

Jubo League leader held with gun at PM's rally

Released after primary quizzing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jubo League leader was detained for some time for carrying a firearm at a rally attended by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.

Shahbagh police released him after primary quizzing at night, but details were not available.

Kamrul Hasan Tutul, a senior joint convener of Jubo League's Adabor unit, was held in front of Ramna Kali Mandir with his licensed pistol and 11 bullets.

Detectives searched him on suspicion around 4:30pm, said Shibli Noman, assistant commissioner (Dhanmondi division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

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Four army men hurt in road crash

Accidents countrywide kill four, injure 28 others

CITY DESK

Countrywide road accidents killed four people and injured 32 others yesterday and Friday.

Our Pabna correspondent reports, seven people, including four army officers, were injured when a microbus and an army jeep collided head-on on Dhaka-Bogra highway in Ghurka area of Raiganj upazila in Sirajganj yesterday.

They officers -- Major Raihan, 34, Captain Kayes, 28, Captain Jahiduzzaman Jahid, 27, and second lieutenant Asaduzzaman, 22 -- are undergoing treatment.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent reports, three people died in a head-on collision between a CNG-run auto-rickshaw and a

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Unani medicine factory sealed for irregularities

Six jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court, conducted by Rab, yesterday sealed off a Unani medicine factory at Ashrafabad in the capital's Kamrangir Char for producing and marketing unauthorised medicines.

The law enforcers also sentenced three employees to one year in jail each and destroyed the fake medicines and equipment.

The convicted are factory manager Abul Hossain, chemist Nazrul Islam and unani medicine practitioner Jinnat Rehana Parveen.

The factory is licensed to producing 17 types of drugs but it has been manufacturing medicines outside the authorised ones, said the law enforcers.



IT WAS AL'S TURN YESTERDAY

Year after year the process of the "democratic" movement by the country's two major political parties has been the same--the roads would be blocked, public transports would be run off the street, and the people would suffer miserably. A few days after BNP staged their demonstration, Awami League followed suit yesterday. As usual it sent traffic into haywire, but on top of that, this time an ambulance was stuck in a procession of the ruling party activists and supporters at Shahbagh in the capital where two of the country's largest hospitals are located. The AL rally was held nearby Suhrawardy Udyan.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

N'GANJ-7 MURDER

Three more Rab men confess involvement

Another arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Three arrested Rab men yesterday gave confessional statements before separate courts, admitting their involvements in the sensational seven-murder in Narayanganj in late April.

Meanwhile, police arrested another Rab man, Constable Sihabuddin, in connection with the murder case and placed him on an eight-day remand.

Lance Nayek Hira Miah, Havildar Emdadul Haque and Sepoy Abu Tayab gave the statements under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure before the courts of Senior Judicial Magistrates Chandni Rupom, KM Mohiuddin, and Monwara Begum, court sources said.

Public Prosecutor KM Fazlur Rahman said in their statements, the trio admitted their involvement and also narrated the killing mission. They said they were forced to follow the

order of superior officers to get involved in the murders, said the prosecutor.

The trio along with their colleagues, Lance Nayek Belal Hossain and radio operator Arif Hossain, in Rapid Action Battalion-11 were arrested on Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, police produced Constable Sihabuddin before a court seeking a 10-day remand but were allowed to remand him for eight days.

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INCORRIGIBLE BCL RU suspends demoted gen secy Tuhin

DU does the same to seven activists

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University authorities yesterday suspended SM Touhid-Al-Hossain Tuhin, the recently removed general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League at RU, and two of his co-activists for beating up the acting chief engineer and two staff two days ago.

The two others suspended are Tanmoy Ananda Avi, the unit vice president, and Mamun-Ur-Rashid Mamun, an activist, both master's students of fisheries. The periods of their suspension were not specified, but they may get expelled if found guilty in an investigation, said officials.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University administration suspended seven BCL activists on Friday night for beating up a student the day before. The periods of the seven's suspension will be fixed following an investigation, for which a team was formed the same night, Acting Proctor

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COMBATING CHILD MARRIAGE Government to enact tougher law

Meher Afroz Chumki tells discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will enact a tougher law by this year to combat child marriage, as the existing Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 fails to serve the purpose, said State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki yesterday.

"The draft of the law will be placed in the cabinet soon," she added.

There would be no scope to dodge the law regarding the legal age for marriage, and the punishment for breaking the law would be tougher, she informed a roundtable organised by the Bangla daily Prothom Alo and supported by World Vision Bangladesh at the newspaper's office in the capital.

