

Double allocation for persons with disabilities in budget

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Faisal Rahman, a physically challenged schoolteacher and social worker, came from Jhalakathi to attend a discussion at the National Press Club in Dhaka to talk on budget allocation for the people with disabilities.

stairs as there is no ramp at the National Press Club. Without an assistant, I find it difficult to move anywhere, as most roads and buildings are inaccessible for me," he said.

They demanded an allocation of Tk 6 crore for collecting complete data on the people with disabilities, Tk 10 crore for the 'Special Education Demand Development Project', Tk 6 crore for awareness programme among the health professionals, Tk 18 crore for disability prevention centre project, Tk 10 crore for special teachers, Tk 9 crore for stipend programme for students with disabilities, Tk 37.5 crore in allowance for the poor disabled group, Tk 10 crore for the rehabilitation of the acid-burnt victims and physically challenged people, Tk 1 crore for national level sports competition and Tk 80 lakh for cultural activities.



Prince Abdul Aziz Bin Majed, the governor of Madina, receives Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her arrival at Prince Mohammad Airport in Madina from Makkah yesterday.

KHALEDA'S HOUSE BNP to protest in New York

ANA from New York

Pro-BNP expatriates will demonstrate in New York tomorrow demanding withdrawal of the order canceling the lease of Khaleda Zia's cantonment residence.

Alter Hossain Badal, president of USA unit of Release Tarique Movement, said that the next course of action would be declared at the rally. Demonstrations will be held in New York and throughout the USA in line with the central programmes of BNP, he told ANA.

Salam made CDA chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Abdus Salam, chairman of Well Group of Industry, has been made new chairman of Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) yesterday.

Obituary

UNB, Dhaka

Syed Ahmed, a freedom fighter and former office secretary of Awami League, died at Lab Aid Hospital here yesterday at the age of 70.

Panchananda Saha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Panchananda Saha, founder teacher of Garpara High School in Manik-ganj, passed away due to old age complications at his residence in Manikganj yesterday at the age of 85, says a press release.

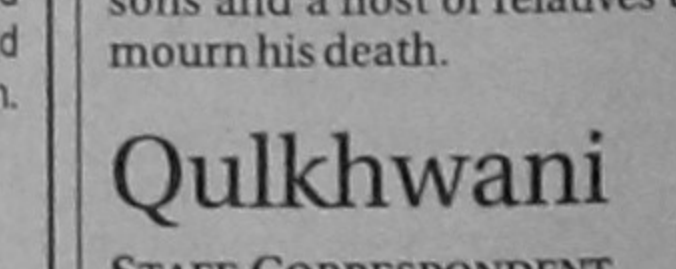
Sheikh Abdul Wadud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sheikh Abdul Wadud, retired airport manager of civil aviation and father of Mostafa Firoz, chief news editor of Bangla Vision, passed away due to old age complications yesterday at the age of 81, says a press release.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of A Aziz Ahmed, a social worker of old Dhaka, will be held at his residence at 35 Prasanna Poddar Lane at Nayabazar in the city today after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Abdur Rouf Rifles College reopens Apr 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All classes of Birshrestha Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles College at the BDR headquarters in the city will resume on April 26, says a press release. Students have been asked to enter the BDR headquarters through BDR 3 gate (New Marketgate) or BDR 1 gate (BDR cinema Hall gate).

Ruet halls reopen tomorrow amid tight security

RU CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) yesterday imposed restrictions on rallies, processions and political activities of the student bodies on the campus for an indefinite period. A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting with police high officials at the Ruet VC office in the evening.

Rab member, criminal injured in shootout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A member of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and a criminal were injured in a shootout between the elite force and a crime gang in the city's Mirpur area early yesterday.

The injured criminal identified as Manik, who was taken to orthopaedic hospital, was wanted by police in mugging and robbery cases.

The injured Rab man was identified as Constable Md Nasir Uddin of Rab-4.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Ruhul Amin told The Daily Star that a Rab team, acting on a tip-off, conducted a raid on Balurmath of South Pirebagh at Mirpur at around 2:00am where a gang of five to six criminals were taking preparation to commit a robbery.

During the shootout, Manik sustained bullet injury as he was trying to flee by scaling over a wall. However, other criminals managed to escape from the scene.

One caught trying to steal money at Sonali Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A person was caught red-handed at Sonali Bank branch on the Dhaka University campus yesterday morning when he tried to steal money from the cash box.

Senior Principal Officer of the branch Rahmat Ara said cashier Suprio Ranjan Chakma caught Mohammad Yunus when he was trying to steal money from the cash box.

Yunus told the bank authorities that he came from Khulna and his accomplice managed to escape. Yunus was later handed over to the police. Rahmat Ara said that Prof Amuliah Chandra Mandal of Mathematics department lost Tk one lakh on April 21 from the branch and she also lost her purse and a mobile set on April 13 from the bank premises.

DMP boss orders action against drug lords

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Shahidul Huq yesterday ordered his force with strict orders to crack down on drug lords without sparing anyone even if they have link with influential quarters. The Commissioner gave the instructions to senior police officers at a meeting held at the DMP headquarters.

AC chair coach dropped from Padma Express

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Despite good demand, the Western Railway Authorities dropped the lone air-conditioned (AC) chair coach from Padma Express train that runs between Dhaka and Rajshahi from yesterday.

The train starts for Dhaka from Rajshahi in the afternoon and leaves the capital for Rajshahi at midnight. The railway authorities said the AC chair coach has been added to a Dhaka-bound train from Khulna as the AC coach of Chitra Express needs repair.

Heatwave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Having chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Tangail and Mymensingh, Met Office said.

