

JESSORE MM COLLEGE Another Shibir man dies of wounds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Another Chhata Shibir man, who was critically injured in an attack on three Shibir men by some students of MM College, died of his wounds early yesterday while being shifted to Dhaka for treatment.

The dead, Kamrul Hasan, 22, was a third year economics student at the college. He was from Choto Khudra village under Bagharpura upazila in Jessor.

Two other victims were his classmates Habibullah and Al Mamun. Habibullah was brought dead to Jessor Medical College Hospital on Monday.

Al Mamun was receiving treatment there yesterday.

The three were beaten up by some students at Shaheed Asad Hall of the college on Monday evening. Jessor Shibir leaders blamed the attack on Chhata League men.

Kamrul's maternal uncle Humayun Kabir said his nephew died around 12:30am yesterday when he was on a ferry on the Padma on his way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Sikder Akkas Ali, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said the three Shibir men came under attack when they were in a secret meeting at a mess near the college.

Habibur Rahman Shohagh, president of MM College unit Shibir, said some Chhata League men picked up the three from a mess in Jessor town's Kharki area around 3:30pm on Monday.

The BCL men tortured the Shibir activists at Shaheed Asad Hall and later handed them over to police, he alleged.

Denying the allegation, General Secretary of Jessor BCL Anwar Hossain Bipul said none from his organisation were involved in the attack. "The Shibir men became victims of mob beating when they were in a secret meeting," he claimed.

OC Akkas said police filed two cases in connection with the incident, but none was arrested in the cases.

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 16

It was Khaleda's first office in over two months. She had gone to London on September 16 for treatment. She spent the Eid-ul-Azha with her family there and returned home on November 21.

A number of high- and mid-ranking leaders of the BNP welcomed her when the former premier reached the Gulshan office around 9:20pm.

After exchanging greetings, Khaleda talked about the elections with some senior leaders including her adviser Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, BNP Standing Committee Member Gayeshwar Roy and Joint Secretary General Mohammad Shahjahan.

All of them agreed that it would not be wise to boycott the polls because such a decision would make the elections a walkover for the ruling Awami League, according to a BNP leader who was present during the conversations.

The BNP had boycotted the last general elections and ended up having no representation in the current parliament.

A list of possible candidates has already been finalised and Khaleda was apprised of it last night, said the source, adding that the party will announce its decision on the municipal polls within two or three days.

Queen Elizabeth sells 25,000 tickets to 90th birthday

AFP, London

Tickets to Britain's Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday celebrations sold out within hours yesterday as Buckingham Palace promised four days of pageantry "fit for the queen" including dancing and horse shows.

Britain's longest-reigning monarch, Elizabeth turns 90 on April 21 next year and the palace has organised a public celebration lasting four days at Windsor Castle, one of her residences outside London.

The 25,000 tickets for the events between May 12-15 cost up to £165 (234 euros, \$249), with the most expensive places situated next to the "Royal Enclosure" where royals might attend.

The queen herself will attend the finale on Sunday and proceeds from the sale will go to charity, Buckingham Palace said.

Noab against

FROM PAGE 1

Press Information Department has already begun the process of registering online media, setting an application deadline of December 15, the statement said.

This move, therefore, is contradictory, it said.

"Although the proposed online policy maintains that online media will operate under the commission, it will have no authority on implementing recommendations. As a result, the commission will be fully dependent on the government and the information ministry. Past experiences suggest this kind of initiative violates media freedom rather than ensuring it," the statement said.

Currently, Bangladesh Information Security Policy Guidelines 2013, National Broadcasting Policy 2014, Information and Communication Technology (Amended) Act 2013, Cyber Security Act 2015 (draft) constitute the laws that regulate print newspapers.

"There should have been detailed discussions with the stakeholders before taking any decision," it said.

Noab also thinks this policy will rather curb press freedom.

"Therefore, any initiative should be taken on the basis of logical discussions instead of rushing into it," the statement said.

Oikya Parishad leader

FROM PAGE 16

Alok's wife Shikha Ghosh said somebody called his husband out from their house around 4:00pm. As he crossed the gate and headed towards the road before the house, the assailants started hacking him with sharp weapons.

