

'Thief' beaten to death

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla
A man was killed in a mob beating for his alleged involvement in stealing money from a mosque donation box in Comilla's Nangalkot upazila early yesterday. The dead is Mohammad Sohela, 28, of Dakkhin Kachi village in Monohorganj upazila, said Salahuddin Al Asad, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Nangalkot Police Station. Around 4:00am, Sohela was stealing money after breaking the donation box of Manikmora Bazar Mosque, the police official said. The night guard of the mosque saw it and made an announcement through a loudspeaker. Locals then caught Sohela and beat him up mercilessly, killing him on the spot, the police official added. On information, police went to the spot and sent the body to Comilla Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy. Police detained the moazzin (who calls for Azaan) and the night guard of the mosque.

Let us work

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he was bailed out of jail. Describing the arrest as "a perfect example of human rights violation", the former premier urged the government to refrain from "such unlawful activities". "I'm afraid that the violence-based politics might send the country's dying democracy into a coffin some day. It seems that the government has become very active in doing that. "We have respect for and confidence in the people's verdict. What are you [government] afraid of?" "I want to remind the Awami League president [Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina] that we didn't liberate the country for this... The policy with which the government is running the country is nothing but a betrayal of the spirits of the Liberation War," Khaleda said in the statement, undersigned by BNP Spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon.

Power, gas

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the international market were decreasing. "Then why is the increase for? It is illegal." Echoing Suranjit, AL leader Hazi Selim at the same programme requested the government to reconsider the decision. He, however, said if it was not possible for the government to reconsider the decision for both the utilities, it might reconsider only the power tariff hike. BNP Vice-Chairman Maj (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed meanwhile said the recent price hike of gas and power would affect the lower-income group, especially the farmers. "As there is no accountability, the government has got a scope to increase the price of gas and power that will influence the lifestyle of the low-income people," Hafiz told reporters after placing wreaths at the grave of party founder late president Ziaur Rahman yesterday. He said the government should cancel the decision considering the problems of the common people. Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain also termed the hike "unacceptable" and demanded that the government repeal the decision, reports UNB. He came up with the demand at a meeting with leaders of Gono Forum's central and Dhaka city units at the party office, said a press release.

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (Marxist) will hold a protest rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club around 4:30pm today, says a press release. Retail customers will have to spend on average 2.93 percent more on electricity and Tk 200 more on gas from this September. Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) announced a new tariff structure on Thursday. Under the new rates, which take effect on September 1, households using a single-burner stove will have to pay 50 percent more with the monthly gas price going up to Tk 600 from Tk 400. For double-burner stove users, the tariff has been raised to Tk 650 from Tk 450 a month. Industries that turn gas into electricity through generators will see gas tariff double -- Tk 8.36 from Tk 4.18 per cubic metre.

Woman

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financially help him after going back to Oman following Eid-ul-Azha. A case was filed yesterday against 10 locals including Josna, Khokon, Liton, Monir, Kabir and Mehedi. Coordinator of One-stop Crisis Centre said victim's forensic test will be conducted today. Sabujbagh police are trying to arrest the perpetrators.

PHONE TALK WITH MANNA Mamun sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Moshiur Rahman Mamun, who was arrested in connection with having a "controversial" telephone conversation with Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna, was sent to jail yesterday on completion of his three-day remand. "Detectives had arrested Mamun from the capital's Uttara on August 24 and a court had placed him on a three-day police remand. Yesterday [Thursday] the three-day remand ended and we sent him to the court today [Friday]," Muntasilur Islam,

deputy commissioner (media) of DMP, told The Daily Star. During remand, Mamun divulged some important information regarding the conversation and the police were verifying them, he added. Amid controversy over a leaked phone conversation between BNP leader Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Manna, Gulshan Police arrested Manna on February 24 at his niece's house in Banani. Police sued Manna for seditious following the leak of his two telephone conversations.

