

Dhaka Day by Day

Security Insecure in DU

by Lutfor Rahman Belayet

Dhaka University has a number of entrances and every entrance is often guarded by a number of police men and blocked with a long bar over the road having a signboard that says 'Rasta Bandho' (road blocked). The reason for this blockade is not to keep the area out of bounds for the outsiders who may pose a threat to the security of the university. Rather, it is for ensuring safety for the outsiders who may meet with many kinds of dangers, even death, from the insiders. One may very well ask the question as to why the area where the students struggle for rights of common people, is not safe for the public. The reason is known to all but the solution seems to be far off.

Arif was a brilliant student of S M Hall. He was not involved in any politics. He was known for his outstanding results. On the evening of 20th November, 1989, he was as usual in his reading table. At 11 pm he went to the hall gate to have tea — just to get rid of boredom. When he was returning after having tea, a meeting of a student organisation was going on at the hall gate, a common feature in the residential halls of the university. Suddenly, there

was a gunshot and the bullet got its way inside Arif's liver. He flopped down and died immediately after being taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Shamsul Islam Khan Milon was a doctor of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. On 27th November 1990 he was going to the PG Hospital to attend a meeting of doctors. He met doctor Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin in another rickshaw at the Teacher-Student-Center area of the Dhaka University. He left his rickshaw and accompanied Dr Jalal. Suddenly there was a gun shot from an unknown source. The powerful bullet pierced into Dr Milon's chest and he died instantly.

Every death is heart rending and a great loss to humanity. But sometimes we may find consolation over some deaths. As in the case of many freedom fighters who died in our Liberation War, their near and dear ones may get consolation over their deaths since they went to fight the enemy of the country. But what consolation will Arif's or Milon's close-ones get? Arif and Milon are not the only ones on the list of such innocent victims. There are many more names of men who have died because they were caught in the crossfire of meaningless violence.

There is no guarantee of any safety here. You will see everything right before your eyes. Suddenly you may see processions, chases, con-

ter-chases, crack, gunfire even death. The next thing is often strife between the police and 'processionists'. The result is breaking and damaging any vehicle that they can get at their reach. An outsider may easily drive through the campus unobstructed and may very well come across these agitators and be lucky to escape with his life without even thinking of his valuable car.

Every student organisation is always vocal against terrorism. After these sort of untoward incidents have become a regular phenomenon at the University Campus, guardians and relatives of the students are anxious and sometimes pass sleepless nights. Thus everyone related to the Dhaka University has enough reason to feel insecure all the time. There are chances of facing danger at any time. This impression is destroying the glorious image of the student community in spite of their incomparable role in the history of this country. A noted poet has even called the Dhaka University a 'village of robbers'. Nowadays many people think it a dangerous zone and do not dream of coming to this area. Students face severe criticism from the outsiders and they do not have anything to say in defence.

Why does the so called 'Oxford of the East' have to bear this nasty accusation? This is very unfortunate for everyone, especially for the student community. Students have time and again proved their potential in this country. They should not deserve this heinous blame.

It is also true that, out of 28 thousand students, very few are involved in such unproductive activities that are being patronized by some vested quarters. The majority of students are in favour of peace and are dedicated to uphold the flag of dignity of the student community. They should therefore be strong enough to eliminate the terrorists and all other unwanted elements from the campus.

Students are said to be the most conscious section of the society and accordingly students of the Dhaka University are most conscious of all the people of the country. They have shown their integrity through constructive roles in different times of necessity. It is now the time to show their commitment in this regard and save our dignity. They can weaken any student organization by voting against it if it patronizes terrorists. A nation does not need students who are blind supporters of any party. It needs students who consciously avoid and discourage those who bring disgrace not only to the student community, but to the nation itself.



BUET 4th Class Employees Union executives

By BUET Correspondent

Abdul Karim and Mafizur Rahman have been elected President and General Secretary respectively of Engineering University Fourth Class Employees' Union, says a press release.

The executive committee members are Shahjahan Biswas, Foyezuddin; and Abdul Karim — Vice Presidents; Md Ismail — Assistant General Secretary; Abdus Salam — Treasurer; Joyanal Abedin — Organising Secretary; Magbahuddin — Publicity Secretary; Monir Hossain — Office Secretary; Ishak Ali Miah — Games Secretary. The members are: Shahid Khan, Md Alauddin, Babul Kumar Roy, Sheikh Alauddin, Mostafizur Rahman, Jahir Miah, S M Shahidul Islam, Rahmat Ullah, Abdus Salam, Rokya Begum, Sree Subul Lal, Nurul Islam and Joyanal Abedin.

Jahangirnagar University VC polls tomorrow

JU Correspondent

Election to the Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University will be held tomorrow (Sunday).

Six candidates including the incumbent VC are contesting for the post from two panels — Chaurangi Panel and Rangamati Panel.

The contestants from the Chaurangi Panel are the present VC Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Dr Abul Kashem Chowdhury and Prof Maudud Elahi. The Rangamati Panel includes Prof Mustahidur Rahman, Dr Enamul Haq Khan and Prof Imamuddin.

A total of 91 Senate members will cast their votes to nominate three probable candidates. The names of the nominated candidates will be sent to the chancellor for his final.

Public Health Assoc executives

Twenty members of the Public Health Association of Bangladesh were elected uncontested with Dr S M Keramat Ali as President and Dr Md Shahjada Chowdhury as Secretary of the Executive Committee for the next two years, reports UNB.

Prof A K M Salehuddin, Dr Md Delwar Hossain, Dr Md Sultan-ul Alam and Dr M S A Munsur Ahmed were announced elected Vice Presidents while Dr Mohammad Nurul Haque Molla and Dr Afjal Hossain Bacchu declared the Joint Secretary.

Prof Jahanara Begum was elected Treasurer. Dr Md Abul Monsur Khan the Organising Secretary.

The other members elected are: Dr Sheikh Mamunur Rahman Malik, Towhiduddin Ahmed, Dr Montur Islam, Md Abdur Rahman, Dr Abu Munsur Shakhawat Hossain, Dr Rafiq Chowdhury, Prof Badrul Alam, Dr Abdul Manna Bangalee.

CU Officers Assoc executives installed

CHITTAGONG, March 6: The installation ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of Chittagong University Officers Association was held at the University auditorium Thursday, reports BSS.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury, attended the function as the chief guest.

Presided over by Chief Election Commissioner and Deputy Controller of Examination Mufakkarul Alam Khan, it was addressed, among others, by outgoing General Secretary of the Association ATM Nurul Amin Chowdhury newly elected President Mizanur Rahman Khan and General Secretary Mafizul Islam Majumdar.

The Vice-Chancellor, in his speech, urged the officers to discharge their duties with utmost devotion and responsibility. He also sought their all-out cooperation in running the university smoothly.

S B Chowdhury dead

Sajedul Bar Chowdhury popularly known as SB Chowdhury, a former Secretary of the Government of Bangladesh died of cardiac arrest Friday.

He was 69, reports BSS. Chowdhury who worked in Indian Civil Service prior to the partition of the sub-continent, joined the Civil Service of Pakistan served in different capacities including Commissioner of Dhaka Division and Director General of NIPA.

Meshbaul Bar Chowdhury, former DPI and AB Chowdhury retired Joint Secretary are his brothers.

The deceased who hails from village Bahara under Madavpur Upazila of Greater Sylhet District, will be buried at his family graveyard, sources added.

Rohingya influx unabated

From Nadeem Qadir

TEKNAP, MAR 6: Hundreds of hungry and scared Myanmar refugees continue to enter Bangladesh daily, speaking of widespread atrocities by Myanmar troops and expressing hopes for safety in Bangladesh.

In this small village on the banks of the Naaf river that separates Bangladesh and Myanmar, boatloads of refugees looking pale, hungry and scared land in hopes of freedom and safety.

"I have trekked 12 miles on foot, a little by bus and then finally arrived here by boat costing me 1,100 Kyat, but we are at least safe now," said Mohammad Amin, a farmer from Myanmar's Mongdu area.

"We are now in this land without fear and do not care even if we have to go hungry for sometime," he said.

Amin was among the four boatloads of refugees who arrived here along with some chickens, rice and pots and pans within a span of 15 minutes.

With every arrival, several young refugee men get off the 16.28-metre-long boats and pushed them up to the shore through knee-deep mud.

Asked if they were stopped by the Myanmar border guards, a 55-year-old farmer Abdur Rahman said "No, they only take away cash, valuables and identity cards."

Myanmar Muslims, known

as Rohingyas, have been fleeing to Bangladesh in the thousands.

The six refugee camps between Cox's Bazar and Teknaf have come to resemble small overcrowded towns, around which the refugees are seen taking bath and washing utensils with green water from nearby swamps, as tubewells are still scarce.

Diarrhoea, skin diseases and respiratory infections have already been reported, according to local and foreign doctors.

Asked how they were sure all the refugees were Muslims, Cox's Bazar district chief Dauduz-Zaman Chowdhury said "we see names and they offer prayers."

Noor Hasan, who taught Arabic in a school Myanmar's Bhushidong township, also arrived with his burqa-clad wife and five children, including a three-month-old son.

"I fled when I was informed by a friend that collaborators of the Myanmar army had told the authorities that I was a member of the dissident group RSO (Rohingya Solidarity Organisation) and I could be arrested any minute," he said.

Hasan added that he was not a member of the group and that his school was still running with two teachers, adding now that he was here he would join the Jihad (holy war) to

free his homeland.

When told to show his identity card, he pulled out an Arabic book from his undergarment and tore apart its cover where the identity card was hidden.

"I hid it as the Myanmar border guards take away identity cards and I thought without it no help will be available," he said.

Maung Tin Aung, a Bangladesh official registering the refugees agreed that most of them had no identity cards, as these were either taken away by the guards or lost.

The refugees are given a registration slip, in which they answer nine questions, but since the maximum are illiterate the officials do the job.

On both sides of the road between Teknaf and Cox's Bazar hundreds of refugees head for camps, while some had settle on the foothills in straw and bamboo-made homes.

Rahima Khatoon, a widow with two children, was in tears as she did not know where to go or how to get some food for the family that had eaten almost nothing for the past several days.

"I came when they (the soldiers) ordered that either I become a Buddhist or get out of the country... They also threatened to rape me if I failed to listen to them," she said.

Azan, qirat competitions conclude

The annual azan and qirat competitions of the Bangladesh Navy concluded at BNS Hajimohsin at Dhaka Cantonment after the Jumma prayers Friday, reports BSS.

About one hundred garib from different naval ships and establishments took part in the three-day competition.

M A B Sarkar Ren-I of the commodore commanding BN Flotilla team clinched the top positions in both azan and qirat competitions while M A Haque L/CK-I of the commodore commanding Chittagong team secured second positions in the events.

Besides M S Younus Ali and MS Zaman Rog-I won the third prizes in qirat and azan competitions respectively.

Commodore Zulfiquer Ali attended the function as the chief guest and gave away the prizes.

Among others, senior officers of the naval headquarters were also present on the occasion.

Condemned prisoner released

By Staff Correspondent

A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Habibur Rahman Khan and Justice M A Mannan on February 19 rejected a death sentence given by a District Judge.

The District Judge, M G Mustafa sentenced Farid Karim to death in the trial of a 11-year old boy, Tutul murdered in Kushtia in 1987.

Karim's solicitor, Serajul Haq, Advocate, submitted an appeal to the bench which accepted the appeal and set aside the earlier judgement.

Serajul Haq was assisted by the lawyers, A B M Golam Majid, Anisul Haq and Ferdousi Begum. Shah Azizur Rahman A A G and M A Rashid, Advocate, represented the state.

One killed in road mishap

An unidentified male was knocked down by a mini bus near the Curzon hall of Dhaka University Friday.

Police said the person, of about 30, was killed on the spot at about 3.30 pm.

Police seized the mini bus (Dhaka metro Jha 5903) while its driver absconded.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Hospital for autopsy.

Dhaka Metropolitan police Friday arrested 94 people on various charges from different parts of the city. Sticker cases were lodged against 20 vehicles on various charges while cases were filed against five vehicles for violating the motor vehicle ordinance.

Agro-based project for uplift stressed

Deputy Leader of the House in the Sangsad Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury said Friday if the land reforms were not implemented from the grassroots level agro-based development could not be achieved, reports BSS.

He was speaking at a seminar on "Modern Management and Total Use of Land for Land Reforms" organised by Dakhin Bangla Juba Kalyan Samity at National Book Centre.

The seminar also addressed by former Minister MA Haque.

Prof Chowdhury called upon the concerned persons to come forward with new outlook for solving various problems of land reforms.

He laid emphasis on agro-based projects for ensuring socio-economic development of the country.

Call to resist evil activities

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia Friday called upon the people to resist the evil activities of a quarter trying to disrupt the law and order of the country, reports BSS.



Elena, a Malaysian girl participating in Friday's Golf tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club. — Star photo (Story on Sports pages)

France to consider more aid for water supply plan

The Ambassador of France in Bangladesh, Serge Degallatix, called on the LGRD and Cooperatives Minister, Abdus Salam Talukder, at his residence Friday, reports BSS.

They had a long and elaborate discussion on the long term water supply master plan for Dhaka city. The French government previously agreed to donate 93.7 million Franc (about 17 million US dollars) to implement the project.

The total estimated cost for the project is 112 million US dollars.

As the proposed French aid is insufficient for the project, the minister requested the French government to enhance the project aid from

93.7 million Franc to 500 million Franc (90 million US dollars). The Ambassador gave assurances of considering the matter.

The Chairman of WASA, Nurul Islam and the Secretary, Habibur Rahman Jamali, were present during the discussion.

Obituary

Khadiza Begum, wife of late Hafez-Jee Huzur, died of old age complications Friday at PG Hospital at the age of 80, reports BSS.

Khadiza Begum left behind three sons, five daughters and a host of relations to mourn her death.

Weather

Weather to remain dry

By Staff Correspondent

Weather will remain dry over the country till 6 pm Saturday, according to Met office.

Day temperature may rise by one to two degrees Celsius during the period over the country.

The sun sets Saturday at 6.05 and rises Sunday at 6.14 am. Meanwhile, the weather remained dry on Friday. The highest temperature of the day was 34.4 degree Celsius at Rajshahi.

The temperature and humidity of some cities/towns on Friday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	31.8	19.7	80	47
Chittagong	28.5	22	80	47
Rajshahi	34.4	15.6	-	66
Khulna	32.5	19	91	-
Rangpur	30.4	14.8	73	44
Sylhet	30.6	17.8	85	47
Comilla	29.7	20.4	95	83
Jessore	33.5	17.5	-	-

The highest and lowest temperature of some of the regional cities on Friday were:

City	Temperature	
	Max	Min
Kathmandu	26	4.8
Colombo	32.5	22.2
Male	31.2	25.9
New Delhi	28.2	14.8
Islamabad	23	3

Nestle to begin direct operation in Bangladesh

Nestle SA, world's number one food item manufacturing company, is soon stepping into Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The Swiss firm, ranked 25th among world's top multinational companies having 421 factories in 67 countries, is expected to begin direct operation here by end this year producing its world famous Blue Cross brand condensed milk.

Initial investment will be about Tk 25 crore.

Blue Cross, which covers 80 per cent of the country's Tk 150 crore condensed milk market, is now being imported to meet growing demand.

Gradually the Swiss company plans to go for baby cereal and other food products, said A S Mahmood of Transcom Limited, country's leading

business house, with which Nestle will work here as a joint venture enterprise.

Beside Blue Cross, Nestle's "Nespray" brand powdered milk, "Cerelec" baby cereal and baby food "Lactogen" are also in great demand here.

Mahmood described Nestle's arrival here "a landmark in the history of foreign investment in Bangladesh" as it is by far the biggest multinational to have come here.

Nestle's direct involvement in Bangladesh, he said, will encourage other foreign investors still hesitant in coming here.

"Certainly it will brighten the image of Bangladesh in international business circle," said Mahmood, a former President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Govt firm to protect interest of farmers

Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul Haq Tuesday said the present democratic government is determined to protect the interest of farmers by ensuring fair price of their products, reports UNB.

He was addressing a gathering of the jute growers while opening jute purchasing centre for the current season at Khankhanapuri in Rajbari.

The Minister said that despite resource constraints, the government had already opened a number of jute purchasing centres.

More jute purchasing centres could be opened gradually in different places of the country, he said. "In addition, the private sector will be encouraged to facilitate smooth marketing of raw jute."

He urged all concerned not to entertain any middleman in jute trading so that the growers could get due return for their products.

The government had fixed a target of purchasing about six lakh maunds of raw jute this season from Rajbari district, the Minister told the gathering. Besides, about two lakh

Moazzem made Auditor, Comptroller General

The government has appointed Khandakar Moazzem Hossain as the Auditor and Comptroller General of Bangladesh recently, reports BSS.

Hossain was Secretary to the Ministry of Women Affairs before his new assignment.

The Chief Justice, Shahabuddin Ahmed, will administer the oath of office today (Saturday) the source said.

Royal Air Force chief leaves for home

The British Royal Air Force Chief of Staff Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding left Dhaka Thursday night concluding a three-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Alaf Hossain Chowdhury saw him off at the Zia International Airport. Senior officers of Bangladesh Air Force were also present.



Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding, Chief of Air Staff, Royal Air Force, being seen off at the Zia International Airport by Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Alaf Hossain Chowdhury Thursday night. — ISPR photo

TV Saturday

Special Session

- 3.15am Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 3.30am 5th World Cup Cricket: India vs Zimbabwe
- 11.15am Australia vs Sri Lanka

Evening Session

- 5.00 Opening announcement Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5.15 News in Bangla
- 5.25 Khelar Jagat: Sports Programme
- 5.50 Mahey Ramjan
- 6.30 Mati o Manush
- 7.05 Banshari: Folk songs programme
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Prabaha: Documentary
- 9.00 Anirban
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Drama Series: Dallas
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Sunday's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing.