



Despite an ongoing ban, fishermen get busy pulling in their illegal harvest of fry of shrimps locally called bagda (those found in brackish waters) off the coast of Kuakata, trying to evade notice by taking to the Bay of Bengal right before the break of dawn. The photo was taken recently.

 PHOTO:
BANGLAR CHOKH

First 2 Jamalpur war crime suspects held

Cops looking for six more wanted men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three hours into the issuance of the arrest warrants, police yesterday detained two out of the eight war crimes suspects who were allegedly involved in the murder of several thousand people and destruction of numerous houses across Jamalpur district during the 1971 Liberation War.

Shamsul Haque, 75, and AKM Yusuf Ali, 83, were arrested at their homes in Nayapara and Phulbaria Old Bus Stand area of the town, reports our Jamalpur correspondent.

All the eight were involved with the Al-Badr, an anti-liberation force particularly responsible for the decimation of the country's intellectuals, according to the prosecution. The two were the first to be arrested over war crimes allegations in the district.

Police said they were trying to detain the rest including Ashraf Hossain, 64, who was president of the Mymensingh district unit of Islami Chhatra Sangha, then student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

"The Al-Badr was first formed in Jamalpur, and Ashraf was its commander," prosecutor

Tapas Kanti Baul told The Daily Star.

He said the arrested duo had planned the killings and were complicit in almost every war-time atrocity in Jamalpur.

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 ordered the arrests of the eight around 2:10pm, after the prosecution filed a petition saying there are possibilities the war crimes suspects would intimidate the witnesses, hampering an ongoing investigation, or they would flee.

The remaining five suspects are Prof Sharif Ahammed, 71, Abdul Mannan, 66, Abdul Bari, 62, Harun, 58, and Abul Hashem, 65.

The tribunal's investigation agency started probing the allegations against them on June 6, 2013, but is yet to complete it.

After the prosecution petitioned the court to give it one more month for investigation, the tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan fixed March 30 for the submission of a progress report on the probe.

Meanwhile, the tribunal-2 sent two war crimes suspects of Cox's Bazar—Md Rashid, 84, and Salamat Ullah Khan, 80—to jail yesterday, a day after their arrest.

World Wildlife Day today

BSS, Dhaka

The World Wildlife Day will be observed today with a view to protect world biodiversity.

Bangladesh has taken various programmes to celebrate the day in a befitting manner.

The environment and forests ministry will observe the day with a theme to check poaching and trafficking of wild creatures.

The ministry and the forest department have organised a colourful rally at 10:00am today. Discussions and a wildlife conservation fair will also be arranged to mark the day.

Environment and Forests Minister Anwar Hossain Monju will attend a discussion to be held at Osmani auditorium as the chief guest. Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University AAMS Arefin Siddique also will join the event as a special guest. Later, the wildlife conservation fair and a photography exhibition will also be inaugurated on the occasion.

Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki Moon in a message urged all to end illegal wildlife trafficking and commit to trading and using wild plants and animals sustainably and equitably.

On December 20, 2013, the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly decided to proclaim March 3, the day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as World Wildlife Day, to celebrate and raise awareness on the world's wild fauna and flora.

Robbers kill ex-tax official in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers killed a former tax official while looting Tk 45,000 and around 12 tolas of gold ornaments from his house in the capital's Rampura early yesterday.

Abu Taher, 73, was declared dead at United Hospital.

Deceased's son ATM Ariful Haque said four robbers entered the flat on the first floor of the two-storey building by cutting window grilles and held the family members at gunpoint. They put tape over Taher's mouth, tied his hands and feet and stabbed him in the chin, arm and leg as he tried to resist.

The gang took the stairs to flee, he added.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.



Unidentified people put two private cars to the torch in the capital's Bijoyagar around 4:00pm yesterday, said a fire service official, but there was no report of injuries. Arson attacks have suddenly increased in the last couple of days, as the BNP-led nationwide indefinite blockade continues, paired with a 72-hour nationwide shutdown since Sunday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Dhaka Wasa to collect 70pc water from surface sources by 2020

BSS, Dhaka

The Dhaka Wasa has undertaken three mega projects to collect 70 percent of the city's demand for water from surface sources by 2020, said LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday.

"Dhaka Wasa is advancing towards producing water from surface sources instead of underground aquifers for building an environment and consumer-friendly sustainable water supply management," he said replying to a query in parliament.

The minister said the Padma (Jashaldia) Water Treatment Project" will supply 45 crore litres of water per day while the "Gandharbpur Water Treatment Project" 50 crore litres from the Meghna river and the "Sayedabad Water Treatment Project (Phase-3)" 45 crore litres of additional water from the Meghna river.

The Dhaka Wasa has earned capacity of producing 242 crore litres of water against the demand of 225-230 crore litres in the capital, he said.

RU museum mirrors sacrifice of Liberation War martyrs

MA SAYEED, RU

The Shaheed Smriti Sangrahashala of Rajshahi University reminds the youth of Bangladesh the great sacrifice made by martyrs of the Language Movement and the Liberation War.