Moderate to severe heatwave sweeping over the regions of Chaudanga, Rajshahi, Ishwardi and Jessore and mild to moderate heat wave sweeping over Khulna and Dhaka divisions and the regions of Rangpur, Sayedpur and Dinajpur may continue, it said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. The sun sets in the capital at 6:24pm today and rises at 5:29am tomorrow.

Table with 3 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Sylhet city BNP chief released

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet city BNP chief Ariful Haque Chowdhury, also a close aide to the BNP stalwart and former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, was released from the Sylhet Central Jail yesterday.

A High Court (HC) division bench comprising Justice MA Wahab Miah and Justice Marzul Haque on April 9 granted him an interim bail for six months.

Sylhet District and Sessions Judge Abdul Qudus awarded Arif 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) and his wife Shama Haque Chowdhury three years' RI on June 23 last year in a case filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for ill-gotten wealth.

But Shama is still on the run from the police. Advocate Afzal H Khan and advocate Rafiqul Haque Chowdhury Rajul moved for the petitioner.

One of the ACC's first list of corruption suspects Arif surrendered to the joint forces on February 25 in 2007. He was sent to jail hajat. Later, five cases were filed against him on different charges.

On lifting the state of emergency, he was acquitted of the charges brought against him under Emergency Power Rules, but punished in the ACC case for ill-gotten money.

Arif was granted bail in the three other cases in recent months. He is awaiting trial on the Tk 15 lakh extortion case filed by contractor Dilraj Ahmed, while the case for Tk two crore extortion from controversial contractor Nuruzzaman and that for evading taxes had been stayed by the HC.

They say they prefer AC chair coach to AC bus for Dhaka as the chair coach costs only Tk 334 per seat while a seat of AC bus costs Tk 500.

POWER, WATER CRISES CPB protests minister's statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) in a joint statement yesterday condemned the irresponsible statement of the minister on power and water crises, says a press release.

They condemned the speech of the state minister for power and energy who said in solving the power crisis even in three years.

CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim called on the government to take immediate steps to overcome the crises instead of threatening the aggrieved people.

"If they have nothing to do to solve the crisis, why the ministers are for? Are they here only to lead a luxurious life with the people's money?" the CPB leaders questioned.

They also said that the state minister along with the other high-ups blamed the previous BNP-led government for the present crises, adding: "If so, then why are they not taking legal steps against them?"

Threatening the people to stop movement to realise their demands implies promoting corruption, crime and crises, they added.

Graft case against Ctg mayor stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed the proceedings of a corruption case against Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury filed by the now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC).

After a hearing on a petition filed by Mohiuddin, a HC division bench of Justice MA Wahhab Miah and Justice Marzi-UI Huq also issued a rule upon the deputy commissioner (DC) of Chittagong to explain why the proceedings of this case should not be quashed.

The BAC filed the case against Mayor Mohiuddin on April 9 in 1995 with Kotwali Police Station in Chittagong on charges of corruption involving about Tk 11 lakh and misuse of power.

A Chittagong court framed charges against Mohiuddin in this case on October 20 last year.

Now the proceedings of all cases against Mohiuddin have been stayed and it was the last such case, his lawyer HS Deb Brahmansaid.

SDC official due in city on Sunday

METRO DESK

Director General of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) Martin Dahinden is due to arrive on a five-day visit to Bangladesh on Sunday, says a press release.

This is his first official visit to Bangladesh and the first high-level visit from Switzerland after the present government has come to the power.

Dahinden is scheduled to meet state minister for foreign affairs and finance minister to discuss bilateral development issues.

He will also meet a number of civil society, NGO, business and donor representatives and visit several SDC-funded programmes in Rajshahi division.

Dahinden took over as SDC director general in May 2008. SDC is a Swiss international cooperation agency within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). Bangladesh is one of the 17 priority countries of SDC.

Train, truck collide in Tangail: 4 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Four people were injured when a goods-laden truck and a speedy train collided head-on at Dherua rail crossing in Mirzapur upazila under Tangail district on Wednesday night.

Train communications remained suspended on Dhaka-North Bengal route for six hours following the accident.

Jahangir Alam, officer-in-charge of Mirzapur Police Station, told The Daily Star that the accident occurred at

around 10:00pm when a Dhaka-bound goods-laden truck from Sirajganj hits a Dhaka-bound train of Lalmoni Express from Lalmonirhat after breaking the crossbar, leaving four people injured.

Train communications became normal on the route after a rescue train from Dhaka took the goods-laden train to Dhaka at around 4:00am, Jahangir said.

The injured people were rushed to the Mirzapur Kumudini Hospital.

DHAKA TODAY. Conference: 17th Annual Conference 2009 of Zoological Society of Bangladesh. Memorial meeting: Naripokkho organises a memorial meeting to pay tribute Nasreen Haq. Roundtable: Media Initiative for Public Policy organises a roundtable on 'Fire safety preparedness'. Reception: Feni Samity will accord a reception to noted figures of Feni. Photography exhibition: Inaugural ceremony of the 3rd annual photography exhibition of Dhaka University Photographic Society. Human chain: Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) forms a human chain protesting the construction of Tipaimukh Dam. Training programme: Corporate Social Responsibility Bangladesh organises a training programme on 'CSR essentials'. Convention: Two-day 14th annual district convention 2009 of Lions Club International. Fair: Inaugural ceremony of a two-day education fair will be held. Training programme: Human Rights International Bangladesh organises a roundtable on the BDR massacre and human rights violation. Reception: Satkhira Sangskritik Forum will accord a reception to Prof MR Khan on his winning the Ekushey Padak. Lecture: Bangladesh Udichi Shilpa Gosthi organises Engineer Dr Golam Mohiuddin Memorial Lecture.