



A delegation of the ambassadors of European Union countries, led by Dutch Ambassador Sjef Izermans, calls on Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan at his office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

65 bodies to beautify, maintain city road medians and islands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 65 private and government organisations have been given the responsibility for the beautification and maintenance of road medians and islands in the city for four years.

Of them, 48 are private organisations that include banks, insurance companies, NGOs, advertising firms, business groups, developers, news media and hospitals. The rest 17 are government organisations.

They will beautify the road medians and islands as per the given design and species of flower trees and ensure their proper maintenance for the period.

According to a deadline given by the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), the organisations will complete their beautification work by planting flower trees on the medians and islands along the 67 main roads in the city before

December 16.

This was disclosed at a meeting of Dhaka City Beautification Cell at the DCC auditorium yesterday.

The beautification cell was formed in view of the upcoming 13th SAARC Summit in Dhaka on January next.

Presided over by DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, the meeting was attended by representatives of different private organisations and government utility service organisations to discuss the beautification issue.

Sadeque Hossain said it was found in the past that many things are not maintained properly after their construction. So a decision was taken to give the maintenance responsibility to private organisations, he added.

The mayor said an award by the prime minister will be given for best

maintenance.

Representatives of some organisations drew the attentions of the DCC authorities to the installation of commercial billboards and unplanned tree plantation on the medians and islands creating obstacles to beautification works.

In reply, Sadeque Hossain assured them that, if necessary, those billboards will be removed from the medians and all cooperation will be provided to them in this respect.

Dhaka Transport Coordination Board Executive Director Quamrul Islam Siddiqui said the organisations will be allowed to install a particular size of signboard on their respective areas mentioning their names.

DCC Chief Executive Officer-cum-Convenor of the Beautification Cell Habibur Rahman and DCC Chief Conservancy Officer and Member-Secretary of the cell Commander Sohel Farouque also spoke at the meeting.

All the road medians and islands have been developed by Dhaka Urban Transport Project through the DCC and the Roads and Highways Department (RHD).

The World Bank is financing the project.

14 get life for killing one in Jhenidah

BSS, Jhenidah

A Jhenidah Court yesterday sentenced 14 people to life imprisonment for killing one Ismail Mondal about four years ago.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Shahajahan Majumdar delivered the verdict in a crowded courtroom.

The convicts are Sarwar, Abdul Latif, Shaheed Mollah, Wahab, Monowar, Akbar Ali, Shahidul, Quddus, Madhu Mollah, Wadud, Fazlul Mollah, Lutfar Mollah, Jhantoo and Ahammad.

The judge also fined them Tk 5,000 each.

The prosecution story in brief is that Ismail, son of late Abed Ali, was beaten to death by the convicts over previous enmity while he was visiting his maternal uncle's residence at Molmolia village under Shailakupa upazila on October 9, 2000.

A case was filed with Shailakupa

police the next day.

After investigation, police submitted chargesheet against the accused.

The judge pronounced the verdict after examining 12 prosecution witnesses.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Mokseld Ali Sarkar stood for the state while Advocate Abdul Haq defended the accused.

Over 1,200 held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,294 more people on various charges during their ongoing countrywide drive yesterday.

The law enforcers also recovered 10 firearms, eight other weapons and 17 rounds of bullet. Twelve cases were filed against 14 people under the Arms Act.

One hanged at Comilla jail

BSS, Dhaka

One person was hanged at Comilla jail on Wednesday night for killing his wife.

The district and sessions judge of Comilla awarded death penalty to Tajul Islam of Charbagia village under Sudharam upazila of Noakhali on September 30, 1999 for killing his wife in 1997.

The appeal petitions of the convict were rejected by both the division of the Supreme Court, an official hand-out said here yesterday.

The prayer seeking mercy before the President was also rejected.

The body of Tajul Islam was handed over to his relatives for burial.

Antique statue worth Tk 1 cr recovered

UNB, Joypurhat

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized an antique statue of black stone worth about Tk 1.05 crore from Shanta Digor Village in Panchbibi Upazila on Wednesday.

On a tip-off, a BDR team led by Commander of Joypurhat 29 Rifle Battalion Lt. Col. ARM Zoaherul Islam raided the village and seized the statue of Laxmi Narayan weighing 105 kg.

However, no-one was arrested in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League presidium member Abdur Razzak MP, injured in Saturday's grenade attack, at the Zia International Airport before his departure for India yesterday. He will undergo treatment in Apollo Hospital in New Delhi.

Financial help for the injured in grenade attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) leader Haji Mohammad Selim yesterday gave Tk 10,000 to each injured persons who are undergoing treatment in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) following the grenade attack on AL rally in the capital on Saturday.

The injured persons who received the financial help are Shamim Hossain, Rashed, Shahidul Islam, Selim Chowdhury, Hena Begum, Meher Banu, Rani Begum and Mohammad Manir Hossain.

The injured people said this was the first time that they had received financial help from any quarter.

Although a large number of injured people came to the DMCH for treatment, only eight injured are now undergoing treatment there.

Dhaka VAT officers' association



Hashem Ali and Abdul Mannan Majumdar have been elected president and general secretary of Dhaka Customs Excise and VAT Executive

Officers' Association, Customs House unit, says a press release.

Other office-bearers are Mozammel Haque and AKM Khorshed Alam -- vice-presidents; Samir Kumar Mustafa and Abdul Hakim -- joint secretaries; Sheikh Nurul Islam -- organising secretary; Tofazzal Hossain -- finance secretary; MR Khan -- public relations secretary; Abdul Kader -- sports, culture and social welfare secretary and Altaf Hossain -- office secretary.

The 25-member executive committee of the association was elected unopposed at its general meeting on August 24. Pranab Bhatta, president of the association, presided over the meeting.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Advocate Siddiqui Hasan of High Court and Dhaka district judge court died of a cardiac arrest on Tuesday at the age of 45.

He left behind his wife, father, mother, two sons and two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Siddiqui Hasan was the second son of renowned Islamic scholar Moulana Mim Fazlur Rahman of Pirojpur.

He was buried at Zurain graveyard in the city.

Amilad mahfil will be held at Baitul Mamur Mosque in West Jatrabari Choto Bazar near his residence at 43 West Jatrabari after Asr prayers today.

Siddiqui Hasan was the elder brother of senior staff reporter of The Daily Star Rafiq Hasan and senior sub-editor of the daily Prothom Alo Zia Hasan.

Death anniversary



Today is the second death anniversary of freedom fighter Shusen Chandra Saha, former deputy general manager of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, says

a press release.

A religious programme has been arranged at his village home at Sutiakhali in Mymensingh.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the function.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Zaheer Ishaq, son of former chief of BBC Bangla Service late Nazir Ahmed, will be held at his home at 3/9 Block # D, Lalmatia after Asr prayers today,

says a press release.

He died in London on August 13.