development. The boy in the photograph reminded me of all the homework of my life and how they evolved over time.

I remember no homework before Class VII; they were neither memorably difficult nor painful. Class VII marked a change because the English teacher, Brother John Stephens, was appalled by our poor vocabulary. So he required the class to learn ten new words every day for the entire year and tested our learning through daily quizzes. I resented the extra work back then; now I realize what a blessing it had been.

Two years later, Mr. Shawkat Hussain ignited my lifelong passion for all things mathematical. His charm lay in his clear and effortless explanation of mathematical principles. His creative approach to problem-solving turned the difficult subject into a challenging game. My favourite memory of Mr. Hussain was the morning he walked into class and announced, "I had trouble falling asleep last night, so I came up with three new proofs of Pythagoras' Theorem."

Homework became progressively time-consuming as my education advanced and independent thinking gradually replaced rote-learning. But it remained somewhat optional even during my A level days in London. That's because what mattered was the grade one received in the final A level examination where one's homework grade made no difference.

Things changed drastically when I began my Electrical Engineering undergraduate studies in the USA. Homework – along with frequent, gruelling examinations called "prelims" – were the lifeblood of this program. Not only did grades depend heavily on homework, but performance in "prelims" was directly related to how hard one worked on the homework.

Professor Toby Berger's class – on engineering mathematics – was particularly stimulating. The first problem on his first homework assignment was staggeringly difficult. But he added this life-saver – "Hint: Use a Lagrange Multiplier. If you don't know what one is, find out."

Childhood had indeed ended. We were no longer responsible for knowing only what was in the syllabus, but were also expected to research and learn new



Homework before class, 1994.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

concepts – outside the syllabus – on our own.

Incredible as it may seem, in graduate school, homework became even more important. My graduate advisor was completely hooked on abstract mathematical concepts. His long homework sets required countless hours and numerous pages. After exhausting several writing pads every week for a few weeks, I developed the habit of using the (empty) backside of recycled computer printouts for my homework to save money on writing pads.

The boy in the photograph appears captivated by his homework. Did he have any idea about all the homework of life that lay ahead? How did he face them? What a story that would make!

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HC ORDER TO REMOVE STRUCTURES FROM 4 RIVERS SC may hear review petition tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court is likely to hear tomorrow a review petition filed against its May 3, 2010 order upholding a High Court directive to remove all structures, excluding government ones set up in public interest, from four rivers around the capital.

The rivers are Shitalakkhya, Balu, Turag and Buriganga. The petition was enlisted as case No 54 in the SC's hearing list.

It was filed by City Sugar Industries Ltd, which has three illegal jetties in the Shitalakkhya, in 2010 following the June 2009 HC directive on the government, Manzill Murshid, president of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), told The Daily Star.

He said the directive came following a public interest litigation filed by HRPB.

The HC in 2012 issued a contempt of court rule against the high government officials concerned for not executing the SC order. The rule is still now pending before the HC, he added.

AL men grab land by forcing owner to sign deed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Two activists of Awami League and two of pro-AL organisations allegedly grabbed 20-decimal land from a brick kiln owner by forcing him to sign the deed to the land at a police station on Thursday night in Sarishabari of Jamalpur.

Zahid Hossain Sabuj, the brick kiln owner, claimed that two upazila AL activists -- Abul Kalam and Mukul -- the president of Sarishabari unit of Jubo League, Mantul Tawary, and the secretary of upazila unit of Swechhasebak League, Kalachan Pal, forcibly took him to Sarishabari Police Station and made him sign the deed to the land in Simlagupinath area worth Tk 50 lakh.

They at first demanded Tk 7 lakh from him which they claimed was owed to them by Sabuj's father, who passed away a couple of months back, said Sabuj.

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CRISIS AT JU Teachers continue to confine pro-VCs, registrar

Demand VC panel election soon

JU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of Jahangirnagar University continued to confine two pro-vice chancellors and the registrar to their offices since Wednesday, demanding execution of the chancellor's directives to organise the VC panel election to replace Prof Anwar Hossain.

The protesters under the banner of "Shikkhak-Shikkharthi-Karmokarta-Karmochari Oikya Forum" said they would carry on the confinement until their demand was met. On November 6, President Abdul Hamid, also chancellor of JU, asked

Death Anniversary



Today (23rd November 2013) is the 5th Death Anniversary of Late Al-Haj A M Idris, former Sponsor Director of Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd and Delta Hospital Ltd. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

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