



Hawkers await customers with their products at holiday market at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday. The caretaker government allocated the place for Sundays for the hawkers, evicted from the footpaths and illegally built markets during the ongoing joint forces' drive.

Indians celebrate Holi festival

AFP, New Delhi

Millions of Indians celebrated the Hindu festival of Holi yesterday by spraying coloured powder and water over each other amid police warnings about drunken behaviour.

The Hindu festival marks the start of spring and the triumph of good over evil, and is celebrated by people from all faiths across the country.

People gathered in parks and held private celebrations to

exchange traditional sweets and spray red, yellow and pink powder and water at each other in a vibrant display.

Many also attended dance shows and music concerts during the weekend.

In the western city of Mumbai, the centre of the country's entertainment industry, hundreds of people visited the residence of superstar Amitabh Bachchan to mark the day.

Cases being filed

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Hafiz Ibrahim case

Detained former BNP lawmaker Hafiz Ibrahim was shown arrested yesterday in the case filed with Gulshan PS on February 27 for possessing illegal firearms.

The court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate passed the order. The court also directed the authorities concerned to produce Hafiz before the court on March 18.

Falu's bail

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed March 11 for hearing on the bail petition of detained former BNP lawmaker and businessman Mosaddak Ali Falu in a criminal case filed in connection with misappropriating government relief materials.

Judge Mohammad Rafiqul Islam of the District and Sessions Judge's Court set the date after defence lawyers filed a criminal appeal against the rejection order of the lower court on February 27.

On February 9, the army-led joint forces had seized government relief materials from a factory in Savar owned by Falu.

Following the seizure, Ashulia police filed the case against Falu and several other unnamed officials and employees of the factory.

On February 12, Falu was shown arrested in the case.

Falu, also owner of private satellite television channels ntv and Rtv and the Bangla daily Amar Desh, is now in jail on a 30-day detention. He was charged with activities against the state, obstructing public safety, and illegally erecting hoardings.

Salahuddin case

Shyampur police pressed charges against former BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Ahmed and five others in the case filed for grabbing a piece of land by force.

On February 15, Haji Kafil Uddin, owner of a compressed natural gas (CNG) filling station, filed a case with Shyampur PS claiming Salahuddin, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Commissioner Abu Rashed Badsha and three others had been occupying a piece of land he owns on Muradpur Madrasa Road since 2005.

The case was filed under the Speedy Trial (Law and Order Disruption) Act that requires a trial to be completed within a month.

Abdus Sattar case

Former Awami League lawmaker Abdus Sattar yesterday obtained bail in the case filed against him for physically assaulting law enforcers

Bird flu victim dies in Laos

AFP, Hanoi

A 42-year-old Laos woman believed to have contracted the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus died in hospital in the capital Vientiane yesterday, the World Health Organisation said.

"The patient passed away at approximately 14:30 today," the WHO said in statement issued jointly with the Laos health ministry.

Tests had shown the woman had H5 bird flu, but the authorities were still waiting for further results to determine whether it was the H5N1 strain.