



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain discuss a point at the grand rally at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday while AL presidium member Zillur Rahman looks on.

Mobile phone operators to launch '999' service soon

STAR REPORT

Mobile phone users in Dhaka will be able to make emergency calls to Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and the police stations using a short and common code, 999, very soon.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) and five mobile phone operators at a meeting yesterday decided to launch the service as soon as possible. A committee to implement the decision was also formed, sources said.

The DMP earlier requested the BTRC to take an initiative in this regard so that the mobile phone subscribers can seek help from the police in case of any emergency.

Presently, the land phone users and Teletalk, state-run mobile phone company, subscribers can make '999' calls, but the subscribers of the four private mobile companies -- GrameenPhone, Aritel, Banglalink and CityCell -- don't have such opportunity.

According to sources, mobile phone users may not have to pay for makingsuch calls.

Congratulations



Meer M Anwarul Hasan has obtained Ph.D. degree in business administration from Washington International University, Delaware, USA, recently, says a press release.

He achieved grade 'A' for his thesis on 'Role of the Investment Promotion Agency in Economic Diversification in the Middle East and North Africa Region: A case study of Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority'.

Presently, he is working as a consultant at the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority in Riyadh.

Punishment to Goutam killers demanded

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University Journalists' Association (JUJA) yesterday brought out a silent procession on the campus demanding immediate punishment to the culprits involved in the killing of journalist Goutam Das.

The silent procession started at JUJA office and ended in front of the administrative building parading the campus. They also held a rally.

They also demanded that the government must ensure the security for the journalists across the country.

Date for MLSS interview at BOU changed

Interview for the appointment of MLSS at Bangladesh Open University (BOU) will now be held on December 4 and 5 instead of November 23 and 24, says a press release.

The interview will begin at 3:00pm.

DISPUTE OVER LAND

One killed as cops fire on villagers in Thakurgaon

UNB, Thakurgaon

A villager was killed and at least 9 were wounded yesterday when police opened fire as the government receiver, who went to harvest paddy from a disputed land at Sharali village in Thakurgaon, faced fierce resistance.

It was decided at a meeting with the deputy commissioner in the chair on November 16 that government receiver would harvest and keep the crop of disputed 25 acres until the case is settled. Both the parties present at the meeting had agreed to the decision, officials said.

Accordingly, Assistant Commissioner (land) Manzurul Alam as government receiver along with employees and police came to harvest the paddy at 11:00am. About 300 villagers attacked them with lethal weapons and at one stage attempted to snatch away rifles from the police defying repeated warnings, eyewitness said.

Police opened fire in self-defence leaving Nanda Mohan, 55, dead on the spot. Those who were wounded by bullet are Samesh Chandra, Aminul, Sahidullah, Kalmoni, Bimal, Sri Proshad, Pankaj, Biplab and Sadequul. Of them, Biplab, Pankaj, Samesh,

Aminul and Sahidullah were rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Villagers claimed that about a score people were wounded in police firing, some of them taken to private clinics.

Havilder Abul Hossain, constables Javed Ali, Anwar Hossain and Tahshilders Khairul Alam, Sattar and Rezaul were also injured in the attack of the villagers who had virtually gheraoed them.

The ownership of the land is long disputed between Joydev Barman and Fazle Rabbi. Rabbi got decree from the court but Barman filed another case.

Deputy Commissioner Gazi Mizanur Rahman said a group of unruly villagers attacked the government receiver and beat him when he went to harvest the paddy. Police super Khandker Golam Faruq said the attackers attempted to snatch away arms from the police who opened fire in self-defence.

Advocate Indranath Roy, general secretary of district Hindu-Christian-Buddha Oikya Parishad, said the villagers were angry as the government receiver began harvesting paddy of a different land that Joydev Barman inherited from his maternal grandfather. He demanded impartial judicial inquiry into the police firing.

GOVT COMMERCE COLLEGE Principal, staffs hostage to Bogra JCD leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Principal, teachers, staffs and students of Bogra Government Commerce College are being held as hostage by a leader of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, for long.