Student shot dead at US university

AFP, Washington
A student died early yesterday after being shot at a US university in the state of Georgia, in an altercation that triggered a temporary lockdown of the campus. Christopher Starks, a junior from the Atlanta metropolitan area, died at a local hospital following an "altercation" late Thursday at Savannah State University's student union building, the school said. No arrests have been made, though the campus was placed on lockdown for about two hours until just before midnight. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is investigating the incident along with campus police because the university is

astateschool. It comes just days after the brazen shooting of two journalists during a live broadcast that has once again renewed calls for stricter US gun controls. The school said classes would be delayed until 10:00 am yesterday. "The safety of those who live, study, work and visit Savannah State University remains a top priority -- no exceptions," the university said in a statement on its website. "Savannah State University has zero tolerance for violence of any kind." It urged students to report to campus police with any information about the incident or the presence of weapons on campus.

Two arrested

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Ananta was hacked to death near his Subid Bazar home in Sylhet city on May 12. "The two were arrested from their residence at Kanaighat on the basis of specific information and evidence," Mirza Abdullah Baqui, special superintendent of CID told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday. He, however, declined to say anything about their link with the murder. A Sylhet court yesterday placed them on seven-day CID remand after they were produced before it. A case was filed by the victim's brother a day after the gruesome murder. The case was handed over to the CID on May 26. About two weeks ago, Rab claimed to have arrested three people -- Bangladesh-born UK citizen Touhidur Rahman, Sadeque Ali and another suspected Ansarullah member Aminul Mallick -- from the capital for their alleged link with the killing of Avijit Roy and Ananta.

BLOGGER FILES GD
COMPLAINING INSECURITY
A female blogger and also an activist of Gonojagoron Mancha yesterday filed a general dairy with Mohammadpur Police Station, claiming she was followed by two unidentified youths on Thursday night. After filing the GD, the writer told The Daily Star that she had found the movement of the youths suspicious and was now feeling insecure. "I have rarely gone out of my home after the murder of blogger Niladri Chattopadhyay Niloy," said the girl, who writes in blog site Istishon. According to her, the youths, aged between 25 and 28, followed her for sometime after she had got out of her home for a Dhanmondi chain store around 7:45pm that night. Suddenly, she noticed that the two youths -- one in jeans and a checkered shirt, and another in black trousers and a white shirt -- were walking behind her for quite a long time. She claimed that whenever she stopped, they stopped too. The blogger said she had reasons to be alarmed as Niloy had reportedly been followed in the same manner before his brutal killing early this month. After walking for some time, she went inside the store and saw the youths entering it too. "The youths were not buying anything there," she claimed. She left the place immediately and went to a nearby clothes shop where she found a friend. Later, they came out of the shop together and noticed that the two youths were staring at them while having tea at a roadside stall. The blogger said they tried to take photos of the youths but to no avail. After a little while, the youths entered the clothes shop. This time, the girl managed to take a photo of the youths. The blogger then went straight to her home. She said she handed over the photo to police while filing the GD seeking protection. Contacted, Jamal Uddin Mir, officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station, confirmed that the GD was filed by the female blogger. "We will take necessary measures to ensure the girl's safety," he said. This paper decided not to reveal her identity for the sake of her security. Before his murder, Niloy, who was also a Gonojagoron Mancha activist, had reportedly gone to Khilgaon Police Station after being followed by some unidentified men and tried to file a GD in vain. Recently, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia instructed police to accept a GD from anyone who thinks his or her life is in threat. Niloy was the fourth blogger to be killed since February 26. Different militant outfits claimed responsibilities for the murders.

