

Pak national robbed

Police refuse to register case, he alleges

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A Pakistani national, working as an official of Emirates Airlines in Dubai, was robbed of his passport, Tk 40,000 and other valuables at Uttara in Dhaka on Sunday night.

The victim, Syed Junnun Anas, was also harassed by the police when he went to the Uttara Police station to file a case.

Syed Anas came to Dhaka to visit his sister at Uttara. When he was on his way to his sister's residence at about 11:00pm, a gang of muggers looted his valuables at gunpoint.

The criminals fled the scene in a car, the number plate of which was covered by a paper.

Soon after the incident, the victim along with his two relatives rushed to Uttara police station to file a case. But the duty officer sub-inspector (SI) Abdul Awal and officer-in-charge (OC) Akhteruzzaman discouraged him to file any case, the victim alleged.

Instead, the law enforcers suggested lodging a general diary (GD), saying that if he files a case he would have to suffer a lot, said the airlines official.

The victim told BDNEWS that he did not file any GD as police refused to register a case based on his allegation.

When asked, OC Akhteruzzaman denied the allegation against him.

He said, "I had encouraged the Pakistani national to file a case, but he did not want to do so. Rather, he wanted to file a GD, saying that his passport was missing."

The OC, however, said, "I would register it as a case as soon as the victim comes to the police station."

When contacted, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner (DMP) SM Mizanur Rahman said he would take proper action in this regard.

Obituary



Artist Abdur Razzak, a professor of Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University (DU), passed away due to a sudden cardiac arrest in Jessore on Sunday night at the age of 73, says a press release.

His body was taken to Dhaka yesterday morning and his janaza was held after Zohr prayers at DU central mosque.

In the afternoon he was buried at Banani graveyard in the city.

His qulqhwan will be held at his DOHS residence after Asr prayers on Friday.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulqhwan.

BSS adds, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman and Cultural Affairs Secretary Ahsan Shamim yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Prof Razzak.

Comrade Mokhles

BSS, Dhaka

Comrade Mokhlesur Rahman, a control commission member of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and one of the organisers of the Liberation War, died at a clinic at Gopalganj on Sunday night at the age of 77.

He had been suffering from various complicated diseases, including diabetes, for long.

Comrade Mokhles had played an important role in anti-British movement, the Liberation War in 1971, anti-autocratic movement and establishment of exploitation-free society.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Chandra Dighalia village under Gopalganj Sadar upazila yesterday.

CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim expressed deep shock at the death of Comrade Mokhles and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Leaders of different organisations, including Bangladesh Awami League, Workers Party, Udichi, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, placed wreaths on the body to pay their last homage to the comrade.

Dr Mohammad Mohiuddin

BSS, Dhaka

Alhaj Dr Mohammad Mohiuddin Miah, father of Deputy Minister for Industries Abdus Salam Pintoo, died of old age complications at PG Hospital here on Sunday at the age of 86.

Dr Mohiuddin left behind his eight sons and two daughters.

He was buried at the family graveyard at Gulipecha village under Gopalpur thana in Tangail yesterday.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her deep shock at the death of Dr Mohiuddin.

In a message of condolence, she conveyed her deep sympathy to the members of bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Bangladesh sincere in fighting terrorism

President tells UN Day function

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday said Bangladesh is fighting terrorism with utmost sincerity as it is synonymous with UN activities around the world.

He was speaking as chief guest at a function organised by the UN agencies in Bangladesh at Sonargaon Hotel in the city to mark the 60th anniversary of the world body.

The president said Bangladesh is an ardent and active proponent of UN's call for preservation and promotion of international peace and security.

He quoted UN Secretary General Kofi Annan as saying, "Bangladesh is a model member of the UN, providing leadership amongst the least developed countries and in the general assembly and other forum, and contributing substantially to peacekeeping and humanitarian operation."

The president underscored the need for strengthening the United Nations through reforms.

"We must strengthen the UN through reforms. The UN must be provided with adequate resources it

needs to function effectively. We must ensure that UN's decisions result in actions to meet the expectations of our peoples, our nations and our world," he added.

