

Raped house help dies at hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A minor domestic help died at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) in Barisal city yesterday after she was raped.

Kajol alias Kajoli, 12, of Khejurbari village in Banaripara upazila of the district, used to work at the residence of one Abdul Mannan in Baligona village of Jhalakati, said the victim's father Hiron Howlader.

"Two women, including wife of Abdul Mannan, brought my daughter unconscious to my house on March 8. They told me that she was infected with influenza and they tried to cure her....," Hiron told The Daily Star.

"The same day, we admitted her to Banaripara Upazila Health Complex SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Participants and guests at the inaugural ceremony of a painting exhibition titled, "HerStory: Women Trailblazers" and a discussion, "Transforming Visions: Women, Work and Leadership", yesterday, organised by Energis Limited at the capital's MIDAS Centre marking International Women's Day.

Two more held in Adnan killing case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested two more youths in connection with the killing of ninth-grader Adnan Kabir yesterday afternoon.

Nure Alam, and Abdul Karim, both 19, were held in Tongi's Pagar area.

Adnan, 15, a student of Uttara's Trust School, and a member of "Nine Star" group was beaten to death allegedly by some local boys of "Disco Boys" group led by Anik over previous enmity on January 6.

Twenty one suspects, including four of the nine named in the case, have been arrested so far. Eleven of them gave confessional statements in court.

The prime accused, Naimur Rahman Anik, 19, is still absconding.



Adnan

Empower grassroots women

Speakers tell discussion marking International Women's Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite achieving success, women in Bangladesh still face many hurdles to flourish in their careers and reaching goals, said discussants yesterday.

If women can be provided with equal opportunities and familial support, they will be able to contribute more towards the country's economic advancement, they viewed.

They were speaking at the inaugural ceremony of a painting exhibition titled, "HerStory: Women Trailblazers" and a discussion, "Transforming Visions: Women, Work and Leadership", organised by Energis Limited at the capital's MIDAS Centre to celebrate International Women's Day 2017.

Economic self-reliance is one of the key tools for protecting the rights of women, said Tarana Halim, state minister for posts and telecommunications. If a woman can attain that, she can achieve courage to fight for her rights.

She said the media reports on women repression, but they should also publish an equal number of reports on the success of women.

Rokia Afzal Rahman, former adviser to a caretaker government, said women in Bangladesh have the abilities and merits to secure a better career and contribute to the society.

"We want women, especially the youth, to go forward with their competency and skills," she viewed.

Education is a key component to overcome discrimination and injustice, said rights activist Aroma Dutta.

Nishat Majumder, the first Bangladeshi woman to scale Mount Everest, emphasised engaging young girls with extracurricular and outdoor activities for improving their mental and physical strength.

Dr Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said women's contributions to agriculture, other informal sectors and households should be recognised.

Women must have the confidence to prove their skills and competencies to overcome all the hurdles for reaching their goals, said Rupali Chowdhury, managing director of Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited.

Suraiya Zannath, lead financial management specialist of The World Bank, said a social movement to remove the barriers to women empowerment in the country is a must.

Zareen Mahmud Hosen, director of Energis Limited, said women should be empowered at grassroots level because rural women are more vulnerable to repression.

Over a dozen of leading women professionals spoke at the event, attended by several hundreds of women.

In the exhibition, paintings of 19 artists were displayed. The paintings focused on visions and thoughts of women trailblazers including Begum Rokeya Sakhawat, Jahanara Imam, Nilima Ibrahim and Begum Sufia Kamal.

NO END TO BLOODSPILL ON ROAD

Ten more lives lost

CITY DESK

Ten people were killed and 70 others injured in road accidents in eight districts yesterday and on Friday.

In Jamalpur Sadar, two people were killed and two others injured as a microbus ran them over and fell into a ditch beside Jamalpur-Tangail highway in Diggait Barbhita area yesterday.

The deceased were Mostafa, 50, of Diggait village and Zahurul, 28, of Saunia village under the upazila.

Police said the incident occurred as the driver lost his control over the vehicle and ran the four poultry farmers over when they were loading cages of hens onto a pickup van beside the highway.

In Bogra, two people were killed and 30 others injured as a bus collided head-on with a truck and skidded off the Bogra-Natore road in Birgram Hazipara area on Friday evening.

One of the deceased was Nabab Ali, 60, a cattle trader of Dumurgram area. The identity of another deceased could not be known.

In another accident in the district, 10 people were injured as a bus collided head-on with a truck on Bogra-Natore road in Tengramagur Bibir Pukur area of Shajahanpur upazila on Friday evening.

In Faridpur Sadar, a man was killed and 27 others were injured as a picnic bus fell into a ditch beside Dhaka-Barisal Highway at Nuru Mia Bypass yesterday.

The deceased was Mofijur Rahaman, 45, of Jhenidah.

Other passengers of the bus said they went to Kuakata from Kushtia to enjoy a picnic.

The accident occurred when the driver lost his control over the vehicle as he was dozing while they were returning, they alleged.

In Gopalganj, an unidentified man, aged around 60, was killed as an unidentified vehicle ran him over on Dhaka-Khulna Highway in Pathalia area on Friday night.

In Jhenidah, a man was killed as a truck rammed his bicycle in front of Kaliganj Mobarakganj Sugar Mills gate on Friday night.

The deceased was Sunil Kumar Roy, 55, of Raigram village under Kaliganj upazila. In Magura Sadar, Abdul Hannan, 50, of Khulna SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Mijarul Quayes no more

AGENCIES

Mohamed Mirjarul Quayes, Bangladesh ambassador to Brazil and former foreign secretary, died at a hospital in Brasilia yesterday. He was 57, reports UNB.

"Mr Quayes was admitted to the hospital several days ago for ailments. He breathed his last at 9:00pm (Friday) Brazil local time and at 6:00am (Saturday) Bangladesh time," a foreign ministry spokesman told BSS.

Quayes, who was a 1982 batch officer of Bangladesh Civil Service, also served in other capacities at home and abroad.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and President Abdul Hamid mourned his death recalling his contributions to the country's foreign service. They also sought divine blessings for his eternal peace and conveyed their sympathies to the bereaved family members.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmud Ali, State Minister Md Shahrir Alam and Foreign Secretary Md Shahidul Haque also expressed deep shock.

Obituary

CITY DESK

Sufia Begum, a retired associate professor of Government Teachers' Training College, Dhaka, died of renal disease and cardiorespiratory failure at Samorita Hospital on early Friday at the age of 77.

She left behind a son and a daughter. Sufia, wife of late Golam Akbar who was a retired deputy secretary, was buried in Banani graveyard after the Juma prayers on the day.



Sufia Begum

I begged for mercy, but they didn't show any

Trafficked woman narrates harrowing tale

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

She dreamed of making a decent living when they offered her a job in Lebanon. But her bubble burst when she found herself enslaved as a sex worker in Syria.

Not too many could hold back their emotions as tears began flooding down the cheeks of the 35-year-old woman from Patuakhali as she narrated her harrowing ordeal.

She was given the opportunity to speak before an audience yesterday at a programme jointly organised by Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) and Rapid Action Battalion for distributing financial assistance among 10 trafficking victims.

Before ending up in Syria, where she was sold several times, the traffickers first took her to Dubai with five other women with a promise of employment as maids.

Aside from working as a maid, to her surprise, she was forcefully engaged as a sex worker, and physically and sexually abused on a daily basis.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Huq Inu at a rally of the party at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday, participated by thousands of leaders and activists from across the country.

PHOTO: STAR

BNP's proposal on 'assistive govt' a trap

Inu tells JSD rally; says his party is against communalisation of textbooks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP's proposal for an "election-time assistive government" is a conspiracy to foil the polls, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Huq Inu said yesterday.

"It is a trap of BNP," he said, addressing a rally of the party at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan where thousands of leaders and activists from across the country congregated.

The rally was held with a slogan to end corruption, discrimination, and establish good governance.

Inu, also the information minister, said whenever BNP fell in trouble, it used election and talked about democracy.

"I would say the proposal for an election-time unelected government is a conspiracy. It goes against the constitution... There is no constitutional basis and structure of an assistive government," he said.

Inu warned, "If the democratic and progressive forces step into the trap, it will be suicidal. So we cannot accept it."

When the country is busy fighting militancy and the economy seeing transitions, it is imperative that the election takes place under the constitutional framework, he said. "At the same time it is necessary to drive militancy and its patrons out of the political playground."

Accusing BNP chief Khaleda Zia of taking the side of SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

কিশোর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সমগ্র
মোস্তফা হোসেইন

Home Delivery Service
www.rokomari.com
16297

একাত্তরের সেই অগ্নিকিশোরদের যুদ্ধকথা নিয়েই 'কিশোর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সমগ্র'। গ্রন্থভুক্ত ৭৫ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার যুদ্ধস্মৃতিতে পাওয়া যাবে অকল্পনীয় সাহসিকতার অনেক তথ্য।

পরিবেশক: আজিজ সুপার মার্কেট, শাহবাগ: প্রথমা (৯৬৬৪৮২৫), পাঠক সমাবেশ (০১৭১৩০৩৪৪৪০)
কাঁটাবন: প্রকৃতি (০১৭২৭৩২৮৭২৩), বেইলি রোড: সাগর পাবলিশার্স (৯৩৫৮৯৪৪)
বিমানবন্দর: বুক ওয়ার্ম (৯১২০৩৮৭)। নরসিংদী: বই পুস্তক (০১৮১৮৫৩৪৮৯৩)
কুষ্টিয়া: বইমেলা (০১৭১১ ৫৭৫৬০৬)।
চট্টগ্রাম: বাতিঘর (০১৭১৩৩০৪৪৪)

১০ বছরের ওয়ারেন্টিতে*
থাকুন এখন নিশ্চিত

হোম অ্যাপ্লায়েন্সে বিশ্বের শীর্ষস্থানীয় কোম্পানি এলজি এই প্রথমবারের মতো বাংলাদেশে নিয়ে এলো ১০ বছরের ওয়ারেন্টি সুবিধা!

ওয়ারেন্টি মেসিন, কম্প্রেসর, ইন্ভার্টার, ইন্ভার্টার

LG Life's Good