

Public servants, judicial commission (amend) ordinance approved

UNB, Dhaka

The council of advisers yesterday approved the Public Servants (Dismissal on Conviction) (Amendment) Ordinance 2008.

It also endorsed the Supreme Judicial Commission (Amendment) Ordinance 2008 put forward by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

Besides, the council approved Bangladesh's ratification of the D-8 Agreement on Simplification of Visa Procedure for the Businessmen of the Member States.

A government spokesman said the Council of Advisers finally approved the ordinances in its regular weekly meeting held at the chief adviser's office with Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in the chair.

Under the Public Servants (Dismissal on Conviction) Ordinance 1985 a public servant used to be dismissed if he or she

was given more than six months imprisonment or awarded more than Tk1,000 as fines by the court.

In the new ordinance, which took effect from yesterday, the duration of imprisonment was extended to over one year while the amount for penalty over Tk 10,000 for the dismissal of a public servant from services.

With the approval of the Supreme Judicial Commission (Amendment) Ordinance 2008, the nine-member commission headed by the chief justice would be reconstituted. The other members of the commission will be the law minister, the attorney general, the president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, three senior judges of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court and two senior High Court judges.

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States.

The D-8 Group was formed in 1997 by eight Muslim countries -- Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt, Iran, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria and Turkey.

Following the meeting, CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim said with the approval of the agreement, trade and business relations among the member-countries of the bloc would be further "expedited and strengthened".

Briefing newsmen at his office, he said Bangladesh would be benefited as its export will increase among the member states. "Travel of the businessmen of the member-countries will be easier while investment and foreign trade accelerated within these countries."

Advisers of the caretaker government and Special Assistants to the chief adviser attended the meeting. Cabinet Secretary, Press Secretary and secretaries concerned were present.

Help save life of Samudra Gupta

Appeals Jatiya Kabita Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Kabita Parishad has appealed for financial assistance to bear the cost of treatment for poet Samudra Gupta.

According to a press release, the Parishad has decided to send the sick poet abroad for better treatment.

The poet who was the former general secretary of the Parishad is undergoing treatment at Square Hospital in the city.

Contributions can be sent to Sohana Happy, Account No 3953, Uttara Bank, Kalabagan Branch, Dhaka.

ABC Radio goes into air in July

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another private radio station named 'ABC Radio' will formally air from next month, says a press release yesterday.

For this purpose, a month-long training programme began yesterday at the Prothom Alo office in the city to train up journalists, newscasters and other employees of the radio station.

On the first day of the programme, Editor of the daily Matur Rahman said ABC Radio will be a popular radio station through providing objective news and standard songs and other programmes.

"The new radio station will also try to keep our heritage and culture through casting popular programmes and objective news. Personally, I hope that the radio will establish itself as the number one private radio station in the country," he said while addressing the programme.

Media Star Ltd Director Arshad Waliur Rahman, ABC Radio Executive Director Jamal Uddin Akhanda, Joint Editor of Prothom Alo Abdul Quayum, Deputy Editor Sazzat Sharif and Assistant Editor Sumona Sharmin also took part in the programme.

ROBBERY AC Mofazzal, two constables charged

CU CORRESPONDENT

A court here yesterday framed charge against three policemen, including an assistant commissioner (AC) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP), in a robbery case.

The court of Chittagong Metropolitan Sessions Judge ANM Bashir Ullah framed the charge and fixed June 9 for next hearing.

The accused former AC Abu Saleh Mohammed Mofazzal Hoque of Panchlaish Zone, his bodyguard Constable Ehsanul Islam and driver Constable Abdur Rauf were present before the court during the hearing yesterday, sources said.

AC Mofazzal and two constables entered the house of businessman Mohammad Faruk Ahmed at Urm Plaza of city's Amirbag residential area under Kotwali Police Station in the name of searching for VoIP (voice over internet protocol) at around 1:30am on February 10.

