

16 DCC cattle markets for Eid-ul-Azha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has selected people to operate 13 of the 16 sites set aside as makeshift cattle markets for the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha as allegations have been raised that only those who were supporters of the ruling party were selected.

The allocated 13 sites are the open land of DCC beside Armanitola playground, Khikhet Tanpara, Golapbagh ground, Rahamatganj playground, Dhupkhola ground, Hosni Dalan Road (from Chankharpool intersection to Bakshi Bazar traffic signal), Kamalapur eastern ground of Bangladesh Bank colony, open land of Rajuk at sector-12 in Uttara, Meradia Bazar, Postagola open land both side of the road in front of Alam Market, open land of Agargaon slum, open land beside Taltola bus stand, and the open land beside Banani-Kakoli railway station.

Three sites - at Jigatola Hazaribagh playground, Sunrise Sporting Club ground and Rayer Bazar playground - will be

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17 Iraq security men killed in bomb spree

Suicide blast near PM's party headquarters

REUTERS, Baghdad

Insurgents killed 17 Iraqi police and National Guards yesterday in another bloody spree of ambushes, bombings and suicide attacks aimed at wrecking Iraq's January 30 national election.

Two explosions rocked Baghdad, including one detonated by a suicide bomber posing as a taxi driver who killed two policemen and a civilian near interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's party headquarters.

The other deadly attacks were centered in the restive Sunni heartland north of the capital, raising further questions among Iraqis on how the country's fledgling security forces will be able to protect voters if they can hardly protect themselves.

In west Baghdad, an explosives-laden car tried to ram through a checkpoint on a road leading to Allawi's party offices but hit a police pick-up truck and blew up, setting nearby vehicles ablaze and sending up plumes of black smoke.

The blast, which also wounded 25 people, came a day after insurgents exposed the vulnerability of Iraq's security services with a suicide bombing that killed 25 National Guards.

The attacks were the latest in a campaign by Sunni rebels trying to drive out US-led forces, cripple the

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CHUADANGA GANG-RAPE

Doctor stand released as probe found him guilty

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A doctor at Chuadanga Sadar Hospital who tried to carry out medical tests on a gang-raped woman on December 27 without permission from the legal authorities has been stand released.

Civil Surgeon of Chuadanga Dr Ishaq Ali on Sunday signed the release order of Dr Shahid Anwar after a probe body submitted its report, saying Dr Shahid had made an 'illegal attempt' to perform the test of Doly Khatun, the rape victim.

Dr Shahid took the victim to the operating theatre for medical tests after she was admitted to the hospital for treatment for her injuries, the probe body noted in its report.

The civil surgeon formed the three-member enquiry committee headed by Dr Tarun Kanti Ghosh of the same hospital after different human rights organisations raised the demand for proper investigation into the matter.

Fourteen policemen at Gokulkhali camp in the district allegedly raped Doly Khatun, wife of Atar Ali of Bishnupur village in Alamdanga upazila, on December 25.



Projonmer Chetona, a social organisation, forms a human chain at Muktangan in the capital yesterday in protest against the killing of Prof Muhammad Yunus, a teacher of Rajshahi University.

PHOTO: STAR

Criminal killed in Rab 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A listed criminal was killed in 'crossfire' between his accomplices and members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Buikara area under Abhoynagar upazila of Jessore district yesterday morning.

According to Rab sources, the criminal, Ohidul Islam, was arrested at Noapara Railway Station under the upazila at about 4:00am.

On his statement, Rab members took him to Buikara area at 5:00am to recover illegal firearms.

When the anticrime elite force reached there, Ohid's accomplices opened fire allegedly. Rab returned fire. During the shootout, Ohid was shot and died instantly.

A shotgun and two bullets were said to have been recovered from the spot. Ohid was wanted in 14 cases including that of murder, the sources said.

Two army men die as truck falls off bridge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Two army personnel were killed and four others injured in a road accident in Suryakandi village in Sarail Sunday.

The dead are sepoy Belal, 30, of Munshiganj and lance corporal Rejal, 32, of Sirajganj.

The accident happened when an army truck carrying a 130mm cannon fell from a bridge at around 8:30pm. The truck of 10 Medium Artillery of Comilla Cantonment was returning to its winter camp in Dharanti village.

Belal died on the spot and Rejal on the way to hospital.

Controversial RU recruits go berserk over HC stay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The controversially appointed 546 employees at Rajshahi University (RU), aggrieved at reports of the High Court's stay order on their recruitment staged angry demonstrations on the campus.

They confined RU vice chancellor (VC) at his office for four and a half hours, cut off power and water connections to the VC's house, locked offices of the pro-VC and proctor and stopped movement of RU vehicles.

They brought out processions chanting slogans against the administration and demanded confirmation of their jobs by calling an urgent syndicate meeting within 24 hours.

They also threatened to enforce indefinite strike.

The employees held a rally led by the Newly Recruited Employees' Interest Preservation Committee Convenor Rafiqul Islam Sadar.

"We are activists of ruling BNP-Jamaat alliance, and so our government can not deprive us, Sardar said, adding, "If the authorities do not take strong step in favour of us, we will not be responsible for any untoward incident on the campus".

Hearing about the demonstrations, local political leaders who allegedly had taken bribes promising jobs to the employees con-

cerned, rushed to the scene but their attempts to pacify the demonstrators failed.

