

# 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



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 semesters 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.

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.

### World Vedic Conference 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 Chaturdashi, 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.

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, Gouranga, Talaimari, Barnali, Kalabagan, Kantakhal, 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.



PHOTO: STAR

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 Arifa clinic, Meherunnisa 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.

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 underprivileged 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 Aminul Islam, Shuvam Chowdhury, Ojor Kumar 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 leukemia.

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 Shaheen 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, Adabpur and pray for the departed soul.

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

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

## Danish envoy supports anti-graft drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Appreciating the drive against corruption, Danish Ambassador in Dhaka Einar H Jeensen 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 product (GDP) and improve the living conditions of the people, he observed.

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 Fazil 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 Bireram Hospital in the city recently at the age of 76, family source said yesterday.

Rawshan Ara, second daughter of late Fazil 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 Shahab family graveyard complex at Becharam Dewary.

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 Shahed Minar and bring out a silent procession on Saturday demanding the same.

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

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

## WEATHER TODAY 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	Humidity in celsius			
	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

Economic Reporters' Forum will hold a conference on 'Immediate economic challenges for the caretaker government'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4:00pm.

Report launching ceremony

Club. Time: 11:30am.

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