

PM orders immediate arrest of killers

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday ordered the law enforcers to immediately arrest the bomb attackers who killed a police constable and injured eight others on Thursday.

Expressing deep shock at the death of constable Shiddhartha Chandra Sarkar, 23, she prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed her profound sympathy to the bereaved family members, said PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

Shiddhartha succumbed to his injuries half an hour after he had been taken to Dhaka Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Thursday night from Rajshahi.

Wage movement to stop discrimination against women

Mahila Parishad event told
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a certificate-awarding ceremony yesterday stressed on waging movement by spreading awareness to uproot social values that discriminate against women and to build a prosperous society.

In a male dominated society, the discriminatory values make men the beneficiaries but also bar them from becoming completely independent and democratic human beings, they observed.

The certificates, for a three-month course, "Gender, Empowerment of Women and Development", arranged by

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RAJSHAHI COP KILLING

Mayor, ex-mayor among 87 BNP-Jamaat men sued

53 arrested so far

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Around 87 BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and activists, including Rajshahi city Mayor Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul, were sued yesterday over Thursday's bomb attack, which left a policeman killed and eight others wounded.

The accused also include former mayor and Rajshahi city BNP President Mizanur Rahman Minu, General Secretary Shafikul Haque Milon, district President Nadim Mostafa, acting city Jamaat ameer Zahangir Hossain, and assistant secretaries Emaj Uddin Mondol and Mainul Hossain.

Sub-inspector Rafikul Islam filed two cases with Boalia Police Station—one for obstructing the work of the law enforcers and killing a constable and the other for the bomb attack--



Bulbul



Minu

accusing 87 BNP-Jamaat men by name and 350 to 400 others unnamed, said the officer-in-charge, Ziaur Rahman.

Constable Shiddhartha Chandra Sarkar, 23, and eight others sustained splinter injuries after alleged BNP-Jamaat men hurled a bomb on a police van in Rajarhata area of Rajshahi city on Thursday noon. Shiddhartha succumbed to his injuries half an hour after he was flown to Dhaka Combined Military Hospital

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Grieving fellows curse politics

ANWAR ALL, Rajshahi

"This is Shiddhartha Dada (brother) who gave life for the dirty politics of Bangladesh," reads the caption of a photo of six young police constables, including the deceased, which was found on the Facebook timeline of one of Shiddhartha's colleagues yesterday.

"They (politicians) did not let you live," says a comment. Another colleague remarks, "...I spit on this nasty politics...We went out to work in the morning together and one of us was dead in the night. This is our life!"

These sharp reactions came after Shiddhartha Chandra Sarkar, 23, a police constable in Rajshahi city, died on Thursday night following a bomb attack by alleged BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami activists that noon.

The colleagues of Shiddhartha were so angry at politics and grieved at his death that they could hardly find words to express emotions. Some of them are using

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TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Yellow-footed Green Pigeon.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

Horial

Although green pigeons (horial/treron phoenicoptera) are common in Bangladesh, I saw my first one only recently. I was watching some small birds feeding on the fruits of a banyan tree at the Mirpur Botanical Garden, when, through the leaves, the shadow of larger birds loomed from the overhead canopy. They stayed out of sight at the topmost branches but then, for a short while, my patience descended to a lower branch while searching for fruit.

The bird's pigeon-like shape, green body and yellow feet identified it as a yellow-footed green pigeon - a member of the pigeon family's treron branch which includes 23 species, all green to various degrees. This bird also had patches of grey and yellow. It walked on a branch and tried to grab a fruit from a red cluster. The fruit was too large to fit in its opened beak, and after several attempts, it moved to another fruit of a more suitable size, swallowing it whole without pecking.

Reading about the horial led me to the world of pigeons.

The pigeon family (kobutor/columbidae) is one of the most successful families of birds, having adapted extremely well, some might say too well, to humans. There are 310 species of pigeons which are dispersed around the world, just about everywhere except parts of the Sahara, Antarctica and the Arctic. They are familiar to us because of the ubiquitous rock pigeon which inhabits many cities.

Some members of the pigeon family have become extinct. These include the Dodo, which evolved in isolation - in an island - from predators and lost its predator-avoiding behaviour. It was hunted to extinction once humans moved in.