Later Rajshahi Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu MP, city BNP President Saleh Uddin Baby, Jamaat leaders Siddik Hussain and Habibur Rahman went to the campus and after a long meeting with the VC, they assured the employees of confirmation of jobs within two days.

On such assurance, the employees pulled out their demonstrations.

But the RU VC told reporters that he was unaware of any assurance to anyone. "We will look into the legal aspects of the matter," he said.

Lawyer Abu Aslam filed a suit with Rajshahi Sadar senior assistant judge's court on April 25 following RU authorities' appointment of 546 employees which was made without proper advertisements and despite having not as many vacant posts.

The court issued an injunction on the recruitment on June 23.

Later Rajshahi district and sessions judge vacated the lower court order following a petition of RU authorities.

After a writ petition of Abu Aslam, the High Court on Sunday stayed for six months the vacating order on the injunction.

BDR foils push-in bid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) foiled an attempt by the Border Security Force (BSF) to 'push-in' 36 Bangla speaking people from India to Bangladesh on Chanduria border in Kalaroa upazila Sunday.

BDR sources said the BSF's Gobra Company had gathered the people together to push them into Bangladesh.

After the attempt failed, the BSF proposed a talk between the two sides that was held near pillar No. 15 at zero point.

The BSF during the talks alleged that 36 Bangladeshi nationals from Bagerhat crossed the border and were arrested by Indian police a few months back. They also asked the BDR to take them in.

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JP (Ershad) council deferred

UNB, Dhaka

The national council of the Jatiya Party (Ershad), scheduled for February 14, will now be held on February 28.

Party Chairman HM Ershad deferred the council by two weeks due to 'unavoidable reasons'.

He took the decision at a meeting to mark the joining of the party of 21 people from Ulipur upazila at JP office at Banani yesterday.

The former President told the newcomers to his party that the nation is passing through anarchy due to failure of the leadership. The situation has inspired the people to make a change.

PETITION FILED TO HC

Women leaders seek halt to election process for JS reserved seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen women leaders yesterday filed a petition with the High Court (HC) to halt the process of election to the 45 seats reserved for women in the Jatiya Sangsad.

The hearing on the petition is likely to be heard today by an HC bench comprising Justice MA Matin and Justice AFM Abdur Rahman.

In mid December the HC had issued a separate rule asking the government to explain in two weeks time why the law providing for election of reserved seats for woman should not be declared unconstitutional.

However, at that time the court had not ruled on whether there should be a stay of operation of the law itself that was passed by parliament in November.

Yesterday, Additional Attorney General Fida M Kamal sought a date for the three writ petitions to be heard. The counsel for the petitioners, Dr M Zahir, said the petitioners are prepared to accept any date for the hearings.

Zahir however appealed for the hearing to take place only after

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HISTORICAL FACT DISTORTION

JS body asks textbook board to explain

STAR REPORT

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education yesterday asked the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) and the Ministry of Education to explain the ambiguities about historical facts in school textbooks.

The committee at a meeting decided to seek an explanation after a heated debate over who had proclaimed independence and the

date of the proclamation and other 'distorted facts' in some textbooks published by the NCTB, the textbook regulator.

Opposition legislator Shahjahan Khan blamed the ruling coalition for distorting the country's historical facts in textbooks and misleading future generations.

He asked the committee members as to how two books -- Bangla textbook of class IX and X and Poribesh Porichiti Samaj of class IV -- present contradictory statements about the day of proclama-

tion of independence.

An article of Bangla textbook of class X and IX, 'Duijon Birshrestha', says that Ziaur Rahman proclaimed independence from Kalurghat radio station on March 26, but the other book of class IV in its article on page 78 says Ziaur Rahman on March 27 proclaimed independence from Kalurghat revolutionary radio station.

Khan asked his ruling coalition

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Trade through Bhomraport begins

STAR REPORT

Export-import activities at Bhomra land port resumed on Sunday as the C&F agents called off their strike but the activities at Benapole land port remained stalled until yesterday.

The clearing and forwarding (C&F) agents association of Bhomra in Bangladesh and Shojadanga in India called off their joint indefinite strike started on Thursday, reports our Sathkira correspondent.

Sources said the C&F agents made the decision after the authorities assured them that their demands would be met.

Our Jessore correspondent adds: Stalemate at Benapole land port

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JN Dixit dead

Khaleda condoles the death

AGENCIES, New Delhi/Dhaka

India's national security advisor JN Dixit, a key behind-the-scenes international negotiator, died yesterday of a heart attack.

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PWD staffs fear 8,000 job loss

Decision to shift work to ministries protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 18,000 staff of the Public Works Department (PWD) will lose their jobs if the government creates mini engineering cells in different ministries for construction and maintenance works instead of engaging the PWD.

Hundreds of PWD staff expressed this fear yesterday at a rally held at its headquarters in the capital to protest the decision of a

cabinet committee. They also demanded that a neutral expert team be formed for a probe into the allegations of corruption, if any, in the department.

The Cabinet Committee on Public Administration Reforms (Pac) recently decided in principle to empower ministries to undertake construction and maintenance works on their own, alleging corruption in the PWD.

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Prayer Timing		
January 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-35
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation