

'BCL men' of CMC beat up Prothom Alo photojournalist After he took photos of them beating a motorcycle rider trying to pass their blockade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Prothom Alo photojournalist and a motorcycle rider were allegedly beaten up by some Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men of Chittagong Medical College (CMC) unit yesterday in Chittagong city when the former took photos of them beating the latter.

The rider was tailgating an ambulance crossing a blockade being enforced by the BCL men at the Probortok intersection around 2:15pm, said several eyewitnesses and local shop owners requesting anonymity.

The blockade came following a procession brought out from CMC denouncing the hacking of three fellow activists during a clash with local youths of Nasirabad in the early hours of Tuesday, they said.

The BCL men saw Jewel Shil taking the photos and four or five of them, led by CMC unit BCL President Rashedul Islam, attacked him, snatched the camera and deleted the photos, added the witnesses.

The rider managed to escape and Jewel was threatened of further beatings and humiliated in front of a gathering crowd for some 20 minutes before being released, they said.

Rashedul neither received repeated calls last night, nor answered a text message seeking comment. CMC Central Students' Union Vice President Nabid Anzum Tanvir, reportedly present on the scene, did not answer calls.

Chittagong city unit BCL General Secretary Nurul Azim Rony said, "It is a matter of great regret. If we get any complaint, we will take organisational action against the culprits". Jewel said he would file a case.



Central Shaheed Minar in the capital being hosed down with high pressured water yesterday and primed up for February 21 or Language Movement Day under a corporate social responsibility initiative of Greenland Technologies Limited, working on behalf of Dhaka University.

PHOTO: STAR

TORTURED RAJSHAHI KIDS Father deplores bail of accused Seeks PM's intervention for justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The father of one of two child torture victims yesterday broke down in tears and sought the prime minister's intervention seeking a "proper trial" after three more accused got anticipatory bail from a Rajshahi court in a case he filed against 13 persons.

"...police betrayed (me) filing the case using weak charges," Emran Hossain told journalists on the court premises, adding that now his family was even more fearful over "threats of eviction" they received recently.

His son Zahid Hossain, 15, and orphan Emon Ali, 13, from Chowbaria village of Rajshahi's Poba upazila, were abducted and tortured for over seven hours on February 12.

They were confined in a house of an influential farmer, Fazlur Rahman, who accused the duo of stealing his son's cellphone. Although they protested their innocence and howled in pain, the tormentors, including an army soldier and a Rapid Action Battalion member, continued the beating.

Yesterday Fazlur, his son Rakib and their neighbour Komol got the bail from a juvenile court, granted by Judge Haider Ali Sarker of 2nd Additional Judge Court, said the victims' lawyer, Dil Sitara Begum Chuni.

On Tuesday, one Azizul Islam, who was under arrest, got bail while his son Uzal got anticipatory bail from a lower court in violation of provisions stipulating that it must be granted by a juvenile court, she said.

Police used a bailable section and not ones for abduction and grievous injury, she added.



Appeal for help STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aminul Islam Md Amin, 18, a student of Sylhet Cadet College, is suffering from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

The doctors at India's NH Narayana Institute of Cardiac Sciences in mid-January said his heart's functioning capacity had come down to 40 percent.

They suggested heart transplantation which needs some Tk 1.5 crore. But the family alone cannot afford it.

Old Cadets' Association of Sylhet has taken an initiative to mobilise fund for Amin from the cadets. Apart from this, they seek assistance from all to save his life.

Aid can be sent to A/C No: 1031510055362, Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd or to bKash: +8801848382050.

Ahmed brings out book on Language Movement 140 new books hit fair yesterday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The sentiment of the Language Movement in 1952 was limited not only to the capital, but it rippled through different parts of the country, including Chittagong, where local political and cultural leaders created the "Rashtrabhasha Sangram Parishad" on February 4.

Aiming to bring together people of all strata, the Parishad distributed a leaflet narrating the discriminations of the then regime against the poor people of Chittagong.

In the leaflet, they called upon people to observe daylong hartal on February 21, 1952 over the demand of declaring Bangla as a state language.

In one of his articles in a new book, historian Muntassir Mamoon pointed out the contents of this leaflet and of seven other leaflets, which had been circulated by both the government and the Rashtrabhasha Sangram Parishad.

The contents of the leaflets were not published before; they appeared in the book "Rashtr Bhasha Andoloner Dalilpatra" (documents on the movement for state language).

Ahmed Publishing House has brought out the book, which is based on 36 documents on the Language Movement.

The book was compiled by Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque and researcher MR Mahub.

Mahub said, "There are many books on the Language Movement, but the contents of the leaflets were not found anywhere."

The book also contains rare photographs of 1952, the US secret cable on the movement, and the proposal of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on state language.

Language Movement hero Prof Fule Hossain unveiled the book in front of stall no. 397 of Ahmed Publishing House at the Amar Ekushey Granthamela 2016.

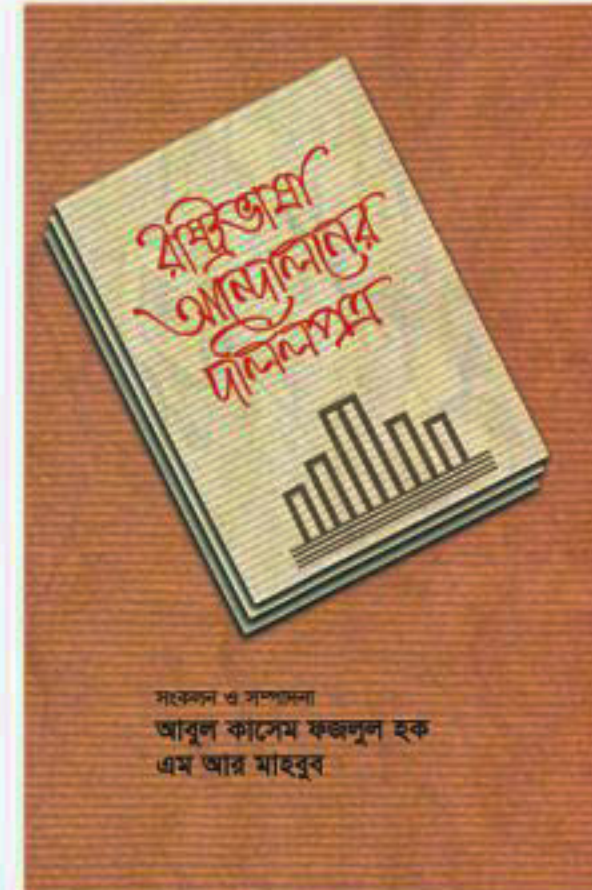
In the preface, Kashem said they tried to give a vivid description of the movement to readers through these documents.

Underscoring the need for having knowledge on history, he also said the roadmap of the future needed to be built by analysing the past.

Meanwhile, two poetry books titled "Amader Sommilito Medha Talikar Din" and "Ja Kichhu Swargiyo Chilo", by Tushar Das and Aftab Ahmad respectively, were launched at the National Museum yesterday.

The first book contains 63 poems and the second one 37. Both were published by Fahrenheit MCL.

A total of 140 new books arrived yesterday. With these, the number of new books published in this fair in the last 17 days reached 1,929.



NEWS IN brief

Buet student dies as train hits him

DU CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) student died as a train hit him while he was walking along the rail track in Dhaka's Moghbazar-Wireless Gate yesterday.

Tanvir Gawhar Topu, 23, son of Ali Gawhar, was a fourth year student of the civil engineering department, Buet sources said.

Locals first took him to Dr Sirajul Islam Hospital. Later, he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead, said railway police.



Violence against children worries MJF

DU CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday expressed deep concern about the ongoing murders of children, abduction and torture on them.

In a written statement, MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said violence against children was increasing alarmingly.

The organisation protested against such crimes and demanded arrest and exemplary punishment for the criminals.

Shaheen Anam also urged people of all professions and classes to stop any kind of violence against children.

Counterfeit univ certificates seized

DU CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday detained two persons with over 100 counterfeit certificates from a university in the capital's Malibagh.

They are Maksuda Akhter, and Salika Sohagan Jerin, said a Rab press release.

After raiding America-Bangladesh University, which was "operating illegally," a team of Rab-3 seized more than 100 counterfeit certificates from its campus, and some certificate-making equipment, the release added.

JnU student suspended for assaulting journalist

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Jagannath University (JnU) authorities yesterday suspended a student on the charge of beating up a journalist on the campus three days ago.

Imran Biswas of the law department assaulted Kazi Mobarak Hossain of bdnews24.com at the main entrance of JnU on Monday, Proctor Noor Muhammad told The Daily Star.

Six 'vehicle jackers' held in 3 dists with stolen motorbikes, car

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday recovered 21 stolen motorcycles and a private car, and arrested six alleged motorbike thieves in the capital, Narayanganj and Khagrachhari.

The law enforcers also seized two machetes and some iron rods from their possession.

Man dies after 'falling sick' at Kafrul Police Station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died after "falling sick" at the capital's Kafrul Police Station yesterday.

Humayun Kabir, 55, hailed from Ibrahimpur. Zakir Hossain, an assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said Humayun's sister Tahmina along with him went to the station to file a GD over a feud with her landlord.

Humayun fell sick while they were talking to the duty officer, he said, adding that police took him to National Heart Foundation where he was declared dead.



Participants at a roundtable on "Paris Outcome: Way Forward", organised by the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh and the Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists, at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

NIKO GRAFT CASE Indictment hearing against Khaleda deferred

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred to April 12 for hearing on charge framing against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and 10 others in the Niko corruption case. Khaleda could not appear before the court due to her physical illness.

Three accused, including former acting energy secretary Khandaker Shahidul Islam and Gausuddin Al Mamun, were present in the court while four others, including former law minister Moudud Ahmed, remained absent.

The Anti Corruption Commission filed the case in December 2007, accusing Khaleda and several others of abusing power to award a gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian company Niko when she was the prime minister between 2001 and 2006.

FF also links Shakhawat to killing of villager

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father dead. Nur Uddin, also of Chingra village, said he along with Chadtulla, went to India in the Bangla month Ashar to train and join the Liberation War, and he took part in the war under Sector-8. He and Chadtulla returned home on the 25th of Bangla month Ashwin to meet his parents.

On Ashwin 28, accused Shakhawat, Mujibur, Khaleq, Lutfar and Billal, and Akram Hossain along with 10 to 12 Razakars came to his house, picked him up, and took him to Chingra Razakar camp, where Razakars tortured him, the 73-year-old witness said.

JU authorities hostage to employee lessee

FROM PAGE 3

area as an influential pro-AL man of the area," he added.

These were the reasons for not taking legal actions against Abbas, alleged a number of employees of the estate office.

Prof Abul Khair, head of the probe body and JU treasurer, said the probe was ongoing; further action against Abbas would be taken soon.

"A meeting was held last week," said Nurul Amin, the estate officer. "We spoke to the university law officer, and took a deci-

He said on the same day, Razakars brought Chadtulla to the same camp where they tortured the two to know about their arms and fellow freedom fighters.

On the first day of Kartik, Shakhawat, accompanied by the other accused and Razakars, shot dead Chadtulla on the bank of the Kopotakkho river, said Nur Uddin. "I saw the incident from a window of the camp."

Nur Uddin said he was released from the camp after giving a bond that he would not work against Pakistan.

The tribunal adjourned the proceeding until February 22 after defence counsels completed his cross-examination.

sion to reclaim the lakes."

Meanwhile, the lakes are badly in need of restoration. No local or migratory bird arrives, or water lily blooms there due to fish farming, use of fertilisers and lack of renovations. The water has become polluted and some of the lakes are filled with clumps of dried water hyacinth.

Abbas could not be reached for comments, as his phone was turned off. But Associate Professor Sikder Md Zulkarnine, the hall warden, confirmed that Abbas could be seen regularly at work and on the campus premises.

STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

With a fresh new format, new writers and a new perspective, the Star Weekend has an array of interesting articles for you. This week our spotlight is an inspiring one, about Shamima Aktar, who is the youngest member in the Bangladeshi women's boxing team in the SA Games. There is also an interesting read on the facts about the Zika virus, and the impact it may have on Bangladesh. Don't forget your copy of Star Weekend tomorrow, Friday!

A SECRET OF A WAR BABY

by Shahazada Basunia

A SECRET OF A WAR BABY

Shahazada Basunia

A novel on war Time Rape Victims

THE NEXT BIG CONTENDER

FATEKA ZABEEN SIDDIQUA

PHOTO: FAKHR UDDIN

South Asian Games 2016 has been quite remarkable for Bangladesh women athletes for a number of reasons. While our women boxers and weightlifters have already clinched gold at the games, this year, for the first time, women boxers from Bangladesh are participating in an international sports meet. The star, three women boxers, Laila Akbar, in the 48 kg category, Barana Khanatun in the 75 kg category and Shamima Aktar in the 51 kg category, are participating in the SA Games. Our 'Iron Maiden' caught up with 75-year-old Gaurang Mohan, Bangladesh's national Olympic coach and gold medalist of the National Women's Boxing Competition in the junior levels from 2013 and 2014. She also happens to be the youngest player in the SA Games, women boxing team from Bangladesh. For more, check out the week's spotlight on page B-8.