

Allow us to run business before rehabilitation

Hawkers urge CG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh United Footpath Hawkers' Parishad, an organisation of 40 lakh hawkers, at a press conference urged the caretaker government (CG) to make temporary arrangements for them to run businesses on the footpaths before their rehabilitation.

"We want to run businesses with trade licenses from the authorised government bodies and to pay revenue to the government", they said.

Against the backdrop of country-wide eviction of hawkers, they organised the press conference at the Reporters Unity in the city yesterday where President of the body

Md Waliullah Patwari read out a written statement

In the statement, he urged the government to allow businesses in a small portion of footpaths for five years. Explaining the rationale, he said, "Usually the hawkers are to pay illegal tolls to the local influential quarters", adding, "if we pay the government that amount, it would make a good amount per day which would be sufficient for our rehabilitation after five years".

Referring to the existing holiday-markets, which gather once a week, he said considering the number of hawkers in the city the arrangement is inadequate and their earning from sales in those markets is too insignificant to earn their bread and

butter.

"It is not cost-effective to transport our goods to those markets in the morning and bring those back in the evening", he said. If hawkers of one area want to make business in other areas, there is a possibility of confrontation, Waliullah added.

These markets should be arranged every day in every ward of cities and towns, and these should be arranged in such places, which would attract people much, he suggested.

Organising Secretary of the Hawkers Parishad Abul Kalam Jewel, Azhar Sheikh and Abul Kalam Azad were also present at the press conference.

INDECENT PROPOSAL TO WOMAN TEACHER

Former Ctg DC Hasan arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested former deputy commissioner (DC) of Chittagong Mohammad Hasan on charges of corruption and making indecent proposal to a woman teacher.

The Rab-7 members arrested Hasan, now chairman of Dew Point School, during a raid on the school in Halishahar G Block area in the port city at around 11:00am, sources said.

Rab officials said they picked up Hasan following a complaint lodged by the woman teacher who serves in the school.

The teacher accused Hasan of making indecent proposals to her and submitted a recorded conversation in support of the allegations, they said.

There were also allegations that Hasan resorted to widespread corruption when he served as the DC of Chittagong and Rangamati. Rab sources said. He had served as the DC of Chittagong for three and a half years since 1998. Earlier, he was the DC of Rangamati.

The former DC embezzled a huge amount in government funds earmarked for compensation to the people who lost their lands during the land acquisition for the construction of Korean EPZ, sources in an intelligence agency said.

The then Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) also filed a case accusing him of allotting 5.5 Kathas of land for his school illegally, said a Rab officer.

Refuting all the allegations, Hasan told The Daily Star that he became a victim of conspiracy.

About the case filed by the ACB, he said the allegation was not proved.



PHOTO: STAR

A singer enthralled the audience on Teachers-Students' Centre (TSC) premises on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. TSC organises the event on the occasion of Basanta Utsab (Spring Festival).

'Launch drive against illegal clinics, hospitals in Rajshahi'

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi Protection Movement Council demanded drives against illegal clinics, diagnostic centres and hospitals that have no valid license and are providing low quality health care services to the people.

The Council in a statement yesterday said that such hospitals are cheating common people since no actions have yet been taken against any of them.

More than 100 clinics and pathological centres in the city areas are operating their business without valid license from the government agencies.

Hundreds of low quality clinics were installed at different remote areas, upazila headquarters and villages, the statement added.

According to the sources, most of the clinics are mushroomed at city's Laxmipur, Kazihata, Gourhanga, Talaimari, Barnali, Kalabagan, Kantakhali, Naohata and Ghosepara areas.

Rajshahi Civil Surgeon office sources said 46 clinics and diagnostic centres of the city areas have collected valid license while more than 90 such health centres have no

license. The civil surgeon office, however, failed to comment on the number of illegal clinics in the outskirts of city, upazila and other remote areas of Rajshahi.

While talking to newsmen, Rajshahi Civil Surgeon Fazlul Haque said the clinic owners have become more conscious about collecting their license in the recent days. The authorities also took punitive measures against several clinics and cautioned to improve the quality of the hospitals, he added.

Sources said quality health care service is not available in most of the clinics where patients of rural areas generally flock through middlemen.

Dishonest clinic owners deployed a good number of middlemen, mostly rickshaw pullers, who manipulate the patients at different public places like bus terminals, railway stations and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) premises.

Such owners collect a huge amount of money in the name of conducting critical operations and other fees from the poor patients.

The incidents of killing patients in wrong treatment have increased at city clinics in the recent days.

The owners even change the name of the clinics after committing wrong treatment to avoid protests and legal actions.

According to the sources, after committing a wrong treatment at Jibon Clinic at Kazihata area, its owner changed its name into Shah Clinic.

On the same ground, Care Nursing Home, Modern Hospital, Motherland Hospital, Fatema Hospital, Bridge hospital, Mahanagar clinic, Doctor's Nursing Home, Janasheba clinic, Sheba Nursing home, Al Araf clinic, Meherunnesa clinic, Bhai-Bon clinic and Janata clinic however altered their names in the recent past, the sources added.

While talking to newsmen Rajshahi Protection Movement Council President Jamat Khan said they have been carrying out movements demanding establishment of a fair health care system and removal of illegal clinics and hospitals in Rajshahi for several years.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh United Footpath Hawkers' Parishad President Md Waliullah Patwari speaks at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity Auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left is Azhar Sheikh and on his right is Abul Kalam Jewel.

JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT

DU postpones evening course under pressure

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) authorities yesterday postponed its decision to launch master's programme for media professionals at the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ) in the wake of student agitations.

The decision was taken at a syndicate meeting of the university with its Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz in the chair.

The students of MCJ department had been protesting the move for offering evening master's programme at the department for the last two weeks.

They also enforced a strike at all departments at the Arts Building protesting the new master's programme at the MCJ yesterday.

The strike, first of its kind after the state of emergency have been declared, hampered academic activities partially when supporters of it prevented general students from entering the classrooms.

Examinations, however, were out of the purview of the strike.

During the strike, the students staged demonstrations on the campus chanting slogans against the two-year evening Master's programme for professionals.

The agitating students said that the new programme would put extra pressure on teachers as well as existing infrastructure of the university. They said eventually it would degrade the standard of the university education.

When contacted, Chairman of the Mass Communication and Journalism Department Prof Shaikh Abdus Salam said the decision of introducing the new programme has been taken within the university rules and regulations and it is approved by the Syndicate, the highest decision making body.

"All pros and cons of the new programme have been discussed in the academic committee, faculty meeting and the academic council", he said.

He said such programme is not new at the Dhaka University as there are similar programmes at IBA, Business Studies Faculty, Institute of Social Welfare, Library and Information Sciences and a number of other departments are going to launch professional master's degree soon.

When asked about the students' apprehension of extra load on teachers, he had said, "We would offer four courses per semester that needs similar number of teachers, so it is irrational to think that it will put huge pressure on teachers."

He said a handful of students, hardly 15 to 20, have been protesting against the programme.

Danish envoy supports anti-graft drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Appreciating the drive against corruption, Danish Ambassador in Dhaka Einar H. Jehensen yesterday expressed hope that the country would secure a better position in the next corruption perception index of Transparency International.

The anti-corruption drive launched by the caretaker government will help increase the gross domestic production (GDP) and improve the living conditions of the people, he observed.

Corruption, bureaucratic tangles, electricity crisis and political violence are the major obstacles to the development of the country, he pointed out while exchanging views with women journalists at a programme titled 'Face to Face'.

Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) in association with the High Commission of Canada organised the programme at Dhaka Club.

The Danish ambassador assured that his country would provide all necessary supports to Bangladesh for holding a free and fair election.

A Danish delegation will visit Dhaka next week to study the feasibility of making transparent ballot boxes within a limited timeframe ahead of the general election, he said.

About the state of emergency, he said the Danish embassy has been observing the situation for the past six months. A stable situation has now been created after the authorities have taken various

initiatives.

He also lauded the achievements in poverty reduction and the expansion of domestic market during the last couple of years.

The ambassador also appreciated the development of information technology sector in Bangladesh.

IUT signs MoU

Islamic University of Technology (IUT) signed an MOU with Malaysian Aviation Training Academy (MATA) yesterday, says a press release.

The MOU was signed by Prof Dr M. Fazlul Ilahi, vice-chancellor of IUT and by Mohd Adib Bin Ismail, executive chairman of Malaysian Aviation Training Academy at a ceremony held on IUT Campus in Gazipur.