The university authorities established the museum on the campus on February 21, 1976.

Rajshahi University is the only public university to have a Liberation War museum on its campus.

The museum boasts weapons used by freedom fighters and clothes worn by them. It tells the story of Bangladesh's struggle for freedom and independence.

The museum is open to the public every day from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

"We get about 200 visitors every day," said Dilruba Khanom Prohdan, senior visiting officer of the museum.

During the Liberation War in 1971, Rajshahi University, like many other educational institutions, witnessed massacres by the Pakistani occupation army.

Established a year after the Language

Movement, the university was a part of a great many revolutionary movements.

During the 1969 uprising, the students of the university on February 18 brought out a protest procession against the unlawful activities of the government. However, the government imposed Section 144 in the city.

On that day, the Pakistan occupation army shot dead Dr Shamsuzzoha, proctor of the university and a professor of chemistry, for trying to persuade the army to not shoot students who were protesting the murder of Sergeant Zahurul Haque, an accused in the historic Agartala conspiracy case.

To honour Dr Shamsuzzoha, Rajshahi University observes February 18 as "Teachers' Day" and has named a residential hall for male students after him.

Besides Dr Zoha, many teachers, students and staff of the university sacrificed their lives during the 1971 Liberation War.

In the month of April in 1971, the Pakistan army created a stronghold at the present Dr Zoha Hall from where they led attacks in Rajshahi city and its adjacent areas.

"We have collected clothes worn by the Liberation War martyrs and weapons used by them," said Dr Shafikul Islam, curator of the Shaheed Smriti Sangrahashala, adding that they also have personal items used by the martyrs.

He said they have about 700 of such items.

Tanmoy Dey, a master's student of law, said, "I have visited the museum around six or seven times during my five years of studying at the university. I learnt a lot about Bangladesh's history from 1952 to 1971."

Another student, Mustafiz Rony, a second-year student of journalism, said the museum especially enlightened him about the sacrifice teachers, students and staff of Rajshahi University made during the war.

Raseduzzaman Rony, an outsider, said he has visited the Sangrahashala at least 10 times.

The museum also has over 3,000 books on the Liberation War and anti-British movements, said Dr Shafikul Islam.

RU teachers and students can borrow the books for research purposes, he said, adding that there is no scope to read the books at the museum.



The body of a car, which freedom fighter Dr AKM Nurul Islam, then principal of Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute, used during the Liberation War. Found near Dr Zoha Hall of Rajshahi University, it was later placed in front of the university's Shaheed Smriti Sangrahashala. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STA

NEWS IN brief

Balloon vendor killed in gas cylinder blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A balloon vendor died and four others were injured when a gas cylinder exploded at a house at Post Office Goli in the capital's Madhya Badda yesterday.

The deceased Ali Hossain, 25, was pumping balloons when the gas cylinders went off with a big bang around 10:15am.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors announced him dead. The injured were given treatment at different hospitals.

KU teachers demand gallows for Avijit's murderers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Swadhinata Shikkhak Parishad of Khulna University (KU) wearing black badges formed a human chain demanding death penalty of the killers of blogger Avijit Roy yesterday.

Some other teachers and staff of the university were also present at the human chain programme at Hadi square near Adommo Bangla on the campus.

Prof Ahsanuzzaman presided over the programme.

Girl 'commits suicide' in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A girl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of her house in Pabla Fakirpara area under Daulatpur Police Station in Khulna city yesterday.

Quoting family members police said Shamima Sultana Meem, 17, daughter of SM Yunus Ali hailing from Satkhira, might have killed herself over her love affair.

Police sent the body to Khulna Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

A case was filed by her father accusing two persons.

Brick kiln worker dies under fallen heap of soil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A brick kiln worker died as a portion of a heap of soil fell on him while he was cutting soil from it in South Shukchari village of Lohagara upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

Alauddin, 53, of Noakhali, was buried alive under a portion of the 12 to 15 feet high heap around 8:00am, said manager of the brick kiln.

An unnatural death case was filed, said police.

Man 'killed' by co-worker in Old Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed following a scuffle over a trifling matter in Old Dhaka yesterday.

Mohammad Rubel, 22, a worker of Wahidullah's shoe factory at Nazira Bazar in Old Dhaka, was punched in the head by his co-worker Riaz, 18, during the scuffle after they went outside the factory around 2:00am.

Riaz took Rubel to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as he fell unconscious and doctors announced Rubel dead. Police arrested Riaz.

Two-day training for journos on child protection held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Vision Bangladesh organised a two-day training titled "Journalist Training Program on Child Protection" at its office in the capital on Sunday.

Over a dozen people participated in the training while government officials, child rights activists, senior media personalities and journalists acted as the resource persons.

In the programme, journalists and child rights activists reached consensus to carry out a year-long campaign on different child rights issues.