

Govt mulls new law to stop stalking of girls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will enact new law, if required, to stop stalking of girls and sexual abuses in government and private organisations, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury said yesterday.

The prime minister's office has already sent orders to the deputy commissioners to take immediate steps to stop stalking, she said and called on the committees formed at different government levels to play an active role in combating sexual abuse of children and women.

The state minister said this at a discussion on 'Effective steps to stop stalking and sexual abuse'.

organised by women and children affairs ministry at Biam auditorium in the city.

Taking part in the discussion, girl students said they fall victim to stalking on their way to school. On the other hand, their parents and family members blame them for being stalked.

The male students vowed to build resistance against the stalking.

Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Women and Children Affairs Ministry Meher Afroz Chumki said home and education ministries would be asked to take steps to stop stalking.

Other speakers pointed out that lack of entertainment facilities in educational institutions leads the youth towards such unsocial activities.

They called on the authorities to deploy additional law enforcers in selected spots and take prompt legal actions against the stalkers.

The speakers also stressed the need to raise awareness about the social menace and said the media has a larger role to play in this regard.

Steps Towards Development Executive Director Ranjan Karmakar, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association Executive Director Salma Ali, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad General Secretary Masuda Rehana Begum, former secretary of the Primary and Mass Education Division Tahmina Hossain and Prof Ishrat Shamim of Dhaka University, also spoke.

Train crashes kill 10 in 3 days in city, Joydevpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten people were killed in train accidents at different places in the capital and Joydevpur in the last three days.

Abdul Barek, 48, was killed when a train hit him at Kuril in the city at about 6:00pm yesterday.

Sources said Ahmed Ali, 34, a car driver of a tobacco company, was crushed under the wheels of a Dhaka-bound train on Monday noon when he was crossing the Mohakhali railway crossing.

In another accident, Nargis Parveen Runa, 22, a housewife of the city's Mohammadpur area, was crushed under the wheels of a train while she was getting down from the train at Joydevpur railway station.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Sultan was crushed under the wheels of a train engine while he was crossing the railway track on Monday morning.

An unidentified person, aged around 30

years, was crushed under the wheels of the Silk City Express at around 1:30pm when the train was entering Kamalapur terminals.

Another unidentified youth, 19, was killed in a train accident at Mouchack in Joydevpur.

A mentally challenged man, aged around 25, was crushed under the wheels of Noakhali-bound Upakul Express at Malibagh at around 10:00am.

Earlier on Sunday afternoon, Shefali Saha, 32, and Alok Saha, brother of Shefali's husband, were crushed under the wheels of a train at Mohakhali.

Besides, Barkat Sarker, a class VIII student of Nakhla Para High School, was crushed under the wheels of a train while he was returning to his West Nakhla Para residence.

Kamalapur Government Railway Police (GRP) said four of the bodies were handed over to their relatives without postmortem while five others were sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Aircraft stranded at Sylhet airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A DC-10 Bangladesh Biman yesterday failed to take off from the Osmani International Airport due to technical hitches.

Airport sources said the flight BG 028 from Abu Dhabi landed at the Sylhet Osmani International Airport at 10:50am en route to Hajrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

During take-off at 12:40pm, the captain discovered some technical faults in it.

Sources said the aircraft is under repair by a team of technical experts who were called in from the capital.

District Manager of Bangladesh Biman Md. Arif Ullah said repairs are being carried out and hopefully the aircraft will be ready for flight shortly.

However, a good number of passengers who will catch the connecting flights to Middle East, have been sent to Dhaka by 2 other flights, he informed.

An airport official said some 280 passengers are held up at the airport to fly to Dhaka.

Of them about 250 passengers would catch two London flights today (Wednesday) from the capital, he added.

Removal of 3 DU teachers demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of students of Arabic department at Dhaka University yesterday kept the office room of the department's chairman and two other rooms locked for seven hours demanding removal of three teachers for "patronising pro-Jamaat students".

Students alleged that three teachers-- chairman Prof ABM Siddique Rahman Nizami, students' adviser Prof ATM Fakhruddin and lecturer Md Rafiqul Islam-- provide extra facilities to pro-Jamaat students.

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique told The Daily Star that a few students of the department placed some allegations against the teachers before him and these would be investigated.

About 10 to 15 students locked chairman's room, office room and a classroom around 8:00am. However, they removed the locks around 3:00pm on direction of authorities.

They also stuck three handwritten posters on a wall at the department saying stop patronising politics of Jamaat and establish the pro-liberation force in the department.

Later, a good number of students were seen protesting. A few students, however, said they were forced to join the protest by some Chhatra League activists who were leading the demonstration.

On condition of anonymity, several agitating students said the teachers provide extra facilities like giving money from the departmental fund to the students who are involved in activities of Islami Chhatra Shibir, student front of Jamaat.