Cases piling up

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tackling the current backlog in our country. But we have only around 1,600 posts for judges and some 400 of them are now vacant. This is very alarming," said the former chief justice, claiming Bangladesh has the highest rate of case disposal in the world. Different courts of the country disposed off more than 3 lakh cases between January and March this year, according to the SC study released in June. From 100-200 new judges should be appointed every year, Justice Khairul said. "There's one judge for every 10,000 people in the USA and for 67,000 in India. But in Bangladesh, we have only one judge for around 1.5 lakh people." As part of his efforts to reduce the case logjam, the Law Commission chief on June 16 wrote to Finance Minister AMA Muhith seeking budgetary allocation for appointment of judges for the lower courts on contractual and permanent basis without delay. "But the commission did not receive any response to the letter till

Thursday, according to sources there. The finance minister could not be reached on his phone for comments despite several attempts on Thursday. The SC study showed that as of March 31 this year, 30,98,569 cases were pending with all the courts across the country. Of them, 15,383 were with the Appellate Division, 3,69,813 with the High Court, and 27,13,373 with the lower courts. Under these circumstances, the government has taken steps for recruiting 400-500 new judges for the lower courts in phases. When this correspondent on Thursday asked Law Minister Anisul Huq if there was any plan to recruit judges in the HC, the minister replied in the negative and refused to elaborate on this. Talking to The Daily Star, Law Commission Chairman Justice Khairul held police "somewhat responsible" for the case backlogs. Many false cases could have been resolved even before the beginning of trial proceedings if the police had properly investigated them and submitted the reports to the courts, he said.

500 birds seized from bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
An illegal wildlife trader was arrested along with 500 parakeets from a bus in Rajshahi city early yesterday. Later, the arrestee, Abul Kalam Mafiz, 26, was sentenced to three months in prison. Mozammel Haque Shah Chowdhury, divisional forest officer (DFO) of Rajshahi, said acting on a tip-off, a team of forest officials, led by him, raided the Dhaka-bound bus in Kashiadanga area around 12:15am. He said the birds were found inside two iron cages in the bus. "He [the arrestee] collected the wild birds from Chapainawabganj and was trying to smuggle them into Dhaka," the DFO told The Daily Star. A magistrate with the wildlife conservation team fined Kamal Tk 5,000 and sentenced him to three months in jail. Officials of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation, Rajshahi, released the birds later. Mafiz was also arrested along with 805 different types of birds in the district last year. According to the Bangladesh Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act, 2012, catching and trading wild birds is a punishable offence.

2 more held

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two-storey Rajasthali house from where Aung Nu Young, a suspected Arakan Army member, was captured on Thursday, said police. Sub-Inspector Kazi Alauddin of Rajasthali Police Station said the joint forces picked up the two around 4:00pm. Cha Sui was the caretaker of the house and Mong Cha looked after horses there. Meanwhile, a Rangamati court yesterday sent Aung Nu Young to jail on charges of trespass and terrorist activities. The court passed the order after police produced the Myanmar national before it in two cases, said OC Wahidullah Sarker of the police station. Two cases were filed with the police station, accusing house owner Ranaiju Rakhine and arrestee Aung Nu Young of trespass and carrying out terrorist activities, added the OC. Aung Nu Young, 25, was detained on Thursday at the house Ranaiju near Nayajhiri College in the upazila. The arrest came during the combing operation by the joint forces. The drive was launched around 10:00pm on Wednesday, hours after the Myanmar rebel group attacked a BGB camp in Bandarban that left one soldier injured. The operation was still going on, said BGB sources. Our correspondent from Bandarban contributed to this report.

Turag choked

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mill, then under-construction, was being illegally built in gross violation of the wetland and environment conservation laws and capital's master plan. A few days later, the mill owners resumed the construction work. They further extended their construction with an interim High Court injunction barring eviction. The Rajuk kept virtually silent and facilitated the HC move with a feeble legal battle and no follow up. The Turag river near Dhaur Bridge kept shrinking into a narrow channel as land claimants encroached on both sides of the river with the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, district administrations and Department of Environment playing the role of silent spectators. Asked how it all happened, Rajuk Chairman GM Jainal Abedin Bhuiyan said, "Did it really happen? I will look into it."