"Hearing my husband screaming for help, I ran out of the house and embraced him. But two youths pushed me aside and hacked him several times before fleeing," she added.

Talking to this correspondent at the FMCH, Alok said he had no enmity towards anybody and that he didn't know why he became a

target of assailants.

Victim's neighbour Gulzar Hossain, who took him to the hospital, said he found Alok lying in a pool of blood by the side of the road.

Faridpur Civil Surgeon Asit Ranjan Das said the victim bled profusely from deep cuts to his arms. "His condition improved slightly after he was given two bags of blood."

Dipankar Kumar, assistant registrar at the surgery department of FMCH, said it took doctors over an hour to stop the bleeding.

OC Nazimuddin of Faridpur Sadar Police Station said police didn't receive any complaints about the attack.

Mutant mosquitoes

FROM PAGE 16

offspring inherited the same resistance, PNAS journal reports.

In theory, if these mosquitoes bite people, they should not be able to pass on the parasite that causes malaria.

About 3.2bn people - almost half of the world's population - are at risk of malaria.

Bed nets, insecticides and repellents can help stop the insects biting and drugs can be given to anyone who catches the infection, but the disease still kills around 580,000 people a year.

Scientists have been searching for new ways to fight malaria.

The University of California team believe their GM mosquito could play a pivotal role - breeding resistant offspring to replace endemic, malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

They took a type of mosquito found in India - Anopheles stephensi - on which to experiment.

Dr Anthony James and his team showed that they could give the insect new DNA code to make it a poor host for the malaria parasite.

The DNA, which codes for antibodies that combat the parasite, was inherited by almost 100% of the mosquito offspring and across three generations.

The researchers say the findings offer hope that the same method could also work in other mosquito species.

Although it would not be a sole

solution to the malaria problem, it would be a useful additional weapon, they say.

Prof David Conway, UK expert from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, said: "It's not the finished product yet but it certainly looks promising. It does look like the genetic editing works."

Other scientists have been looking at genetically modifying mosquitoes to render them infertile, so that they die out. But some experts fear that eliminating mosquitoes entirely may have unforeseen and unwanted consequences. Replacing disease-carrying mosquitoes with harmless breeds is a potential alternative.

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4 'IS operatives'

FROM PAGE 1

It says all the arrestees were actually involved with Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Kabir was a regional coordinator of the outlawed militant group.

Kabir received militant training in Pakistan and, on return, took over as coordinator of the IS' Bangladesh chapter. Of the others, Nazrul was a financier for militants and Anwar a convict in an explosive case.

The four were inspired by the IS ideologies, Investigation Officer AKM Kamrul Ahsan of the Detective Branch of police said in the charge sheet.

They will be tried under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009.

Since September last year, about 15 suspects have been arrested for

"having contacts or trying to establish contacts" with the IS, also known as ISIS or ISIL, according to police.

In July, charges were pressed against three of the detainees -- Samiun Rahman alias Ibn Hamdan, a British citizen of Bangladesh origin who allegedly fought in Syria; and his two recruits Asif Adnan Shuvo and Fazle Elahi Tanzil.

A part from recruiting mujahideens and sending them to Syria, Samiun's ultimate goal was to carry out subversive activities in South Asia and destabilise the region in keeping with the vision of al-Qaeda in the Indian Sub-Continent (AQIS), as per the charge sheet.

The court is preparing to frame charges against them.

Rahman said her father Abdur Razzaq Master of Ranida village in Bhaluka, was bedridden.

Her family had given Bulbul, a post-graduate in social science, Tk 2 lakh in phases. The couple were locked into an altercation on Sunday night as Bulbul demanded 1 lakh more, he added.

At one stage, Bulbul attempted to gouge out Runa's right eye with a spoon, police said.

Her elder brother Khalilur Rahman lodged a case with Bhaluka Police Station, accusing four people, including Bulbul. The three others are absconding.

Police produced Bulbul before a Mymensingh court that sent him to jail on Monday.

Bring dowry

FROM PAGE 16

Complex and then shifted her to

MMCH.

The eye bled profusely, Habibullah said, adding that after an investigation doctors at MMCH referred her to the National Institute of Ophthalmology in Dhaka yesterday.

He fears Runa might lose her eyesight in the affected eye forever.

