

JCD cadres beat 3 Jagannath Hall students

DU CORRESPONDENT

Cadres of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, beat three resident students at Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday as they refused to give tolls.

The injured are Tamaresh Biswas, first year student of pali and sanskrit, Tusher, first year student of political science and Uzzal Kumar Mandal, fourth year student of mass communication and journalism.

The injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) where they received first aid.

One of the victims said Shuvra Chowdhury, library secretary of the hall unit, demanded Tk 6,000 and a mobile set in tolls from them some days ago for arranging their seats at the hall.

As they refused, Suvara along with some five JCD cadres including Sumit, Rahul, Nirob, Mithun and Asit beat them.

At first, Suvara and his accomplices beat Tamaresh and Tusher in front of October building at around 12:30am. When they took shelter in the room of Uzzal, the JCD cadres went there and beat them again including Uzzal as he gave shelter to Tamaresh and Tusher.

Tamaresh and Tusher alleged that Suvara mugged their mobile set and Tk 500 while beating them.

After the incident, JCD hall committee expelled Shuvra from the organisation for anti-organisational activities.

Hall unit JCD President Biplob Pande Bipu said there is no room for any extortionist in the hall.

Four killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least four people, including a baby boy, were killed in separate road accidents in the capital and Brahmanbaria in the last two days.

Our Staff Correspondent reports: Rezaul Karim, 48, an official of British American Tobacco (BAT), was killed when a BRTC bus hit him at Farmgate area in the city yesterday morning, police sources said.

Critically injured Rezaul was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

One Nazrul Islam, 28, was killed on the spot when a truck ran over him in front of the Rampura TV Bhaban early hours of Tuesday, sources said.

Meanwhile, another unidentified person aged about 38 was injured seriously when a bus hit him in front of the Rampura bridge yesterday morning.

He was rushed to the Chest disease hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Our Correspondent from Brahmanbaria adds: A baby boy was killed and six others were injured when a tempo rammed a roadside tree near Bhongora Bazar on Nabinagar-Companyganj road under Nabinagar upazila yesterday.

The accident occurred when the driver of the tempo lost control over the steering on way to Bhongora Bazar from Nabinagar leaving one Md Hasan, 1, son of Habibur Rahman of Malai village dead on the spot and six others injured, sources said.

A case was filed with Nabinagar Police Station in this connection.

Zia Shishu Academy team meets president

UNB, Dhaka

A 36-member delegation of Zia Shishu Academy made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday. Welcoming the delegation, the president stressed the need for providing opportunities to develop the innate talents of children to survive in the competitive global village.

"We will have to play a vital role in enhancing their skills in their respective fields," he said.

The delegation members apprised the president of their activities. Iajuddin Ahmed gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them of all-out cooperation. He also wished every success of 'Amar Bangladesh', a children's film to be produced by Zia Shishu Academy.

Film director Chashi Nazrul Islam, Amin Ahmed, M Humayun Kabir, Reaz Haider, Ivan Shahriar Shohag and child artists of the proposed film were present at the meeting.

Secretary to the president Abu M Maniruzzaman Khan, Military Secretary Major General ANM Muniruzzaman and Press Secretary M Mokhlesur Rahman Chowdhury were also present.

Corruption widens rich-poor gap

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rampant corruption has widened the gap between the rich and the poor in the country, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

They said poverty is not the sole cause of corruption as it is found that in developing countries, poor people are less corrupt than the rich.

The Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organised the seminar on 'Corruption and governance' on its campus in the city.

Presenting a keynote paper, Prof Mushtaq Husain Khan of University of London said low salaries, lack of

democracy, weak civil society, non-meritocratic bureaucracy and weak judicial system are the major causes of corruption.

"Conventional models see corruption as an exchange driven by personal greed and it causes loss of resources and creates inefficiency in economy," he said.

Ensuring accountability and transparency is not enough to reduce corruption, Prof Mushtaq said, adding that the opportunity cost of corruption should be higher to curb it.

If the salary of the officials is high and they are sacked for taking bribe,

the opportunity cost of corruption will be higher, discouraging them from taking bribes, he explained.

Vice Chancellor of IUB Prof Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury said rampant corruption has led to uneven distribution of resources between the rich and the poor. As a result, the poor are becoming poorer, he added.

Prof M Mufakharul Islam and Dr Tanvir AKhan were also present.

Maj (ret'd) Akhter blames Tarique for involving school students in politics

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Former BNP lawmaker Major (ret'd) Akhteruzzaman Ranjan yesterday criticised BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman for involving students, especially under-aged high school students, in politics in the name of divisional conferences of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

Talking to newsmen at Gochihata under Kotiadi upazila, Akhteruzzaman expressed his doubt over what role the students have been asked at the divisional conferences to play for BNP in the next general election.

At the conferences held across the country, Tarique "instigated" students to actively take part in politics whereas they should stay on campus and practise student politics concerning interests of the students and teachers, he said.

Akhteruzzaman alleged that Tarique even involved high school students, who are below 18, in the conferences.

"I am launching a programme to aware voters to cast no vote for corrupt and criminal candidates," he said, predicting that BNP will lose all the seven seats in the district in the next general election for its corruption.

Doc-patient relations stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker at an open discussion said, a positive relationship between the doctors and patients has not developed yet mainly because of the inappropriate behaviours of the doctors, which also cause people to go abroad.

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Bangladesh (PSR) organised the discussion on 'Doctor-Patient Relationship: Present Context and Our Duty' at the city's National Press Club on Tuesday.

Dr Shaful Islam, associate professor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), presented a keynote paper at the discussion.

He identified some behavioural problems of both doctors and patients. Doctors' problems include lack of sincerity, commercialism and moral degradation while some patients behave like owner and criminal.

The speakers demanded that the government include a subject on behaviour and etiquette of doctors with the patients in the curriculum of the medical education.

They underscored the need for introducing referral system in order to reduce patients' crowd to a handful of specialised doctors, establishing effective communication between doctors and patients and creating planned workforce in the medical sector.

But the bottom line is to earn patients' trust, they added.

Dr AKM Saleque, general secretary of PSR, Prof Dr Mahmud Hasan, former vice-chancellor of BSMMU, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Dr Makhdoma Nargis, vice-president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Kazi Ali Reza, officer-in-charge of UNIC, Dhaka and Muzzamel Hossain, editor of the daily Shamokil spoke on the occasion with PSR President Dr Kamrul Hasan in the chair.

Daily Star-Trust Bank debate begins in Ctg Apr 16

CU CORRESPONDENT

A weeklong debate competition titled Mutual Trust Bank-The Daily Star 6th Inter-School English Debate will begin here on April 16.

Drishy, a cultural body, will organise the competition at city's Shilpakala Academy and Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC) auditoriums.

A total of 10 educational institutions will compete in the competition.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, will be present as chief guest in the concluding ceremony on April 22.

Condolence meeting

DU CORRESPONDENT

A condolence meeting for Syed Imtiaz Ahmed, an assistant professor at the Department of International Relations (IR), Dhaka University (DU), will be held today.

The meeting jointly organised by Social Science Faculty and Department of IR will be held at Business Studies Faculty conference room of DU at 11:00am.

Ensure safe workplace for garment workers

Trade unions demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different trade union organisations have observed the first anniversary of Spectrum Sweater Industry Tragedy through hunger strike, rallies and processions in the capital.

Carrying red flags, banners and posters, several hundred garment workers observed the token hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar from 4:15pm to 5:45pm on Tuesday commemorating the tragic accident in which 65 workers were killed and 85 others injured when the building of Spectrum Apparels collapsed on April 11, 2005.

National Garment Workers Federation organised the programme to observe the day as 'Health and Security Day for Garment Workers'.

Speakers at the programme called for setting up of garment factories following the building code to ensure safe workplace.

They called upon the government, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and factory owners to arrange emergency exit and take fire safety measures at all garment factories keeping the main gate open during the working hours.

