



Prothom Alo Editor Motiur Rahman, middle, Publisher Mahfuz Anam, right, and Janakantha Editor and Publisher Mohammad Atiq Ullah Khan Masud, left, come out of the CMM's Court in the city yesterday after they were granted bail in two defamation cases.

CPB demands proportional electoral system

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday took out a procession towards the Election Commission (EC) demanding introduction of a proportional electoral system to rid elections from use of power, money and communalism.

Police however barred the procession when it reached Bijoy Nagar intersection. Earlier, the CPB held a rally in Mukhtang in the capital before marching towards the EC.

"Black money holders indiscriminately use their power to be MPs as it's now the most profitable business in the country," CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Seim told the rally.

Even the major political parties are interested in giving nomination to those who have huge black money and influence, he said. "Black money holders can't be elected MPs if a proportional electoral system were introduced," he added.

On reforms in caretaker government system, he said it should be done by consensus among all the political parties. The main opposition Awami League has not yet cleared its stance on the reforms, he added.

He put emphasis on checking the use of muscle power and black money in the elections. CPB leaders Ansan Habib Lablu, Ruhin Hossain Prince and Mahbub Alam, among others, addressed the rally.

Shahabuddin Lashkar Dhira, mastermind in Journalist Belal murder, will be brought to Khulna today from Dhaka Central Jail showing him arrested in outlaw Shiplu murder case of Khanjahan Ali thana and Shagor murder case of Sonadanga thana of the metropolitan city.

He will be quizzed in Belal murder case, says a senior officer of Khulna Metropolitan Police. The High Court division of the Supreme Court granted ad interim bail to Dhira in Belal murder case in last May.

Meanwhile, security blanket has been thrown in Khulna district jail and court area to save the arrested Jamaat leader and protect him from the wrath of angry activists of Jamaat Shibir.

Islamic Chhatra Shibir activists yesterday brought out a procession demanding hanging of Dhira and arrest of other real culprits involved in the murder of Belal.

BDR seizes 8 guns at CHT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized eight .12 bore guns, 60 bullets and a large number of empty magazines from a border area in Naikkhonchhari upazila of Bandarban hill district early yesterday.

On July 6, the security forces seized TNT explosives, 199 bullets of AK-47 and 91 bullets of pistol from deep forest area of Naikkhonchhari and arrested a criminal.

The BDR continued combing operations in bordering areas of Bandarban.

GB closed sine die as students clash

JU CORRESPONDENT

The authorities closed Gono Bishwavidyalaya (GB) for an indefinite period yesterday following a clash between the students of English and MBBS departments leaving at least 15 students injured on the campus.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the university authorities with vice chancellor in the chair at his office. About two hundred students of MBBS department were staging a sit in in front of the v.c's office till the filing of the report at 5:45pm demanding punishment to the students of English department responsible for the clash while English department's students left the campus after the clash.

Police have been deployed on the campus. The injured include Md Asif Sattar, Md Shofiqul Sobur, Md Fazlul Karim, Md Talha Chowdhury and Tanzil Farhad of MBBS while other injured could not be identified immediately. The clash ensued when a group of students of English department along with outsiders numbering 20 to 25 beat up a 7th batch MBBS student at university canteen. They also assaulted 14 other students of MBBS

while leaving the campus. Later, the MBBS students gathered on the campus at around 1:00pm and damaged the windowpanes of classrooms and computers in laboratory at 2:30pm. They also staged a sit in in front of the VC's office.

Road mishap kills one in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

A motor-cyclist was killed in a road accident at Jalkarkandi on Sylhet-Fenchuganj road yesterday. Sohail Chowdhury alias Bablu Mia, resident of Daudpur village in South Surma, died on the spot at about 4:15pm when a truck hit the motorcycle carrying him. The driver along with his vehicle managed escape. South Surma thana police recovered the body and handed it over to victim's family.



Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. Highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sayedpur and lowest 21.3 degree Celsius at Sitakunda.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:19am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 5 columns: City/Town, Temperature (Max, Min), Humidity (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, and Cox's Bazar.

Preserve database to check abuse of women workers

Saudi delegates suggest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Arabia National Recruitment Committee (Sanarcom) yesterday suggested to the government to preserve database of women migrant workers in the Bangladesh mission at Saudi Arabia to check abuse of workers and fraudulent practices in the migration process.

A five-member team of the Saudi national body also proposed to sign a contract on a 'minimum agreed ground' with its Bangladeshi counterpart Baira to check undocumented labour migration, sources said. The team suggested the steps during a meeting with State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Quamrul Islam in the city.

Although there are about 20,000 legal Bangladeshi female migrant workers in Saudi Arabia, about 1.5 lakh female migrants are working there with undocumented status, official sources said.

"Mainly these undocumented female workers, who have no access to the authority for making a complaint, face abuse and harassment," Sanarcom Chairman Waleeda Al-Suaaidan said at the meeting.