According to an estimate by the United Nations Population Fund, 66 percent of Bangladeshi girls are married off before reaching 18 years, while half of them get married before the age of 15.

Many of these child marriages take place

by dodging the law through giving a false date of birth in a notarised statement.

However, the new law would require either the birth certificate and voter ID card or educational certificates to prove a person's age.

Other speakers at the discussion proposed that digital birth registration certificates, which cannot be tampered by unauthorised personnel, should be one of the requirements for marriage under the new law.

National Human Rights Commission Member Kazi Riajul Haq pointed out that under the draft of the new act, a minor is a person who, if male, is under 21 years of age, and if female, is under 18 years of age.

"Like other acts of the country, the proposed act should recognise child as any person under the age of 18 years. Or else, the anomaly in age will create disruption in the implementation of the act," he added.

Shabira Sultana Nupur, advocacy manager

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A collapsed portion of the Khulna city protection embankment near BL College, and concrete structures at Daulatpur Bazar, inset, on the verge of going into the Bhairab River. The embankment has eroded at several other parts, too, exposing the city to flooding. The Water Development Board in Khulna sought Tk 22.19 crore from its headquarters in 2011, and then again this year for its repairs, but to no avail. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR



Drivers and owners demonstrate against the authorities' order to clear Chittagong city streets of unauthorised battery-run rickshaws by yesterday. Several hundred protesters gathering in front of Chittagong Press Club demanded that the vehicles be legalised.

PHOTO: STAR

Prof Nizam recognised as Baden-Powell fellow

CITY DESK

Prof Nizamuddin Ahmed, a trained scout leader (woodbadger) and a trainer, has been recognised as a Baden-Powell fellow for his contributions to the World Scout Foundation.

Nizam is the second Bangladeshi to get such recognition, says a press release.

The fellowship enables individuals to be involved in the development of young people around the world.

Presently, over 2,200 such fellows spread throughout 70 countries and territories in the world,

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Public works minister

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situation is, when the country's prime minister expresses her frustration over destruction of flood zones and wetlands by wealthy and powerful quarters, said Environment Minister Anwar Hossain Manju, who attended the event as chief guest.

"The chief executive (prime minister) should know what their own people are doing with the development plans," said Manju, who has been a minister for 13

years in different regimes, adding that development schemes were implemented in a piecemeal fashion in the country.

Prof Nurul Islam Nazem, CUS secretary, said the urban economy accounted for 60 percent of the country's GDP, while the rest came from rural economy. He said one-third of the country's population lived in urban areas.

Geography professors and senior students presented five research papers on different urban issues at the conference.

Identities established

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stay in Dubai for the coming winter and then come home. But, I cannot believe he passed away before that," Fatema Akhter, Polish's daughter, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Fatema said her father had been working in the UAE for the last eight years and had not once come home.

Fatema is studying at Dhaka Mohanagar

Mohila College, while her ten-year-old brother is a class V student at a local primary school.

Their mother, Mahmuda Sultana, is now worried about the future of her two children.

The other victim, Jasim, has two children, said his brother-in-law Shohag. Jasim went to the UAE four years back.

Mizanur Rahman said they are trying to send home the bodies soon.

Robi-Drishy debate

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competition could pave the way for the new generations to think logically and rationally.

Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, chief operating officer of Robi Axiata Ltd, was present as

special guest with Dristy President Masud Bakul in the chair.

This year, a total of 36 schools, 12 colleges and 24 universities of the country participated in the debate championship starting on August 21.

ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

Bangladesh to seek time frame from Myanmar

Foreign secys meet today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka will seek a specific time frame from Nay Pyi Taw for repatriation of over 30,000 Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh living in two refugee camps in Cox's Bazar during a foreign secretary level meeting in Dhaka today.

Apart from discussing the documented refugees, Dhaka will also raise the issue of some 300,000 to 500,000 undocumented Myanmar nationals, who intruded in Bangladesh over the past years.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque and Myanmar Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Thant Kyaw will lead

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Elephant jockey held for extortion in Naogaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division, Rajshahi yesterday seized an elephant and detained its jockey on charges of extorting money from people by using the animal in Mahadebpur upazila of Naogaon.

The detainee is Noor Islam.

A team, led by forester Md Amzad Hossain and local police, conducted the raid there on locals' information that the jockey was using the elephant to intimidate and force people to give money, said a government handout.

The team also found that the jockey had no licence or permit for the elephant. The animal was then sent to Rajshahi by a truck.

Noor informed that the elephant was owned by Md Atikur Rhaman of Kulaura

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