

5 Kushtia
journos
get bail

UNB, Dhaka

Five journalists of Kushtia, implicated in extortion cases, were granted anticipatory bail for three months by the High Court (HC) yesterday.
A division bench comprising Justices M Abdur Rashid and M Fazlur Rahman granted ad interim bail upon petitions filed by the journalists and also asked the government to explain why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail.
Those enlarged on bail are Gazi Mahbub Rahman, editor of local daily Ajker Alo, and its acting editor Jamaluddin Haideri, Tariqul Huq Tariq, correspondent of daily Prothom Alo, Shamsul Alam, correspondent of Ajker Kagaj, and Hassan Zahid, staff correspondent of Manavzamin.
The petitioners submitted that they were 'falsely' implicated in the extortion cases.
"The complainants lodged the false cases against us on advice of their mentor Shahidul Islam MP (Kushtia-2 constituency) of the ruling BNP following a report published in the local and national dailies on the recent acts of vandalism by the cadres of the lawmaker," the petitioners submitted.

FAZILATUNNESA HALL
Students deny
allegation of
misbehaviour

DU CORRESPONDENT

Female students of Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday said they neither misbehaved nor bared their house tutors from using the washrooms on July 17 night when they kept them confined to the TV room.
At a press conference at the Dhaka University Journalists' Office, they said, "Our teachers rather misbehaved with us during the last four years. Our demonstration was a result of their misbehaviour."

They said, "We put forward a 13-point demand to solve our various problems, but the teachers did not pay any heed to our demands."

The students urged the house tutors to withdraw their 'false statement' against them as they are being harassed socially.

They also expressed their dissatisfaction over the statement of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) against them.

The students said no one instigated them to organise the demonstration against the house tutors.

More than 100 students attended the press conference.

The students also submitted a memorandum to the vice-chancellor urging him to listen to them in the Syndicate meeting before taking any decision.

They urged the university authorities to take proper initiatives to bring back normalcy at the hall after proper investigation.

The house tutors who resigned from their posts have been saying that a group of students did not behave properly with them while demonstrating at the hall.

The Duta at an emergence general meeting on Thursday night demanded stern punishment to the students who misbehaved with the teachers.

Pizza Hut hosts
programme for
autistic children

Pizza Hut Gulshan hosted a programme for the autistic children on Thursday noon, says a press release.

More than 60 children from the Society For the Welfare of Autistic Children (SWAC) came to the Pizza Hut Restaurant at 11:30am with their parents and spent over an hour with the Pizza Hut team and Pizza Hut mascot, the Pizza Pooch.

They had a wonderful time and each of them was given a gift bag.

Dr Shiraji Munira Choudhury, secretary and consultant of the SWAC and principal of Dhaka Autistic Centre, Sabina Hossain, executive member of the SWAC, and Akku Chowdhury, head of Operations of Pizza Hut, were present on the occasion.

Dr Shiraji thanked the Pizza Hut authority for arranging the programme.

Pizza Hut is the highest-flying brand of Yum! Restaurants International, which is also the parent company of KFC, Taco Bell etc. with over 30,000 restaurants worldwide.

The first international restaurant chain to enter the Bangladesh market, Pizza Hut was inaugurated on December 6, 2003, offering its pizza expertise, internationally standardised operations and procedures, training and best practices for the customers of Bangladesh.

Transcom Foods Limited is the franchisee for Pizza Hut in Bangladesh. The restaurant is open everyday from 12:00 noon to 12:00 midnight. Pizza Hut Gulshan has already won the hearts of food lovers of Bangladesh.



PHOTO: STAR

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a question-answer session on the country's first prime minister Tajuddin Ahmad at the National Museum in the city yesterday. On his right are Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid and Barrister Amir-Ul Islam.

'Killing of Tajuddin dealt
a heavy blow to post-war
reconstruction'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The assassination of Tajuddin Ahmad, the first prime minister of the country, dealt a heavy blow to the reconstruction of the battered nation during the post-liberation war period, said noted citizens and political leaders yesterday.

As a minister, Tajuddin Ahmad set a unique example of efficiency and dedication through his work, they said, paying tribute to him at a function marking his 80th birth anniversary.

