

Sixth grader's body recovered

Police start interrogating accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday started quizzing the accused of a case filed over recovering the body of a sixth grader from her home in Chattogram city's Uttar Madhyam Halishahar area early Thursday.

On Friday, a Chattogram court placed the accused AK Khan, owner of the house where the deceased lived with her family, on a two-day remand after police produced him before the court, said court sources.

Sukanta Chakraborty, officer-in-charge of Bandar Police Station, said the body was handed over to the family after conducting an autopsy.

The deceased -- Rebeka Sultana Poly, 13, daughter of Firoj Khan from Khagrachhari -- was a student of Halishahar Ahmed Miah City Corporation Girls' High School.



Pedestrians getting an injured CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver out of the vehicle after it hit a bus from behind on Airport Road in the capital's Banani around noon yesterday. Two of the passengers were also hurt. The three were taken to a nearby hospital.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

A promising life extinguished

Failing to bear pain caused by illness, college student takes own life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A college student reportedly died by suicide in Rajshahi yesterday, reportedly failing to bear the pains caused by oral disease.

Police recovered the body of Mousumi Khatun, 24, a master's student of Bangla department at Rajshahi Government College, from her home in Sonarpara area in the morning, said Motiar Rahman, an inspector of Katakhal Police Station. Her body was sent to Rajshahi Medical College morgue for autopsy, he said.

Mousumi's brother-in-law Abu Bakkar, told this correspondent at the morgue that she was suffering from oral diseases for the last two years. Developed in the root of one tooth, the disease had spread all over her mouth.

"We consulted with a number of doctors, but her condition wasn't improving," Abu Bakkar said, adding, "She often cried in pain and said things like 'it was better to die than live with this disease'."

Mousumi was raised by her mother who lives on government social safety net facility and works as a domestic help. Her two sisters live in the same neighbourhood.

Her father died when she was four. One of her brothers died in an accident while another brother and sister passed away from heart attack at home.

Mousumi was a good student and passed her honours degree with first class.

People of her village were impressed with and delighted by her good academic results, Harian Union Parishad

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Women run the show at this Sunamganj mandap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

"Sarbojanin Bhratri Sangha Puja Committee" of Sunamganj has been organising Durga Puja at Kalibari Natmandir for over four decades. Every year, youths from the neighbourhood form the committee under the platform and arrange the puja in Kalibari area.

But this year, the committee, comprised of young men, failed to do so as they were either busy with work or other pressing matters.

When the news spread, people in the area were not only disappointed but also heartbroken. After all, Durga Puja is the biggest religious festival of Bangalee Hindu community.

But a group of local women decided to take it upon themselves to organise the puja so that locals are not deprived of the ongoing festivity.

This is the first all-women committee, organising Durga Puja in the district.

"This year, Durga Puja is being celebrated at 410 mandaps in the district, and for the first time women are arranging puja at a temple," said Biman Kanti Roy, president of District Puja Ujjapan Committee. "We are also encouraging them in their efforts."

Chanchala Dey and Sheuli Rani Paul have shouldered the responsibilities of president and

general secretary of the committee this year.

"After learning that they will not arrange the puja, me and other women held a meeting on September 13 and decided to do something about it," a busy Chanchala told this correspondent yesterday.

At the meeting, she said, 41 women, from different walks of life, were present and all were determined to help out.

"We did not think about breaking any tradition, we just wanted to make sure that all can participate in the celebration," Sheuli Rani Paul added.

Chanchala said, "We estimated

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The all-women puja committee in front of the mandap in Sunamganj yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Top drug trader of Rajshahi arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday arrested Shish Mohammad, one of the district's top drug peddlers, and seized drugs and firearms from him in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the Detective Branch (DB) arrested the 35-year old drug peddler from a tea stall at Bijoynagar intersection at 1am yesterday, said Additional SP Iftekhar Alam.

Law enforcers found a pistol loaded with six bullets and two magazines with him.

The firearm was hidden inside a pillow in a travel bag, they added.

Police also seized 500gm of heroin in separate 100gm packets and 1,500 yaba tablets from his possession, the official added.

Shish Mohammad was engaged in arms and drug trade for a long time and was accused in four drug-related cases.

According to sources and police officials in Godagari, Shish Mohammad developed association with some local Awami League leaders and continued his illegal businesses.

He has been evading arrest so far, the Rajshahi police officials said.

DEATH OF LIZA

Investigation finds 'lack of responsible behaviour' by OC

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Police investigation into the death of Liza Rahman has found "lack of responsible behaviour" by the Officer-in-Charge of Shah Makhdum Police Station SM Masud Parvez.

The investigation, however, did not find "misbehaviour" with Liza by the police, as claimed by her family members, Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) Commissioner Md Humayun Kabir told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We would seek an explanation from the OC and take departmental action in accordance with his answer," he said.

Liza Rahman, 18, a second year HSC student of Rajshahi Women's Government

College went to the police station on September 28.

After an hour, she stepped out of the police station, collected kerosene from a local store and set herself on fire beside the police facility.

