

BANGABANDHU'S HOMECOMING DAY BCL groups brawl over paying tribute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

While the entire nation was paying homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, observing his Homecoming Day yesterday, some activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League's (BCL) Barishal district and city units were busy scuffling among themselves over which group will pay tribute first.

The incident took place next to the Awami League party office in Barishal city's Bibirpukurpar area in the morning, where a temporary platform was erected to mark the day. At least five BCL activists, belonging to both the district and city units, received injuries.

According to witnesses, Barishal City Corporation Mayor Seraniat Sadik Abdullah placed a wreath at a portrait of Bangabandhu in the morning.

Once the mayor left, the BCL activists, who were awaiting their turns, started a commotion as to who will place wreaths first. Soon, the altercation turned to pushing and shoving, and eventually into a full-blown scuffle.

"The day started peacefully. The mayor placed a wreath and left. Suddenly, a group of BCL activists started screaming and fighting," said a tea-stall owner, wishing anonymity. He said many had to close their shops for a while, fearing more violent conflicts.

Witnesses said the scuffle continued for over 10 minutes. Law enforcers and journalists were also present at the time.

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BCL activists of Barishal city and district units in an altercation yesterday morning over paying tributes to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, marking his Homecoming Day. PHOTO: STAR

SNAPS & snippets

Shahabuddin Shahjahan dies

CITY DESK

Kazi Shahabuddin Shahjahan Baby, founder member of Dhaka Theatre and managing director of Corolla Corporation Ltd, passed away on January 5 in Canada, said a press release.



He left behind his wife, daughter, two sons and three sisters to mourn his death.

His body will arrive in Dhaka today. The burial will take place tomorrow at Banani graveyard following a namaz-e-janaza at Gulshan Azad Mosque after the Maghrib prayers.

Everyone has been requested to pray for the departed soul.

Prof Afzalun Nessa passes away

CITY DESK

Prof Afzalun Nessa, a renowned anaesthesiologist, passed away yesterday at Apollo Hospitals. She was 86, said a press release.



She was the wife of late Prof Badrul Alam, a noted child specialist and Language Movement veteran.

She left behind her son, US-based journalist Ashfaque Swapan; and two daughters -- Kalpana Anam, an exponent of Nazrul Sangeet and Alpana Habib, a culinary artiste. Her quikhani will be held at her residence on January 13 after the Maghrib prayers. Prof Afzalun Nessa earned MBBS degree from Dhaka Medical College in 1957.

Later, she took postgraduate training and education in anaesthesiology in the UK before returning to erstwhile East Pakistan in late 1960s to join the government health service. She retired in 1993 as the head of the department of anaesthesiology at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

13 IUB graduates recruited to Japanese companies

CITY DESK

Two companies in Japan have recruited 13 graduates from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) of Independent University, Bangladesh, says a press release.

Venturas Ltd and Human Resocia Co Ltd interviewed 38 IUB graduates on its campus. Six of them were selected instantly and seven were selected after an online technical assessment.

As part of the recruitment procedure, a direct recruit-

INFLUENCING POLLS Tarique's ex-APS placed on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Mia Nuruddin Ahmed Apu of BNP on a five-day remand in a case filed for allegedly distributing Tk 8 crore to influence the December 30 election and instigate violence.

Apu, former assistant personal secretary to BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman, is the fourth accused in the case filed with Motijheel Police Station. He was defeated in the election after running as Jatiya Oikyafront candidate in Shariatpur-3 constituency.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sarafuzaman Ansari issued the order after CID Inspector Ashraf Islam, also the investigation officer of the case, produced Apu before it with a 10-day remand prayer.

Apu's lawyers, however, submitted a bail petition and sought cancellation of the remand prayer, arguing that he was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him politically.

General Recording Officer Sub-Inspector Jalal Uddin told The Daily Star that considering Apu's illness, he was sent to jail yesterday. He would be placed on remand once he recovers from illness.

On January 4, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Apu in the capital's United Hospital, where he was undergoing treatment since December 24.

Surrender to court

HC tells bank loan scammers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed Md Saiful Islam to surrender before a trial court concerned in two weeks, in connection with the BASIC Bank loan scam case.

The court also cancelled its earlier order that granted ad-interim bail to Saiful, managing director of M/S Iskol Food Beverage Ltd.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice KM Hafizul Alam passed the order after hearing a bail petition filed by Saiful, who is on the run.

ACC filed the case with Bangshal Police Station on December 7, 2017 accusing Saiful and two others of misappropriating Tk 7.85 crore from BASIC Bank. On May 15 last year, HC granted ad-interim bail to Saiful and issued a rule on ACC and government to show causes why Saiful should not be granted regular bail in the case, said Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik.

SONALI BANK LOAN SCAM
In another development, the same HC

bench yesterday scrapped the lower court order that exempted Abdur Rashid, chairman of M/S Seema Knitwear and Dying Private Ltd in Narayanganj, from a Sonali Bank loan scam case involving Tk 22.49 crore.

It also directed Rashid to surrender to the trial court in two weeks, DAG Manik said.

AB BANK LOAN SCAM
Meanwhile, the same HC bench yesterday refused to order the ACC to return passport of Md Saiful Haque, an accused in a case filed over misappropriating Tk 165 core from AB bank.

The bench directed ACC to submit Haque's travel document to the trial court, and submit charge sheet of the case as soon as possible, said ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan.

The HC bench passed the order after rejecting a petition filed by Haque, seeking necessary orders on the ACC to return his passport.

ACC filed the case against Haque and seven others on January 25 last year.