"We submitted a memorandum to the vice-chancellor on April 25 describing the situation," said a fourth year student.

Denying the allegations, lecturer Rafiqul said he was never involved with Jamaat-Shibir.

Prof Siddique also denied the allegations of his involvement with Jamaat and said, "The problem could have been resolved through discussions".

The students decided to continue their movement until their demands are met.

Leaders of pro-BNP and Jamaat teachers' white panel will meet the VC around 11:30 today to discuss the situation prevailing in the department.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance (BATA) and Protyasha form a human chain in front of the National Press Club yesterday demanding an increase in tax on tobacco products.

Increase prices of tobacco products to save lives

Anti-tobacco organisations urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-tobacco organisations yesterday demanded the government to increase the prices of all tobacco and tobacco products to discourage people from using those and ultimately save their lives.

The demand came from a sit-in jointly organised by Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance (BATA) and Protyasha anti-drug club in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Calling upon the government to control the cultivation of the tobacco, the speakers told the programme prices of essentials are increasing day by day but the prices of tobacco products remain unchanged.

The government should take effective

measures to increase the prices of tobacco products in order to save the lives of the people, they said.

The government formulated a law to control the use of tobacco products but it did not take any step to increase their prices, said the speaker.

They called for increasing tax on tobacco and tobacco products by 25 percent and additional 3 percent and 4 percent tax for health and environment hazards.

Executive Director of Nirapad Development Foundation Ibnul Sayeed Rana, Executive Director of Basti Unnayan Karmo Shangsthan Hasinur Rahman and Executive Director of Sonar Bagla Foundation Dr Md Jasim Uddin, among others, attended the programme.

Guard dies in Ctg police custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A security guard of a market, an accused in a theft case, died in police custody in Chittagong yesterday.

Md Manik Mia, 35, son of Jebul Hoque of Companyganj upazila in Noakhali, was a security guard of Anjuman Market in Reazuddin Bazar on Station Road in the port city.

Yunus, a sub-inspector of Kotwali Police Station and the investigation officer of the case, said doctors declared Manik dead after he was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital as he felt seriously ill around 7:15am.

The SI, however, said Manik seemed quite normal when he was brought to police custody on Monday afternoon.

The market owner, Md Alaaddin Bittu, along with the shop owner took Manik to the Kotwali Police Station after IO called him to take Manik there for quizzing over the theft.

The SI showed him a copy of the case filed by Md Arman on May 8 on charge of stealing 28 mobile phone sets and Tk 30,000 in cash from his shop on the ground floor of the market and took Manik to the police custody, he added.

However, the IO said Manik remained absconding since the robbery and the shop owner along with others caught him on Monday afternoon and handed him over to police.

Ruling out the allegation that Manik had been absconding since the theft, Bittu instantly protested the arrest and said he was an innocent man and a

News in Brief

B'baria power plant opens today

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates a 55 MW rental power plant at Ashuganj in Brahmanbaria today.

The prime minister is also scheduled to open the newly built 250-bed hospitals in Brahmanbaria Sadar.

She will also address a public rally at Brahmanbaria College ground.

Man killed in Savar gunfight

UNB, Savar

A man was killed in a gunfight between two groups of miscreants in Khejur Bagan area under Ashulia police station in Savar yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Saiful Islam, 28, son of Romon Ali in the area.

Police said, Sohrab Member group and Iqbal Akkas group clashed over cable television business in the area, leaving a supporter of Sohrab group, Saiful injured on the spot.

Saiful was rushed to Enam Medical College Hospital, but succumbed to his injuries while being shifted to the capital.

Mithu Murder: Six on remand

UNB, Dhaka

Police yesterday took six alleged killers of ATN Bangla senior cameraman Mithu on remand for four days in two separate cases.

A Senior Cameraman of private tv channel ATN Bangla Shafikul Islam Mithu, 40, was found dead at Rustampur beribadh under Torag thana on Sunday morning.

Torag thana police arrested Shahidul Islam Suvu, Sagar, Rajiv, Titu, Rabin and Jasim in connection with the murder on Monday.

Deadline of admission in MA under NU extended till May 16

NU admission time extended

UNB, Dhaka

The time for admission to the post graduate first part (regular) course in academic session 2008-09 under the National University has been extended till May 16.

But only application in the online (www.nuadmission.com <http://www.nuadmission.com>) will be accepted during the time, said a release of NU.

The admission seekers have been asked to submit print copy of application, other documents and admission fee Tk. 500 to the concerned college by May 17 after filling-in the online application.

Viva voce from June 1

BSS, Dhaka

The viva voce of the candidates who qualified in the written test-2009 for the posts of headmaster and assistant teacher in the government primary schools will begin on June 1 instead of May 15, a Department of Primary Education press release said.

The district primary education officers have been asked to take necessary measures for this purpose.