In a message on the UN Day, Kofi Annan said the United Nations must reflect this new age, and respond to its challenges including first and foremost, the knowledge that hundreds of millions of people are left defenceless against hunger, disease and environmental degradation, even though the world has means to rescue them.

Speaking at the function, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said in order to remain relevant in a world where nations are increasingly judged by the yardstick of democracy and good governance, it is also important that the forum where international standards are set adheres to democratic practices and strengthens internal oversight and ethics in its functioning and operations.

He said a bitter race for nuclear weapons supremacy has kept the global peace hanging in the balance.

Despite everything, the UN has kept on working with its mission to serve the humanity, he added.

"Our commitment to UN peacekeeping is unflinching. Over the past two decades, we have been involved in 28 peacekeeping operations across four continents. Currently we are participating in 12 missions out of 18 ongoing UN missions," said the foreign minister.

He said Bangladesh has been among the top two contributors of troops and other personnel to UN peacekeeping operations for some time now.

UN Resident Coordinator Jorgen Lissner in his speech mentioned that Bangladesh rose from the ashes of genocide and paid a tremendous price in human lives for its nationhood and independence in 1971.

At the function, Unicef Representative Louis-Georges Arsenault introduced a film excerpt from the 'Concert for Bangladesh' by the great Beatle singer George Harrison at Madison Square Garden in New York in 1971.

A DVD on the concert has also been released for the first time, he said, adding that the concert raised money for millions of refugees forced to escape their war-torn country.



Awami League presidium member Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir speaks at a seminar titled 'Destruction of Institution: Politicisation of police and administration' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Work together to oust govt

Hasina urges leaders, workers

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has called on the local leaders and workers of the party and its front organisations to settle internal feuds and work together to oust the alliance government.

Hasina, a former prime minister, said this while exchanging views with the leaders from different districts at Bangabandhu Bhaban in Tungipara on Sunday and yesterday.

The leaders from Pirojpur, Jhenidah, Satkhira, Barisal and Lohagara districts met Hasina yesterday while leaders of Khulna Mahanagar Jubo League and Chhatra League, Jhenidah, Bathiaghata and Narail AL and Islamic University Chhatra League met her on Sunday evening.

Hasina, also leader of the opposition in parliament, arrived here on Sunday noon on the three-day visit.

She offered munajat at the mazar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman yesterday morning. She also distributed 192 saarees and 72 lungis each among 19 unions in Kotalipara and Tungipara upazilas.

At the meetings, the party leaders apprised Hasina of different problems and internal feuds.

Sheikh Md Abdullah, Brigadier

(Retd.) Sheikh Abu Baker, AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Mohammad Ali MP, SM Kamal Hossain, industrialist Mamunur Rashid Chowdhury, district AL President Mohammad Ali Khan Abu Miah and secretary Emdadul Haque, Sechasebak League leader Mollah Abu Kawsar, district Chhatra League President Rakibul Islam Rakib and Secretary Gazi Hafizur Rahaman Liku were present at the meetings.

Hasina is scheduled to return to Dhaka today.

Govt employees' salaries on October 30

UNB, Dhaka

Current month's salaries of the non-gazetted employees of all government, semi-government and autonomous institutions as well as non-commissioned employees of the armed forces will be disbursed on October 30.

Besides, pensions of all retired government employees will be disbursed on the same day.

A three-day holiday is to begin on November 3 on the occasion of the Eid-ul-Fitr.

COMPANYGANJ INCIDENT

Hasina gives Tk 20,000 to each victim's family

BDNEWS, Naokhali

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has provided financial assistance to the family members of five persons, killed in police firing at Companyganj in the district.

AL Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader handed over the assistance of Tk 20,000 each family yesterday on behalf of Sheikh Hasina, also Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

Speaking on the occasion, Quader said police force of the alliance government killed five people and injured many others by indiscriminate firing.

Demanding independent inquiry of the incident, he said the situation will be dangerous if the false case is not withdrawn.

Police filed the case accusing thousands of people, including family members of the dead and the injured.

General Secretary of the District Awami League Ekramul Karim Chowdhury and Upazila Awami League President Khijir Hayat were present at the function.