AKM Shamsuddin, secretary to expatriate welfare ministry, Mosharruf Hossain MP, president of Bangladesh Association for International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) and its executive member Abdul Alim were present.

If the Bangladeshi mission has all the particulars of the migrant workers, it can verify the workers' contracts with the employers and the recruiting agencies for immediate action in case of any abuse or harassment, Waleeda observed.

The delegates said that their country would recruit about 1.5 lakh female workers from Bangladesh a year if they are imparted adequate training.

Waleeda urged the government to allow all recruiting agencies in

SSC EXAMS UNDER CTG BOARD

Pass rate in rural areas better

BDNEWS, Chittagong

Performance of schools located in rural areas under Chittagong Board in this year's SSC examination is comparatively better.

Passing rate in 14 schools out of 848 under the Chittagong Education Board is hundred per cent. Of those schools, five are situated in rural areas.

Schools are Mirzar Hat High School, Hathazari, BCCIR School, Hathazari, Dabua Girls' High School, Poapara Girls' High School, Kawkhali and Jorarganj High School, Mirersara.

Board sources said, this is the first time in Chittagong Board that all the candidates of five schools in village areas passed in SSC examination.

Even as per the average passing rate in the Board, the performance of village schools is comparatively better than previous years. Passing rate in village schools is 54.68 per cent compared to metropolitan's 75.12 per cent.

Examination Controller of Chittagong Education Board AYM Obaidul Akbar told BDNEWS that SSC candidates have become more attentive in their studies as trend of cheating has declined. That is why difference in success rate between metropolitan and village schools has reduced, he said.

Bangladesh to send female migrant workers. At present, only eight agencies can send female migrant workers to Saudi Arabia.

State Minister Quamrul Islam appreciated the Sanarcom proposals and requested it to go ahead in consultation with Baira for streamlining the migration process.

He also discussed the issue of pay rise for the Bangladeshi workers.

Waleed said the Saudi government has recently set up the Department of Welfare of Expatriate to deal with the various issues of the expatriate workers.

He also said the demand for foreign labour in the Saudi Arabia will be high very soon as it is going to make an investment of about 10 billion dollars to build new cities and railway network early next year.

SSC EXAMINATIONS 60.92 pc pass under Ctg Board

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The passing rate of this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations under Chittagong Education Board is 60.92 per cent, 14.37 per cent higher than 2004.

Nine schools have achieved cent percent success in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations this year under Chittagong Education Board while the percentage of successful students is much higher than last year.

The number of GPA-5 achievers this year is doubled than the year 2004 while no examinees from five schools have passed this year.

The five schools are: Naniarchhari Gainjachhari High School in Rangamati, Kattali High School in Rangamati, Satkania Chinidulpura School, Sandwip Sekander School and Saint Martin Islamia School.

The schools with 100 per cent success are: Bangladesh Mohila Samity Girls High School (203 students), Cantonment Public School (99), Kalurghat Mirzaq Ahmed Isphani Memorial School (51), Fouzdarhat Cadet College (49), Zorarganj Boudha School (46), Bezpa Public School (39), Kadam Mobarak Girls School (31), Kawkhali Pilot School (28) and Raazan Dabua Girls School (20).

Chittagong Collegiate School, best in terms of total GPA-5 achievers, followed the nine schools with 98.86 per cent success. Of 352 examinees, 348 passed the exams, sources said.

Dr Khastagir Girls School had 99.68 per cent success this year. Of 310 examinees, only one student failed to overcome this year. Another prominent school Isphani also did well this year with 99.12 per cent success. Out of 124 students, 122 came out successful.

Of 58,474 examinees, 2,265 got GPA-5 marks this year. Dr Khastagir School topped list. A total of 196 students got GPA-5 from this school followed by Mohila Samity Girls School (129), Isphani School (105), Government High School (94), Muslim High School (84), Nasirabad Boys School (67), Cantonment School (62), Nasirabad Girls School (61), Navy High School (57) and Fouzdarhat Cadet College (45).

Chittagong Board's Controller of Examinations Prof AWM Obaidul Haq expressed satisfaction over this year's result and the result shows that students are now more attentive to the everyday studies.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia receives the results of SSC, Dakhil and SSC vocational examinations from the chairmen of seven education boards, madrasa board and technical board at her office in the city yesterday.

India introduces medical visa

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The Indian government has decided to introduce medical visas for patients from different countries including Bangladesh, Pakistan, China and Sri Lanka in a bid to turn India into a top medical tourism destination.

Bangladesh ranks on top among the countries from where patients visit India and stay long for treatment every year.

The move would benefit foreign patients seeking speciality treatment, both allopathic and Indian systems of medicine, at recognised or registered hospitals or treatment centres, an official release said on Friday.

Until now such patients have to enter India on a six-month tourist visa, which is subject to extension only by the home ministry. This causes them inconvenience in case they need treatment for longer duration.

But the state governments and Foreign Regional Registration Office (FRRO) also can extend the medical visas.

As per rules of medical visa, applicants will have to produce detailed local medical documents about their ailment and satisfy the Indian mission of their need for treatment in India.

