

NEWS IN brief

Youth stabbed to death in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was stabbed to death allegedly by four persons in the capital's Khilgaon last night.

Ali Hossain, 25, of Sabujbagh, went to his in-law's house at Nabinbagh in Khilgaon riding a bicycle, said Siddiqur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station.

When he came out of home, he saw four people taking away the cycle parked before the house, he said. The four stabbed him in the chest as a scuffle took place between he and the group, added the OC.

Illegal wood worth Tk 15 lakh seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Coast Guard personnel seized 600 cubic feet (cft) of illegal wood worth Tk 15 lakh from Bolirhat area under Bakalia Police Station in Chittagong city yesterday.

On information, a team of Coast Guard (east zone) conducted a drive in the area and seized a truck with 300 cft of Gamari wood and 300 cft of Segun wood, said the officials.

Sensing their presence, the smugglers fled the scene.

Five Shibir men held at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested five Shibir activists of Rajshahi University (RU) unit with some party leaflets from two dormitories of the university early yesterday.

On information, police conducted a raid at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman and Shaheed Habibur Rahman halls and arrested Abdullah Al Galib, Shamim Rahman, Enamul Haque, Sultan Muhammad Shafiullah and Atikul Alam.

They were conspiring to create unrest on the campus, said police.

Girl killed in wall collapse in Rajshahi

UNB, Rajshahi

A girl was killed in a wall collapse in Horogram Natunpara of Rajshahi city on Friday.

The deceased was Suraiya, 6, daughter of Shariful Islam of the area.

Victim's father said Suraiya was playing inside the house around 4:30pm. Suddenly, a portion of a wall of the old house collapsed on her, leaving her critically injured. Later, she was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where on-duty doctors declared her dead, he added.

Halloween theme party celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Peninsula Chittagong, a business hotel in the port city, celebrated Halloween Theme Party on Friday evening.

Following this year's theme of Zombie Hospital for Halloween Part-3, the hotel decorated the party venue with Zombie doctors, nurses, and patients along with pumpkins, spiders and spider nets and set up a hospital operation theater.

The popular band of the country Souls performed at the Halloween night with more music bash to entertain the guests.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, inset, addresses a massive rally at NS College ground in Natore district town yesterday, urging the people to join her party's movement to save the country and its people from the grip of the incumbent "illegal" and "unconstitutional" government.

PHOTO: STAR

VERDICT ON QUASEM Security to be beefed up to prevent violence

Says home boss

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said stern actions would be taken if anyone tried to destabilise the country and engage in the acts of destruction anywhere over the pronouncement of International Crimes Tribunal's judgment today on war crimes accused Mir Quasem Ali, a top Jamaat-e-Islami leader.

Talking to the news agency, the minister said additional police personnel along with members of Border Guard Bangladesh and Rapid Action Battalion would be deployed at different points in the capital because of Jamaat's two-day hartal beginning today.

Although there was no violence during Thursday's hartal by Jamaat in protest against awarding the capital punishment to Jamaat chief Motiur Rahman Nizami for war crimes, the law enforcers will remain vigilant to protect people's lives and properties, he added.

Road crashes kill three, injure four

CITY DESK

Two people died and four were injured when a truck turned turtle and fell on a three-wheeler as it was hit by another truck at Nimtala bus stand of Kaliganj Sadar upazila yesterday, reports our Jhenidah correspondent.

Of the deceased one was Sadhan Ghosh, 52, of Ghoshnagar village and identity of the other could not be known.

Meanwhile, a man was killed when a truck hit him while he was crossing the road in Aratghat area under Sadarghat Police Station in Chittagong city.

The deceased was Bacchu Miyan, 25, hailed from Lalmohan of Bhola.

PM for cooperatives' role to reduce rich-poor gap

UNB, Dhaka

Voicing concern at the growing urban-rural income inequalities, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for further strengthening the cooperative movement to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor in the country.