The speakers also demanded death penalty for the owners of the Spectrum saying their indifference was responsible for the tragic accident.

Federation General Secretary Aminul Haque Amin said a total of 425 workers were killed and 2399 others injured in 24 accidents in last 15 years.

Presided over by Federation President Shahida Sarker, the programme was addressed by Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Communist Party of Bangladesh President Manjurul Oikya Parishad leaders Abul Bashir, Shafulur Rahman and Roy Romesh Chandra, Dhaka University Teachers' Association General Secretary Prof Dr Akhteruzzaman, Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association General Secretary Advocate AM Amin Uddin, Dhaka Metropolitan Bar Association President Advocate Abed Raja and Sammilita Nari Samaj Leader Rokeya Rafiq Baby.

Bangladesh National Council (BNC) of Textile, Garment and



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Sangjukta Garments Federation took out a procession in the city yesterday to commemorate the first anniversary of Spectrum Sweater Industry tragedy, which left 65 workers dead and 85 others injured.

Leather Workers held a rally at Muktagong in the city yesterday to observe the day as 'Safe Workplace Day'.

At the rally, BNC leaders put forward an 11-point proposal to the government to ensure safety of workers at workplaces.

The proposals include observing April 11 as Safe Workplace Day every year, ensuring full implementation of industrial and labour law, declaring minimum wage at Tk 3000, immediate arrangement of emergency exits and fire safety measures at all garment factories,

ensuring building code, regular factory inspection, keeping the main gate open during working hours and formation of national workers' compensation commission.

After the rally, a procession was brought out that marched different city streets.

Bangladesh Poshak Shilpa Sramik Federation organised a discussion at its Mirpur office on April 11 to mark the day.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

'Formulate policy to address needs of persons with disabilities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf yesterday called for formulating a comprehensive policy on disaster management with special attention on the needs of persons with disabilities.

About six percent of the total population are suffering from disabilities, he said, adding that funds will be allocated for the disaster management for physically challenged persons in the upcoming budget.

He was addressing a workshop on 'Mainstreaming disability issues in disaster management' organised by the Handicap International (HI) with technical support of Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC) at the BRAC INN Centre in the city.

The workshop was held under the project titled 'Reduce communities'

vulnerability by empowering them to cope with floods and earthquake in Bangladesh, mainstreaming persons with disabilities'. Handicap International initiated the project in cooperation with European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).

Project Manager Faizul Kabir said the project is being implemented in four selected wards under Dhaka City Corporation and four upazilas of Gaibandha and Sirajganj districts and about 23,230 people, including 864 physically challenged persons, will benefit from it.

The 15-month project, which started on January 1, 2006, will address specific needs of the persons with disabilities and include them in mainstream disaster management policy.

BDPC Director Md Saidur Rahman stressed the need for 'Damage and need assessment' and

rehabilitation of the physically challenged people along with physiotherapy treatment and occupational and vocational training for them.

Other speakers called for adequate technical and financial support and finding out the actual number of persons with disabilities at the grass-roots level to improve disaster management.

Valerie A Taylor, coordinator of the Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed, Ian Stanford Rector, chief technical adviser, AKMAzizul Haque, managing director of National Federation for Development of Disabled Persons, Blandine Bourgeois, country director of HI, also spoke.

Representatives from government organisations, NGOs and the local government took part in the workshop.



PHOTO: STAR

Ashekane Maizbandari Association took out a colourful procession in the city on Tuesday to mark the Eid-e-Miladunnabi.

EASTERN BY-PASS PROJECT

Inappropriate implementation to cause more waterlogging

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the government to make further evaluation before implementing the proposed Dhaka Integrated Flood Control Embankment cum Eastern Bypass Road Multipurpose Project.

"If the technical part of the project is not implemented properly then it might cause more waterlogging instead of saving the city from the flood," they said.

The seminar on analysing the feasibility of eastern bypass project was organised by the Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), a common forum of citizens and organisations concerned with the environment of the country at Cirdap in the city.