Patients seeking treatment for neuro-surgery, heart ailments, ophthalmic treatment, organ transplant, congenital defects, gene therapy, plastic surgery and joint replacement, among other listed ailments, can apply for medical visas.

The new visa will also require the patient to come up with their communication with the Indian hospital where they seek treatment.

It will allow the patient three entries to India during its one-year validity period and another entry is available in case of emergency.

It will also allow the patient to have the company of two attendants at any given time on an ex-visa co-terminus with the medical visa. The attendants must be spouse, children of the patient or blood relations

and have to register themselves with the FRRO.

A recent study by Confederation of Indian Industry and McKinsey on the potential health care sector has projected medical tourism to contribute Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 10,000 crore in revenue by 2012.

It pointed out the Indian medical tourism market is restricted to patients from South Asia and the Middle East.

About 50 modern hospitals and 30 Ayurvedic centres are being accredited for medical tourism, and the health minister is preparing a guide to patients seeking Indian specialities.

India with its low-cost advanced speciality treatment has recently attracted foreign patients not only from developing countries but also from the developed countries like the Great Britain.

College student shot dead in Sitakunda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The miscreants shot dead a college student at Kumira in Sitakunda upazila on Friday night.

Police arrested one suspected youth in this connection.

The victim was identified as Sumon Dhar alias Shuvo, 17, son of Babul Dhar of village Kumira of the upazila.

Police said the incident occurred at around 9.30pm when Babul Dhar was returning home after shutting down his jewellery shop at Kumira Bazaar. About eight to 10 criminals attacked Babul Dhar when he reached near his home. Sumon was shot as he came to save his father.

One of the gang members opened fire on Sumon injuring him critically. Villagers rushed Sumon to a local health complex where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Babul filed a case in this connection with the Sitakunda Police Station.

51.44pc pass vocational exams, 62pc Dhakil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 18,403 candidates out of 35,779 have passed the SSC vocational examinations under Bangladesh Technical Education Board and 97,306 candidates out of 156,815 have passed Dakhil examinations under Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board this year.

Pass percentage in the vocational examinations is 51.44 and that in Dakhil examinations is 62.05.

Successful vocational examinees include 5,359 females and 13,044 males, while successful Dakhil examinees include 60,494 males and 36,812 females.

In Dakhil examinations, 1,641 candidates secured GPA 5 while four examinees-- three males and one female -- secured GPA 5 in vocational examinations.

Sharmin Sultana of Daulatkandi Adarsha Girls' School and College, Md Golam Shahrar of Velayat Hossain Bahumukhi Uchcha Bidyalay, Md Jalal Mollah of Technical Training Centre and Md Delwar Hosen of Fazilpur WB Quadri High School jointly stood first, each securing GPA 5, in vocational examinations.

Salema and Nasir Uddin of Kalaran Chandipur Adarsha High School, Md Obaidul Haque of Muslimganj High School, Md Alimuddin Biswas Rana of Kumarkhali MN Pilot High School and Anunnahar of Manda Thana Adarsha Girls' School and College jointly stood second, securing GPA 4.91 each.

The top three technical institutes according to pass percentage are Egarogram Sanmilani Secondary School (100%), Textile Vocational Institute (98%) and Fazilpur WB Quadri High School (97.96%).

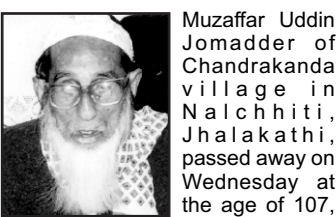
Listed criminal held, 2 cops injured in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Sub-Inspector Iqbal Hossain and constable Nasir of Mollaha thana of Bagerhat were injured seriously when a gang of miscreants attacked them on Friday evening at Udaypur village.

Police later arrested listed extremist Akbar Shaikh, an accused of in two murder and several other criminal cases.

Obituary

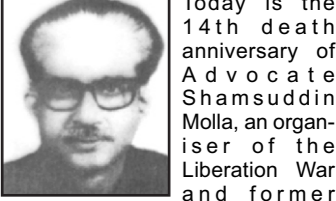


Muzaffar Uddin Jomadder of Chandrakanda village in Nalchhiti, Jhalakathi, passed away on Wednesday at the age of 107, says a press release.

He is survived by one daughter, five sons and a number of grandchildren.

He was buried at Shahjahanpur graveyard in Dhaka.

Death anniversary



Today is the 14th death anniversary of Advocate Shamsuddin Molla, an organiser of the Liberation War and former lawmaker, says a press release.

Shamsuddin Molla Smriti Sangsad of Faridpur and other political and social organisations have drawn up different programmes to mark the day.

A milad mahfil and discussion will be held at his home at 4.00pm.



Students and teachers of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology form a human chain on the campus in the city yesterday with a call to extend a helping hand to save the life of Atiqur Rahman Hridoy, a meritorious student of the BUET, who has been suffering from blood cancer.