They demanded Tk 5 lakh from the businessman and threatened him of dire consequence if refuses to pay the money.

They were fired from their services and arrested after Tk 1.75 lakh of the money and gold ornaments were recovered from their possession on February 11.

Faruk filed a robbery case on the day and Investigation Officer (IO) AC Syed Mezbah Uddin of Panchlaish zone submitted a charge sheet in this connection on May 13.

Release Hasina, hold polls this year

Speakers demand at Manik Mia Memorial Meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded immediate release of former prime minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and holding of the national election within this year.

The discussion was organised jointly by Manik Mia Parishad and Mehendiganj Awami Forum to mark the 39th death anniversary of the founder of the Ittefaq Tojafjol Hossain Manik Mia at the Bangladesh Shishu Kalyan Parishad auditorium.

The speakers said Manik Mia was an exponent of secular democratic Bangladesh.

They said people should form unity under the leadership of Hasina to establish a secular democratic Bangladesh.

Awami League presidium member Abdur Razzak, Dhaka University teacher Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, President of National Front Nurul Haque Mehedi, President of Bishwa Bangalee Sammelon and poet Mohammad Abdul Khalek spoke at the meeting presided over by Mizanur Rahman Azru, president of Mehendiganj Awami League Forum.



Maj Gen (Retd) CR Dutta speaks at a view exchange meeting between the Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF) and the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at the forum's central office at Banani in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

Two stabbed to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers have stabbed two men to death in separate incidents in the city.

They stabbed a flower trader to death at Keraniganj while he was returning home from Sylhet early yesterday.

Identified as Zakir Hossain, 26, of Kalindia area at Keraniganj, the victim was attacked at Jinjira Balurchar by four members of a gang at around 4:30am. As he resisted the snatchers, they stabbed Zakir indiscriminately and fled the scene, leaving him injured severely.

Later, the local people rescued the victim and rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in critical condition where he died at about 9:00am.

The deceased's sister Shahnewaj Begum said after being attacked by the muggers, Zakir phoned her informing his injuries.

She said Zakir had gone to attend a fair in Sylhet on Friday and was returning home on foot after crossing the Buriganga. The muggers swooped on him while on his way home.

Meanwhile, a packet vendor who was stabbed by another gang of muggers on May 3 near Madhumita Cinema Hall in the city succumbed to his injuries on Saturday.

Sources said being attacked by the muggers, packet vendor Abdus Salam, 37, was admitted to the DMCH and was later shifted to a private hospital where he died fighting for life for about a month.

Two students crushed under wheels of train

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two motorbike riders were run over by a local train yesterday while they were crossing a railway track in Laxmipur Bhatapara area.

The victims, identified as Miko, 30, of Chhotobongram housing area and student of Rajshahi University, and Robin, 25, of Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj and student of Bangabandhu Degree College.

The riders were hit by the Rohonpur-bound local train while they were crossing a narrow cattle crossing. They died on the spot.

The train movement on Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj route remained suspended for three hours since 1:30pm as the damaged motorcycle blocked up at the train's engine bumper.

Local people said the crossing is being used for many years for the convenience of the locals. The railway authorities have never closed the crossing nor they posted any guard to maintain security in the area.

When contacted, Chief Operating Manager (western railway) M Shahjahan said the crossing was unauthorised.

"We noticed it after the accident... We can't keep vigilance on railway tracks regularly for lack of manpower".

We Four now Bangladesh Free Media Forum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amra Charjan (We Four), formed by four veteran journalists, has changed its name to Bangladesh Free Media Forum (BFMF), says a press release.

Four renowned journalists -- KG Mostafa, ABM Musa, Nirmal Sen and Kamal Lohani formed the body.

The forum will examine and investigate into different matters and irregularities, especially when a journalist receives threat.

They will send recommendations to the authorities concerned after investigation.

Anyone can contact the forum at 9563503, the release added.

SHARE SCAM

Arrest warrants against DESA, DESCO chiefs

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against incumbent managing director (MD) of Dhaka Electricity Supply Company (DESCO) Saleh Ahmed, former Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA) chairman Towhidul Islam and 13 others in a Desco share scam case.

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after scrutinising the case docket and other relevant documents.

The court also directed the authorities concerned to send copies of the arrest warrants to respective police stations for implementation and fixed June 4 for next hearing of the case.

The court will order to publish an advertisement in two national dailies asking the appear before the court within three days after receipt of reports on arrest warrants against the fugitives, court sources said.

Detained former power secretary ANH Akhter Hossain, the principal accused in the case, was also charged with the same offences.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Assistant Director Amirul Islam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet against Akhter and 15 others to the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court showing 26 people as prosecution witnesses on May 29.

The chargesheeted accused include former chairman of Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (Desa) Towhidul Islam, ex-joint energy secretary SM Mesbaul Islam, ex-deputy energy secretary Zahidur Rahman, incumbent Deputy Energy Secretary Abdullah Mahmud, Senior Assistant Secretary Laila Jesmin, Deputy Secretary Ismat Ara Jahan, Desco

Company Secretary AHM Nurul Huda, ex-assistant energy secretary Ali Hossain, Summit Power Ltd MD Chanchal Krishna Talukder, former Desco directors Khan Lodi Mainul Haq, and Mustafizur Rahman, Desco directors Monzur Rahman and Kudrat-e-Khuda and Desamember Monzur Hossain.

The IO dropped names of former power deputy secretary Nazma Begum and former DESCO director Prof Dr Lutful Kabir from the charge sheet, as their involvement with the corruption was not proved.

The charge sheet was submitted under section 409 (criminal breach of trust by public servant) and 109 (abatement) of the Bangladesh Penal Code and 5(2) of Prevention of Corruption Act 1947.

In the charge sheet, the IO showed 15 accused as fugitives and prayed for issuance of arrest warrants against them and also orders to attach their properties.

ACC Assistant Director Mahbubul Alam filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station against Akhter Hossain and nine others on August 8 last year for committing the offences. Later, involvement of six others including former Desa chairman Towhidul was found in the investigation.

According to the prosecution, there is no provision for the ministry to buy shares in the name of any official. But Akhter, in connivance with the others accused, bought 61,000 shares in their names violating rules and provisions of the ministry.

Moreover, they bought the shares showing lower rates causing a loss of Tk 10.20 crore to the government.

Earlier, Akhter has been convicted in two cases on charges of evading tax, amassing wealth illegally and concealing wealth information.

Obituary

Brig Gen (retd) Sabih Uddin Ahmed, founder chairman of Rural Electrification Board (REB), passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in USA on Friday at the age of 71, says a press release.

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

He was laid to rest at George Washington Memorial Cemetery in Maryland State.

REB officials expressed deep shock at his death and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Alhaj Atahar Ali

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Alhaj Atahar Ali, an educationist, passed away at Birdem Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 65.

He left behind one son, one daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was suffering from a complicated disease and was undergoing treatment at the hospital for three months.

He will be buried at his family graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Benapol High School premises today.

Mohammad Abdul Ali

Mohammad Abdul Ali, a retired school teacher and father of Ashraf-Ul Alam, the Supreme Court correspondent of the daily Prothom Alo, passed away due to heart attack at his village home at Arua Kongsur in Gopalganj on Friday, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, five sons, a daughter, grand children and admirers to mourn his death.

His qulqhwani will be held tomorrow after Asr prayers at his village home.

Mohd Abdur Rashid

Mohd Abdur Rashid, father of Humayun Kabir, a newspaper agent in Khulna, passed away due to old age complications at Khalishpur Clinic in Khulna on Friday at the age of 63, says a press release.

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

He was laid to rest at Boakhal Graveyard at Khalishpur in the town.

His family members have requested all to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Tairunnesa Begum

Tairunnesa Begum, wife of Sabu Bhuiyan and mother of writer, researcher Anupam Hayat, passed away on May 30 at the age of 70, says a press release.

She left behind her six sons, one daughter and grandchildren to mourn her death.

She was buried at her village graveyard at Araihajar upazila in Narayanganj.

Death anniversary

Today is the seventh death anniversary of Lt Col (retd) Abdul Aziz Pasha, says a press release.

He died in exile in Zimbabwe in an inhuman condition.

He left his job in 1971 and joined in the Liberation War.

Dabir Uddin Ahmed

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Advocate Dabir Uddin Ahmed, a former law-maker and one of the organisers of the Liberation War, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quarkhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his village home at Ullapara in Sirajganj and at his residence (113/1-B Khilgaon Chowdhurypara) in the city.

Md Abdul Mannan

Today is the 4th death anniversary of Md Abdul Mannan, former official of BRRI and father of poet Arefin Shamsul Hoque, member of Public Relations and Marketing Committee of Bangladesh Scouts, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quarkhwani, doa mahfil and destitute feeding programme will be held after Zohr prayers at Chandana in Gazipur. A doa mahfil will also be held after Juma prayers at his village home in Noakhali on Friday.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the programmes.

Wholesale arrest protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties and socio-cultural organisations yesterday strongly protested the fresh wholesale arrest of political leaders across the country by the joint forces.

The parties said the arrest would hamper the formal dialogue between the political parties and the government.

Workers' Party of Bangladesh yesterday condemned and expressed its concern over the wholesale arrest of political leaders in the name of arresting criminals.

In a statement, the politburo of the party said though the government claimed that the law and order situation improved under the state of emergency but it is not the actual scene.

"The drive that the joint forces launched against criminals was just against the political leaders and local government representatives." They urged the government to stop such harassment.

Ganotantrik Bam Morcha (GBM), in a statement condemning the arrest drive, said the government is just trying to spread panic among the people. The leaders urged the government to stop the drive immediately.

Coordinator of GBM Moshrefa Mishu, leaders Comrade Khalekuzzaman, Tipu Biswas, Saiful Haque, advocate Abdus Salam signed the statement.

Bangabandhu Sanskritik Jote (BSJ) also condemned the arrest of the Awami League leaders.

BSJ General Secretary Tarana

Halim said repressive arrests and cases should be removed immediately. She called on the government to release the leaders unconditionally and create congenial environment for holding the general election.

Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid in a statement yesterday said the drive that the government started across the country has created panic among the political leaders.

He blamed the government for maintaining double standard by inviting the political parties to the formal dialogue and launching the arrest drives simultaneously.

The Jamaat secretary general called for holding the general election as soon as possible.



Students and intern doctors of Chittagong Medical College form a human chain on its premises yesterday protesting holding of classes of private medical colleges on its campus.

Mother, child die as truck overturns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mother and her son was killed and three others of her family injured when a mini-truck carrying them overturned in front of the Zia International Airport (ZIA) early yesterday.

Airport Police seized the damaged truck but its driver managed to flee.

Nur Jahan Begum, 30, and her son Nishat died on the spot while the condition of her father Nurul Islam, 60, brother Mohammad Mamun, 26, and a 20-year-old sister, whose name could not be known, is stated to be critical.

The family was returning to their village home in Shirinagar in

Munshiganj district with their belongings from Bhairab in Kishoreganj district where Nur Jahan's father and brother had been trading.

Nur Jahan, separated from her husband, had been residing with her father.

Nurul Islam and Mamun has been admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and the sister at the Orthopedic Hospital at

Sher-e-Banglanagar.

According to airport police sub-inspector Anisur Rahman, injured Mamun gave some details of the accident but could not recall whether the truck collided with another truck or hit a road island.

The condition of his sister is very critical and police said her left hand might have to be amputated soon.

A case has been filed in this connection.

WEATHER TODAY logo with sun and cloud icons.

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 37.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 21.8 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:43pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

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

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.