Tajuddin Ahmad Smriti Sangsad organised the programme at Sufia Kamal Auditorium at the National Museum in the city where an eight-member panel replied to various questions about the late leader.

30kg marijuana
seized, 3 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police seized 30kg marijuana worth about Tk 3 lakh from a truck and arrested three drug traders in Mohammadpur in the capital on Friday.

Acting on a tip off, a team of Mohammadpur police intercepted the truck near the College of Physical Education.

The police searched the truck and found 20kg marijuana in a hessian and the rest from the driver's cabin. They arrested Siddique, Joyanal Abedin and Tareq for carrying the contraband items.

In another operation, detectives yesterday seized 1,000 CDs (compact disk) of porno films from a video shop in Paltan.

Raiding Chandradwip CD shop at Baitul Mukarram New Supermarket, a team of Detective Branch seized the porno films and also arrested Tamij Uddin Badal and Zahurul Islam Johnny.

Responding to a question about Tajuddin's role in the cabinet, Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain said Bangabandhu always gave priority to Tajuddin's views while taking any decision.

There was a great understanding between Bangabandhu and Tajuddin as both of them held the same views on many issues, he added.

The August 15 tragedy would not have taken place if misunderstandings between the two leaders had not occurred, Dr Kamal said, adding that a vested quarter reaped the political benefits though creating misunderstandings between them.

Those who created the distance between the two leaders actually shook the foundation of the country, he added.

Terming the misunderstandings between Bangabandhu and Tajuddin a tragedy in the history of Bangladesh, Prof Anisuzzaman said a vested

quarter, especially a group led by Khandakar Mosthak Ahmed, created a division between the two leaders.

Former finance secretary Kafiluddin Ahmed said the economic policy adopted by Tajuddin as a finance minister was not too ambitious and had consistency with the ground reality.

Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, former personal secretary to Tajuddin Ahmad, said Tajuddin often worked at the secretariat till 11:00pm and strived hard for the welfare of the countrymen.

Noted economist Prof Anisur Rahman said Tajuddin embodied the values of society.

Barrister Amir-Ul Islam, Hossain Towfik Imam and Sector Commander Abu Osman Chowdhury also spoke.

Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid presided over the question-answer session while Editor of the Prothom Alo Motiur Rahman moderated it.

200 injured as Jubo Dal
factions clash in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Brahmanbaria

At least 200 people were injured as people of two villages clashed at Ashuganj Bazar yesterday.

The clash was a sequel to Friday's clash between the two factions of Ashuganj upazila Jubo Dal over its conference, police and witnesses said.

About 1,000 people from Shuhagpur and Charchartal villages were locked in the clash, leaving 200 injured.

Police and BDR personnel rushed to the spot and lobbed tear gas shells and rubber bullets to bring the situation under control.

The activities at the Ashuganj River port were hampered and schools and colleges remained closed following the

clash.
Police arrested seven people from the spot in this connection.

Teletalk 2nd
phase lottery
draw held

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Teletalk is providing SIMs to 20,000 more lottery winners in the Dhaka Zone in the second phase.

The 20,000 winners were selected through computerised lottery in the city yesterday from among about 383,000 applicants.

The Teletalk authorities will release the track numbers of lottery winners and the dates of SIM collection today through their website: http://gold.teletalk.com.bd and http://silver.teletalk.com.bd

The winners will have to collect their SIMs from the city's 53 branches of the City Bank, Basic Bank, Prime Bank and Dhaka Bank.

A winner has to pay Tk 2,700 to get SIM along with a recharge card valued at Tk 300.

Landlord's son
beat tenant, her
two daughters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tenant and her two minor daughters were assaulted by the son of a landlord in the city yesterday.

The victims Shefali Begum and her two daughters Marjina Begum, 11, and Mahini Akhtar, 7, received treatment at the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

Shefali Begum, who is a domestic help, resides at a rented house owned by Nuru Mian at Khazi Dewan Road in Lalbagh area.

Third grader Marjina and first grader Mahini, on their return from school in the noon, were washing their utensils at the tubewell of the house while their mother was out on her work.

Daughter-in-law of Nuru Mian asked them to leave the spot as she wanted to work there.

As the girls argued that they would leave the place soon after finishing their work, Nuru Mian's son Javed rushed out and started slapping and kicking the minors indiscriminately.

