



So much for separate lanes for rickshaws... a car sneaking in to avoid jam at Maghbazar (left), puddle punctuated with litter near the Ramna police station (centre) and pile of sand, cement and other construction materials at Kakrail bear testimony to ineffectiveness of the move to ease traffic congestion.

Notification declaring Ershad's JS seat vacant illegal: HC

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday declared illegal the notification that declared former President H M Ershad's parliament seat vacant following his conviction in a corruption case.

Rescinding his parliament membership, the office of the Speaker had issued the notice that was also published in the government gazette.

A division bench of the High Court comprising Justice Joyal

Abedin and A B M Khairul Huq gave the verdict on a writ petition filed by Ershad challenging the notification declaring his seat vacated for moral turpitude after he was convicted in the Janata Tower Case.

The senior judge of the bench concluded his judgement making the rule "absolute" with the finding that even though the notification of seizure of Ershad's membership was issued after exhausting the forum of the highest court, the manner in which it was notified was not in accordance with law.

Junior Judge A B M Khairul Huq also made the rule absolute but said that the Speaker was constitutionally duty-bound for the seizure of Ershad's membership by way of gazette notification immediately after the conviction order passed by the trial court.

In view of the situation, both the judges of the bench unanimously held that the way the gazette notification was issued nullifying the Jatiya Party chairman's seat was not in accordance with law.

"As such, the notification in question is declared illegal and without lawful authority," the court opined.

The writ petition in fact was filed, heard and decided on whether the

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Border skirmishes Date for talks with Delhi may be fixed tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The date for official talks between Bangladesh and India on issues arising out of the April 18 border skirmishes is expected to be set soon.

"We may fix a date by Wednesday. We had contacts in this regard on Sunday", Foreign Secretary Syed Muazzam Ali told newsmen at the foreign office yesterday.

But he could not say where the meeting will be held. "We expect it in Dhaka. But it can be held in New Delhi as well. The meeting is very important", Ali said.

The issues like adverse possession of lands, exchange of enclaves and demarcation of the 6.5 km undemarcated borderline will be discussed to evolve some modus operandi for solution, he added.

India had earlier proposed the meeting on April 22 at New Delhi. It was deferred as Bangladesh had to sort out many unresolved issues involving many ministries and departments to prepare for the meeting, he said.

Ali said 141 km borderline has been demarcated in the last past

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Debate over 'politicisation' Tk 34 cr budget for JS Sectt okayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad Commission yesterday approved a Tk 34.11 crore annual budget of the Parliament Secretariat for fiscal 2001-2.

It also approved the revised budget of the Secretariat for 2000-2001.

The approval was given at a

Amendment to SC Judges Ordn '78 approved

UNB, Dhaka

The cabinet yesterday approved the proposed amendment to the Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration and Privileges) Ordinance 1978 for raising house rents and car allowances of the justices.

An official release said it was approved at a regular meeting of the council of ministers at PM's office with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The cabinet also reviewed the activities of Roads and Railways Division and its attached departments and offices.

meeting of the commission at the Sangsad Bhaban, chaired by Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, meeting sources said.

The five-member commission is headed by the Speaker and comprises the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Finance Minister and Law Minister.

Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina attended yesterday's meeting. Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia was represented by Khandakar Delwar Hossain, Chief Whip of the Opposition.

The nearly three-hour meeting witnessed a brief debate between Delwar and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, who attended it on a special invitation, over some "politically motivated" staff of the Parliament Secretariat, the sources said.

Delwar raised the issue just before the meeting, stressing amendments to recruitment rules of the secretariat.

Terming the appointment of some 15 officials illegal and an act of politicisation, the opposition chief whip accused the ruling party of changing the rules unilaterally and

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PM's directive to minimise loadshedding

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed officials of the power sector to resolve low-voltage problem along with ensuring efficient load management.

She also asked for speedy implementation of various development projects in the power sector as well as improvement of customer services.

The Prime Minister gave the directives while reviewing the state of power sector at her secretariat here yesterday. State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Prof Rafiqul Islam, secretary of the Power Division Mufazzel Hossain and chairman of the Power Development Board (PDB) Brigadier General M A Malek were present in the discussion.

The power sector officials informed the Prime Minister that electricity supply in the DESA area would be augmented by June. Some 500 sets of capacitor banks have been installed in the DESA area and 500 more would be added within the next month. Officials concerned said 250 sets of auto-switch type capacitor banks would be set up soon to improve service.

The PDB chairman informed the Prime Minister that normalcy of power situation is being maintained by load management system. The

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'Mysterious' Meherpur disease Blood samples of 42 to be tested abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 'mysterious' disease that has claimed nine lives so far in two villages of Meherpur district still remains undetected.

Nine persons including seven from one family in Chandpur village and two others from the neighbouring Shishirpara village have died so far from the unknown disease.

Some of the victims had been sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Chest Diseases Hospital where all treatment failed.

The health directorate on Friday sent a team of four medical experts including an epidemiologist to Meherpur to investigate the recent suspected viral attack in the two villages of the district.

The team collected blood samples from 42 affected persons from four families in the two neighbouring villages.

The blood samples would be sent to Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) in Dhaka and the Armed Forces Institute of Medical Science in Thailand where they would be tested for parasites, viruses, bacteria and other germs.

