

Bangladeshi jailed in Brunei for illegal stay

BDNEWS, Brunei

A 41-year-old Bangladeshi was sentenced to seven months imprisonment and three strokes of the cane by the Bandar Seri Begawan Magistrate's Court on Tuesday after he pleaded guilty to remaining in this country unlawfully for 771 days.

The defendant Nepal Kunti Das admitted his overstaying from August 31, 2003 to October 10 this year after the expiry of his Special Pass, according to a report by Bruneidirect.com.

He was arrested three days ago by the Immigration personnel at a rented house in Kampong Jerudong.

'No place for fundamentalism in Bangladesh'

UNB, Dhaka

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday said fundamentalism and terrorism have no place in the country.

Speaking at a discussion on "Deshnetri Begum Khaleda Zia's Role in Empowering Women" organised by JISAS, he said education is the only way for making the women empowerment meaningful.

He said the enrolment of female students in schools and colleges has increased as the government made the women education free up to intermediate level and introduced

various stipends.

The government has earmarked TK 1200 in the budget for scholarships and stipends.

Besides, Moudud said present government has increased the seats reserved for the women in parliament to 45. These seats will be distributed on the basis of proportional representation of parties in parliament.

Presided over JISAS Secretary General Abul Hashem Rana, a discussion was also addressed by Tasmin Rana MP, actor Khalil Ullah Khan and Barrister Abdullah Al Mamun.

BANGLADESHI EXPAT SCHOLARS

New web site to be launched tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A new web site providing linkage between Bangladeshi expatriate scholars and local people to ensure better contribution of the expatriates to country's development is going to be launched tomorrow.

M E Chowdhury Shameem, employed in IBM computer in New York, has designed the web site www.scholarsbangladesh.com, a data base on Bangladesh scholars and professionals around the world.

The launching ceremony will be held at Brac Centre Inn at Mohakhali in the city with Science and Information and Communication Technology Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan as chief guest.

Vice-chancellor of Brac University Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury will inaugurate the web site.

The web site will provide space for 'scholar search' where the inquisitive people could find out the names and addresses of different Bangladeshi professionals staying in abroad and contact them.

"Many Bangladeshis have been working abroad in different dignified professions. But as they are not coming back to the country, a vacuum has been created at our high level officials," said Shameem at a meet the press in the city yesterday.

He said India and Malaysia have been able to overcome the crisis through proper utilisation of the expatriates' skill, knowledge and expertise.

Shameem hoped that from now on, the expatriate Bangladeshis also would be able to make contribution for the country through the web site.

Obituary

UNB, Dhaka

Sheikh Golam Kader, maternal uncle of Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina, passed away due to cardiac arrest at the Holy Family Hospital in the city on Wednesday night at the age of 64.

Golam Kader, former manager of Jute Mill Corporation, is survived by his mother, wife and a daughter.

Hearing the news, Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina went to his residence Thursday morning and prayed for salvation of the departed soul. She also consoled the members of the bereaved family.

His namaz-e-janaza was held yesterday morning at the residence of AL presidium member Amir Hossain Amu at Eskaton Road in the city. Golam Kader was the elder brother of Amu's wife.

He will be buried at the family graveyard in Tungipara today.

Dr Shirin Alam



Dr Shirin Alam, only daughter of late Ali Amjad Khan, former Member of the National Assembly (MNA) and Anwara

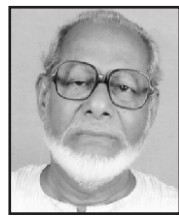
Khatoun, former Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), passed away on Sunday in London, says a press release.

She was buried at the Banani Graveyard in the city yesterday, after a namaz-e-janaza at Dhanmondi. She left behind her husband and two sons.

Her quikhani will be held at her son's residence at Space Lake Castle Apartment, House No 49, No Road 15A (26 old), Dhanmondi after Asr prayers today.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the quikhani.

Death anniversary



Today is the second death anniversary of Nurul Islam Chowdhury, former senior officer of the secretariat and father of Barrister Moinul Islam Chowdhury, vice-chairman of the Supreme Court Bar Association, says a press release.

On the occasion, doa and milad mahfil will be held at Q/6, Nurjahan Road, Mohammadpur in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad.



Fire fighters struggle to extinguish a fire that broke out at a godown at East Madarbari in the port city of Chittagong on Wednesday night.

PHOTO: STAR

CHILD MORTALITY Unicef to vaccinate 33.5m children in Bangladesh

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) has taken the world's biggest measles vaccination campaign programme to vaccinate 33.5 million children to prevent child mortality in Bangladesh, official sources said.

The vaccination programme will continue from February 25 to March 16 next year, the biggest campaign programme of the world, says a press release.

The programme has been taken to facilitate governments' six-year (2004-2010) national action plan (2004-1010) to check child mortality due to measles.

The UN agency, as part of its campaign, has already vaccinated 1.3 million children in Bogra and Rajshahi in September achieving 98 percent of its target.

"This phase was just a precursor to next year's big push to vaccinate more than 33 million children," said Unicef Bangladesh Representative, Louis-Georges Arsenault.

According to Unicef, routine immunization protects 69 per cent of Bangladeshi children from measles, but 30 per cent still remained unprotected from the diseases that kills thousands of children every year.

RU amends ordn to favour JCD leader

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University authorities amended the business faculty ordinance in violation of rules and provisions for allegedly favouring a leader of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain approved the amendments incorporating five fresh sections on October 11 without consulting the academic council, sources alleged.

The amendments will allow the faculty students a maximum of eight years to pass honours examinations. Earlier the time frame was six years. Moreover, if any student could not even pass within eight years, he will be given a 'pass certificate'.

According to sources, the authorities recently allowed RU JCD joint convenor Dewan Harunur Rashid, who has already failed BBA honours examinations twice during his six-year study, to sit for the examination for the third time without following necessary procedures.

Dr Meherul Islam Khan, chairman of the finance and banking

department, said that Rashid was allowed to sit for the examination although he did not fill up forms as a decision to allow more students like him was under way.

But teachers and students of the department said there are no other students who need such amendments.

At a meeting of a sub-committee on the amendment on October 10, faculty Dean Prof Omar Ali proposed some amendments in favour of the JCD leader, but all the faculty members strongly opposed the move, sources said.

RU teachers and students expressed concern over the decision and protested the new ordinance.

A senior teacher of the faculty said the VC has no right to approve an ordinance without consulting the academic committee, faculty members and academic council.

The ordinance was amended only to produce some low-quality graduates, he said.

When contacted, VC Prof Altaf Hossain said the amendment would be reconsidered if the academic council and faculty committees do not agree to it.

Woman held for forced entry into judge's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A woman was arrested by Sonadanga thana police for entering the residence of Khulna Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge despite obstruction by security forces on duty on Wednesday afternoon.

According to Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abdullah, the woman, identified as Helena Akhter, 36, is the wife of late Majnu Mia of Sonadanga and mother of two minor sons.

She returned to Khulna on October 8 after the expiry of her service contract as nurse in Al Zahra Clinic in Dubai.

The woman entered the house of the judge abusing security guards in filthy language.

When the matter was brought to his notice, the judge asked the police to arrest her, OC said.

She was sent to jail at noon yesterday pending thorough investigation about her motive.

The incident has created panic as there are reports that the JMB has recruited some women cadres for suicide attack in the city.

IOJ to support party that helps establish Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) Chairman Mufti Fazlul Haque Aminee yesterday said his alliance will be the partner of the major party that serves their interest in establishing Islamic rule in the country.

Speaking at a discussion, Aminee, who does not believe in women's leadership, said it does not matter whether a man or woman is in the leadership.

"We must know the nerve of country's politics and act accordingly," he added.

The discussion and Iftar mahfil was organised by Islami Chhatra Morcha Bangladesh at a city hotel.

Aminee said no single party could assume power alone. Whoever the major party is, it needs the support of other parties, he added.

Aminee also appreciated Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for her address to nation saying, "She said no Islamic force can go for bomb attacks, rather the enemies of the country did that to destroy Islam."

"The Awami League is also trying to form a new Islamic party to get its support," he added.

Pointing at Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury, Aminee said, "You should go to rest now, don't do politics to confuse the nation."

Islami Chhatra Mojilish Central General Secretary Md Abdul Karim alleged that the media is misusing its freedom to falsify Islam.

"Thus Islam is being disgraced in the international arena. We must act against them and wage a greater movement at all madrasas, schools, colleges and university campuses," he added.

IOJ Vice-chairman Advocate Abdul Latif and Secretary General Moulana Abdul Latif Nazami also spoke at the discussion.

'Stand against govt's misrule'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

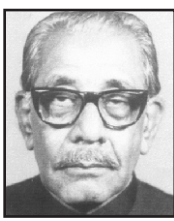
Speakers at a joint meeting of advisory and executive committees of Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad in the city yesterday called upon all to stand against corruption, misrule and criminalisation of Khaleda-Nizami alliance government.

The meeting was addressed by Dhaka University Teachers' Association President Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, senior advocate of Bangladesh Supreme Court Khandaker Mahub Hossain, former president of Bangladesh Federal Journalist Union Abul Kalam Azad, parishad Vice-presidents Dr Selina Hayat Ivy, Shahidullah Shadu, Md Omar Faruque, Shamsun Nahar Hossain, Ismail Hossain Taru, Joint General Secretaries Md Wadud Howladar, Dr Meer Mobarak Hossain Diganta, Khandker Golam Zilani, Nur-e-Jannat Akhter Shima and Mofida Akbar, said a press release.