At least five people were killed and many others injured in police firing on the angry people following the robbery at a jewellery shop on Thursday at Companyganj.

CPA fines 28 vessels

BDNEWS, Chittagong

A mobile team of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) magistracy fined 28 local and foreign vessels Tk 4.35 lakh on charges of marine pollution, evading taxes and flouting other rules in last two days.

The team led by CPA magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury conducted the drive stretching from Patenga outlet to the river Kamaphuli Bridge and ended on Monday fined 27 inland cargo vessels and one Congo flag carrier vessel for emitting black smoke.

The team also detained 12 crews and seized inland coaster MV Waifeng with 12 metric tons of goods owned by Messrs Rhine Shipping Lines, Dhaka on charges of plying without legal survey certificate and necessary security equipment.

JOURNO BELAL MURDER

Charge sheet against Dhira, five others on Thursday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A charge sheet in journalist Belal murder case accusing Jamaat leader Shahabuddin Lashkar alias Dhira and five others will be submitted on Thursday, said Mohammad Iqbal, investigating officer and also officer-in-charge (OC) of Khulna thana.

Belaluddin Ahmed, Khulna Bureau chief of Dainik Sangram, was injured in bomb attack on the night of February 5 this year at Khulna Press Club. He succumbed to his injuries on the morning of February 11 at Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka.

Another charge sheet in the case under Explosive Substances Act was submitted on April 25.

Thursday's charge sheet will be submitted naming six people as accused. They are Jamaat leader Dhira, Jamaat activist Ekhlashur Rahman, Drug Pedlar Goda Yunus, Janajuddho operatives Iqbal Hossain Shadhin and Mirajul Islam Miraj.

Dhira named by Home Ministry as mastermind behind the murder was released on bail in August from Khulna district jail, while five others are in jail custody.

Special steamer service on Eid from Oct 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of Eid ul Fitr, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) has decided to arrange special steamer service, along with the regular services, to ensure safe and comfortable journey of the homebound passengers from October 31, according to a press release.

On October 31, the first steamer of special services will set out from Dhaka for Barisal via Chandpur at 6:00pm.

On November 1, a steamer will leave Dhaka for Hularghat via Chandpur/Barisal/ Jhalakathi at 6:00am and another will leave Barisal for Dhaka via Chandpur at the same time.

On November 2, a steamer will start from Dhaka for Morelganj via Chandpur/ Barisal/ Jhalakathi/ Hularghat at 6:00pm and another will start from Barisal for Dhaka via Chandpur at 6:30pm respectively.

On November 3, special steamers will leave Dhaka for Morelganj via Chandpur/ Barisal/ Jhalakathi/ Hularghat at 6:00pm and on the same day another will leave Chittagong for Hatia via Shandip at 9:00am.

On November 5, a steamer will set out from Hatia for Chittagong via Sandip at 9:00am.

On November 7, two services will be in operation: one is from Barisal to Dhaka via Chandpur at 7:00pm and another is from Morelganj to Dhaka via Hularghat/ Jhalakathi/ Barisal/ Chandpur at 9:00am.

Other than these steamer services, from November 1 to the day before Eid day, sea trucks will run twice a day from Kumira to Guptachara at 10:30am and at 3:30pm and from Guptachara to Kumira at 8:00am and 1:00pm.

In the Paturia, Mawa and Chandpur ferry sectors, special measures will be taken to meet the urgent situation, the authority says.

Along with these special trips the regular services of BIWTA in different routes will ply as usual.

CU admission form sale begins on Nov 16

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) authorities have decided to start selling admission forms for the session 2005-2006 on November 16.

The admission forms will be sold till December 15 while the candidates will be able to collect admit cards for tests submitting the forms to the respective unit offices from November 16 to December 17, said a CU press release yesterday.

