

EXTORTION JU JCD leader threatens businessman

JU CORRESPONDENT

A businessman yesterday alleged that a JCD leader of Jahangirnagar University (JU) threatened him with dire consequences if he does not pay a toll of Tk 55,000 by August 10, a charge denied by the leader.

Nazmul Hasan Ovi, general secretary of JU JCD, issued the threat to him over his cellphone yesterday, said Shah Alam, who takes care of the lake near university gymnasium. His elder brother Nazrul Islam took up a five-year lease on the lake in 2005.

When contacted, Ovi dismissed the allegation as a conspiracy against him.

"JCD does not believe in the politics of extortion. It is a conspiracy against me to tarnish my image," he said.

On July 26, a group of JCD cadres beat up Shah Alam and threatened him with death as he refused to pay toll.

Shah Alam said the JCD cadres have been demanding toll since the lease was taken up. He has complained to the JU authorities twice, but no action has been taken so far, he added.

"I have heard of the incident but not received any written complaints yet," said Prof Sayed Kamrul Ahsan, proctor of the university.

Unauthorised bulb factory unearthed in Chittagong

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Chittagong

A mobile court here yesterday unearthed an unauthorised electric bulb factory and sealed it off for producing and marketing duplicate bulbs and held the factory owner.

The court awarded the arrested factory owner identified as Abul Mansur, 42, six months of imprisonment and fined Tk one lakh.

Tipped off, the court led by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate conducted the drive at a residential area of city's Pathantuli and found the factory operating without any signboard.

CPA Magistrate Munir Chowdhury led the drive with help of Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI) officials and forces from Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

The court also seized more than 10,000 pieces of electric bulb of different brands.

During the drive, the court found that the factory set up illegally on 1600 square feet area has been running for the last seven years without the license of BSTI and producing bulbs duplicating labels of two foreign brands DAI-ICHI of China and Tungsum of Hungary.

The arrested factory owner was sent to the jail in the afternoon.

2 BCL activists injured in feud at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Jahangirnagar University (JU) were injured yesterday on the campus in an intra-party clash over formation of its full-fledged committee.

Hasibul Huq Bhuiyan Sajib, joint-secretary of BCL JU unit, came under attack by the junior BCL activists, mostly students of 33rd and 34th batches, who demanded immediate formation of a full-fledged committee to gear up BCL activities on the campus before the care taker government takes office.

Sajib received head injuries during the clash. He was first taken to university medical centre and then to Enam Medical College and Hospital (EMCH).

The junior activists became furious with Sajib following an altercation with him over formation of a full-fledged committee.

Soon after the incident, a group of BCL cadres stabbed Ashik, a BCL activist, at Battola at 1:30pm, eyewitnesses said.

Ashik is now undergoing treatment at EMCH and his condition is stated to be critical.

The activists of BCL got divided into two factions in the early morning yesterday following a row over formation of the full-fledged committee.

The incumbent committee comprising 31 members was formed about six months back when the committee was instructed to make preparation for a full-fledged committee of 101-member.

"The clash erupted over formation of a full-fledged committee," said Sohail Parvez, president of BCL JU unit.

UNHYGIENIC ATMOSPHERE AT ADAMJEE EPZ 50 RMG workers hospitalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Narayanganj

A garment factory at Adamjee Export Processing Zone (EPZ) came to a stand still as around 50 workers fell sick during the last two days due to the unhygienic environment inside the factory.

DNV Clothing Limited, comprising around 1200 workers, was shut down yesterday on an emergency notice following the illness of the on duty workers.

Among the sick patients, 7 were

admitted to Narayanganj General Hospital while the rest 43 were rushed to a private clinic at Shiddhirganj.

Hospital sources said the admitted patients were mainly suffering from heat stroke caused by excessive temperature inside the factory. Doctors further complained that the patients are suffering from breathing difficulties and blood vomiting.

Workers complained the garment factory has neither proper ventilation system nor adequate number of fans for the workers.

They blamed the authorities negligence to provide a congenial, healthy working atmosphere to be the prime cause behind the incident.

The DNB officials, however, hold the extreme hot weather responsible for the sickness of the labourers.