Dr Kanak Ranjan Talukdar, Director of Communicable Disease Control, who has extensive experience in vector borne disease control programmes in Bangladesh, headed the team of experts.

Dr Alaul Haq Mahmud and Dr Musfiqu Rahman from Dhaka, and Dr Imran-bin-Yunus from Chittagong accompanied Dr Talukdar to Meherpur.

Meanwhile, experts also requested the directorate of livestock to collect blood samples from farm animals especially pigs to ascertain the origin of the disease.

The disease is clinically suspected to be Japanese Encephalitis but could not be confirmed. Japanese Encephalitis is a tropical disease prevalent in south and

southeast Asian countries.

Also, experts ruled out cerebral malaria or similar parasitic sickness, as blood from the dead did not show presence of any parasites.

Villagers of Chandpur are in panic since the death of seven members of a single family last week.

Tareq, Arafat get bail in corruption case

UNB, Dhaka

Khaleda Zia's two sons and two other relatives yesterday surrendered before the High Court and got anticipatory bail for three months in a corruption case.

The court granting anticipatory bail to Tareq Rahman, Arafat Rahman, Nasreen Sayed and Giasuddin Al Mamun, all of Rahman Shippers (BD), ruled that the bail would be for three months or till submission of the police report, whichever is earlier.

All the four have been sued in a criminal case on charge of misappropriating Tk 1.08 crore by taking loan from IFIC Bank for purchasing launch.

7 killed, 45 hurt as buses collide

UNB, Sirajganj

At least seven people were killed and 45 injured when two buses collided at Alenga on the eastern side of the Bangabandhu Bridge in Tangail today.

Police said one of the buses was bound for Dhaka and the other was coming from opposite direction. The accident took place at 7:30 pm.

JCD leader stabbed to death in Bhola

UNB, Bhola

A local leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was stabbed to death in Charfashion thana of the district Sunday night.

Villagers said Iftekharul Huq Shamim, joint secretary of Charfashion thana JCD, was called out by assailants from his residence shortly after midnight and then chopped to death.

The body was sent to the Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, local people caught one Siraj suspecting his involvement in the killing and handed him over to police. Police also picked up two women for interrogation in this

connection.

JCD brought out processions in the town as well as at Charfashion yesterday.

BNP MP from Charfashion Najimuddin Alam who arrived here from Dhaka yesterday told UNB that Siraj called out Iftekharul from his residence at midnight.

They took him to a nearby house where they stabbed him for at least 30 times after spraying chili powder in his eyes, he added. They left the place dumping the body in a pond, he said.

"The Awami terrorists, under the shelter of police, have been carrying out terrorist acts for a long time. But

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Who let killers into Zayed's house?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are trying to find out who let the killers into the house at Shewrapara in the city's Mirpur area where Dhaka University student Md. Zayed Akbar Chowdhury was shot dead Sunday morning.

Mirpur police said, to reach the flat, one has to cross two gates. The building is off-limit for outsiders unless cleared by members of the family residing at the building.

Police are also questioning some of the employees of the landlord to know who had opened the gate.

They also could not trace the yellow taxicab in which the gang had gone to Shewrapara leaving the cab on the main road. The killers went up to the third floor flat where Zayed and his wife Nusrat Eva lived.

Mirpur police said they have carried out several operations to arrest prime suspect Masud and his accomplices, but to no avail.

Meanwhile, Mortuza Akbar

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Autopsy after five days Haris Khan died of multiple injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen-year old Haris Khan died of multiple injuries, according to the autopsy report released yesterday.

Five days after Haris succumbed to his injuries on Thursday, doctors at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) performed the autopsy on the body yesterday morning.

The report said Haris had sustained severe physical 'assaults', which led to the death.

DMCH sources said in the police FIR (first information report) there was no mention of any injury marks on the body. However, as medical experts found marks of injuries, it led to confusion and subsequent delay in conducting the autopsy.

Sub-Inspector Abdus Sattar and assistant sub-inspector Shah Alam along with a few constables of Tongi police station picked up Haris from in front of Anarkali cinema hall near Tongi on Wednesday morning. They beat him up accusing him of mugging. They took him to the Tongi thana and again beat him up mercilessly.

As Haris fell unconscious, he was first taken to a local hospital. His condition deteriorating, the boy was shifted to the DMCH where he succumbed to his injuries.

The bereaved relatives of the teenaged victim took away the body yesterday. Family sources said for the last five days they were sitting in front of

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Bid to kidnap lawyer from in front of court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

One person was arrested from in front of the CMM's Court, Dhaka yesterday when he along with his accomplices tried to kidnap a lawyer.

The arrested was identified as Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Swadhin of Shahidbagh under Motijheel thana in the city.

Swadhin along with his accomplices created terror and tried to kidnap Advocate Mohammad Ali Zinnah as he (lawyer) appeared before the CMM's Court, Dhaka to oppose the bail petition of Swadhin's accomplice, accused in a criminal case.

Swadhin was handed over to Kotwali police. Momtazuddin Ahmed Mehedi, general secretary of the Dhaka Bar Association filed a case with Kotwali thana against Swadhin under Public Safety Act (PSA).

Swadhin will be produced before the CMM's Court, Dhaka today, police sources said.

Will journalist Tipu remain disabled?



The Daily Star - প্রথম আলো

Tipu Treatment Fund

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