

NEWS IN brief

Nine Jamaat men arrested with explosives in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police last night detained nine Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and activists and recovered a huge amount of explosives from their possession during a raid at a house in Dholaipar area of the capital.

Of the detainees, Nurul Islam Bulbul is the president while Shafiqul Islam is the secretary general for Jamaat's north unit in Dhaka city, said Abdul Jalil, officer-in-charge of Kadamtali Police Station.

Based on secret information that they were holding a meeting, police conducted the raid.

Police however could not give details of the explosives immediately.

Dhaka Polytechnic Institute student drowns in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A student drowned in a pond at a training centre in Muktagachha upazila of Mymensingh on Thursday afternoon.

Ashiqur Rahman, 21, son of Abdus Salam of Brahmanbaria district, a third semester textile student of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute, went to join a three-day scout camp at Muktagachha's Regional Scout Training Centre with a team on Thursday morning.

He drowned while bathing with two of his friends in the pond on the institute premises, said Muktagachha police.

Ashiqur was declared dead at the upazila health complex. The body was handed over to his family, said police.

One burnt to death in Nilphamari house fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A man was burnt to death in a fire at his Balapara home in Kundopukur union of Sadar upazila on Thursday night.

The deceased, Enamul Huq, 35, was a chemical fertiliser and pesticide trader.

Enamul was alone at home when the fire originated from an electric short circuit in his tin-shed house around 2:00am and also engulfed a huge amount of paddy, jute and maize stored in a warehouse, said fire officials.

The officials estimated the damage at Tk 15 lakh which included Tk 3 lakh cash. Fire officials took several hours to douse the flame.

Two siblings die inhaling toxic gas

UNB, Moulinibazar

Two siblings died after inhaling toxic gas in a latrine at Kashemnagar village in Borolekha upazila on Thursday.

They are Nabil Ahmed, 22, and Badal Mia, 17, sons of Bachchu Mia of the village.

Quoting locals, police said Badal, younger brother of Akib Uddin, fell into the latrine while trying to pick up a mobile phone set of Akib around 5:30pm, said Shahidur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Borolekha Police Station.

At one stage, Nabil also fell into the latrine while trying to save Badal.

A firefighting unit recovered the bodies of the two brothers.



Vehicles struggle to negotiate the dilapidated road in front of Gabtoli Bus Terminal in the capital yesterday. Commuters suffer delays on the road every day as the authorities seem oblivious to its repair.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

PM doing well after surgery

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who underwent a successful gallbladder surgery in Washington on Monday, is now doing well. "The prime minister is well now... she's in contact with her office in Dhaka around the clock and she disposed of seven e-files on Thursday," PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told UNB from Washington.

Hasina went to the US capital from New York on September 22 after attending the 72nd United Nations General Assembly. She flew to New York on September 17 to join the annual UN event.

World must shun religion-based state concept: President



PHOTO: PTD

President Abdul Hamid speaks at a programme at Gulshan-Banani Puja Mandap in the capital yesterday.

UNB, Dhaka

Urging all to stay alert so that nobody can create confusion among people through misinterpretation of religions, President Abdul Hamid yesterday said the world community must give up the mentality of establishing religion-based states.

"In the past, the evil thoughts of establishing religion-based state or nation led to conflict and war among nations," he said while addressing a programme during his visit to Gulshan-Banani Puja Mandap in the capital on the occasion of Durja Puja. Saying that humanity, brotherhood and sympathy of people had been ruined in the past in the name of religion, the president observed that evil forces are still active to establish religion-based states or nations.

About the role of religion, he said all religions had come for the welfare of people while religious customs always play a strong role in maintaining social discipline, and create sympathy and mutual ties among people.

Hamid said secularism, not religion, should be the base of establishment of a country or a nation.

"A society and a state with human values should be established involving people from all religions, not a single religion, where they will perform their respective religion with mutual respect, tolerance and liberal views," he said.

Noting that Bangladesh is a country of communal and inter-religion harmony, the president said all religious festivals are being celebrated here with festivities from the ancient era and now it is a tradition of Bangladesh.

Durga Puja is the biggest festival of the Hindu community, he said, adding that all religions show people the right path of leading life.

Secretaries concerned to the president and senior officials of Bangabhaban accompanied the president during his visit.

Two die in Comilla road crash

UNB, Comilla

Two people were killed when a covered van overturned on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Jagurjhuli in Adorsho Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Amir Hossain, 26, son of Arif Mia of Brahmanbaria district and Billal Hossain, 35, a helper of the covered van driver.

The Dhaka-bound covered van from Chittagong overturned on the road as its driver lost control over steering at 10:30am, leaving two people dead on the spot, said Abdus Salam, sub-inspector of Mainamati Highway Police.

On information, police recovered the bodies and sent those to Comilla Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsies.

Girl 'killed after rape' in Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A 14-year-old was found dead in a bamboo cluster at Ghorda village in Jhikorgachha upazila of Jessore on Thursday night.

Rina Khatun, daughter of Lal Babu, a class-IX student at Kayemkhola Dakhil Madrasa, was killed after being raped and later was hung from a bamboo tree, alleged her mother Nazma Khatun.

Nazma held Sagor Hossain, 19, son of Idris Ali of the village, who used to stalk Rina one her way to and from the Madrasa, responsible for Rina's death.

Sagor went into hiding after the incident, said police.

Six mountaineers to leave for Nepal Oct 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six Bangladeshi mountaineers will leave the country for Nepal on October 3 with the mission of conquering the Larkya peak of the Himalayan Mountains.

The mountaineers are: MA Muhih, who conquered the Everest twice, Nur Mohammad, Bahlul Maznu, Shayla Parveen, Ikramul Hasan and Riasad Sunvi.

Their names were declared yesterday at a press briefing, organised by Bangla Mountaineering and Trekking Club, at a conference lounge of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

They have a target to conquer the Larkya peak of 20,500 feet in the Manaslu region within 25 days from the starting date of their expedition.

While handing over the national flag to the mountaineers, Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, former adviser to the caretaker government, said physical fitness is not only important in sports but also important in everyday life.

"Without physical fitness a country can not flourish by merely depending on economy," he said.

Mountaineer Muhih called upon the youths to quit smoking and join healthy alternatives such as trekking.



Bonsai exhibition begins in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi

A four-day Bonsai exhibition began in Rajshahi city yesterday aimed at making the Bonsai culture popular among common people.

Rajshahi Bonsai Society (RBS) arranged the fair on the Monibazar premises in the city with the support of Home Stone Limited.

Zila Parishad Chairman Muhammad Ali Sarker yesterday inaugurated the exhibition as the chief guest with RBS President Syed Mahfuz-E-Towheed in the chair.

Pro Afrauzzaman Khan Chowdhury of Department of Finance and Banking of Rajshahi University was present there

as special guest.

During his welcome address, RBS General Secretary Sarwar Morshed illustrated the various aspects of Bonsai culture and its positive impact on the society. Terming the Bonsai practice as an art of precision, Muhammad Ali Sarker said it can play a vital role in reducing social crimes.

Highlighting the various other aspects of Bonsai culture, he said the country could earn a lot of foreign currency through the export of quality Bonsai to the developed countries.

Some 60 Bonsai-lovers are participating in the exhibition with 255 Bonsai of 46 species.

The exhibition will remain open for the visitors from 10:00am to 8:00pm.



Clockwise from top, winners pose with guests and organisers at the ninth annual pottery convention, reception and exhibition of southern districts in Barisal city. Pottery enthusiasts at a stall during the day-long event. Artisans display their crafting skills. Prof Nisar Hossain, dean of Dhaka University fine arts faculty, inaugurated the programme. A total of 200 artisans were accorded reception while 19 received awards in different categories. Clay artist Anil Krishna Paul was given Bala Hari Saha lifetime achievement award. PHOTO: SUSHANTA GHOSH