"Only the cooperative movement can improve money circulation in rural areas and thus help reduce the gap," she said, addressing the inaugural function of the 43rd National Cooperatives Day at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

Hasina laid emphasis on bringing further momentum in the cooperative movement, saying that now the time had come to involve cooperatives in the mainstream of development with a well thought-out plan.

Referring to the high-rises in urban areas decorated with imported furniture and lightings, she said many people of the coun-

try had nowhere to take shelter. "They've to live inhuman lives by the roads and railways. Why should there be such differences in society... we have to remove those."

The prime minister said money circulation in rural areas had to be increased to strengthen the backbone of the rural economy. "We've to create opportunities in rural areas so that the villagers could market their products and produce at fair prices, and that could be done through the cooperative movement."

Recalling the contributions of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the development of the cooperative movement, Hasina said the father of the nation had given constitutional recognition to cooperatives that organised people enabling them to solve problems in a coordinated manner.

She said that after coming to power in 1996, her government had started undertaking various cooperatives-based measures for the welfare of people, including Asrayan Project, and

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BARISAL SHAHEED KANCHAN UDYAN Move to turn the park into graveyard protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Residents of Barisal city yesterday protested the decision of the city corporation to turn a park in the city, Shaheed Kanchan Udyan, into a graveyard.

Locals staged a sit-in on the park, and also organised a rally demanding that the city corporation withdraw its decision.

After he was sworn in, pro-BNP Mayor Ahsan Habib Kamal decided to turn the park into a graveyard for freedom fighters in the very first meeting of the Barisal City Corporation, said Nikhil Chandra Das, administrative officer at BCC.

The one-acre land, which was used for dumping rubbish, was turned into a park with flower gardens and a pathway two years ago under the direction of former mayor Shawkat Hossain Hiron.

Mohiuddin Manik, deputy commander of Muktiyoddha Sangsad, presided over the demonstrations yesterday, although the Sangsad's Commander Kutubuddin Ahmed

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People must rise to change democratic culture

Book publication event told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The common people will have to build resistance together against all injustice and irregularities to establish a sound democratic and political culture in Bangladesh, speakers said at a book launch yesterday.

Since the political and democratic process is riddled with problems and politicians hardly care about people's welfare, the people themselves have to raise voice to change the scenario, they observed.

The book, "Gonotantrik Sangskriti" (democratic culture), written by Mahmud Reza Chowdhury, a private job holder, was unveiled at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Speaking on the occasion as chief guest,

Professor Emeritus at Dhaka University Serajul Islam Choudhury said the capitalist economic system was the main reason for degeneration of the democratic and political culture in Bangladesh.

"In 1971, we saw the culture of forced disappearances. Recently, it has come back in our country. This means we have achieved freedom but repression and torture are still there... We must change the situation," he added.

Noted jurist Dr Kamal Hossain said the goal of democracy was to establish people's rights, and tolerance was a key component of it, but both were absent in the country.

Historically, Bangladesh did not brook

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A woman fans a baby with an x-ray print at Chittagong Medical College Hospital yesterday while the whole country was suffering one of the worst power blackouts. The lone generator at the hospital was used for emergency situations like surgeries, cutting off electricity supply to different wards including the one for children. The photo was taken at 2:00pm.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

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22,300 Yaba tablets seized in Ctg, 2 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion detained two persons with 22,300 Yaba tablets worth around Tk 90 lakh at Kalamiah Bazar in Chittagong city early yesterday.

The detainees are Abul Kalam, 45, and Abdur Rahman, 27, both hailing from Teknaf in Cox's Bazar.

A Rab team held them at a house in the area around 3:30am, said ASP Shaheda Sultana, assistant director (media) of Rab-7.

Cash worth Tk 7.66 lakh was also seized from their possession, she said.

During primary interrogation, the duo admitted that they had been involved in Yaba trade in the city for around two years, she said, adding that the tablets were taken from Teknaf.

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