Meanwhile, police arrested Bulbul in the early hours on Monday.

Since his marriage, Bulbul, a small businessman, used to torture Runa for dowry, said Mamunur Rashid, officer-in-charge of Bhaluka Police Station, quoting family sources.

Recently, he escalated his assault on Runa, mother of a three-year-old boy.

Runa's brother-in-law Ataur

Rahman said her father Abdur Razzaq Master of Ranida village in Bhaluka, was bedridden.

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The building would have three wings meant for burn and plastic surgery, administrative and academic activities, and outdoor, he said.

A two-acre land of the Tuberculosis Control and Training Centre at Chankharpool, near the Dhaka Medical College Hospital's burn unit, has been selected as the project site.

The health ministry evicted a number of illegal occupants from the land except a so-called shrine where, according to a self-

proclaimed caretaker Md Arman, one Hazrat Jarif Shah Bogdadi had been buried.

Chennai lesson

FROM PAGE 1

city have been filled up and built upon, often by politicians with interests in the real estate business, say environmentalists. The result: During incessant rains, water overflows," says NDTV.

Many blame successive state governments for converting water bodies into housing estates. Some residents call it vote bank politics others say its collusion with developers, says the report.

The Indian Express in a report on November 19 says in Chennai, tall claims of the municipal corporation and the government about flood preparations were washed away, clogged storm water drains showed the expensive de-silting procedures of recent months hadn't worked, and the flooding underscored the trend of reckless illegal construction that has choked water outlets.

"Studies show at least 300 water bodies have been converted into residential areas. Most waterways, tanks and reservoirs are choked with silt, and their flow channels and banks have been encroached upon", an expert at the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority told The Indian Express.

The very same reasons that caused the disaster in Chennai exist in Dhaka and may strike our city.

The drainage system in the capital is very poor. The situation has been deteriorating further as real estate businesses have encroached on almost all of the water bodies and canals.

Floods and waterlogging regularly disrupt lives in the city. The entire city had faced a great urban flooding in 2004 with just 341 millimeter rain in 24 hours, which exposed how poorly managed the city's drainage system was. But no effective measure has been taken since then to improve the situation.

Therefore, the daylong downpour on September 1 this year left the city under water.

Dhaka's potential cumulative loss from intense rainfalls, according to a World Bank study released on Monday, will stand at Tk 11,000 crore in the next 35 years.

The loss will be caused by waterlogging and urban flooding, and does not include the cost of the impact of climate change which according to experts is likely to cause more of such heavy rains in the coming decades.

This means the climate change may further aggravate flooding and waterlogging in the coming years and decades.

So, the disaster of great magnitude for Dhaka is imminent!

What should we do now to escape this nightmare of epic proportions?

The government has made laws more around 15 years ago to protect the water bodies. Successive governments have made dozens of pledges to make Dhaka liveable. Environmentalists have long been raising voices for protection and preservation of water bodies and canals and proper urban planning. But nothing really worked.

One of our city mayors, Annisul Huq, on Monday explained the reasons for the failure to recover the canals from grabbers. The grabbers, he said, are powerful people and there are many cases against canal grabbers pending at the court. "So it is hard to say exactly when the canals will be recovered."

It leaves us with only one choice. The government's political will is a must to address this situation. No grabber can be more powerful than the government.

We do not have much time to waste. We should learn lessons from Chennai and act without delay to face the danger lurking around the corner.

Boost for burn

FROM PAGE 16

Samanta said, adding that the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital would continue to function as a burn unit after the project implementation.

Project sources said other objectives of the institute would be to train up nurses, paramedics, physiotherapists and staff specialised in dressings.

It would have 500 beds, including 50 for the intensive care unit, 12 operating theatres (four each for the burn, emergency and plastic surgery units), and equipment such as burn tanks, added the sources.

Prof Dr Abul Kalam, director of the project, said the approved money would initially be spent to build a 10-storey building in two years. Later, the building would have five more upper floors, he added.

The building would have three wings meant for burn and plastic surgery, administrative and academic activities, and outdoor, he said.

A two-acre land of the Tuberculosis Control and Training Centre at Chankharpool, near the Dhaka Medical College Hospital's burn unit, has been selected as the project site.