The principal and teachers have alleged that they were assaulted by the student leader whenever any decision of the college authorities went against his interest.

He is so powerful that no action could be taken against him even after holding the meeting of the administrative body of the college.

Sanwar Hossain Sanu, general secretary of the college unit JCD and a

second year student, had harassed the principal on several occasions in the past by keeping him inside his office under lock and key and cutting off his telephone line, sources said.

Yesterday Sanu along with his accomplices disrupted an ongoing examination by tearing off the answer scripts of the students as he was expelled for copying in the examination the previous day.

Confirming the incident, Principal Anisur Rahman said on information police arrested Sanu after the incident.

This time he might be expelled permanently from the college, the principal added.

Cop dies as van hits him

DMCH CORRESPONDENT

A police constable died and two were injured in a road accident in the early hours yesterday in Demra in the city.

Police constable Abu Obaid Sumon, 24, of Rajarbagh Police Lines, was from a four-member police patrol team posted at Sanar Par in Demra. At around 4:30am, he signalled a pickup van to stop. As the van stopped, a truck rammed into it from behind, making the van hit the standing constable.

He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead. The driver of the pickup van Piyar Ahmed and helper Nurunnabi are in a critical condition.

BCL calls strike at CU from today

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Chittagong University (CU) called for an indefinite strike on the campus from today protesting an attack on the teachers' rooms of Islamic History department during a demonstration yesterday.

According to sources, the students of the Department of Islamic History & Culture staged demonstration at around 10:00am demanding resumption of classes that remained suspended due to a boycott by the teachers since August 1.

At one stage they went to the third floor of Arts Faculty Building in procession and attacked the teachers' rooms breaking the windowpanes and removing nameplates of some teachers.

Civil Aviation recruitment test Dec 12

BSS, Dhaka

The recruitment test to fill up some vacant posts in the Civil Aviation Authority will be held on December 12 at Civil Aviation High School here.

The test was scheduled to be held on November 25, but the date was changed for some unavoidable circumstances, a press release said yesterday.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Bhasani Anusary Samannay Parishad organises a discussion to mark the death anniversary of Mawlana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh-Bharat Friendship Society organises a discussion on 'Role of Indira Gandhi in the liberation war of Bangladesh' to mark the 88th birth anniversary of former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.

Fair

The inaugural ceremony of Rehab Fair 2005 will be held with Dhaka City Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 11:00am.

Protest rally

A protest rally demanding trial of the killers of human rights activist Dilruba Huq Papuya will be held. Venue: Shaheed Minar. Time: 3:00pm.

Army protests PCJSS allegation

BSS, Dhaka

The army authorities yesterday protested the allegation made by the Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) regarding the arrest of their four activists with arms, calling it an attempt to "hide their misdeeds".

"The allegation is totally baseless, unrealistic and imaginary," said an Army Headquarters statement issued through the Inter Service Public Relations (ISPR).

"The local political parties that patronise armed terrorists carry out different types of propaganda to demoralise successful military operations in a bid to hide their own misdeeds," said the statement.

"It appears that they (PCJSS) are trying to obstruct the activities of the security forces by creating new and baseless issues."

The PCJSS had alleged that the four activists were arrested in an "army-staged drama". It staged street protests in Khagrachhari and Rangamati in the past one week and put a barricade on Khagrachhari-Panchhari Road demanding release of the activists and withdrawal of cases against them.

The army statement said that on November 14 an army patrol team arrested the four PCJSS activists along with three high-powered hand grenades, two foreign SBBL guns with five cartridges and 10 pistol bullets during a raid on a terrorist den at Amtoli in Panchhari.

The four were handed over to Panchhari Police Station along with the firearms and ammunition.

Refuting the allegations of "so-called staged drama", the statement said the army in the CHT arrests the armed terrorists on the basis of specific information to assist the civil administration in maintaining law and order in the rugged region.