MAN LYNCHED IN CTG JP leader placed on remand, 3 more held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday put a Osman Khan, a leader of Jatiya Party's (JP) port city unit, on a five-day remand in connection with the killing of Mohiuddin Sohel, who was lynched by a mob at Pahartali Railway Bazar on Monday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Sarwar Jahan passed the remand order after Osman was produced before the court.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) (prosecution) Kazi Shahabuddin Ahmed of Chattogram Metropolitan Police said police sought a 10-day remand for him, but the court granted five days after hearing.

Meanwhile, police arrested three more persons in the case, through drives in different areas early yesterday.

Sohel was a former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League in Chattogram and an activist of local Awami League.

Sohel's brother Sakirul Islam Shishir filed the murder case naming 27 persons including Osman, as well as 150 unnamed persons with Double Mooring Police Station on Tuesday night.

Sohel's family members at a press conference on Tuesday claimed that he was murdered in a pre-planned way with help of local traders and others.

GATCO GRAFT CASE Hearing on charge framing Jan 16

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and 16 others to appear before it on January 16 for the hearing on charge framing in connection with Gatco corruption case.

Judge Abu Syed Diljar Hossain of Special Judge Court- 3 of Dhaka passed the order.

Earlier, Anti-Corruption Commission's Public Prosecutor Mosharrif Hossain Kajol submitted a petition seeking permission to produce Khaleda Zia, now on bail in the case, before the court on January 16.

In his petition, the lawyer said a production warrant should be issued against the BNP chief, as she has been in jail since February 8 last year following her convictions in Zia Orphanage Trust and Zia Charitable Trust graft cases.

After the hearing, the court granted the petition and directed the jail authorities to produce Khaleda before it on January 16.

BNP leader Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and three

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Mob torches man's house after he admits to murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An angry mob torched the house of a man in Rajshahi city's Nawdapara area yesterday, after he was found involved in the killing of an auto-rickshaw driver and snatching his vehicle.

The tin roof, furniture, winter clothes and other goods of the house were gutted before fire fighters managed to douse the flame around 5pm, police said, adding that no one was hurt.

Auto-rickshaw driver Jasim Uddin Joy, 20, of the area, went missing on Monday.

Following a general diary filed with Shah Makhdum Police Station, police arrested two of Joy's friends -- Jasim Uddin, 23, of Nawdapara; and Sumon Ali, 24, of Matikata area on Wednesday, said SM Masud Parvez, OC of the police station.

During police interrogation, Jasim and Sumon confessed that they killed Joy and snatched his vehicle.

Following their statements, the police recovered Joy's body from Godagari upazila's Sarangpur area that night. His throat was slit and his body had several stab injuries, said the official.

Police also arrested another person -- Rajib Hossain, 24, of Matikata area -- in the early hours in connection with the killing.

In the afternoon, local people formed a human chain at Nawdapara intersection demanding punishment for the killers. Returning from the demonstration, the mob went to the house of Jasim at Sheikhpura and set his house on fire, said police.

Jasim lived at the house with his mother and wife who fled away before the mob went there.



Workers process and transport bamboo in Kaptai Lake Jetty Ghat area of Rangamati district. CHT region is known for its variety of bamboo -- which have different names like Baijia, Borak and Mulibash. Baijia is locally sold at Tk 100-150 while the price reaches at least Tk 300 when it's transported to other districts. The photos were taken recently.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Crude bomb explosion hurts cousins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two cousins were injured yesterday when objects they found in Rangpur Zila School playground exploded.

Nur Alam, 10, son of Rashidul Haque, sustained injuries to his face while Nishat, 15, son of Ershadul Haque, to his left hand. They are residents of Keranipara area under Rangpur City Corporation, said police.

Around noon, the boys picked up two round objects while they were gathering dried leaves and scrap paper on the school compound to start a fire for warmth, said Sub-Inspector Mahtab Uddin of Kotwali Police Station in Rangpur.

They played with the objects for a while, mistaking those for balls. They later set those beside the heap of dried rubbish they had gathered. Soon after they lit the fire, the objects, apparently bombs, went off one after another, rocking the area with a loud noise, the SI added.

Locals soon came to the children's rescue and rushed them to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

An investigation is underway to trace the source of the bombs, SI Mahtab also said.



The Daily Star and Opsonin Pharma Limited signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the company's head office yesterday. Under the MoU, copies of the newspaper will be distributed among the medical practitioners. The Daily Star Manager-Digital Marketing Shuvashish Roy and Opsonin Pharma Manager-Commercial AFM Enamul Haque signed the agreement on behalf of the respective organisations.

Two found dead in Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two unidentified youths were found dead in the river Buriganga in Dhaka yesterday.

Informed by locals, they recovered a body in the afternoon and another one in the evening near Shyam Bazar area, said Shah Jaman, officer-in-charge of South

5 eateries fined in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court in the port city yesterday fined five different eateries for preparing and serving food in unhygienic condition.

The court of Executive Magistrate Marufa Begum Neli of Chattogram District Administration conducted the drive in Jamal Khan Road, Anderkilla and Love Lane areas.

At Dawat Restaurant on Jamal Khan Road, the court found cooked meat curry, raw fish and fresh vegetables being preserved in the same compartment in a refrigerator, said Marufa. "Also, the restaurant didn't have any licence to operate," the magistrate said.

Issuing a warning to the restaurant, the court fined it Tk 60,000.

Grand Sikder Hotel was fined Tk 20,000 for preparing food without ensuring hygiene. Others fined were: Hotel Moghal in Anderkilla, Swapnil Hotel in Love