

Leading by example

Students clean streets to raise awareness

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanj

It was Friday, so no class to attend. Instead of resting at home or hanging out with friends, around 50 students from several colleges of Narayananj were out in the sun cleaning streets, footpaths and drains to keep their city clean.

Setting a commendable example, these students cleaned around a 700-metre stretch from Rail Gate 2 to Ukilpara, and also requested residents of the area to not litter the streets.

Students from Government Tolaram College, Narayananj College, Kadam Rasul College and other educational institutions started cleaning at 10:00am and continued till 12:00pm.

"We are doing this mainly to generate awareness among people to keep our city clean," said Imran Hossain Rahul from Narayananj city, currently studying accounting at Nazimuddin Bhuiyan University and College in Dhaka.

BD Clean – Narayananj, a voluntary organisation took the initiative. The organisation has been conducting these cleaning drives every Friday since July 13, said Billal Hossain Robin, adviser of BD Clean – Narayananj.

"We will continue this programme," he said. Appreciating the initiative, Waste Management Officer of Narayananj City Corporation Alamgir Hiron said that this campaign is successful in generating public awareness as people pay attention to students and listen to what they have to say.

He said that the city corporation is providing support in various forms to the students.



Students of different educational institutions join hands and clean up a 700-metre stretch of the road and footpath from Rail Gate 2 to Ukilpara in Narayananj yesterday. The campaign was organised by BD Clean--Narayananj, a voluntary organisation. PHOTO: STAR

A modern-day Romeo and Juliet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A youth took his own life by jumping under a train in Kushtia on Thursday night after his girlfriend of several years ended her life only an hour and a half earlier at her house in Jhenidah.

Both of them completed their Master's from Islamic University (IU) in Kushtia this year in Finance and Banking.

The young woman, Muntahina Ashraf Hena, 25, hanged herself in her room in Jhenidah town around 7:00pm.

Hearing the news, her boyfriend, Roknuzzaman, 25, who lives in Peyaratola of Kushtia town, went to Jagati area on the outskirts of the town and jumped under a Goolondo bound train around 8:30pm.

Roknuzzaman's roommate Mehedi Hassan Ujjal, who was also his classmate at IU, said Roknuzzaman, son of farmer Alef Ali from Chuadanga town, was a bright student who scored highest CGPAs in both Honours and Master's exams.

Muntahina, who had a 3.5 CGPA in her Master's, might have committed suicide as her father, Prof Muhammad Ashraf Alam, chairman of Al-Hadith and Islamic studies department at IU, had been opposing the marriage between his daughter and Roknuzzaman, Mehedi added.

Ratan Ali Sheikh, officer-in-charge (OC) of IU Police Station, said upon request from her family, Muntahina's body was handed over to them without autopsy.

OC Abdul Aziz of Poradah GRP said they also handed over Roknuzzaman's body to his family without post mortem.

AL, Jubo League men clash in Meherpur

10 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

At least 10 activists were injured in a clash between activists of Awami League (AL) and its youth wing Jubo League at Mahajanpur village in Mujibnagar upazila of Meherpur district on Thursday night.

The clash erupted over formation of the managing committee of Mahajanpur High School in the upazila.

Abul Haseem, officer-in-charge (OC) of Mujibnagar Police Station, said an election was held to form the managing committee of the school on Thursday, in which lawmaker of Meherpur-1 Forhad Hossain was elected president.

Forhad's opponent candidate Mithu Islam, general secretary of Majhajanpur union unit Jubo League, was defeated in the election.

To celebrate the win, the lawmaker's supporters brought out a procession at Mahajanpur village at about 9:30pm.

An altercation ensued between the supporters of Jubo League leader Mithu and lawmaker when the procession was crossing the Jubo League leader's house.

The altercation turned into clash as the men used bamboo sticks and wood logs to fight, leaving 10 of both groups injured.

On information, police from Mujibnagar Police Station rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. The situation is now normal, OC claimed.

When contacted, lawmaker Forhad claimed Jubo League men attacked his victory procession. Mithu, however, claimed that the lawmaker's supporters were making derogatory comments against him during the procession that angered his supporters.