9 Hizb ut men on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nine members of banned Islamist outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh who were arrested on Sunday were taken on a three-day remand yesterday.

Sub-Inspector Mozammel Hossain of Badda Police Station produced them before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court seeking a remand for five days, but the court granted a three-day remand.

SI Mozammel told the court that huge leaflets and jihadi books were seized from the possession of the detainees and they should be remanded to extract information about their anti-state plans.

Only 14 qualified plastic surgeons in country

Say health experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country has only 14 qualified plastic surgeons against the requirement of 400 doctors to treat the growing number of plastic surgery patients, health experts said yesterday.

They said some 150 doctors who are still studying would qualify as full-fledged plastic surgeons over the next three to four years. But the number of patients has been increasing every day. So, the government should take the issue seriously.

The experts were speaking at the opening session of the First National Conference on Plastic Surgery organised at a city hotel by Society of Plastic Surgeons of Bangladesh with the slogan 'Changing Lives with Plastic Surgery'.

Prof Shah Monir Hossain, director general of Directorate General of Health Services, also admitted that the government has no systematic programme to prepare skilled manpower though it has been introducing new specialties and super specialties.

The experts said there are

plastic surgery units at five medical college hospitals. But all the medical college hospitals should have a plastic surgery unit to treat the patients with burn injuries, road traffic injuries, cleft lip and other congenital anomalies.

There is a burn unit attached to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, but there is no separate ward for plastic surgery, they said adding that an Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery is also necessary.

Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque expressed his willingness to expand the burn and plastic surgery services to district level, which is not possible at this moment for the lack of manpower.

State Minister for Health Mozibur Rahman Fakir, President of Society of Plastic Surgeons of Bangladesh Prof Shafquat Hussain Khundkar, its Vice-president Dr Samanta Lal Sen, Secretary General Prof Mohammad Abul Kalam, Treasurer Dr Sazzad Khondoker and Dr Murad Hassan MP, among others, spoke on the occasion.

DEATH OF JOURNO IN ROAD CRASH HC asks beverage co to pay Tk 2.01cr compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed Bangladesh Beverage Industries Limited to pay Tk two crore and one lakh compensation to the wife and two sons of late Mozammel Hossain Mantu, former news editor of the daily Sangbad, who was hit and injured by a vehicle of the company.

Mantu was seriously injured after being hit by a mini truck of Pepsi Cola, a concern of Bangladesh Beverage Industries Limited, at Kakrail in the city on December 16, 1989. He died on December 16 the same year while undergoing treatment.

On January 1 in 1991, Mantu's wife Rawshan Ara Begum filed a case with a court of joint district judge in Dhaka, seeking Tk 3.52 crore compensation from the company.

The court delivered the verdict in the case on March 20, 2005, directing the company to pay the amount as compensation to the wife and two sons of Mantu.

The company then filed an appeal with the HC, challenging the verdict of the joint district judge's court.

After the hearing on the appeal, the HC bench of Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Nuruzzaman yesterday modified the lower court judgement, and directed the company to pay Tk two crore and one lakh compensation.

Advocate Khalilur Rahman and Advocate TM Shakil Ahmed appeared for Rawshan Ara, while Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh argued for the company.

BANGLADESHIS IN INDIAN JAIL Govt asked to inform HC of steps to bring back prisoners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the government to inform it within 10 days of what steps have been taken so far to bring back 156 Bangladeshis who have been languishing in an Indian prison even after expiry of their sentences.

The Bangladeshis nationals have reportedly been in Bohorampur Central Jail in West Bengal of India for more than one year after expiry of their sentences.

An HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Monik and Justice Md Delwar Hossain passed the order after a hearing on a writ petition filed by Advocate Md Shahidul Islam, a Supreme Court lawyer.

The director general of South Asian wing of the foreign ministry has to comply with the HC order.

Shahidul filed the writ petition following a report on the Bangladeshi prisoners published in the Prothom Alo on February 12.

According to the report, the Bangladeshis have staged demonstrations and token hunger strike inside the jail, as they were not released even after the end of their sentences.

Earlier on March 1, the HC bench issued a rule upon the government to explain within two weeks why it should not be directed to bring back the Bangladeshis.

WEATHER

Heat wave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places of Noakhali and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Comilla and Noakhali in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry elsewhere over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Severe heat wave, which is sweeping over the region Dhaka and Khulna divisions and the regions of Ishwardi, Bogra, Rangpur, Chandpur and Patuakhali may continue.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:33pm today and rises at 5:17am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 40.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 23.5 degrees Celsius at Srimongal and Tangail.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage		
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	36.9	29.0	72	63
Chittagong	32.5	27.3	77	80
Rajshahi	40.5	29.5	76	55
Khulna	36.8	28.5	77	67
Barisal	35.5	28.3	77	67
Sylhet	32.9	24.0	86	85
Cox's Bazar	35.0	28.0	70	74