Parishad President Akhter Ahmed Khan presided over the meeting moderated by its General Secretary Md Rezaul Karim Khan.

The meeting also elected Akram Hossain Humayun, a social worker of Feni and Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, former president of Dhaka Union of Journalists, advisors of Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad.

Chehlum



Chehlum of Abidur Reza Khan, an eminent parliamentarian and veteran Awami League leader, will be held at his 344 Elephant road residence after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at his residence and a fateha will be offered at his graveyard. He passed away due to incurable diseases on September 3 in the city.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad and pray for the departed soul.

AM Mezbah Uddin Ahmed



Chehlum of AM Mezbah Uddin Ahmed, retired official of Australian High Commission in Dhaka, will be held today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at 1/3, Block D, Lalmatia in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the milad and pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Death penalty for Mufti Hannan demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Jubo League, a youth front of main opposition Awami League, yesterday demanded death penalty for Mufti Abdul Hannan, a top Islamist militant leader and prime accused in the plot to assassinate then prime minister Sheikh Hasina at Kotalipara in Gopalganj on July 20, 2000.

Addressing a rally, they also demanded immediate arrest of some ministers and lawmakers of the BNP-led coalition government for their alleged involvement in series bomb blasts.

They demanded the arrest of Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Ruhul Quddus Talukdar Dulu, Gautam Chakrabarti, Mizanur Rahman Minu, Alamgir Kabir and Moulana Mohiuddin for patronising militancy in the country.

Jubo League (North) organised the protest rally in front of its party office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city. The Jubo League leaders also blamed the ruling alliance for patronising the terrorists across the country.

They said ruling parties' cadres were also involved in all the bomb attacks but the government did not take steps to nab them.

Dr Mizanur Rahman, Md Omar Faruk Chowdhury, Harunur Rashid,

Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury and Mainul Hossain Khan Nikhil addressed the rally presided over by City Jubo League (North) President Abul Bashar.

Prior to the rally, a procession was brought out that paraded some city streets.

Man found unconscious dies at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified man found unconscious at Bishwa Road in Sabujbagh area died after he was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in the early hours of yesterday.

The man, aged about 35, was thrown from a speeding vehicle onto the road in an unconscious condition, police said.

A pedestrian, Mohammad Khalil, rushed him to the DMCH where he died at around 12:30am.

The body was sent to the morgue. Khalil filed a murder case with Sabujbagh police station in this connection.

WEATHER TODAY Rise in day temperature likely UNB, Dhaka Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Dhaka divisions 6:00pm today. Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said predicting slight rise in day temperature over the country during the period. Highest temperature 35.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sandwip and lowest 23.4 degree Celsius at Sayedpur. The sun sets in the capital at 5:33pm today and rises at 5:56am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: City/Town Temperature in Celsius Humidity in percentage Max Min Morning Evening Dhaka 33.5 26.4 65 67 Chittagong 34.8 25.5 68 71 Rajshahi 31.0 24.3 85 77 Khulna 33.6 25.3 71 71 Barisal 34.2 24.7 73 81 Sylhet 34.9 25.5 77 76 Cox's Bazar 34.4 27.0 70 75



Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan police recovered 700 bottles of phensidyl from near the Airport police box in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

700 bottles of phensidyl seized, one held

UNB, Dhaka

Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan police arrested a man and recovered 700 bottles of phensidyl from near the Airport police box in the city yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of DB police halted a truck near the police box and recovered 700 bottles of Indian phensidyl from the vehicle. Yunus Ali, 42, was arrested in this connection.

In another drive, Rab-1 members arrested two alleged drug dealers-- Nurul Hakim, 38, and Rajiv, 23, along with 140 bottles of beer from Gulshan area on Wednesday night. A CNG run three-wheeler was also seized from their possession.

DHAKA TODAY Seminar Bangladesh Awami League organises a seminar on 'Law and Order and Terrorism'. Venue: Rajuk auditorium. Time: 3:00pm. Discussion Doctors' Association of Bangladesh organises a discussion with LGRD and Cooperative Minister and BNP General Secretary Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: Parliament Members' Club premises. Time: 4:00pm. Monthly meeting Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) will hold its monthly meeting. Venue: IDEB bhaban, Kakrail. Time: 3:30pm. Preparatory meeting Preparatory meeting of World Ashek-e-Rasul(SM) Conference will be held. Venue: Dewanbag Sharif, Arambagh. Time: 10:00am. Prize distribution Bangladesh Christian Chhatra Kalyan Sangha organises a prize distribution ceremony. Venue: Tejgaon Church Community Centre. Time: 2:30pm. Human chain Independent Children and Women Workers' Forum will form a human chain to mark the 'World Rural Women Day'. Venue: Muktangon. Time: 11:00am.