Man arrested in capital on child rape charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a man on Thursday night, on allegations of raping and molesting two girls in separate incidents, from Shahidnagar in Lalbagh.

Among the victims is an eight-year old who was allegedly raped on Tuesday, while the other, aged around 10, was raped 10-12 days ago, said Subash Kumar Paul, Officer-in-Charge of Lalbagh Police Station.

Police arrested the suspect Shukkur Ali, 27, hours after the guardian of one of the victims filed a rape case accusing him on Thursday night.

He was sent to a Dhaka court yesterday with a plea for five days remand for interrogation.

Shukkur, who lives on the first floor of a house, went to the single-room residence of the seven-year-old girl in the same building around 2:00pm on Tuesday. The girl, who lives with her father, was alone at that time, OC Subash said citing the case statement.

The accused allured her with money and asked her to come with him to his room, also giving her Tk 100, landlord of the building Ali Imam told this correspondent. Shukkur's wife and their only son were out of the residence, he added.

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'Conspiracy' was plotted against govt surrounding student movement'

Claims law minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday alleged that a conspiracy was plotted to oust the government surrounding the recent students' demonstration demanding safe roads.

He made the remark while addressing a condolence meeting marking National Mourning Day (August 15), organised by Mugra union unit Awami League at the Mugra High School ground.

He referred to a meeting allegedly held recently between an eminent lawyer and an ambassador of a foreign country to hatch the conspiracy.

"An SMS was sent to my cell phone, say-

'(Your) power is gone; what will be your exit route?' We do politics with a lion's heart, and for the people. Don't try to scare us," Anisul Huq said.

The law minister also said there had been such attempts before, including the plot to a judicial coup using former Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, but that attempt was foiled.

The meeting was chaired by Mugra union unit Awami League president Nawab Mia, and addressed among others by Akhaura municipality mayor Takzil Khalifa Kajal, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Shamsuzzaman, upazila AL convener Jaynal Abedin and Kasba upazila AL joint convener Rashedul Quaiser Bhuiyan Jibon.



Two policemen stand in front of a city bus to stop it and check fitness, driving licence and other papers at Bangla Motor in Dhaka yesterday. With the Traffic Week ongoing and in the wake of a student movement for road safety, police have increased checks on the streets. Inset, a driver gets a case filed for not having relevant documents. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

12 'robbers' arrested in Dhaka, Ctg

STAR REPORT

Police arrested 12 alleged robbers in Dhaka and Chittagong on Thursday night and yesterday. Our Savar correspondent reports, eight alleged members of inter-district robbery gang were arrested in the capital and Savar.

Jewel, 35, Al-Amin, 25, Sayeed, 28, Joshim, 27, Shohel Sharder, 27, Rasel, 26, Shumon, 29, and Kawsar, 27, used to commit robbery on Dhaka-Aricha highway, said police.

Fofazzal Hossen, sub-inspector of Savar Model Police Station, said on August 3 the gang looted a Dhaka-bound truck from Tangail on the highway.

The truck was carrying bulls, said the SI.

Following a case filed by Zakir Hossain, owner of the bulls, police arrested Jewel in Bosila area on Thursday night, said Mofazzal.

On his information, the remaining ones were arrested, said the SI, adding that the truck and bulls were also recovered.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong adds, detectives of Chittagong Metropolitan Police early yesterday arrested four alleged robbers with fire-arms and ammunition in the Chittagong city's Akbar Shah area.

Jabed Hossen, 28, Jasim Uddin, 38, Firoj Al Mamun, 32, and Arifur Rahman, 28, were preparing to commit robbery, said DB police.

On information, a team of DB police raided Gaosia Lake City area and arrested the four, said Assistant Commissioner (West) Moinul Islam of CMP's DB.

Police seized one gun, two cartridges and a knife from their possession, said the AC.

They were handed over to Akbar Shah police. A case was filed in this regard, said the AC.