It said there is no scope for the army to keep extra firearms or ammunition "to stage any drama" in order to show the weapons as seized from arrested terrorists as every single weapon of the army is accounted for.

The weapons seized from the terrorists were deposited with the law enforcement agency to be used as clue in the legal process, it added.

US embassy closed tomorrow

The American Embassy offices, including the Public Affairs Section, the Information Resource Centre and the student counselling service will be closed tomorrow on the occasion of Thanksgiving Day, a national holiday in the United States, says a press release.

The American Centre Library, US Mission in Bangladesh will be open from 12:30 to 7:00pm today, the press release added.

Civil courts closed from Dec 1 to 31

UNB, Dhaka

All civil courts will remain closed from December 1 to 31 instead of December 2 to 30 sans government's declared holidays for 2005, said an official announcement yesterday.

Death anniversary



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Masudur Rahman, former controller of Calcutta Rationing Department, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil, Qurankhani and a discussion will held at his ancestral home at Ghorasal Miah Bari.

Late Masudur Rahman passed MA in 1927 and LLB in 1929 and after serving in Calcutta for two years, he returned to his village and devoted himself to teaching as founder Headmaster of Ghorasal Pilot High School.

Death condoled

The employees and officials of Election Commission (EC) yesterday expressed condolence at the death of Kazi Jalal Uddin Ahmed, former secretary of EC, says a press release.

They held a condolence meeting at the EC Secretariat and prayed for the salvation of his departed soul yesterday.

Kazi Jalal passed away due to old age complications on November 13.

He had worked as the secretary at the EC from 1978 to 1980. Besides, he served at various important positions in the government. He was the secretary of education, defence and parliamentary affairs for a long time.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Academia-industries interaction a must to solve problems

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed the need for effective interaction between academia and industries to resolve the problems in higher education.

They also called for streamlining the science education at university level for boosting local industries.

The seminar on 'Bridging the gap between higher education in Bangladesh and its real world applications: Prospect of interaction between industries and academia' and a month-long lecture series on 'Modern instrumental techniques' were organised by the University of Asia Pacific in collaboration with Water Lab Limited and Protipaalock Society for Culture and Science at the auditorium of Russian Centre for Culture and Science in the city.

Inaugurating the seminar, Law

Minister Moudud Ahmed said it is true that the country is beset by many problems, but it is also true that it has many potentials for which it could successfully reduce its population growth, increase people's longevity of life and food production in last three decades.

He said the countries which will not be able to keep pace with the present modern technology, will also not be able to narrow their gap with the developed nations.

In a keynote paper at the seminar, KM Mostafa Anwar, founding director of Water Lab Limited, said the number of enrolment in science education is decreasing in one hand, while the quality of science education is also deteriorating day by day on the other hand in the country.

Scientific research should be carried out for solving current problems in societies and industries using

advanced knowledge of developed countries, he added.

Vice-chancellor of South East University Dr M Shamsher Ali said, "In the present day world science is the real Aladin's Lamp for a country for its development."

He laid emphasis on increasing the budget for scientific research in the country.

Presided over by Vice-chancellor of University of Asia Pacific Prof. Abdul Matin Patwari, the meeting was also addressed by Incepta Pharmaceuticals Managing Director Abdul Muktaadir and Protipaalock President Shantunu Saha Roy.

Nearly 40 scientists and educationists from more than 25 different industries, universities and scientific organisations are taking part in the month-long lecture series programme.

City put 'under siege' to restrain rally goers

FROM PAGE 1

posted in the capital, 5,000 alone of them hemming in the Paltan ground.

Policemen deployed at Matsya Bhaban, Nightingale, Curzon Hall, Dainik Bangla and Nawabpur crossings did not allow any vehicles to move towards Paltan. They forced the opposition workers to get down their vehicles. Participants were checked before they could get access to the meeting place.

Police charged batons and used teargas on the crowd in front of National Press Club when a group of opposition activists pelleted stones at the police personnel standing guard in front of the secretariat gate number five. The clash followed heated altercation between police and the rally-goers barricaded while coming in from High Court crossing, said witnesses.

At least 50 people including three journalists and some police personnel were injured during the clash that continued for about half an hour in the afternoon. Of the injured, 20 took first aid while three others were admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

Many of the injured, however, left the hospital in fear of being arrested by the police, said sources.

Mohammad Madan Mian, a seriously wounded AL worker of ward No-50, declined to take admission to the hospital, fearing police harassment.

The journalists injured in the clash include Mahub Matin of channel i, cameraman Jahid Hasan and Alauddin Arif of Bangla daily Amar Desh.

Officer-in-Charge of Ramna Police Station Mahub Matin claimed that the incident has left at least 10 policemen injured. A group of journalists brought out processions in the evening in front of the DMCH, protesting the police attack on them.

Police charged batons almost on everyone crossing the area at that time. Incensed at obstruction and police attack, the opposition men ransacked two mini buses and a private car in front of the press club.

They vandalised a roadside newspaper stall near the secretariat. The owner of the shop alleged that mobile phone cards of worth around Tk 10,000 have gone missing since the mele.

Police set up barricades on every entry points to Paltan Maidan to keep people off the rally. They dispersed processions and forced many to stop chanting slogans. They body-searched the participants and did not allow any procession to cross the barricades.

Temporary barbed-wire barricades were placed in front of Matsya Bhaban, High Court Crossing, Gulistan, Kakrail, Motijheel and Dilkhusa area. Besides, police took positions on every roof of the buildings on Tophkhana Road and adjacent areas.

WATERWAYS BLOCKED

Movements of boats, launches and trawlers in River Buriganga were restricted from 10:00pm Monday, preventing the opposition workers in addition to small traders and day labourers from the other side of the river from entering the capital.

Reports from Keraniganj and Narayanganj say police on Monday night instructed the owners of launches and boats not to run their vessels till the rally is over.

"Some policemen told me not to work today and said those who will violate the orders will be dealt out severe punishment," said Joyrul, a middle-aged boatman who ferry people from Keraniganj to Dhaka.

Launches carrying the opposition workers were forced to drop the passengers at Keraniganj. The people were barred also from taking boats for Sadarghat. Hundreds of people were seen waiting for boats to join the rally.

Policemen in speedboats patrolled the river to scare away

launches and boats.

Many launch owners told The Daily Star that they were forced into keeping their vessels off the route so that opposition workers cannot take part in the rally.

Reports said ruling party men in Patuakhali, Barguna, Barisal and Bhola did not allow opposition supporters to board launches bound for the capital.

KERANIGANJ

About 100 opposition activists were injured yesterday when Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Jubo Dal cadres allegedly attacked an AL procession in presence of police.

"As the procession reached Kadamtali at around 3:20pm on its way to Paltan Maidan, Chhatra Dal activists opened fire and hurled bombs on the procession," said a witness.

The attack left seven people including schoolboy Sajib Anisul bullet- and splinter-hit. The other critically injured are Swapan, Abul Member, Rashed, Zakir Hossain and Korban.

Ruling party goons obstructed opposition processions also in Teghoria, Chunputia, Rajendrapur, Aganagar and Zinzira areas.

LALBAGH

Dhaka city AL claimed that at least 200 people were injured when the BNP-backed cadres led by local lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu attacked on an AL procession.

"Pintu brandishing a shot gun beat up some Awami League supporters," said a press release of Dhaka City AL.

Local BNP cadres Majibur Rahman Maju and Aman Ullah Aman and Jubo Dal leaders Rafiq, Mohammad Montu, Mohammad Babu, Chhatra Dal leaders Sentu, Swapan, Jewel and Dingi Babu were among the attackers, the release added.

"Besides, police arrested some 30 activists from the scene," it said.

NARAYANGANJ-NARSINGDI

Police obstructed opposition leaders and workers at Panchdona in Narsingdi Sadar, Ghorasal Ferryghat in Palash, Itakhola intersection in Shibpur and Baricha in Belabo upazilas while they were on their way to Paltan Maidan yesterday morning.

Talking to The Daily Star at Kanchpur, AL leader Ferdoos Bhuiyan, who came from Narsingdi, said no buses were allowed to leave Narsingdi town.

AL supporters and workers from Kanchpur and Rupganj in Narayanganj reached the Paltan Maidan in rented pickup vans, minibuses, taxicabs and public buses.

Only on seeing the newsmen, police stationed at Kanchpur point allowed some 40 buses with opposition workers from Sonargaon to go to Dhaka.

Taking them for AL men, police beat up some detective officials at around 3:00pm near Jatrabari foot overbridge.

CHITTAGONG

Ruling party activists damaged five buses carrying AL supporters at Shubhapur and Mithachhara in Mirsarai upazila yesterday morning and did not let them start for Dhaka. They kept the buses stranded on Dhaka-Chittagong highway from 11:30am to 12:30pm.

When the opposition men sought help, the law enforcers chased them, said an allegation denied by police.

Abdus Salam, general secretary of Chittagong (North) AL unit, said they hired 50 buses to join the rally but later police requisitioned 30 of those buses from the owners.

Police on Monday night did not allow 10 busloads of opposition activists to leave the port city at Mirsarai, he added.

Another 10 buses left for Dhaka yesterday morning but only three of them could cross Mirsarai.

Police and Rab members in the name

of search reportedly harassed a large number of people wanting to join the rally in trains and forced them to leave the station.

GAZIPUR

Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal and Sramik Dal men assaulted eight opposition leaders and activists including Kashimpur Union Jubo League president Belayet Hossain Babul at Chandana intersection yesterday, reports UNB.

The ruling party cadres stopped a bus carrying the opposition workers from Kashimpur and snatched the key of the bus and three mobile sets.

MANIKGANJ-DHAMRAI-NAYARHAT

Police intercepted several busloads of opposition activists bound for Dhaka in the morning, saying the buses are not allowed to go to the capital.

They also barred processions from marching towards the capital.

As opposition workers reached Singair, ruling party men in tandem with police dragged them down from the buses and scared away.

Policemen stationed at Nayarhat did not let buses of the opposition men ply the route to Dhaka.

TANGAIL-FENI

Opposition activists of Tangail were not allowed to leave the district as they gathered at Tangail Old Bus Terminal yesterday morning. Ruling party men kept them confined there for a long time.

Reports from Feni says the opposition adherents who were preparing to start for Dhaka to attend the rally could not gather and were dispersed in different areas of the town.

Jui's termination by Prof Aftab illegal: HC

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday declared illegal the termination order of Sultana Razia Jui from the post of deputy registrar of the National University (NU).

After hearing a writ petition filed by Jui, a division bench of the High Court comprising Justice MA Matin and Justice Rezaul Haque ordered the National University authorities to reinstate her in the original post and to pay her all due salaries and benefits.

Sultana Razia Jui was appointed as deputy registrar of the NU on May 18, 2004 on ad-hoc basis. On October 17, 2004, she was given permanent appointment to the post. On April 10 this year, the then vice-chancellor of the university Prof Aftab Ahmed terminated her on charge of misconduct.

On April 10, Jui filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging her termination order. The court issued a rule upon the vice-chancellor and registrar of the university, asking them to explain why the termination order should not be declared illegal.

Advocate Abdur Rab Chowdhury and Advocate Salauddin Dolon moved for the petitioner.

60,000 fake certificates, mark sheets recovered

UNB, Dhaka

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two people along with 60,000 certificates and mark sheets of different universities and education boards at Demra in the city early yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab-10 raided a house at Rasulpur in Donia at about 5:00am and recovered the certificates and mark sheets.

They also arrested Sheikh Abdur Rab, 44, and Sheikh Arikul Islam, 21.