Pigeons exhibit common traits. For example, they are strong fliers and make a loud flapping sound with their wings when taking off. Their heads bob back and forth when they are walking. This head-bobbing arouses our curiosity. A scientist observed that a pigeon walking on a treadmill does not bob its head and concluded that the bird bobs its head to maintain a steady view of the world around it. Doves - known in as ghughu - are also members of the pigeon family, but smaller in size. The spotted dove is the most common dove here.

Some species of the pigeon family are frugivorous - they live on fruit and help disperse seeds. Others are granivorous, living on grains and seeds. In general, the frugivores have brighter plumage. There are also physical differences - for example, frugivorous pigeons have shorter intestines and are able to cling to branches and even hang upside down to reach fruit.

The largest pigeon is the Crown Pigeon of New Guinea, nearly turkey-sized at four kilograms. The smallest is the Ground Dove of the Americas which is the size of a house sparrow (22 grams.) Pigeons have a long association with humans. They served historically as messengers during wars. Many hobbyists race pigeons, taking them to a place far from home and setting them free; the first pigeon returning home wins. In Sylhet, the Rock Pigeons called "Jalali kobutor" were prolific during my childhood and can still be seen. They are believed to have descended from a pair owned by the sufi saint Hajrat Shahjalal in the 13th century.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

NEWSIN brief

Arrest of Tazreen boss demanded

UNB, Dhaka

Leaders of National Garment Workers Federation yesterday demanded arrest of Tazreen Fashions' Managing Director Delwar Hossain within seven days on charge of 'killing' 112 workers.

The leaders warned that garment workers will march towards the Prime Minister's Office if their demand is unheeded.

They were speaking at a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club.

On December 22, police filed a case against 13 people, including Delwar Hossain, in connection with the devastating fire at the factory that killed 112 workers and injured many others in November last year.

RU teacher alleges 'procedural violation' in his sacking

RU CORRESPONDENT

Shaon Uddin, a teacher of the management department of Rajshahi University who was sacked on Tuesday for sexual harassment, claimed yesterday that the authorities fired him violating the Rajshahi University Act-1973 and the constitution of Bangladesh.

Speaking at a press conference at RU cafeteria, he said he was denied the right to self-defence and punished twice for the same offence.

Vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad Mizanuddin, however, said the investigation against Shaon, who was charged with passing lewd remarks to female students in the classroom, was conducted properly.

BNP's hartal in Bheramara today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

BNP has called a daylong hartal in Bheramara upazila of Kushtia for today protesting an attack allegedly by Awami League men on the Bheramara BNP office Thursday night.

Local BNP leader Sahidul Islam said a group of AL activists, led by the upazila unit Bangladesh Chhatra League man Sunny, ransacked the office.

Parvez Islam, officer-in-charge of Bheramara Police Station, confirmed it.

However, the upazila unit AL President Abu Bakar Siddique denied the allegation.

Hizb-ut men clash with cops in capital

7 of 50 detainees suffer pellet wounds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least seven suspected Hizb-ut Tahrir men were hit by pellets when police opened fire during a clash with the banned militant outfit's activists in the capital's Segunbagicha and adjacent areas yesterday, leading to the detainment of 50 persons.

The organisation had sent letters to the media on Thursday asking to cover a rally they planned to organise in Muktangon after Juma prayers at 2:30pm yesterday and accordingly some 250 activists brought out a procession from Segunbagicha.

When police gave chase with teargas, they split, spreading from the High Court to Bijoy Nagar, and threw stones and, as police

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Chinese vice minister's visit postponed

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chinese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Liu Zhenmin, who was due in Dhaka today for a 24-hour visit to meet top political leaders, has postponed his visit due to flight cancellation.

According to a Chinese embassy press release, Liu Zhenmin was supposed to arrive in Dhaka today from Kunming.

However, Kunming airport was closed due to heavy fog, it said.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Dear ones wait at the passing of Md Shahjahan at the intensive care unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. He had been burnt in an arson by blockaders on the CNG-run auto-rickshaw he was riding in the capital's Ahmodnagar on December 21.

Cattle trader killed by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A Bangladeshi cattle trader was beaten to death by Indian Border Security Force at Baradi border point in Indian territory near Damurhuda of Chuadanga yesterday.

BSF members of Bijoypur camp caught Abu Hossain, 50, while he and eight other traders were returning home, said Lt Col Moniruzzaman, commander of BGB-6, Chuadanga.

The other cattle traders said BSF beat Abu mercilessly. BSF at a flag meeting said they let Abu go shortly after picking him up, said Lt Col Moniruzzaman.

Locals later found Abu's body floating on the river Mathabhangha.

RANA PLAZA DEBRIS More human remains found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Human remains have been unearthed again from the rubble of Rana Plaza in Savar yesterday.

This time at least 13 human bones, including three chest bones, three leg bones and three finger bones, were recovered by street urchins scavenging the debris of the collapsed building. This is the fifth time that human remains have been found in just two weeks.

Md Khalid Khan, sub-inspector of Savar Model Police Station, said "We have collected the bones and will take necessary steps after holding discussion with higher-ups."

On Thursday, at least 20 human bones and a broken skull were found in the rubble of Rana Plaza.

On December 13, four street boys found some skeletal remains for the first time. More remains were discovered on Sunday and Monday.

The nine-storey Rana Plaza collapsed on April 24, killing at least 1,134 people and injuring and maiming several hundred. According to the army, which led the rescue, 159 victims are still unidentified or missing.

Razia Khan Amin's 2nd anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Razia Khan Amin, a writer, poet and former professor of English and American literature of Dhaka University who passed away on December 28, 2011.

Apart from being a writer and educationist, Razia Khan has been a journalist, theatre actor and columnist for various newspapers. She has won several awards including the PEN Lay Writing Award, Bangla Academy Award for contribution to Bengali literature, Ekushey Padak for education and Ananya Award.

She has been awarded for her life-long contribution to theatre in Bangladesh.



2 shot dead in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

Two youths were shot dead by unidentified miscreants in Khulna city's Bildakatia area yesterday.

The deceased were Ripon Sardar, 27, son of Dr M Jafar Iqbal; and his friend Mithun Sheikh, 26, son of Mannan Sheikh. Both are residents of Dewana Uttarpara in the city.

Police said six miscreants riding on three motorcycles attacked Ripon and Mithun around 4:00pm while they were catching fish in an enclosure. Ripon died instantly while Mithun died on the way to a hospital.

SI Anwar said the murder might have taken place over previous enmity.

AL men attack

FROM PAGE 3

Rugpanj Bazar.

He said the miscreants vandalised his car and another car belonging to Habibur Rahman, the upazila parishad vice-chairman.

Tofazzal Hossain Molla, president of AL Rugpanj unit, denied the allegation.

Md Asaduzzaman, OC of Rugpanj police, said he heard the incident.

Meanwhile, miscreants vandalised and torched two motorcycles of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) activists when they were campaigning for the party's nominee at Mogholhat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, reports our Lalmonirhat correspondent.

Khorshed Alam, the JSD candidate, and three of his party men fled after they came under attack, while campaigning for the upcoming election. Alam alleged his attackers were local BNP activists. Majnu Mandal, president of BNP Mogholhat union unit, refuted the allegation.

Let us live

FROM PAGE 3

the citizens, he said, adding that the government must take stern action against the perpetrators.

Noted jurist Barrister Amirul Islam observed that the recent violence was created by the anti-liberation forces, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir, only to save war criminals.

"We are concerned about the international community's interference in our judicial process over the trial of war criminals. We are also

concerned about violence in the name of politics," he said.

Shahriar Kabir, acting president of Ektattur Ghatak Dal Nirmul Committee, said the perpetrators of 1971, Jamaat and Shibir, had become stronger after enjoying the impunity from BNP founder Ziaur Rahman.

He criticised the international communities for "meddling" in Bangladesh's judicial process.

Theatre personality Ramendu Majumdar said, "I

feel helpless over the recent violence." The government must control Jamaat-Shibir in a strong hand to stop this, he said.

Barrister Tania Amir presented the keynote paper where she mentioned that Jamaat and Shibir were behind the violence unleashed to save war criminals.

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Aysha Khanom and Supreme Court lawyer Subrata Chowdhury, among others, also spoke.



Project launching

The Daily Star and Grameenphone Bangladesh will launch a science and technology project "IGNITE"; Venue: AS Mahmud Seminar Hall, The Daily Star Centre; Time: 3:00pm.

Views exchange meeting

Centre for Policy Dialogue and three

other organisations will hold a views exchange meeting on Bangladesh in crisis; Venue: Lakeshore Hotel, Gulshan-2; Time: 9:30am.

Discussion

Rural Journalists Foundation will hold a discussion on the country and language; Venue: Public Library, Shahbagh; Time: 10:00am.