Bapa president Professor Muzaffer Ahmad, vice president Professor Nazrul Islam and member AMA Muhit spoke at the seminar while architect Iqbal Habib and Dr Ashraf Dewan gave presentations on the project.

After building an embankment on the western boundary of Dhaka on the left bank of the Buriganga river, the government has decided to build another

embankment along the right bank of the Balu river from Tongi bridge to Demra to protect the city from flooding and water logging.

The project will make 124sq km area as flood free zone which almost close to the area of Dhaka City Corporation (145sq km) at a cost of more than Tk 2500 crore.

The basic premise of the proposed eastern bypass project is based on cordon approach, which advocated for flood control using engineering means that are designed to keep floodwaters away from the floodplain and flood flow zones of the Balu River.

The project called for dividing the eastern 124sq km of the city into three major components, each of which will be drained using a combination of existing or re-excavated canals, sluice gates and pump stations. There will be several retention ponds, totaling an area of 1895 hectares, to hold excess surface run-off during floods.

But, the flood modeling of flow simulation following the embankments show that there will be a net increase in the level of the Balu river at Demra by as much as 36 cm if the right embankment is constructed which will create a

barrier to discharge water by the canals that are located with the embankment area.

Thus, continuous pumping out of water will be required. According to the plan, three pump stations with a maximum capacity of 54.6 cusecs (1927 cusecs) of water, will be established. But this will not be adequate in the face of heavy rainfall. Uninterrupted electricity supply will also be required to run these pumps, experts said.

Cop kills wife only for gold ring as dowry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A police constable killed his wife on Tuesday as her father could not present him a gold ring as dowry.

Arun Biswas killed Kalpana Rani alias Tumpa, 20, at Dahokhola village under Dumuria upazila in the district.

He married Tumpa 18 months back when she was a student of honours final year in political science in Jessore Michael Madhusudan College.

He was given Tk 25,000 in cash as dowry on the day of marriage.

Arun, who was serving in Khagrachhari district, came home at Dumuria on Monday on one week's leave.

On the midnight of Tuesday, Arun beat Tumpa mercilessly and later strangled her when she expressed her inability to give him a gold ring as dowry from her parents.

The police constable was put in house arrest and asked not to leave Dumuria until further order from Khulna police for the sake of investigation.

Tumpa's body was sent to her parents in Jessore after autopsy at Khulna Medical College and Hospital morgue at yesterday noon.

According to inquest report, there were sufficient evidences of beating and strangulation that resulted in the death of a poor girl merely for a gold ring, said the officer-in-charge of Dumuria Police Station.

Preparation was going on to file a case in this regard as of writing this report in the evening.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Comilla and Noakhali in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country.

Highest temperature 38.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 21.0 degree Celsius at Mymensingh.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:19pm today and rises at 5:39am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.8	26.8	79	59
Chittagong	33.0	26.0	69	76
Rajshahi	38.8	26.5	76	44
Khulna	35.2	26.5	77	62
Barisal	33.5	26.0	82	80
Sylhet	31.3	22.3	83	82
Cox's Bazar	33.5	26.0	66	72

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar

Bangladesh Youth Association for Religion and Peace organises a seminar on 'Moral values for building character'. Venue: Department of World Religion, DU. Time: 3:30pm.

Workshop

CEGIS organises a workshop on 'Impact of sea level rises on land use sustainability and adaptation options in the Southwest region'. Venue: RDEC Building, LGED. Time: 9:00am.

Discussion

Nazrul Institute organises a discussion to mark the Bangla New Year with Dr Ashraf Siddiqi in the chair. Venue: Institute premises. Time: 10:00am.

Blue for Peace

Family of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria will stage a silent sit-in as part of their Blue for Peace Programme demanding trial of the killers of former minister. Venue: Road in front of Abahani math. Time: 4:30pm.

Rotary meet

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Kawran Bazar will be held. Venue: Aashiana Restaurant, Panthapath. Time: 6:30pm.