

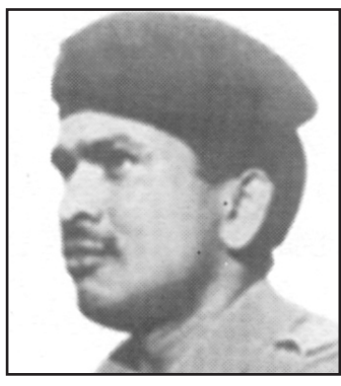
NEW BUILDING CONSTRUCTION RULES
Delay in implementation to serve vested interest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

By the time the new Building Construction Rules 2006 (BCR 2006) is implemented in January 2007, the city will witness construction of thousands of buildings in the most 'casual' way under the old construction rules of 1996.

structure sector fear thousands of new buildings, including many high-rise structures, which have been recently approved or put under the process of approval under the old rules, are set to add to the chaotic landscape of the city and create an environmental nightmare.

building plans with the condition that once completed the owners will have to produce an occupancy certificate. In a joint statement recently, the experts from six top professional bodies urged the government to implement the new construction rules and save the city from becoming an urban nightmare.



Col Taher Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Colonel Taher Day will be observed today to mark the 30th death anniversary of Col Taher, Bir Uttam.

On the occasion, different socio-political and cultural organisations have chalked out various programmes. Colonel Taher Sangsad will organise a discussion titled 'Trial of Colonel Taher killing: Movement and legal procedure' at Teacher Student Centre (TSC) at Dhaka University at 4:00pm.



Udichi forms a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday demanding fresh investigation and trial of the Udichi blast case.

ROW OVER DEPOSITION OF MONEY

Action against RU official protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

About a hundred officials and employees of finance and accounts section of Rajshahi University yesterday protested the authority's decision to punish an accounts official for what they said not depositing the university funds with the Islamic Bank Bangladesh Limited (IBBL).

The demonstrators observed a work abstention programme yesterday and threatened to bring all accounts-related activities to a halt. Led by Deputy Director of Accounts Ashraf-ul Huda, the agitators collected the signatures of some 200 officials and employees in favour of their demonstration and submitted a memorandum to the VC, giving a three-day ultimatum to withdraw the 'illegal' decision.

VC Prof Altaf Hossain assured the agitators of considering their demands in the next syndicate meeting to be held on July 25. Earlier, the RU authorities had decided to prohibit Assistant Accounts Officer (AAO) Hasin Ahmed Khan from all service benefits, including promotion and increment for one year.

The decision, taken on July 18 by the RU finance committee (FC), is likely to be approved in the next syndicate meeting. The decision was taken as Hasin did not deposit the university funds with the IBBL, the demonstrators said, adding that it is a heavy punishment for a 'modest mistake'.

Shahid gets Best Hotelier of the Year award



Hotelier of the Year 2005 recently, says a press release.

Shahid, a veteran in hotel and tourism industry, received the award from State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at a function at a local hotel. He has 28 years of colourful career with working experience at home and abroad.

Prof Nazrul told The Daily Star that Hasin has committed a grievous crime by getting the deposits approved by the RU registrar, who was then acting as treasurer in the absence of treasurer. "He didn't even get the approval of the FC before making the deposit."

He denied the allegations that he was angry with Hasin for not depositing the money with the IBBL and that the punitive measures was intentional.

However, the three-member investigation committee, headed by Prof Raihana Ansari of Finance and Banking department, found Prof Nazrul's allegations baseless.

"The punitive measures taken against Hasin is not recommended in our (probe) report, but I can't comment more than that", Prof Raihana Ansari told The Daily Star yesterday.

'Involve mass people in anti-govt movement'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Spoken at a discussion yesterday called on the progressive political parties to involve mass people in anti-government movement in order to establish a secular democratic country.

Termining mass people the main driving force behind all successes, they said it is time to launch a united movement to get rid of the misrule of BNP-Jamaat government.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) organised the discussion to mark the 30th death anniversary of Colonel Taher at the National Press Club in the city. Speaking at the discussion, Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain said the mass people are the source of all power and no achievement is possible without their participation.

A secular democratic society will not be established unless the mass people are integrated into the movement, he said, adding that a united movement is a must to make the country free from terrorism, militancy and corruption.

The dreams of Colonel Taher will not be fulfilled unless corruption and terrorism are eliminated from the country, he added.

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil said, "We had fought in 1971 to establish a country free from all forms of exploitation and misrule, and now we have to fight for an end to the misrule of the government."

He said all the progressive political parties who believe in the spirit of the liberation war have to fight against the misrule of the government by uniting the people. The BNP-Jamaat is dillydallying on the issue of reforms and wasting time on flimsy excuse in this regard, but the people will not accept any election without reforms, he said.

JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu, who presided over the discus-

sion, demanded that the documents of the trial of Taher be made public.

Kamal Lohani, president of Colonel Taher Srimity Sangsad, Communist Party of Bangladesh president Munjurul Ahsan Khan, Workers' Party General Secretary Bimal Biswas, JSD General Secretary Syed Jafar Sazzad, JSD Vice-President Sharif Nurul Ambia and Karmojibi Nari President Shirin Akhter were also present at the discussion.

Protest against power crisis in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Greater Khulna Development Action Coordination Committee (GKDACC) held a rally yesterday afternoon at the picture palace cinema hall square protesting severe power crisis in the south-western region and non-allocation of fund in the current national budget for implementation of different development projects.

Over one thousand people from all walks of life, including leaders and activists of all political parties, attended the rally.

Presided over by Vice President of GKDACC Haider Gazi Salahuddin Runu, the protest rally was addressed by CPB leader Advocate Feroze Ahmed, GKDACC Secretary General Shaikh Ashrafuzzaman, Khulna Citizens' Forum Chairperson Shaikh Abdul Quayyum, Advocate Shaikh Enayet Ali, BNP leader Gazi Shahidullah, Workers' Party leader Hafizur Rahman and Rupantar Director Rafiqul Islam.

Speakers said the government would be forced to accept the legitimate demands of the people of greater Khulna through tough movement.

Housewife murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An elderly housewife was killed apparently over second marriage of her husband and some valuables were allegedly looted from her house at Demra area in the city on Wednesday night.

The dead identified as Fazilatunnesa, 45, was alone at her house when the incident occurred.

Police sources said returning home at around 10:45pm, Fazilatunnesa's husband and son found her lying on bed with hands and legs tied with a rope and blood coming out of her mouth.

The victim's husband Shoaib Mamunur Rashid claimed that Tk five lakh in cash, 18 tolas of gold ornaments and other valuables were looted from the house but the victim's son denied the claim.

Monowar Rashid, victim's son, who is a medicine whole seller, alleged that Lipi, his father's second wife, was involved in the murder.

"A lot of anxiety had been going on in the house since my father married Lipi four months ago" he said.

The body of the deceased was taken to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Based on the allegation of the victim's son, police arrested Lipi along with her mother and two other relatives in the early hours of yesterday and in the morning.

Obituary

Abdul Muid Bahar, father of Nafisa Banu, deputy chief accounts officer of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), passed away yesterday at the age of 76, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and two daughters.

He was buried at Mohammadpur graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Tara Masque in the city.

Death anniversary

Today is the 5th death anniversary of Dr Shafaque Shahriar Ahmed (Ruben), says a press release. He died on this day in 2001 in New York where he had been serving in Brookdale University Hospital.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at Ahsania Mission Orphanage, Mirpur-1 after Maghrib prayers.

Dr Jakia Sultana

Today is the 6th death anniversary of Dr Jakia Sultana, daughter of former minister late Ansar Ali Siddiqui, says a press release.

On this day in 2000, Dr Jakia, wife of Deputy Secretary Nazmul Hai, died due to dengue fever.

On the occasion, recitation from the Holy Quran and milad mahfil have been arranged at her residence at Shajahan Road, Mohammadpur after Asr prayers today. Admirers are requested to attend the programmes.



Members of the Bangladesh Grameen O Nagar Daridra Federation line up at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday protesting the price hike of essentials.

One killed, 20 injured in road accidents

STAR REPORT

One person was killed and 20 others injured in road accidents across the country yesterday.

Our correspondent from Mymensingh reports: At least one person was killed and 10 others were injured in a road accident at Hazir Bari area on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Bhaluka upazila here yesterday morning.

Police and locals said the accident took place when a sand-laden truck bound for Dhaka turned turtle when the driver lost control over the steering killing an unidentified man on the spot and injuring 10 others at 7:00am.

The injured were admitted to Bhaluka Upazila Health Complex. The body of the dead was sent to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH) morgue for autopsy.

A case was lodged with Bhaluka police station in this regard.

Our correspondent from Rangamati adds: At least ten people were injured, five of them critically when a jeep locally known as Chandergari plunged into roadside ditch after the driver had lost control over the steering on the way to Dighinala from Baghaichhari upazila headquarters yesterday morning.

Md Ali, 25, a critically injured passenger, was admitted to Khagrachhari sadar hospital.

The other injured who were admitted to Baghaichhari upazila health complex are Saki Chakrabarty, 30, Md Yunus Ali, 45, Begum Dilljahan, 30, Khalilur Rahman, 40, and Md Shafi Alam.

The rest of the injured were released after they were given first aid, Baghaichhari police said.

Blueprint made to snatch voting rights

Speakers tell seminar in New York

Speakers at a seminar held in New York recently said a blueprint has been made by the BNP-Jamaat alliance government to snatch the voting rights of the people, says a press release.

Bangladesh-America Community Development Initiative organised the seminar on "Upcoming Election: Role of Caretaker Government."

The speakers said widespread violence might occur during the election by the BNP-Jamaat cadres as the Election Commission would play as the tool of the BNP-Jamaat. They emphasised strengthening of the caretaker government.

Referring to the role of army during the election, they said the army is under the prime minister and "Why should not be so in the case of Chief Advisor of the Caretaker Government?"

Journalist Sharif Shahab Uddin presented the key-note paper at the seminar.

Dr Dwijen Bhattacharya of Columbia University, journalist Saleem Samad, Awami League leader Fakhrul Islam Munshi,

Engineer Farashat Ali and Captain Shachin Karmakar spoke at the seminar with Dr Pradip Kar in the chair.

Sharif Shahab Uddin in his paper said widespread corruption in the administration, nationwide terrorist activities and the rise of Islamic militancy posed a threat to holding a free and fair election. He said the entire administration should be brought under direct supervision of the caretaker government during its tenure for a free and fair election.

He said the election must be held free from the influence of the high officials, including deputy commissioners (DCs). He emphasised the withdrawal of legal and illegal arms much before the election across the country. The DCs, SPs and the local armed cadres can seriously influence the election and even they can change the election results, he added.

The caretaker government should address these issues on an urgent basis, he said.

WEATHER TODAY logo with sun and cloud icons.

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country. Highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dinajpur and Bogra and lowest 22.6 degree Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:47pm today and rises at 5:23am tomorrow.

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

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Qulkhwani

BSS, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of Lutfunnesa Begum, mother of noted industrialist and chairman of Khan Son's Group AKM Muhi Uddin, will be held at House No. 45, Road No. 7, Block-G, Banani after Asr prayers today.

She died at Shahabuddin Medical College Hospital at Gulshan on July 17 at the age of 81. Prayers will also be held at different mosques, madrasas and schools at Khulna village of Bux Mahmud Union in Feni on the same day.

One shot dead in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

Aman was shot dead by the cadres of an extremist group at Harinarayanpur village in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mofiz Mridha, son of Begu Mridha. Police said a gang of 10-12 armed men stormed into the house of Begu Mridha at about 5:00am and shot Mofiz dead.

A case was filed in this connection.



Bangladesh Workers' Party stages a demonstration at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday protesting Israeli military offensive against Lebanon.

DHAKA TODAY CD launch Reception Roundtable Human chain. Text describing various events and their details.