A billion

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single day. The company gained its billionth user in October 2012. It was founded in 2004 by Zuckerberg while he was a Harvard student. In his post on Thursday, he predicted that Facebook's reach would continue to grow. "This was the first time we reached this milestone, and it's just the beginning of connecting the whole world," Zuckerberg wrote. "Our community stands for giving every person a voice, for promoting understanding and for including everyone in the opportunities of our modern world. "A more open and connected world is a better world. It brings stronger relationships with those you love, a stronger economy with more opportunities, and a stronger society that reflects all of our values." In July, Facebook claimed that over half of the world's online users visited the site at least once a month. It was only back in October 2012 when Facebook first announced it had one billion users using the site at least once a month - and now, just under three years later, the site has managed to pull in that many in a single day.

Nepalese face similar ordeal

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those from Bangladesh, where young men often pay a large amount of money for foreign jobs to escape from poverty, loans and social challenges. Miseries and challenges of migrants from the South Asian nations were presented at a three-day-long workshop on Migration and Media in Nepal jointly organised by the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) and Migrating out of Poverty Research Programme Consortium (RPC) of Sussex University, UK during the second week of this month. Twenty one journalists from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka shared their experiences at the workshop and discussed the success and failure of policy decisions taken by their respective governments to ensure migrants' rights. "One and a half months ago our government made it mandatory for employers in seven countries -- Bahrain, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates -- to provide free visa and tickets to workers from Nepal," said Roshan Sedhai, sub-editor of Kathmandu Post, adding that the decision triggered huge protest among the recruiting agencies. "The agencies claimed such a policy would shift the demands for labourers towards Bangladesh," he said. The Bangladeshi journalists described how a similar government-to-government policy to reduce migration costs for workers aspiring to go to Malaysia faced similar resistance and forced many potential migrants to choose illegal sea-routes to reach the destination. They also pointed out the higher migration costs ranging from BDT 3-4 lakh (about \$3,800-\$5,200) paid by Bangladeshi workers to go to Malaysia and the Middle Eastern countries compared to the Nepalese workers who pay between \$1,000 and \$2,000. On an average, 500,000 workers migrate from Nepal every year, said Barbara Weyermann from Swiss Association for Development and Cooperation, a development organisation that works to develop skills of Nepalese migrants. On the other side, Bangladesh sends, on an average, 480,000 workers abroad, according to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) statistics. At the opening session, Dr Ganesh Gurung, former member of Nepal's Planning Commission, said the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) can be a platform to come up with common policies for migration and negotiate terms with the recruiting nations to ensure migrants' rights.

According to Dr Gurung, South Asia accounts for 12.4 percent of the world's migrants which is 1.6 percent of South Asia's population. Kanak Mani Dixit, editor of South Asian magazine Himal, at the closing session referred to the Declaration 21 of the 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu where the member nations "agreed to collaborate and cooperate on safe, orderly and responsible management of labour migration from South Asia to ensure safety, security and wellbeing of their migrant workers in the destination countries outside the region". Instead of losing the market by over-activism, which has the risk of driving away the recruiters, this clause can be used to strengthen the negotiation power of the labour exporting nations, he observed. In addition to presentation by RMMRU researchers Dr Tasneem Siddique and Dr CR Abrar on migration and development and irregular migration, Bandita Sijapati from Centre for the Study of Labour and Mobility (CESLAM), Nepal shared her studies on the post-earthquake effects on migration and resilience.

Hard times

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extort money from the community. Many clay items in stock were vandalised. Fortunately police arrested those responsible and they were sent to gaol, the artisans added. But to family economies much damage was done. With no easily manageable new loan facilities, and often needing to make repayments on existing loans, most families have had no choice but to weather the hard times. As a result of these pressures, many families have needed to skip meals for the lack of cash flow, and increasingly they rely on freely available vegetables like taro and spinach to supplement diets. Many hope that any money saved on food can be invested in clay supplies to help them get back on their feet. Nonetheless artisans Onjoli Paul, Gita Rani Paul, Chaina Paul, Deblarani Paul and others meanwhile, fear that without assistance or a significant change in fortunes soon, the centuries-old pottery industry will become. Yet they have little choice but to try and save the tradition, to work as potters until their last breath. Other than their pottery skills, most have a few other assets. Gobinda Kumar Paul, secretary of the local temple, says the community has had assurances of monetary help from both government authorities and non-government organisations, but thus far no assistance has materialised. Ideally, the Pauls hope not only for more flexible loan facilities but training in modern pottery methods so they can further develop what is more than just a profession, also being a cherished heritage, not less than a part of self and community identity.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Higher Secondary Stipend Project
Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education
16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000
Memo. No-HSSP/DEP&M/46/2015-16/332 Date: 27.08.2015

