



Two youths tug their boat as water in the canal has receded. They are returning from Barishal's Boithakata village after selling bottle gourd seedlings. This photo was taken recently from the city's Rayer canal.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

RUMPA'S DEATH

Police waiting for forensic report; DB collects new footage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators are waiting for the forensic report and other circumstantial evidence in order to reach a conclusion over Stamford University student Rubaiyat Sharmin Rumpa's death.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police collected several footage of the 11-storey Ayesha Shopping Complex and surrounding areas to track Rumpa's whereabouts before her death on Wednesday.

"We're trying to track where she [Rumpa] went after leaving home around 6:45pm that day," Shamsul Arefin, additional deputy commissioner (Ramna Zone) of DB, told The Daily Star.

Rumpa, a second-year English student at Stamford, was found dead in an alley behind Ayesha Shopping Complex. Police learned of her identity the next day.

After primary interrogation, police have learnt that Rumpa was in a relationship with Abdur Rahman Saikat, a former student of the university, which recently took a turn for the worse. They met outside Stamford campus in Siddeshwari area around 4pm that day and had an argument, which led to Saikat breaking up with her, police say.

Investigators said Rumpa had visited the 11-storey Ayesha Shopping Complex around 5pm that day as one of her school friends lives there on the fourth floor. During the visit, Rumpa shared her frustrations over her relationship with Saikat and cried, said police, quoting the friend.

Around 6:40pm, she returned home in Shantibagh after giving tuition classes and asked her cousin to bring a pair of sandals for her. She then left her purse and shoes with the cousin and left, wearing the sandals.

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NEXT JS SESSION

Cabinet approves President's speech

UNB, Dhaka

The Cabinet yesterday approved the draft speech of President Abdul Hamid to be delivered at 11th parliament's first session of 2020.

The approval came from the cabinet meeting held with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at Bangladesh Secretariat.

The president will address the parliament at the commencement of the first session of 2020 as per Article 73 (2) of the constitution, said Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam while briefing reporters after the meeting.

The speech will focus on the country's overall scenario, including activities and programmes taken in different sectors to implement Vision 2021, he said.

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Two SSC candidates killed in road crash

STAR REPORT

Two secondary school certificate (SSC) candidates were among four killed in the last two days in three separate accidents across the country.

The students, biker Jewel Rana (16) and his friend Zahidul (16), were killed when their motorcycle collided head on with a passenger bus at Darogabari intersection on Balijuri-Jonail road in Madarganj upazila under Jamalpur district yesterday morning.

They were students of Balijuri FM High School and Madarganj Sun Shine High School, police said quoting the victims' families.

The accident occurred around 10:40am when Jewel, Zahidul, and another friend were on their way to Balijuri from Jonail bazar. As they reached Darogabari intersection, a Dhaka-bound bus of Madarganj Special Service Paribahan hit them from the front, leaving Jewel dead on the spot and the passengers critically injured.

They injured were rushed to Madarganj Upazila Health Complex where duty doctors declared Zahidul dead, said Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Madarganj Police Station.

Police have detained the bus, but the driver and helper managed to escape the scene. A case was filed in this regard, the OC told our Jamalpur correspondent.

In Mymensingh, another young motorcyclist was killed and four people were injured when the motorbike collided with a battery-run auto-rickshaw at Charalgi area in Gafargaon upazila on Sunday night.

The collision left Imran Hasan (25), an entrepreneur from Biroigram village, dead on the spot. All four of the injured were auto-rickshaw passengers.

The injured were taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. A case has been lodged with Gafargaon Police Station, police told our Jamalpur correspondent.

In Faridpur, a man was killed and two others were injured in an accident on Dhaka-Khulna Highway at Chumurdi area under Bhanga upazila yesterday early morning.

The deceased was identified as vegetable trader Billal Fakir (50). Billal died when the pick-up van carrying him lost control and hit a roadside tree, police told our Faridpur correspondent. This also left two other passengers injured.

The injured were taken to Bhanga Upazila Health Complex. Police seized the van but the driver managed to flee, added the police.

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2019

Bangladesh ranks 88 out of 117 countries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although Bangladesh is making gradual progress in terms of hunger reduction, the country is still in the list of states where the hunger situation is serious, according to Global Hunger Index 2019.

The country has been ranked 88 -- with a score of 25.8 -- among 117 nations around the world. The countries which scored between 20-34.9 have been placed in the "serious" category, said the report.

Bangladesh ranked 88 in 2017 and 86 in 2018, but its scores were higher -- respectively 26.5 and 26.1. A lower score indicates a lower level of hunger.

Two international non-government organisations -- Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe -- prepared the index, which was globally launched on October 15. The Bangladesh part was specially unveiled at a ceremony at Cirdap auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Concern Worldwide, Welthungerhilfe and Helvetas Bangladesh, another international NGO, organised the launch event.