IUT and MATA agreed to work closely in the field of Human Resources Development for the Aviation Industry.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Chowdhury Rawshan Ara Begum, wife of Mahdudul Haque Chowdhury, died at Birdem Hospital in the city recently at the age of 76, family source said yesterday.

Rawshan Ara, second daughter of late Fazlul Haque, left behind her husband, four sons and two daughters to mourn her death.

She was buried in her mother's grave at Kashmiri Shah Shaheb family graveyard complex at Becharam Dewary.

World Vedic Confce begins at Shitakunda today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day World Vedic Conference of the Hindus begins at Shitakunda Chandranath National Shrine in Chittagong on the occasion of traditional Hindu festival, Shiva Chaturdoshi, today.

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, sociologist Dr Anupam Sen and Justice Sinha will be the chief guests on three days respectively, while the key discussant will be Prem Ranjan Dev, an eminent theologian and philosopher of the sub-continent.

The guests from across South Asia, diplomats of different countries, religious leaders and theologians are expected to attend it.

The topic of discussion is 'Honesty, tolerance and humanity are key message of all religions' on the first day, 'Human being is above all' on the second day and 'Our role in establishing a poverty-free society' on the third day.

The discussions will begin at 3:00pm and end at 12:00am with religious songs throughout the whole night, according to a press release.

According to Scriptures, the Chief God Shiva and Goddess Parvati pray for the welfare and prosperity of the human kind on the day of Shiva Chaturdoshi.

Bring Journalism dept under Social Science faculty

Demand dept students

CU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Communication and Journalism Department of Chittagong University (CU) yesterday staged a sit-in on the campus to press home their demand to bring the discipline under Social Science faculty.

The students observed the hour long programme from 11:30am in front of the chamber of the department chairman.

The agitating students said they are studying several courses related to social sciences from the first year and the department is running under social science faculty in Dhaka and Rajshahi Universities.

"Students of our department are being deprived of the opportunity of getting social science-related jobs to build their career," they added.

The students would again form a human chain in front of CU Shaheed Minar and bring out a silent procession on Saturday demanding the same.

They will also submit a memorandum to Vice Chancellor Prof M. Badiul Alam on Monday.

Earlier, they submitted a memorandum to the department chairman describing the necessity of the faculty change on Tuesday.

Star reporter wins Child Sight Foundation award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reporter of The Daily Star Muhammad Rajib Hossain has won the first prize of a journalist fellowship programme organised by Child Sight Foundation (CSF) for his report titled "Darkness to Light-working to beat childhood blindness".

AKM Moineuddin of the daily Bangladesh Observer and Kamrun Nahar Jhuma of the daily Ajker Kagoj became second and third respectively.

The award giving ceremony was held at city's Brac Centre Inn yesterday. Child Sight Foundation organised the programme with a view to developing informative journalism on childhood blindness for mass awareness.

The winners received Tk 25,000, Tk 10,000 and Tk 5,000 respectively as prize money with a crest and certificate.

All the participating 13 journalists were awarded certificates of the fellowship that included field visits, case observation and report writings.

Prof MA Matin, vice chairman of Bangladesh National Council for the Blind (BNCB), was present at the award giving ceremony as the chief guest while Editor of the daily Manabjabin Matir Rahman Chowdhury and Dr MA Muhit, clinical research fellow of International Centre for Eye Health (ICEH), were present as special guests.

Comprehensive communication approach to fight child blindness specially for avoidable cataract blindness is a must, said Prof Matin. CSF has been playing an important role with the help of the journalists to provide sight to a large number of children and the effort is praiseworthy, said Matir Rahman.

President of CSF AH Syedur Rahman informed that steps have been taken to remove cataract from seven lakh adult people under Vision 2020 programme.

After the award giving ceremony, a workshop was conducted on how to disseminate the communication and training materials in future.

CSF has been working since 2001 to alleviate childhood blindness in Bangladesh including detection and referral of visually impaired children for cataract surgeries and treatment, primary eye care, rehabilitation, inclusive education and mass advocacy.



PHOTO: STAR

Muhammad Rajib Hossain, reporter of The Daily Star, receives a cheque from the daily Manabjabin Editor Matir Rahman Chowdhury at Brac Centre Inn in the city yesterday.

DHAKA TODAY

Report launching ceremony

World Bank Office, Dhaka will launch a report titled 'To the MDGs and beyond: Accountability and institutional innovation in Bangladesh'. Venue: World Bank Office, Agargaon. Time: 11:30am.

View-exchange meeting

PRIP Trust organises a view-exchange meeting on 'Women's right in establishing democracy'. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity. Time: 10:00am.

View-exchange meeting

Bangladesh Economic Council organises a view-exchange meeting titled 'Phulbari coalmine: Anticipation of the people'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion

Workers' Party of Bangladesh will hold a discussion titled 'Language Movement and student-youth generation'. Venue: Shaheed Asad auditorium. Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion

Economic Reporters' Forum will hold a discussion on 'Immediate economic challenges for the caretaker government'. Venue: National Press

Club. Time: 11:30am.

Ekushey programmes

A seven-day cultural programme, organised by Sammilita Sanskritik Jote, to mark Amar Ekushey will begin. Venue: Rabindra Sarobar. Time: 4:30pm.

Discussion

Action on Disability and Development (ADD) will hold a discussion on the role of government and civil society to implement the laws for the welfare for the people with disability. Venue: LGED Bhaban. Time: 10:00am.

Award giving ceremony

Padakkhep Bangladesh will give away 'Kotha Sahitya Sammanana 2006'. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Jatiya Nari Jote and Jatiya Nari Sramik Jote will jointly organise a discussion to mark the International Mother Language Day. Venue: Colonel Taher auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Condolence meeting

Barisal Division Journalists Samity will hold a condolence meeting to pay tribute to eminent journalist Masud Nizami. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

AK-47 recovered from hilly area in Rangamati

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday recovered an AK-47 rifle and five bullets from a remote hilly area at Baghaichhari in Rangamati.

Acting on a tip off, a team of the Rab-7 led by Lt Commander Shamim went to the area and contacted top leaders of a tribal insurgents' group, which deals with arms, in the guise of sophisticated arms buyer in the morning.

As per the deal, Lt Shamim and a Rab man went 'unarmed' to a hilly place at Baghaichhari in the guise of arms buyers at around 3.30pm and told three of the insurgents' group that they need some sophisticated arms like AK-47 on an urgent basis.

At one stage of the conversation, the three, however, doubt them and managed to escape from the scene, leaving a sack containing the AK-47 rifle and bullets, sources said.

QUAMRUZZAMAN PARK

Free entry for underprivileged children

RU CORRESPONDENT

Authorities of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) have decided to provide free entry facility to Shaheed Quamruzzaman Central Park and Zoo to the underprivileged and working street children.

Rajshahi Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu asked the zoo authorities to take necessary steps to implement the decision.

A team of under privileged boys and girls under the banner of 'District Children Council' on Tuesday met the mayor at his Nagar Bhaban office and placed a memorandum urging him to provide a free entrance facility to the Zoo, Bhadra Park and Shaheed Zia Theme Park for the underprivileged children.

Children leaders Amiinul Islam, Shuvam Chowdhury, Ojoy Kumer Das, Sipon Babu, Manir Hossain met the mayor.

Death anniversary



Today is the 13th death anniversary of journalist Anwarul Islam Bobby, says a press release.

On this day in 1994, he died in Dubai on his way to London for treatment of leukaemia.

He was the founding editor of The Daily Life of Chittagong, the medical journal, The Pulse and now defunct The Morning Sun.

On the occasion, foods will be distributed among the poor.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Doa mahfil

BSS, Dhaka

Doa mahfil for Shaihan Ahmed Chowdhury, a student of Class-X of St. Joseph High School will be held tomorrow.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the mahfil after Asr prayers at his residence at House 712/21, Road 10, Baitul Aman Housing Society, Adabar and pray for the departed soul.

Another doa mahfil will also be held at his ancestral home in South Bhadeswar of Sylhet on March 9.

Shaihan was killed in a road accident in Dhaka on January 20.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

It said night temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 24.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna, Khepupara, Ishwardi and Patuakhali and lowest 14.8 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:54pm today and rises at 6:31am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in in celsius	
percentage	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	22.5	16.0	98	78
Chittagong	22.5	18.3	90	83
Rajshahi	22.6	15.8	95	87
Khulna	24.5	16.5	97	81
Barisal	23.5	16.6	97	86
Sylhet	21.4	17.0	97	84
Cox's Bazar	22.0	19.4	90	94