She died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on October 2.

RMP formed a two-member committee to investigate the incident.

Salma Begum, an additional commissioner, headed the committee while Abdullah Al Mamun, deputy commissioner of Detective Branch, was a member. The committee submitted its report on Thursday.

The report observed that the girl was

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

MACES holds multi-country education meet

CITY DESK

MACES held its annual multi-country education meet and an award giving ceremony of the 4th personal statement writing competition at a Dhaka hotel on Friday, says a press release.

Representatives from around 80 universities in the UK, the USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, and Malaysia were present. Hundreds of students discussed their opportunities, confusions and scholarship issues with them.

More than 600 students from 12 A-level schools in Dhaka and Chattogram registered for the writing competition.

Among top 30 participants, three were awarded this year. They are Areeba Ali from DPS STS School, Riyana Afroze from DPS



STS School and Rafiza Mirza from South Breeze School.

Managing Partner of MACES Rouham Mazoor, founding partner Tina Saalem Manzoor and representatives from different universities handed over the award to them.

Save Karnaphuli Paper Mills for the sake of education

Human chain urges government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

A human chain yesterday urged the government to save the state-owned Karnaphuli Paper Mills (KPM) from being shut down, for the greater interest of the country's education.

The human chain, organised by "Save KPM Movement" -- a platform of offspring of former employees of the mill -- feared that the paper business would be monopolised by the private paper industries once KPM is shut down.

Over 200 people attended the programme held in front of Chattogram Press Club.

Subimol Chowdhury, former principal of KPM High School and College, said if the mill is shut down, it will have a severe impact on the education sector as private paper mill owners will take the opportunity

to monopolise the industry.

Those who come from lower income families would face hurdles to continue their education once the cost of paper goes up, he said. The government must take initiative to save KPM -- riddled with corruption and mismanagement, he added.

Maksud Rumi, former officer of KPM, said cores were spent in the name of renovation and yet, KPM over the years lost its production capability and ended up producing five to 10 tonnes of paper while it has the ability to produce 100 tonnes per day.

Advocate Jahangir Alam, former student of KPM High School, said there are at least 1,27,000 acres of land which will be "mismanaged" once KPM is shut down.

"We urge the government to save KPM at any cost, for the betterment of education," he added.

Road accidents kill 7, injure 33

STAR REPORT

At least seven people were killed and 33 injured in road accidents across the country in the last two days, our correspondents and news agencies report.

In Panchagarh, a child was killed and eight were injured after a bus ran over their motorbike at Satmera village in Tetulia upazila yesterday, said police, quoting locals.

The deceased is Risha Akhter, 6, daughter of Rabiul Islam.

Abdullah Hel Baki, officer-in-charge of Tetulia Highway Police Station, said the accident occurred when Risha and her father were returning home, leaving her dead on the spot and critically injuring Rabiul.

The bus driver did not stop after the accident and dragged the motorbike about one kilometre away from the spot, despite passengers repeatedly asking him to stop, the OC said. At one stage, the driver lost control of the bus and it fell into a roadside ditch, injuring seven, he added.

Firefighters and police rescued everyone and took them to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital. Rabiul was shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Locals barricaded the road for two hours in protest. Police later brought the situation under control.

In Barishal, Hashem, 40, and Saleha Begum, 55, were killed as a private car hit the three-wheeler they were in at Kashimpur area around 9am yesterday, said police.

In Jashore, Rabbi, 25, was killed on the spot when a truck hit his motorbike at Bagachra Bazar area in Sharsha upazila yesterday noon, said police, quoting family members.

In Meherpur, Aktar Hossain, 42, was killed on the spot after a speeding truck hit him at Baut Bazar area under Gangni upazila yesterday, said police. On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body.

In Manikganj, a couple was killed and at least 25 were injured after the bus they were on fell into a roadside ditch at Torā area in Ghior upazila around 6pm on Friday, said police and fire service.

The deceased are Gonesh Shonnyashi and Kolpona Shonnyashi.

Arifur Rahman, sub-inspector of Borongol Highway police outpost, said on information, police and fire service conducted a rescue operation with the help of locals.

The injured were taken to Manikganj district hospital but the couple succumbed to their injuries on the way.

The Raintree Dhaka's buffet offer marking Durga Utsab

CITY DESK

The Raintree Dhaka, a new exclusive boutique hotel located in the capital's Banani, has announced a special offer marking Sharodiya Durga Utsab.

The signature offer titled "Pujor Moha Bhuj" will continue from October 4-10, said a press release.

All guests can enjoy "Buy One Get One" buffet offer for Tk 2,550.



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(গ) মৌজা নম্বর ও নাম- ৭৭, কাউলারা
(ঘ) ইউনিয়ন- সাটুরিয়া, থানা- সাটুরিয়া, জেলা- মানিকগঞ্জ।

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(খ) দাগ নং- সিএস- ১, আরএস- ১৬
(গ) খতিয়ান নম্বর- আরএস- ৫০।
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