The index is a global annual report which indicates the overall hunger situation across the world. It was prepared based on scores under four indicators -- undernourishment, child wasting (being underweight), child stunting and child mortality.

Reviewing the report findings, experts said Bangladesh is progressing, but it is slow and not satisfactory. The country should make progress faster if it wants to bring down hunger from serious to moderate level.

"The performance of Bangladesh in reducing hunger is better than some of our neighbouring countries, like India and Pakistan, but the progress is still not satisfactory," said AKM Musha, country director of Concern Worldwide in Bangladesh.

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SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT WORKPLACE

More awareness needed in informal sector: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workplace sexual harassment should be addressed strictly, and along with formal sectors, working women from informal sectors and peri-urban areas must get proper attention regarding incidents of sexual violence, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

The Asia Foundation and The Daily Star jointly organised the roundtable on "End Violence Against Women and Girls: Sharing Ideas about Workplace Violence Prevention" at The Daily Star Centre.

Speaking at the roundtable, Hameeda Hussain, convener of Sramik Nirapotta Forum said that in order to stop violence against women, we received

some legal instructions from the High Court in 2009 as a preventive strategy that states every institution should have an anti-sexual harassment committee. This has not been implemented properly yet -- especially in garments and tannery industry.

"We should ensure the monitoring and implementation of this directive -- whether the committees have been formed or not, whether they are working neutrally or on behalf of the management body," she added.

Nobonita Chowdhury, director of Brac's Preventing Violence Against Women Initiative said, "If we can ensure a good work environment..."

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Discussants at the roundtable in The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

'Stop terror financing to uproot extremism'

JS Speaker tells CTTC conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday underscored the need for stopping terrorist financing to uproot extremism from the country.

She was speaking at the inauguration of the "National conference on countering Violent Extremism" organised by the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police at a convention centre in the capital.

Members of different law enforcing agencies, representatives of NGOs, teachers and students, media representatives attended the first day of two-day conference, the first of its kind in the country.

"Terrorist financing must be stopped, and Bangladesh Bank is already working on the matter," said Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury.

The Speaker further said since it is the era of information technology, counter-narratives of terrorist ideologies should be placed and published in social media.

Dr Gowher Rizvi, international affairs advisor to the prime minister, said extremists raised their heads three years back, but the situation has been improved by a concerted effort led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

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13th death anniversary of Fazle Rashid

CITY DESK

Today is the 13th death anniversary of advocate ABM Fazle Rashid



Chowdhury Hiru, a distinguished politician, entrepreneur, and social worker.

His wife Prof Masuda M Rashid Chowdhury MP requested all to pray for the departed soul.

Fazle was founding vice-president of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and founding executive body member of Jatiya Party.

Qurankhwani, milad mahfil, and other events will be arranged in Dhaka, Chattogram, Cox's Bazaar and his ancestral village in Raozan to mark the day.

Media can hold the powerful accountable

Says Syed Manzoorul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mass media can play a role similar to that of the parliament and make powerful people accountable when democracy does not work, said Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam, Ombudsperson of Transparency International Bangladesh.

Manzoorul was addressing the a discussion titled "Challenges to Investigative Journalism in the Context of Encroached Mass Media", held at TIB's office yesterday. Following the discussion, TIB awarded journalists for the best investigative reports of 2018.

"I still believe our security largely depends on journalists. Journalists are the poets of security. Because of you [journalists], we learn about corruption and learn how to distinguish between right and wrong," he said.

Speaking about the state of teachers' associations in public universities, Dr Manzoorul said, "sometimes I feel ashamed of introducing myself as a university teacher when I see the state of my colleagues. Teachers' associations have become obedient to the government these days."

He asked journalists to not take their job as a mere profession but approach it with passion.

"If you really pursue good news, media owners will be forced to back you," he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Govt must work for official UN recognition of genocide

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded that the United Nations (UN) officially recognise the mass killings by the Pakistani occupation forces during the Liberation War as genocide.

Blaming an ideological split behind the demand not being realised, a group of young researchers urged the government to stimulate a strong diplomatic move at the UN. They were speaking in a discussion at Liberation War Museum in the capital, organised by Center for the Study of Genocide and Justice (CSG).

Sanjida Shahrin Sharna said there was a long period of denial and distortion of history of the Liberation War. Many powerful countries are not cooperating with Bangladesh in this regard, she added.

Presenting a keynote on "Ongoing genocides and causes", CSGJ researcher Mosharrat Mehbuba Alam stressed on forming a separate body under UN to tackle genocide in different parts of the world.

"Countries face trial after committing genocide but there is a lack of prerequisite measures so that none could dare to commit genocide," she said.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Former Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman speaks at the inauguration ceremony of the 10th International Conference on Financial Criminology and Anti-Money Laundering Mechanism was held at United International University auditorium on Saturday.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Bank regarding the 10th International Conference on Financial Criminology and Anti-Money Laundering Mechanism. Includes details about the conference, speakers, and contact information.