Admission test for GHA unit (Social Science Faculty) will be held at 10:30am on January 21, 2006, KA unit (Science Faculty) at 10:30am on January 22, CHA unit (Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science) at 2:30pm on January 22, JA unit (Biological Science) at 10:30am on January 23, CHHA unit (Institute of Marine Science) at 2:30pm on January 23, UMA unit (Law Faculty) at 10:30am on January 24, GA unit (Commerce Faculty - Humanity and Science) at 10:30am on January 25, GA unit (Commerce Faculty - Business Education and Diploma in Commerce) at 10:30am on January 26, KHA unit (Arts Faculty) at 10:30am on January 28, and KHA unit (Fine Arts, Arabic, Islamic Studies, Pali and Sangskrit) at 10:30am on January 29.



Cabinet members see off Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the Zia International Airport yesterday prior to her departure for Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah.

Shop owners demand end to load-shedding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Shop Owner's Association yesterday demanded uninterrupted power supply in the shopping malls in the peak hours.

The leaders of the association at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club said regular load-shedding in the evening causes loss to the shop owners as it is the peak time for their business.

Md Helal Uddin, president of the association, demanded immediate shut down of billboard lights which consumes a lot of electricity. He also urged the government to disconnect all illegal electricity supply connections.

"We have suspended all decorative

lights at our markets to reduce electricity consumption, but the city corporation has kept the street lights off which increases mugging," he said.

He threatened to launch tougher movements after Eid if the government fails to resolve the power crisis.

The leaders also demanded trial of those responsible for the killing of five people in Companiganj on October 20 and compensation for the victims' families.

Among others, association leaders Azharul Islam Mahmud, Rezaul Islam Montu, Mohammed Ali and Md Jahurul Haque Bhuyian were present at the conference.

FOOD ADULTERATION

Over Tk 9 lakh realised, five jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-seven mobile courts in their drives against food adulteration in different parts of the city yesterday fined Tk 9,32,250 and sentenced five people to jail in connection with 260 cases.

A mobile court led by Magistrate Ruhul Amin sentenced the owner of a mobile food shop Crazy Chinese to six-month imprisonment and owner of Shefali Food and Biscuit Factory at Shyampur to three-month imprisonment for selling rotten and stale food.

The same court fined Igal Bakery in the same area Tk 50,000, as it had no trade licence and the approval of Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI) and prepared food in an unhygienic environment, said a home ministry press release.

Magistrate Ruhul Amin fined a Chinese restaurant named China Bridge at Postogola Tk 30,000 for preserving rotten meat and fish.

Another mobile court led by Magistrate Rakibul Hasan fined Yummy Fast Food at the Multi-plan Centre at Elephant Road Tk 1 lakh for selling rotten and stale food.

Magistrate Khalilur Rahman of another mobile court fined Jahanara Khatun of Mohanagar Medical Service Clinic and Pathology at Mirpur Tk 10,000 or to suffer imprisonment for two months for issuing prescriptions to patients although she is not a doctor.

The same court realised Tk 34,000 from different food shops in the area for selling stale and rotten food items.

A mobile court fined Sunil Chandra

Mahendra, director of Sadhana Herbal Medical Centre, Tk 1 lakh, as flies were found on medicinal ingredients.

Another court led by Magistrate Mizanur Rahman sentenced a man and a woman at Khilgaon to seven-day imprisonment each for being engaged in anti-social activity.

Magistrate Emdadul Haque-led court sentenced a bus driver to seven-day imprisonment for faulty bus driving at Shah Ali thana area.

In total, the mobile courts realised Tk 1,424,825 and sentenced 93 people to imprisonment in the last 14 days in the city.



AL seminar

Bangladesh Awami League (AL) organises a seminar on 'Rise of militancy' with AL General Secretary Abdur Jailil MP in the chair. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Club auditorium, Segunbagicha. Time: 10:30am.

Workshop on journalism

Centre for Women Journalists, Bangladesh, Bangladesh Nari Progoti Sangha and Institute for Environment and Development organise a workshop on 'National women's development and women's right' for young journalists working for print and electronic media. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.



Bangladesh Cable TV Operators' Association forms a human chain at Muktagong in the city yesterday to press for its demands.

WEATHER TODAY graphic with sun and cloud icons

Slight rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also expected at places, Met Office said predicting slight rise in day temperature over the country during the period.

Highest temperature 33.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Satkhira and lowest 19.6 degree Celsius at Rajshahi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:24pm today and rises at 6:01am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening)