

EVICION DRIVE Ctg hawkers demand alternative job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Sammilita Footpath Hawkers Parishad yesterday urged the chief adviser to the caretaker government (CG) to rehabilitate or create alternative employment for the hawkers.

In a statement, the Founding President of Hawkers Parishad Wali Ullah Patwari also urged the CG to allow the hawkers to run their business temporarily on the footpath until alternative arrangements are made.

He said thousands of hawkers have been leading an inhuman life due to the eviction.

He also said the hawkers are also citizens of the country and they had to live their lives with whatever they earn from their business in the footpath.

Govt plans special markets on Friday

BSS, Dhaka

The government has decided, in principle, to open special markets at different important roads and avenues in the Dhaka Metropolitan area on weekly holiday Friday to provide opportunities for shopping by the city dwellers and creating employment.

Sources at the Local Government Department said yesterday, the markets will soon be opened under the supervision of the Dhaka City Corporation. The proposed markets will be named 'Friday Market'.

Initially, the authorities have earmarked southern parts of Manik Mia Avenue and southern side between Shilpakala Academy and 'Matsha Bhaban' for

the markets. Subsequently, the special markets will be opened in other parts of the city, including Motijheel and Notre Dame College.

The markets, with no structures, will remain open between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

The Dhaka City Corporation will soon issue notification elaborating the rules and facilities of the markets on holiday.

Adviser for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-Operatives and Labour and Employment M Anwarul Iqbal said there are holiday markets in many cities of the world.

Steps have been taken to open markets on weekly holiday to keep various city roads and footpaths clean and create employment.

Two books on Gandhi's Noakhali peace mission launched

DU CORRESPONDENT

Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Home yesterday launched two books on Noakhali peace mission by the legendary apostle of non-violence.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, popularly known as Mahatma (great soul), came to Noakhali in 1947 and stayed there for four months to control a communal riot.

Journalist Syed Abul Moksud, founder of Gandhi Memorial Home, compiled the two books -- 'Gandhi Mission Diary' and 'Pyarelal's Unpublished Correspondence'.

The books were published to mark the 100th anniversary of Satyagraha, a non-violent movement against the British government, and the 60th anniversary of Gandhi's Noakhali peace mission. Moksud said at a press conference in the city.

About the book 'Gandhi Mission Diary', he said, "This diary was written by Gandhi's secretary Pyarelal and other personal assistants during his stay in Noakhali. This is a rare document and reveals many unknown and important information."

The other book, Pyarelal's Unpublished Correspondence, is a collection of 81 letters written by Pyarelal and others during the mission of Gandhi.

"These letters never published before contain amazing information about the crisis of the mission," Moksud said.

Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Home, which aims to project the life, works and philosophy of Gandhi to the new generation, has also a plan to publish six more books on him.

Secretary of the Memorial Home Alamgir Kabir and Director Syed Nasif Moksud were also present at the press conference.



PHOTO: PID

A delegation of the European Union (EU) calls on Chief Adviser to the caretaker government Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office in the city yesterday.

Two criminals held, bronze, brass bars seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two criminals and seized bronze, lead and brass bars weighing 40 maunds during separate raids in Rajshahi and Naogaon yesterday.

A team of Rab from Alrai camp arrested Rafiqul Mandol, 35, from his house. He was an active member of an outlawed extremists' group, Rab sources said.

In another operation, Rab members picked up Abdul Quddus Sarkar, a bomb expert and terrorist, from Damduttbaria in Naogaon.

Another Rab team seized the metal bars during a raid on a Padma river ghat in Kathalbaria-Govindapur and Bulanpur areas in Rajshahi.

A gang of smugglers was trying to take the metal bars to India but they fled sensing the presence of the elite force, a Rab press release said.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Dismissal of JU teacher demanded

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) students under the banner of 'Jahangirnagar against harassment' staged a demonstration covering their face with black ribbon on the campus yesterday demanding permanent dismissal of a teacher of Bangla Department.

In primary investigation, a fact-finding committee found the accused teacher guilty of harassing a first year female student of the department after she lodged a complain accusing him of conducting sexual harassment.

The agitating students also demanded formulation of policy against sexual harassment and installation of allegation cell.

The university syndicate has suspended the teacher temporarily and formed a six-member probe-body headed by the vice chancellor for further investigations.

Meanwhile, the accused teacher has nominated Advocate Sayed Rezaul Rahman as his representative to the probe-body. The accused teacher also replied in self-defense to the probe-body on January 27. The next meetings of the probe-body will be held on January 30 and February 3.

"There are a lot of papers and works to be cross-checked and examined. It is not certain how long the process will take," said a member of the probe-body on condition of anonymity.

Godfathers still at large

Say left party leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Corrupt ministers, black money holders, criminals and their godfathers are still at large two weeks into the assumption of new caretaker government, said leaders of left leaning parties at a view exchange meeting yesterday.

They also said arresting some low-key criminals is not enough to free the country from corruption and crime.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) organised the view exchange meeting with Gono Mukti Andolan and Five-Leftist Party leaders.

Party at its party office at Purana Paltan in the city.

They said it is impossible to create a congenial atmosphere for the election by suppressing the media.

Expressing concern over the eviction of the hawkers and slum dwellers, they urged the government to stop the eviction and arrange alternative shelters for the slum dwellers and hawkers.

CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan presided over the meeting, also addressed by CPB, Gono Mukti Andolan and Five-Leftist Party leaders.

Valuables worth Tk 13 lakh gutted in Chittagong

CU CORRESPONDENT

Eight houses, five shops and bakery worth around Tk 13 lakh were gutted in three separate fire incidents at different city areas yesterday.

Fire sources said valuable bakery machineries, oven and raw materials, and packaging products worth around Tk 9 lakh were gutted in a fire at city's Hamzar Bag area.

The fire broke out at around 12:30pm at Thai Food Products, a biscuit and bread manufacturing factory, and spread fast engulfing the packaging section and store of the factory.

Nine fire fighting units from city's different fire stations rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire originated from electric short-circuit after a three-hour effort, fire sources said.

On the other hand, a Madrasa, five shops and properties worth around Tk 1.5 lakh were reduced to ashes in a fire at city's Jhaultala Bazar.

The fire originating from oven broke out at a shop at around 2:30am and spread fast engulfing the adjoining shops and the Madrasa.

Eight fire fighting units extinguished the fire at around 3:30am.

Meanwhile, a fire gutted seven dwelling houses comprising 30 rooms in each and properties worth around Tk 2.5 lakh at city's Baraowlia Colony under Pahartali Police Station.

The fire was originated from a mosquito coil at around 12:30am.

Nine fire fighting units extinguished the fire after a two-hour effort, sources said.

MOB BEATING

Police arrest 4 muggers in critical condition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested four muggers in critical condition after angry mob beat them up at Madam Bibir Hat under Sitakunda Police Station of the district yesterday afternoon.

Sources said the muggers in a CNG-run auto-rickshaw stopped scrap trader Jasim Uddin while he was going to deposit Tk 50000 at Mercantile Bank in a rickshaw at around 1:00pm and tried to snatch the money.

As Jasim screamed for help, locals rushed to the spot and caught the muggers red-handed. The angry mob beat them up including auto-rickshaw driver Helaluddin. Police from Madam Bibir Hat Check Post rescued them and sent them to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for treatment.

Police also recovered two LGs, one machete and two rounds of bullets from the spot and seized the auto-rickshaw.

CTG ARMS HAUL CASE

Deen Mohammad surrenders to court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Deen Mohammad, another prime accused, in the sensational Chittagong Arms Haul Case surrendered before a court here yesterday.

Meanwhile, hearing in the case was not held as the jail authorities yesterday could not produce prime accused Hafizur Rahman to the court of Chittagong Metropolitan Sessions Judge AKM Anwar Hossain.

The judge reprimanded and show-caused Chittagong Jail Super Bazur Rashid for his negligence and ordered him to be present in person along with accused Hafizur before his court on the day of next hearing on March 19.

Sources said Deen Mohammad, top leader of a powerful syndicate of smugglers, was absconding since the ten truckload of smuggled arms were hauled at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Company Limited (CUFL) jetty on the southern bank of river Karnaphuli on April 2, 2004.

He appeared before the court of Anwar Hossain yesterday morning amid tight security and surrendered ending a 33-month absconding.

Of 114 prosecution witnesses (PW) in the arms haul case, only 19 have been heard so far while four were declared 'hostile' for giving irrelevant and 'misguiding' depositions.

On the other hand, out of 43 accused, only three are now in custody, 32 on bail and eight absconding, sources said.

Hand bomb recovered at RU dormitory

RU CORRESPONDENT

A handmade bomb was recovered at the ground floor of Sher-e-Bangla Hall of Rajshahi University yesterday.

The security guard and students of the hall first marked a polythene bag, wrapped in a black tape in the ground floor of the hall and informed Proctor Enamul Haque, sources said.

Mother police rushed to the spot and informed a bomb expert who recovered the bomb and took away for experiment.

Assistant Police Commissioner (AC) of Mother zone Rezaul Karim Reza alleged that someone left the bomb to create panic on the campus.

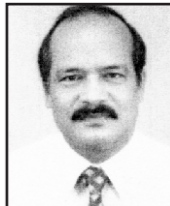
Obituary

Mezbah Uddin Bablu, former minister, lawmaker and Rajshahi mayor, passed away yesterday while listening to a religious sermon at Dhaka Airport Mosque at the age of 72, says a press release.

He left behind four sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Rajshahi Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Workers' Party politburo member Fazle Hossain Badsha, Awami League secretary AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, Jatiya Party president Nurul Huda, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal president Abdullah Al Masud Shibli and many others expressed deep shock at his death.

Shahidul Alam Bhuiyan



Shahidul Alam Bhuiyan, a freedom fighter and former regional director of Uttara Bank (Comilla Branch), passed away due to cancer at Rashmono Clinic in the city on January 25 at the age of 58, says a press release.

He was buried with state honour at his village graveyard at Monohardi upazila in Narsingdi that day.

Bangladesh Human Rights Commission Chairman Justice AKM Sadeque and Secretary General Dr Saiful Islam expressed deep shock at his death.

They also prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Begum Asmatunnessa

Begum Asmatunnessa, mother of Joint Secretary of social welfare ministry and former deputy commissioner of Narayanganj SM Harunar Rashid, passed away in Khulna yesterday morning at the age of 85, says a press release.

She was undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College and Hospital, mostly known as 250-bed hospital.

She left behind three sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

She was buried at her family graveyard at Illypur under Rupsha upazila in Khulna.

Qulkhani and doa mahfil will be held at her own residence after Asr prayers today.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



PHOTO: AL

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina offers prayers at the grave of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara in Gopalganj yesterday.

TORTURE BY OC ALLEGED Body to check veracity of arrestee's claim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The police yesterday formed a three-member probe committee to check the veracity of an arrestee's claim that the officer-in-charge (OC) of Kalai Police Station in Joypurhat tortured him to extract confessional statement in connection with a murder case.

Suja UI Haque, who was arrested on Wednesday on suspicion of his involvement in the murder and taken on a three-day remand the next day, was granted bail by a court yesterday, the police said.

He was arrested following a statement of a witness of Habibur Rahman murder case, they added.

After getting the bail, Suja was admitted to Joypurhat Sadar Hospital where he alleged that OC of Kalai Police Station Khalilur Rahman had tortured him.

When contacted, OC Khalil denied the allegation, saying that he is not the investigation officer of the case.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Tanvir Haider Chowdhury formed the probe committee, sources said. The members are Additional Superintendent of Police Aftab Uddin, the OC of Joypurhat Sadar Police Station and a DB inspector.

PORTRAIT OF ZIA BCL, JCD wrangle on JU campus

JU CORRESPONDENT

An uneasy atmosphere is prevailing at Jahangirnagar University (JU) as the activists of Jatiyata-badi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) wrangled over throwing of tar on a portrait of late president Ziaur Rahman on the campus yesterday.

Some unidentified people suspected to be the activists of BCL threw tar on the portrait some time on Sunday night.

Both the students' bodies wrangled in front of VC Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman at his office at 12:30pm. About 25/30 BCL activists stormed into the room of VC to beat Vice Presidents of JU JCD Ovi and Zahir, who reportedly threatened some BCL activists in the morning following flinging of the tar.

Intervened by the VC, BCL activists were forced to leave the administrative building.

Though the portrait drew widespread criticism among the teachers and students, the university authorities allowed the faction of JCD to have the portrait painted on the wall of the administrative building in March last year.

When contacted VC Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman could not be reached for comments.

Fire at city RMG factory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out at a garment factory in the city yesterday; however, all inmates of the factory came out safely.

Fire brigade sources said a fire broke out on the sixth floor of a seventh-story building of Deko Knit Wear Garments at Section 7 in Pallabi at around 1:15pm.

The reason of fire could not be immediately known, the source added.

Pallabi police said panic spread among the workers when the smoke spreads, but they came out safely from the affected area without any accident.

Fire fighters said five units of Mohammadpur and Mirpur fire brigade reached the spot soon and managed to save valuables and extinguish fire in one-hour effort.

A General Diary (GD) was filed with Pallabi Police Station in the regard.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of light rain or drizzle at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Comilla in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 30.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 10.2 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:43pm today and rises at 6:41am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.1	14.7	69	63
Chittagong	28.6	15.0	82	74
Rajshahi	27.6	12.4	91	71
Khulna	29.2	15.0	100	74
Barisal	29.4	13.6	96	86
Sylhet	28.4	14.7	69	62
Cox's Bazar	29.4	15.0	69	87

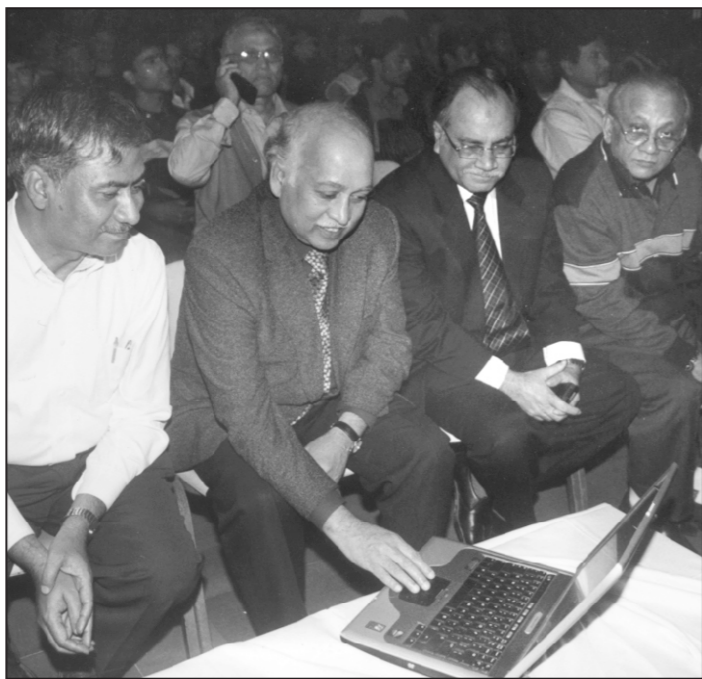
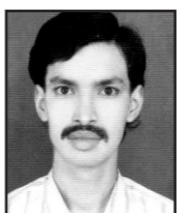


PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz launches the website of Teacher-Student Centre at its auditorium on the university campus recently. The URL of the website is www.tsedu.org.

Appeal for help

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj



Julmat Sheikh, a rickshaw-puller in Sirajganj town, has appealed for financial assistance for his treatment as he has been

suffering from complicated heart diseases.

Julmat, 35, who is now fighting for life, even cannot afford to buy medicines.

According to doctors, he should undergo open heart surgery immediately, which involves around Tk 4 lakh.

Julmat has appealed to generous people and philanthropic organisations to extend a helping hand so that he can lead a normal life again.

Contributions can be sent to the following account: Md Julmat Sheikh, Saving Account No. 6595, Janata Bank, Masampur branch, Sirajganj.

Interested persons can also call at 01712952829 to contact his family.

Death anniversary

The 35th death anniversary of freedom fighter Shaheed Lt. Selim Md Qamrul Hasan Bir Pratik will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a discussion meeting, milad mahfil and special prayers will be held at Shaheed Lt. Selim Shikshalaya at Modhubagh in Moghbazar at 3:00pm.

Milad mahfil will also be held at his ancestral home at 'Qamrul Kutir' at Janoki Singh Road, Kaunia, Barisal.

Aziz HA Sattar



Tomorrow is the 14th death anniversary of Aziz HA Sattar, founding managing director of GMG Group of Industries, says a press

release. On the occasion, a doa mahfil has been arranged prayers at GMG Industrial Corporation, Tejgao after Zohr prayers tomorrow to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend.

Amir Uddin Sarder

STAFF CORESSPONDENT, Bogra

Tomorrow is the first death anniversary of Amir Uddin Sarder, an eminent school teacher.

On this occasion, doa and milad mahfil will be held at his residence in Akkelpur Village under Bagmara Upazila of Rajshahi district.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the mahfil to pray for salvation of the departed soul.



PHOTO: STAR

An underprivileged boy shares his experiences at a view exchange meeting on the findings of a research on drug-addicted children of Dhaka city yesterday. Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum organised the meeting at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.