

Three killed in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people were killed in different areas of the capital yesterday.

In Darussalam, an accounts officer of a block and boutique printing factory was stabbed to death in his office room.

Police said Rafiqul Islam, 44, might have been killed by a colleague with whom he shared a room inside the factory, as his roommate was absconding.

In Gulshan's Kalachandpur, police recovered the blood-soaked body of an unidentified man.

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RAMNA CARNAGE CASE

Akbar's counsel ends argument

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Counsel for Moulana Akbar Hussain, one of the 14 accused in the Ramna Batamul carnage case, yesterday completed his argument and appealed to the court to acquit his client of the charges.

Advocate TM Akbar representing Akbar, told the court that the prosecution failed to prove the charges brought against his client in the case.

Another lawyer for accused Moulana Abu Taher, yesterday also started placing arguments against

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CASES AGAINST IZHAR, SON

Hearing on charges Feb 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday fixed February 25 for holding a hearing to decide whether it will take into cognisance the charges against nine, including Hefajat-e-Islami Nayebe Ameer Mufti Izharul Islam Chowdhury and his son Harun Bin Izhar, in two cases, including an explosive.

Judge SM Mojibur Rahman fixed the date after the prosecution prayed for seeking time.

Chittagong Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Kamal Uddin Ahmed told The Daily Star that they sought

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HRIDOEY MATI O MANUSH It played role in country's agri transformation

Says Shykh Seraj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the 90s and 80s, farmers used to apply traditional methods and grow crop only to meet their own needs. As food shortages were frequent, the focus was put on increasing productivity.

Things changed radically towards 2000 when farmers rapidly embraced modern technologies, increasing production. Today, all are well aware of the dynamics of farming.

"I think we, Hridoye

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL

2 more implicate Quasem in Tuntu, Ranjit killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two prosecution witnesses yesterday told International Crimes Tribunal-2 of hearing that Al-Badr men led by Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mir Quasem Ali had picked up and killed Tuntu Sen and Ranjit Das during the 1971 Liberation War.

Of the seven witnesses who have given depositions till date in the war crimes case against Quasem, six informed of the torture and killing at the Al-Badr camp in Chittagong city's Dalim Hotel.

The seventh witness, Pradip Talukdar, said he was around six-seven years old when Tuntu, his maternal uncle, was taken away by Al-Badr men while the two were out visiting the city's "Shibmondir" sometime in November 1971.

Tuntu's mother Rosho Bala went to Dalim

Hotel, adjacent to Tuntu's Hazari Lane residence, but the Al-Badr members refused her plea to free Tuntu, saying they needed the consent of the camp's commander, "Mir Quasem Ali", Pradip quoted her as saying.

Alongside Tuntu, Ranjit and another person were also taken there, he said.

Afterwards, Tuntu, on seeing Rosho passing by, jumped from the hotel's second floor and went through the tin roof of an adjacent one-storey house. Although Rosho hid him under a mat, Tuntu was caught, taken back, tortured and killed under Quasem's orders, added Pradip.

Earlier, the sixth witness, Mridul Kumar Dey, said he had found Ranji's wife Prova Rani before the hotel on December 16, 1971, the day the Pakistani occupation forces surrendered, while detainees inside were coming out.

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22 more selected for 2nd round

SUROVI ALAM

A total of 22 students from four Dhaka schools were selected for the second divisional round as the first round of The Daily Star Spelling Bee's third season, hosted by champs21.com and powered by Horlicks, continued yesterday.

The schools are Maple Leaf International School, Manarat International School, Cherry Blossoms International School, Dhanmondi Tutorial and Sir John Wilson School.

Students from ten Kushtia schools also participated in a written test held at School of Laureates International yesterday. Apart from the host school, other participating schools are Kalokakoly High School, Merit Academy, Kushtia Zila School, Mir Mosharraf Hossain High School, Police Line School, Muslim Academy, Kushtia Govt Girls' High School, Kushtia High School and CDAD Sultana Girls' High School. The results will be published later.

There is still a chance for the students of class VI-X from both Bangla and English medium schools, except SSC.



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NEWS IN brief

Two shot, three beaten up by supporters of Jubo League leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Two supporters of a ward councillor of Narayanganj City Corporation were shot and three others were beaten up by the supporters of a Jubo League leader in the city on Tuesday night.

Shohag and Shishir with bullet wounds were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while the others were undergoing treatment at Narayanganj hospital.

Shiddirganj police said supporters of Matiur Rahman alias Sundar Mati, convenor of Jubo League Shiddirganj thana unit, attacked Councillor Sirajul Islam's men in Sona Mia Market area and at one point opened fire on them over establishing supremacy in Shiddirganj area. Mati said he had no knowledge about the firing but the beating occurred due to village arbitration.

Biman's cleaner arrested with 5kg gold at Shahjalal airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials detained a cleaner of Biman Airlines with 40 gold bars, weighing around 5kg, worth Tk 2 crore, at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday.

On information, the officials recovered the bars from the boots of Joynal Abedin, 45, of Pabna, in No-6 Boarding Bridge area, soon after he came out after cleaning an aircraft of Malaysia Airlines, said Kamrul Hasan, assistant commissioner of the customs.

Two mechanical helpers of Biman Airlines, Shahiduzzaman and Nurul Islam asked Joynal to bring the bars, which were kept under a passenger seat, for them, said Kamrul, quoting Joynal. The duo, however, managed to flee.

Cuba, Algeria, Azerbaijan greet Hasina on re-election

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Cuban President Raul Castro Ruz, Algerian Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal and Azerbaijani Prime Minister Artur Rasi-zade have congratulated Sheikh Hasina for assuming office as the prime minister of Bangladesh, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

NU publishes 2nd admission merit list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National University will publish the second merit list of the students seeking admission in the honours programme under the 2013-14 session today.

Candidates can get the results by sending SMS, NU<space>AT<space>Roll no, to 16222 from any mobile phone from 3:00pm onwards.

Besides, the results will be available at www.nu.edu.bd/admission from 6:00pm, says a press release. Candidates from the first merit list who have applied for changing subjects will be informed about the subjects through SMS.

2-week Buet debate contest ends

CITY DESK

A two-week debate championship, organised by Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), concluded at the university on Tuesday.

More than 100 national level teams participated in the competition, says a press release.

Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, vice chancellor of the University of Asia Pacific and former professor of civil engineering at Buet, was present as the chief guest at the concluding ceremony.

Student team from Tokyo due today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A team of ten students of the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies will arrive in Dhaka today on a week-long visit to familiarise with the Bangla language and culture.

The students studying Bangla will make the tour under "Visit Bangladesh" programme by the country's foreign ministry. They will interact with the officials and representatives of various offices and organisations.

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Bubbling with contentment, these working children reflect the respite provided for a day by Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) through a tour to Shishu Park, a children's amusement park in the capital's Shahbagh, organised for 144 such children yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

KSA urged not to impose limit on number of Hajj pilgrims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has urged the Saudi authorities not to ask Bangladesh to cut the number of the country's Hajj pilgrims by 20 percent this year.

Last year, 38,000 Bangladeshis could not perform Hajj, as Saudi Arabia urged Bangladesh, along with other countries, to cut the number of its pilgrims by 20 percent due to the expansion work of the Grand Mosque. The bar stays this year too.

Religious Affairs Minister Matiur Rahman discussed the issue with Saudi Hajj minister Bandar Hajjar in Jeddah on Sunday. He also requested Saudi Arabia to allow 1.3 lakh pilgrims this year, the ministry officials said yesterday.

Every year, a fixed number of pilgrims are allowed to perform Hajj in Saudi Arabia from Bangladesh as well as other countries.

Working children's day out with ASK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On any other day teenagers Muhammad Zakir Hossain and Al-Amin would have gone from door to door delivering newspapers. But yesterday morning was different. They had a different, more important responsibility.

They had to play the role of big brothers, taking care of the 144 child labourers whom Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) took on a tour to Shishu Park, a children's amusement park in the capital's Shahbagh.

"I came here before with ASK in another study tour, but this year I am here as a volunteer," said 13-year-old Zakir, a class IX student of commerce at Shantibagh High School.

Since the age of eight years, Zakir has been a beneficiary of ASK's Child Rights Unit programme, opened in 1999 to pro-

vide education, healthcare and legal help to underprivileged, working children aged between six and 18.

The unit's education sector has a sponsorship programme which funds the education of 38 children, including Zakir.

Working to protect human rights for the last 28 years, ASK has 14 full-time and 35 part-time drop-in centres in the capital where working children can come in any time to receive basic literacy and life-skill knowledge and learn music, art and games.

"After providing them with one year's basic literacy, we enroll them in regular schools," said Rita Parven, the unit's assistant coordinator and one of the 50 ASK staff accompanying the children yesterday.

"We organise this trip at the beginning of each year so that these children, who have to earn a living, can get an entire day of fun and

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THE 9TH BANGLADESH INT'L PLASTICS, PACKAGING AND PRINTING INDUSTRIAL FAIR

Incorporating: Foodtech & Bakery Tech Industrial fair

BANGLADESH FOODTECH

Venue: BICC (Bangabandhu Int'l Conference Centre) / Show Time: 12:00~20:00

FEB. 20-23, 2014



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FACTS OF IPF 2014

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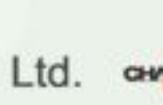
Exhibitors showcase their latest technology of Plas, Pack, Print and Food Processing machinery.

ORGANIZERS

Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers & Exporters Association



YORKERS Trade & Marketing Service Co., Ltd.



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Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BPGMEA)