Adamjee EPZ, the country's largest production industry started its activities on March 6, 2006.

WATER LEVEL FALLING FAST IN PADMA, JAMUNA Ferry service may halt anytime

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Ferry service in Paturia-Daulatdia and Paturia-Nagarbari (Kazirhat) routes on the Padma and Jamuna rivers may be disrupted anytime as the water level is falling fast.

Deputy Director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) Joyal Abedin said the water level has been falling by about 12 cm for the last three days. At least eight and half feet water is needed for smooth movement of ferries but now the depth is six to seven feet only, he added.

BIWTC Deputy General Manager SM Shahadat said the ferries are carrying half of their normal load due to poor navigability.

Ferries ply with risk as their propellers at times touch the sand underneath, ferry operators said while talking to this correspondent yesterday.

Paturia-Daulatdia and Paturia-Nagarbari (Kazirhat) routes are vital because these link the capital with south and southwestern parts of the country.

Meanwhile, the launch employees withdrew their indefinite strike

as the owners agreed to accept demands of the employees at a meeting at Launch Owners Association office at Aricha ghat in Manikganj yesterday.

Aricha Ghat Launch Owners Association President Anwar Hossain, Secretary Abdur Rahim Khan, Aricha Ghat Launch Employees Association President Mohiuddin, Secretary Jalal Uddin and central unit leaders of the associations were present at the meeting.



Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan calls on Afghan Foreign Minister Dr Rangin Dadfar Spanta at a city hotel yesterday.

1830 learning centres for urban working children open

UNB, Dhaka

Over 45,000 urban working children will be benefited from 1830 new learning centres opened across the country yesterday.

These learning centres officially opened in Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet as part of the government's second phase of the 'Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Working Children' (BEHRUWC) Project, says a UNICEF press release.

The project in this phase will offer skill-based non-formal education to 200,000 urban working children between the age of 10 and 14, including 60 per cent girls.

The second phase is being implemented by the Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) through 20 NGO partners under the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MOPME).

UNICEF, Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) are supporting the government to implement the project.

A total of 8,000 learning centres will eventually be set up in 2006 and 2007 in six divisional cities to reach the targeted 200,000 urban working children with a 40-month long skill-

based non-formal education course.

UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh Louis-Georges Arsenault welcomed the second phase of the project as a timely response to the much-needed education and livelihood skills for urban working children.

"Some 1.5 million of the estimated 7.9 million working children in Bangladesh live in urban areas and 850,000 of them are aged between 10 and 14 years. Many of them work with little or no pay and under hazardous conditions such as brick chippers, industrial and transport sector workers, domestic helps and so on," said Arsenault.

"We greatly appreciate the support of Swedish Sida, Canadian CIDA and the Bangladesh government in implementing the project that reaches urban working children with important services and has a long-term goal to reduce child labour," he added.

It is expected that 20,000 working children out of 200,000 will be selected for training.

Docudrama on Khaled Musharraf

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH

An initiative has been taken to produce a docudrama on the life and works of Maj. Gen. Khaled Musharraf Bir Uttam, a liberation war hero.

The organisers of the project announced this at a press conference in London on Tuesday.

Khaled Musharraf's family members organised the press conference at a Bengali restaurant at Brick Lane, attended by the UK Bengali media and community activists.

The docudrama, directed by renowned theatre personality Nasiruddin Yousuff Bachchu, will focus on pre- and post-71 era and give the viewers an insight into the life of the war hero, said the organisers.

It will also shed light on the War of Liberation and feature rare footages. The research and documentation of the film has already started, they said.

During the liberation war, Nasiruddin Yousuff fought along with Khaled Musharraf in Sector-2 and was a member of the famous K-Force. He knew Khaled Musharraf both personally and professionally.

Khaled Musharraf's younger brother Rashed Musharraf and sister Rina Musharraf were present at the press conference.

Prof Hasan new NUB pro-VC

Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan, former treasurer of Dhaka University (DU), has joined Northern University, Bangladesh (NUB) on July 31 as pro-vice chancellor, says a press release.

During his career in DU, Prof Hasan was also the chairman of the department of marketing and director of Bureau of Business Research of Faculty of Business Studies.

He was also the member of finance committee of University Grants Commission, Islamic University and Bangladesh Open University and senate member of Chittagong University.

In his career, Prof Hasan also served the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh as its general secretary and vice president from 2002 to 2006, marketing specialist for Asian Development Bank from 1992 to 1995 and national consultant for DFID, UK from 1998 to 1999.

Birth centenary of Satyen Sen celebrated in London

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH

Satyen Sen School of Performing Arts celebrated the birth centenary of Satyen Sen, a socialist, cultural activist and founder of Udichi, in London on Sunday.

Speaking at the birth centenary programme, Nobel laureate Prof Amartya Sen said, "I am saddened to see the indifference of the UK and the US to atrocities being carried out in Iraq and Lebanon."

"Even during the Liberation War of Bangladesh, Britain's Conservative prime minister Edward Heath protested the news of Seventh Fleet being sent to the Bay of Bengal by the US. But the current British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, is supporting Bush's aggression against various nations wholeheartedly," he said.

"At a young age, I was aware that many of my relatives were in prison due to their political activities. Some of them would come out and we would hear tales from them and learnt a lot. Satyen Sen was my uncle, I learnt about humanity from him. I also became aware of the difference between terrorism and people's movement," Amartya Sen recalled.

Recalling the days of 1971, he said, "We were very worried about the situation in Bangladesh, and it was March."

Satyen Sen was brought to Shantiniketon almost by force as he was reluctant to leave his beloved Bangladesh behind though he was ill and almost blind, he said.

After receiving the Nobel Prize in 1998, Amartya Sen first came to Dhaka, then he went to Kolkata and finally Delhi. While in Dhaka, he felt that if his uncle Satyen Sen were alive today, he would have been very happy, said Amartya Sen.

An exhibition of books by Satyen Sen and a cultural programme performed by the students of Satyen Sen School of Performing Arts were also held to mark the day.

Bangladeshi killed in US road mishap

BSS, Dhaka

Anika Yusufai, second daughter of the president of International Farakka Committee Atiqur Rahman Yusufai, was killed in a tragic road accident in New Jersey of the United States, yesterday.

Anika was rushed to the hospital along with her three injured friends. The accident occurred on the expatriate Bangladesh Highway. Anika, a brilliant student, succumbed to her injuries at the hospital.

"The extra-judicial killings and mass torture and arrests by Rab and police are not signs of democracy," Joy added.

AL President Sheikh Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Kazi Zafarullah and other central leaders of Awami League (AL) and its front organisations were present at the airport to receive Joy. Hundreds of party workers also thronged the airport to greet Joy.

While talking to the media, Hasina said the defeated forces of 1971 and a power-hungry vested quarter killed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975 to take revenge of their defeat. The AL president



Bangladesh Civil Service (Education) Association held a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

1 killed, 30 hurt in Khulna road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

One person was killed and 30 others were injured when two passenger buses collided head-on near Battala under Dumuria upazila of Khulna district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Nazmul Hossain, 25, a helper of the passenger bus bound for Khulna from Satkhira.

The injured were admitted to different clinics and hospitals of Dumuria and Khulna city. The buses skidded off the road and fell into a nearby ditch due to collision, witnesses said.

Local people rescued passengers trapped inside the buses.

The road accident disrupted transport services on Khulna-Satkhira highway until 1:00pm. A large number of buses and other vehicles remained stranded on the roads.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana receive Sajib Wajed Joy at Zia International Airport in the city yesterday.

Joy won't run in next polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sajib Wajed Joy, son of Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, on arrival at Zia International from USA, yesterday said he would not contest the upcoming parliamentary election.

"I will not contest the next election. But I will help my mother and work for the party in the next election," Joy told reporters at the VVIP lounge of the airport.

"I have some plans regarding the next national elections," Joy said adding that the plans would be made public in due time.

Joy strongly criticised the BNP-Jamaat alliance government saying that it seems no democratic culture is in practice in the country.

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said these evil forces are now in power and continuing their misrule and misdeeds.

Hasina said the goal of the Liberation War is yet to be fulfilled after 35 years of independence as repression, corruption, plundering of public money and human rights violation have now become an everyday affair in the country.

"But this was not the objective of the Liberation War," Hasina said adding that these intolerable situation has been created with the assassination of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"If Bangabandhu had not been killed on August 15, 1975, Bangladesh would have turned into a country like Malaysia and Thailand 15 years back," the AL chief said.

She observed that when most of the countrymen are in dire straits now, the prime minister's family grabbed huge public money during the tenure of the alliance regime.

The AL president urged people from all walks of life to be united by turning their grief into strength and resist the evil forces to save the nation from their grip in this month of national mourning.



Abu Sayeed's anniversary of death today

Today is the 18th death anniversary of former president Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at Nagbari in Tangail.

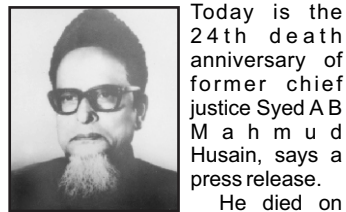
Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

In 1971, Justice Chowdhury played a very significant role in mobilising world opinion in favour of the War of Liberation. He resigned as vice-chancellor of Dhaka University on March 15 in 1971 when Pakistani occupation forces fired on the unarmed students on the campus.

Later, he led the Bangladesh delegation to UN and he was head of Bangladesh Missions in London and New York.

He authored four books 'Probashe Muktijuddher Dinguli', 'Manobadhikar', 'Muslim Family Law in the English Courts' and 'Human Rights in the Twentieth Century'.

Justice Mahmud Husain



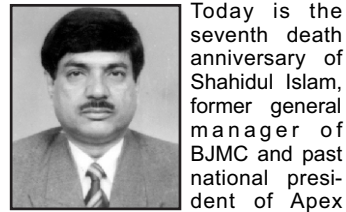
Today is the 24th death anniversary of former chief justice Syed AB M a h m u d Husain, says a press release.

He died on this day in 1982 at the age of 65. To mark the day, Chief Justice Syed AB Mahmud Hussain Smiriti Sangsad will hold a discussion and milad mahfil at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium at 4:45pm.

Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassar Husain will attend the programme as the chief guest.

Justice Chowdhury ATM Masud will present a paper on the life of late chief justice. Judges of the Supreme Court and eminent lawyers will participate in the discussion.

Shahidul Islam

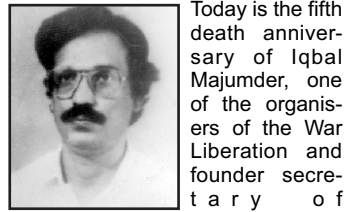


Today is the seventh death anniversary of Shahidul Islam, former general manager of BJMC and past national president of Apex

Club of Bangladesh, says a press release. On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Gaoair at Uttara in the city. Foods will also be distributed among the orphans.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Iqbal Majumder



Today is the fifth death anniversary of Iqbal Majumder, one of the organisers of the War of Liberation and founder secretary of Ganatantrik

Majdoor Party, says a press release. On the occasion, a memorial meeting will be held at its party office at 15/A, Purana Paltan in the city at 3:30pm today.

He was killed on this day in 2001 by a gang of unidentified miscreants at Motijheel in the city.

Obituary

Mohammad Ibrahim Taluqdar, father of Jahid Mustafa, noted painter and former assistant secretary of Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, passed away due to old age complications on Monday night at the age of 75, says a press release.

He left behind his four sons, four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His Quikhwani will be held at his Thanapara residence in Tangail on August 4.

Urs

Annual urs of Hazrat Shah Syed Azizul Bari (RH) Shah Saheb of Paribagh will be held on August 5 on the Paribagh Mazar premises, says a press release.

Munajat will be offered at 11:00am.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places elsewhere over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 35.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Bogra and lowest 22.7 degree Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:41pm today and rises at 5:28am 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 | 34.0 | 27.2 | 71 | 69 |
| Chittagong | 33.4 | 26.2 | 75 | 64 |
| Rajshahi | 35.5 | 27.3 | 74 | 72 |
| Khulna | 32.8 | 27.2 | 76 | 72 |
| Barisal | 32.5 | 26.5 | 80 | 76 |
| Sylhet | 34.7 | 26.4 | 75 | 70 |