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
FOR SELECTION OF FIRM FOR DATA ENTRY,
PROCESSING AND DATA MANAGEMENT

The Ministry of Education has been allocated Public Fund from Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB) toward the cost of the Data Entry Processing and Data Management of the Higher Secondary Stipend Project and it intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the fund to payments under the contract for "Data Entry, Processing and Data Management for Higher Secondary Stipend Project."

The services include: To carry out this services the firm will be required to prepare the database in for the academic sessions 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. The work will be done in 4 (four) phases i.e. October-November, 2015 1st Phase, November-December, 2015 2nd Phase, March-April, 2016 3rd Phase and April-May, 2016 4th phase. The following inputs will be provided by the PIU:- (a) Institution Profile form for institutions registered as eligible for Stipend & Tuition Program in 64 districts, approximate No. 0.07 lac (seven thousand), (b) Monitoring of Student Data forms (FSP-1) approximate No. 11.5 lac (eleven lac fifty thousand), i.e. (2.73 lac +3.02 lac +2.73 lac +3.02 lac), (c) Students file and Institutions file, (d) Location file etc. Firm should be processed and delivered data as per the need for disbursement of stipend money through mobile banking. Data of the system are to be copied on Diskette or CD and supplied to PIU in the desired format following every update as and when necessary.

The Project Director of Higher Secondary Stipend Project now invites eligible Data Entry, Processing & Data Management Firms to indicate their interests in providing the services. Interested firms are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar operating conditions, availability of appropriate professional, qualified and experienced staff, etc.). The Data Entry Firms must have at least 3 years experience in data entry, processing including report preparation in various relevant fields. Attested experience certificate must be provided with EOI. The Data Entry firms must have sufficient financial strength and manpower to handle the services required and timely delivery of output. Upon receipt of the EOIs, the procuring entity may verify the submitted documents, particulars and logistics & equipments physically if required and shall select a short-list of Data Entry Firms who are considered to be best suited to undertake the assignment.

The short listing shall be made on the basis of:

- ◆ Profile and details of the Firm(s) Organisation(s) and Associated Institutions.
- ◆ List of experienced professionals, expertise (Team Leader, System Analyst, Programmers, Assistant Programmers, Data Entry Operators, Data checkers) in the relevant fields with their valid CVs mentioning academic degrees & experiences.
- ◆ Experience in the similar assignments (Evidence of relevant experience of similar professional task record should be provided). At least 3 (three) years experience certificate is required to be attached with EOI.
- ◆ Financial capacity (last 3 financial years annual turnover statement, attested copy of VAT registration certificate, income tax clearance certificate (2013-14) must be submitted with the EOI.
- ◆ Logistics & Equipment: (Area of the office space, Area of computer lab, No. of Computers, Laptops, Laser Printers, Line Printers, Photocopiers, Vehicles etc.).

Letter of Invitation (LOI) will be issued only to the short-listed firms. Among them a firm will be selected using the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method in accordance with the Public Procurement Act 2006/PPR-2008. Interested firms may obtain further information by applying to the address below on or before 16/09/2015 during normal office hours from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

7 (seven) sets (One Original) of Expressions of Interest (EOI) must be submitted by the interested Data Entry Firms to the Project Director, HSSP, Directorate of Secondary & Higher Education, Shikha Bhaban (Block-A, Room No-101), Dhaka-1000 on or before 17/09/2015 at 2.00pm in a sealed envelope and be clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest for Selection of Local Firm for Data Entry, Processing and Data Management for the financial year 2015-2016 under HSSP." The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.

Shyama Prasad Bepari
Project Director (Joint Secretary)

GD-2833