



PHOTO: STAR

The road in front of the Arts Building of Dhaka University goes under water following rain yesterday because of poor drainage system in the area.

BDR-BSF FIRING

Indian HC airs concern over media reports

The High Commission of India in Dhaka has expressed concern over the news report carried in several local papers alleging that the BSF was responsible for firing along Komorpur and Bhatshala border points in Debhata, Satkhira, on July 6.

In a press release yesterday, the high commission said the Indian authorities have investigated the firing incident and conveyed the following facts:

"A BSF patrol party from border outpost Sodepur, while taking action against cattle smugglers in Ichhamati river, came under unprovoked fire from the BDR at about 5:00 am on July 6. The BSF was forced to retaliate in self-defence and to protect civilians on the Indian side moving in the surrounding area.

"In spite of unprovoked firing by the BDR, the BSF tried to defuse the situation by trying to reach senior BDR officers none of whom responded to the calls. Instead, the BDR continued intermittent firing up to 11:30am during which it fired about 6000-7000 rounds. The BSF subsequently lodged a strong protest note with the BDR."

The high commission noted that since May 27, this is the 14th incident of unprovoked firing by the BDR on the BSF, while the latter was conducting operations against cattle and narcotics smuggling along the border, especially in areas of Sodepur, Soladana, Panitar and Gojadanga.

The high commission also reiterated the need for cooperation by the BDR in order to maintain peace and tranquility along the border, the release added.

'Ensure healthcare of RMG workers to up output'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ensure healthcare of workers in RMG (Ready Made Garments) sector to increase productivity in garment units, said the speakers at a gathering in the city yesterday.

The gathering was organised by Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) in collaboration with the UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) at Unique Trade Centre in observance of World Population Day.

The theme of the day was 'Young People'.

Held under a project 'Promotion of Reproductive Health, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Garment Sector',

the gathering was attended by more than 500 garment workers.

BGMEA President Tipu Munshi was the chief guest at the gathering which was addressed by Assistant Representative of UNFPA Md Nurul Ameen, Vice-president of BGMEA Shahadat Hossain and its second Vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedy.

Most of the workers in garment industry in the country are in the age group 18 - 24 and the highest segment of them are women, Shahadat said, adding that through ensuring their reproductive health it is possible to increase the life standard of workers as well as the productivity in garment sector.

Tipu Munshi said the BGMEA

has already set up 10 clinics in Dhaka and Chittagong to promote health of garment workers. Besides, a hospital is currently under construction for them, he added.

Tipu Munshi said to avert reproductive health hazard and HIV threat, they have to be more alert as the next-door neighbour India has a HIV epidemic.

The BGMEA leaders also assured the garment workers of providing all types of facilities they need within a very short time and sought their co-operation for smooth running of the sector.

After the gathering the workers brought out a procession which was also participated by BGMEA leaders and UNFPA representatives.

Bring back stability in RMG sector

Workers demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the garment workers' associations at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday reiterated their demand for bringing back stability in the garments sector.

Shadhin Bangla Garments Shramik Karmachari Federation (SBGSKF) said BGMEA has signed an agreement with 16 garment workers' federations last month as a sequel of the tripartite meetings.

It is nothing but a technique to halt the workers' unrest for a time being as various contacts were signed previously. Yet the authorities did not take any initiative to implement the agreements, the leaders said.

President of the federation Shamima Nasrin presided over the press conference.

Meanwhile, Garments Shramik O Shilpa Raksha Jatiya Mancha (a platform to protect the garment workers and the industry) organised a discussion with the workers' representatives to the wage board in the city.

Expressing concern over the rising dissatisfaction among the garment workers, the leaders said the situation is gradually going out of control as the authorities have started repression, attack and filing cases against the workers.

They demanded of the owners of the factories to stop repressing the workers and realisation of the demands of the workers immediately.

Members of the board Zaful Hasan, Nazma Akhter, Abul Bashar, Kamrul Ahsan, Abul Hossain, Zoinal Abedin also attended the meeting.



Barrister Ishtiaq's anniversary of death today

Today is the third death anniversary of Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, a senior advocate of the Supreme Court and former advisor to a caretaker government, says a press release.

On the occasion, wreaths will be placed at his grave at Banani and fateha will be offered. A milad mahfil will also be held at his Gulshan residence in the morning.

The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh and Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Smriti Parishad will arrange the 'Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Memorial Lecture' at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman auditorium at the National Museum at 5:00pm today to mark the day.

Prominent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan will present a paper titled 'Identity and inclusion in the Development of the Bangladesh State.'

Dengue claims one in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A dengue patient died yesterday morning at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) while the number of patients suffering from pneumonia and malaria is increasing in the port city.

Hospital sources said Mahmuda Begum, 23, daughter of Mohammad Hemayet Ullah of Debarpar at Khulshi, was admitted at the CMCH on Saturday.

Assistant Registrar Dr Mohammad Tayyab confirmed it was the first casualty of dengue this season and there is no more dengue patient at CMCH.

He, however, said the number of patients with viral fever, malaria and pneumonia has increased at CMCH in the last few days.

Rejoinder

Mohammad Amir Hossain Bhuiyan, a lecturer of the environmental science department, Jahangirnagar University, has protested a report headlined 'JU teacher blamed for 'indecent' behaviour with female students' published in The Daily Star on page 3 yesterday.

In a rejoinder yesterday, he dismissed the allegations against him as false and baseless.

The report has caused damage to his personal and social reputation, Amir added.

Flood insurance can help affected people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar at a city hotel yesterday said flood insurance can potentially play an important role to help the flood affected people to cope with the recurrence of flooding.

The seminar titled 'Potentiality of flood insurance in the context of Bangladesh' was organised by Institute of Development, Environment and Strategic Studies (IDESS), a research branch under the Department of Economics of North South University (NSU).

Mentioning flood as a perennial problem in the country, they said government subsidy to make the market viable can not be a long-term solution for such a market to sustain.

They also said integrated effort of NGOs and insurance companies

may reduce the cost of providing flood insurance to the flood affected people.

Research results of the first phase of a project titled 'Poverty Reduction and Environment Management' (Prem), funded by Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the follow-up of the project, carried out by IDESS, have been discussed at the seminar.

Prof AK Enamul Haque of East West University, Dr Roy Brouwer, senior researcher of Institute of Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam and Sonia Aftab, lecturer of Economics department of NSU presented their research paper at the seminar.

Dr Hafiz G A Siddiqi, vice chancellor of NSU and Prof M Ali Rashid, director of IDESS also spoke at the seminar.