NEWS IN brief

DC office employee found dead in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A staff member of Joypurhat Deputy Commissioner Office was found dead in the district yesterday.

The victim was identified as Mahatab Uddin, 56, a class IV employee of the Office of the Deputy Commissioner in Joypurhat.

Selim Hossain, officer-in-charge of Joypurhat Sadar Police Station, said Mahatab did not return home after end of his office hours on Thursday. Residents of Kujishahar village of Joypurhat Sadar upazila informed police when they found him hanging with a tree there the next morning.

Police sent the body to Joypurhat Modern Hospital for autopsy.

Police could not determine whether it was murder or suicide, said the OC.

Arms, ammo recovered by BGB

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

Border Guard Bangladesh recovered arms and ammunition from a mango orchard at Shyampur village in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj early yesterday.

A patrol team of BGB at Monakasha border found one pistol, two shooter guns, one magazines and three rounds of bullets that remained abandoned, said Lt Col Sajjad Sarwar, commanding officer of 53 BGB Battalion.

However, none was arrested in this connection.

Children sketch Bangabandhu at M'singh contest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Schoolchildren sketched Bangabandhu and Liberation War at an art competition at Advocate Tareq Smriti Auditorium in Mymensingh town yesterday.

Bangabandhu Shishu Academy, Mymensingh organised the competition, marking National Mourning Day to be observed on August 15.

Around 150 children from different educational institutions took part in the competition on "Portrait of Bangabandhu", "War of Liberation", and "Developing Bangladesh".

Eight Jamaat leaders held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Eight Jamaat-e-Islami leaders were arrested in a building in Jhalakathi town's Chandkathi area yesterday.

They were holding a clandestine meeting there, said Kamruzzaman, officer-in-charge of the Detective Branch (DB) police in Jhalakathi.

A case was filed with Jhalakathi Sadar Police Station under Special Power Act against them, said the OC.

10 injured in clash over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A clash over land occurred at Dudshar village under Shailakupa upazila in Jhenidah, leaving 10 men injured.

The injured include Rashid Mollah, Saheb Ali, Nazrul Islam, Alam Hossain, Golam Rabbani, Shahin Alom and Sohrab Hossain. They have been admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

Locals and police said that a long-standing tension between Milton Joardar and Nayeb Ali Joardar had been prevailing in the area. Nayeb Ali is an AL-backed former Zila Parishad chairman and Milton is an AL leader in the village.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Ayubur Rahman of Shailakupa Police Station said that on last Wednesday, Ayub Hossain, a supporter of Nayeb Ali, broke the demarcation of land belonging to Palash Hossain, supporter of Milton. Subsequently, supporters of both leaders locked in an altercation.

Yesterday morning, at around 11:00am, a fight between the two groups broke out again, leaving the 10 injured.

Upon receiving information, police reached the spot and brought the situation under control. Additional police have been deployed to avoid further clash.

Bangladesh plans to import 9,000MW power from Nepal Says Nasrul Hamid

BSS, Kathmandu

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid yesterday said Bangladesh has a plan to import 9,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity from Nepal to mitigate the increasing demand of electricity by 2040.

The state minister was addressing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing deal over the cooperation in power sector between Bangladesh and Nepal in Kathmandu.

"There is an enormous possibility of generating hydro-electricity in Nepal," he said, adding that to explore this possibility, Bangladesh wants to import hydro-power from Nepal under regional cooperation.

Bangladesh is now importing 660MW of electricity from India, said the state minister, adding that import process of 500MW from the neighbouring country has also nearly been finalised.

This deal will prepare a platform for the power sector which will increase cooperation in power exchange,

power trading, greed line connection, hydro-power development and renewable energy extension, the minister said.

Even this sort of cooperation will also be benefited for both the countries, he said, adding that the deal will encourage the people and the private sector of the two countries on the power sector.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid signed the MoU on behalf of Bangladesh while his Nepalese counterpart Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Affairs Minister Barshaman Pun Ananta signed it on Nepal's behalf.

"Nepal has taken Bangladesh as a model for development of the electricity," said the Nepalese minister.

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