Shefali too fell victim to Javed's wrath as she hurriedly reached the spot to save her children.

INDIAN TRUCKERS ON STRIKE
Export through
Benapole
suspended
since Thursday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Export from India through Benapole land port remained suspended since Thursday morning due to an indefinite strike enforced by the Indian truckers.

Two Indian transport organisations—Shimanto Paribhahan Malik Samity and Bongaon Truck Workers' Union—went on the strike demanding release of four Indian trucks seized by the Benapole Customs Authority recently.

A seven-member delegation of the two organisations yesterday held a meeting with Benapole port officials. But the meeting yielded no positive results.

The Benapole Customs seized the four Indian reconditioned trucks, as they were sold illegally after unloading goods at the port.

Joint Commissioner of Customs Shafiqul Islam said the trucks with forged number plates were held while changing colour at a shop. A case was also lodged against the owners of the truck, he said.

Meanwhile, hundreds of trucks loaded with Indian goods remained stranded at Petrapole port in India.

Donations for
Ahsania Cancer
Hospital tax-free

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The government has recently granted tax exemption on donations to be made for Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital.

The hospital is the only institution that enjoys such privilege apart from Aga Khan Foundation in Bangladesh, says a press release of the Ahsania Mission yesterday.

Charges
framed
against 3 JCD
muggers

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday framed charges against the three Dhaka College unit JCD leaders, who mugged Tk 12 lakh from a jewellery shop employee on June 19.

Among the three Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders, Golam Ohab Liton, 24, science and technology affairs secretary, Azizul Haq, 23, a member, of Dhaka College unit, were arrested the same day. Mohammad Ruhul Amin, college unit assistant general secretary, is absconding.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mir Ali Reza of the Speedy Trial Court-2 rejected the discharge petition filed by defence lawyers and framed charges against the three.

The court issued warrant of arrest against Ruhul and fixed July 31 for trial of the case.

Police nabbed Liton and Azizul immediately after the mugging in Motijheel, while Ruhul managed to evade arrest.

Dhanmondi police had recovered about Tk 10 lakh from a room at the International Hostel of Dhaka College soon after the arrest.

Mohammad Abul Kashem, manager of Uma Jewellers, filed a case against the three with Motijheel Police Station under the Speedy Trial (Law and Order Disruption) Act the same day.

Police had filed another case under the Arms Act against Liton and Azizul.

Motijheel police on June 28 pressed charges against them, showing 25 people as prosecution witnesses.

Death anniversary



Comilla, says a press release.

Prof Mazid served at Munshiganj Government Haraganga College and Narsingdi Government College. He retired as acting exam controller of Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board.

Milad mahfils will be held at the mosque adjacent to the Azimpur Graveyard after Asr prayers today and at his Dhanmondi residence after Maghrib prayers on Friday.

Qulkhwani



RK Mission Road, Gopibagh, today, says a press release.

She passed away at a city hospital on July 21 at the age of 49.

Relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad and doa mahfil to be held after Asr prayers on the occasion.

SHABBY CITY TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Experts blame it on
wild parking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Car parking in designated places is among other measures to improve the shabby state of transport system in the capital, said the experts of Strategic Transport Plan (STP) at a discussion yesterday.

"There must be designated areas for car parking instead of allowing roads to be in a mess with wild parking," said STP Policy Specialist Omar Hadi.

"The transportation system should also give priority to pedestrian facility and address the need of women, children and the disabled," he added.

The discussion on the Draft Final Study Reports of the STP with the leaders of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) was held at the auditorium of the federation in the city.

"The entire traffic management and operation must be brought under the control of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC)," said STP

Institutional Specialist Dr Shamsur Rahman.

"The communication system of the metropolitan area has to be at the disposal of a unitary authority," he added.

Dr Rahman said five major agencies including Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Board, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, DCC and Rajuk must enhance their institutional capacity to help run an improved traffic system.

"About 75 percent of the expensive Volvo buses, considered as a comfortable mode of public transportation, have gone out of roads over a period of one and a half years due to poor maintenance and management," he added.

STP Transportation Planner Dr Rahmatullah said the plan aims at developing and maintaining a sustainable multi-modal transportation system ensuring a safe and efficient transport system that supports social and economic development and ensures a healthy

environment.

While 60 percent of the commuters in the capital city in 1994 were pedestrians, the number has reduced to 20 percent due to sheer lack of pedestrian facility in the capital. All the city roads must be freed from illegal occupation through an efficient management of transportation system, he said.

FBCCI President Abdul Awal Mintoo, who chaired the discussion, said city life and economy are dependant on an orderly and efficient movement of people, goods and services.

The government has undertaken the study of STP under Dhaka Urban Transport Project for a long-term plan keeping the continuous growth of Dhaka city and its five surrounding districts in view.

The STP began in October 2004 and is due to come to an end in October 2005.

STP Team Leader David H Jarret and FBCCI officials were present on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

Karmojibi Nari stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday protesting repression of workers at the Dhaka Export Processing Zone.

Robbers loot Tk 12 lakh
from city house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted cash and valuables worth Tk 12 lakh from a businessman at Namupara in Shyampur in the early hours yesterday, while mob held five alleged robbers at Gendaria under the same police station.

A gang of around eight robbers entered the house of Hasmat Ullah by cutting the small gate on the 1st floor of the three-storeyed building at 3:30am.

The gang held Hasmat's two sons, Suman and Mukul, beat them to create panic, tied and confined them in a room. Later, they robbed off Tk 10 lakh in cash and other valuables.

Shyampur police, however, could not give any details of the incident yesterday evening, saying any case was yet to be filed.

In a separate incident, a gang of around 12 robbers went to rob a telephone shop at the Gendaria crossing at 12:30pm yesterday.

Entering the shop, the gang beat the employees of the Shikdar Telecom. Sensing the presence of robbers, the locals surrounded the shop and

held five of them—Shamim, Mamun, Yunus Bepari, Subel and Jewel. Shamim and Mamun were critically injured during the mob beating and were later admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

New Swiss envoy
meets FM

UNB, Dhaka

New ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh Dr. Dora Rapold paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister M. Morshed Khan at the Foreign Office yesterday.

During the meeting, Morshed stressed the need for more interactions between the business communities of the two countries and called for greater Swiss investment in Bangladesh. He also hoped that Bangladeshi products would get more access to Switzerland for mutual benefit of the two countries.

He hailed the Swiss government decision to upgrade its embassy in Bangladesh from CDA to ambassador level.

KILLING OF MOTHER
Father threatens
daughters to
withdraw case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man, who reportedly killed her wife at Sakhira on June 30, is threatening her four daughters and their children to withdraw the case they filed against him, alleged the daughters at a press conference in the city yesterday.

The daughters Sonia Islam, Tania Rahman, Arifa Akhter Lisa and Farjana Shabnam Liam accused their father Mujibar Rahman of killing their mother Jahanara.

Sonia Islam, the eldest daughter of slain mother, said their paternal aunt is pressing them through cell phone to withdraw the case.

She alleged that police sealed off the spot 20 days after the incident to destroy the evidence of the killing.

Mujibar, who had an affair with union parishad (UP) member Shahina Begum, used to misbehave and torture their mother frequently, the daughters said.

Jahanara went to her father's house fearing more torture, but Mujibar brought her back to home at Shyamnagar promising her not to torture her anymore, they said.

But after three days, Mujibar killed Jahanara in a bathroom, the daughters added.

Officers' Club
executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The election to the 22-member executive committee of the Officers' Club Dhaka for 2005-2007 was held at the club in the city on July 21, says a press release.

The office-bearers are Vice-Chairmen: MA Razeq, Apel Mahmud and Monowar Hossain; General Secretary: Mohammad Shajahan Majumdar; Joint Secretaries: Mutasim Billa Haque, Farida Yasmin, AJM Ziaul Haque, Mohammad Abdul Mannan, Mohammad Ziaul Islam and Mohammad Abdul Moizid.

Photography
exhibition

A weeklong photography exhibition, organised by The National Institute for Mass Communication, will be inaugurated. Venue: 125/A, Darusalam Road, Mirpur. Time: 11:00am. The exhibition will remain open from 10:00am to 3:00pm daily.

FICCI meet

Monthly meeting of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 12:30pm.

JUAAB seminar

Japanese Universities Alumni Association in Bangladesh and Department of Urban and Regional Planning of Buet organise a seminar on