



Vehicles parked on the roads defying the rules forcing the pedestrians to walk on the thoroughfare in Dhanmondi of the city due to inaction of the law enforcers. This photo was taken from in front of the Capital Market on Road No 8 of the area yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Passing out parade of Navy held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The passing-out parade of New Entry Sailors of Bangladesh Navy was held at BNS Shaheed Moazzam parade ground at Kaptai in Chittagong yesterday, says an ISPR press release.

Captain MA Khan, commanding officer of BNS Shaheed Moazzam, distributed awards and certificates among new sailors.

A total of 281 sailors were inducted in this batch in different trade groups including seaman, engineering, electrical engineering and radio electrical engineering.

Abdullah Al-Mamun who was adjudged the best all-round New Entry Sailor won the coveted Cup of the Chief of Naval Staff. He also claimed the Admiral Mahub Cup in the seaman branch.

Ashrafur Islam and M Thohidul Islam bagged the Shaheed Moazzam Cup and the Admiral Sultan Cup for their proficiency in electrical and radio electrical engineering.

Among others, civil and military officials and a large number of navy personnel were present on the occasion, the press release added.

Invest in country

Azad urges expats at FOBANA conference

BSS, Dhaka

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad urged the expatriates to come forward for investment in the country as Bangladesh has now emerged as an investment-friendly country.

Azad made the call while he was speaking at the inaugural session of the FOBANA conference at Pasadena convention centre in Los Angeles in the United States on Saturday, said a message received in the city yesterday.

He said Bangladesh is moving ahead through a democratic

process after the present government came to power.

"The government would protect human rights and ensure political stability," he said.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua, State Minister for Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan, Congress Woman Judi Sue, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Dr Abdul Momen, Dr Nurunnabi and FOBANA Chairman Rabiul Islam also spoke.

Jahid Hossain, convener of FOBANA presided over the function.

Publish objective news

President urges editors

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the newspaper editors to present positive and objective information in their newspapers.

The president made the call when a delegation of the daily Joy Bangla led by its editor M Azizul Islam called on him at Bangabhaban.

During the meeting, the president emphasised improving the standard of newspapers through presenting objective and quality news contents and information.

"The quality and competence of the newspaper would have to be achieved by presenting objective news," he said.

The delegation apprised the president of various activities of the daily Joy Bangla, which as a weekly played a pioneering role during the War of Liberation in 1971.

As a weekly newspaper, Joy Bangla was officially published by the Ministry of Information and Betar, as the mouthpiece of the Mujibnagar government during the War of Liberation.

In 1975, its publication was suspended but the newspaper was again published in 1999, with initiatives taken by the then LGRD minister Zillur Rahman, presently the president.

Joy Bangla began its journey again as a daily newspaper on May 1 this year.

REFUSAL OF BIMAN'S PLEA

JS body to identify officials responsible

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday formed a sub-committee to identify officials behind refusal of the Biman Bangladesh Airline's plea to give a leased aircraft extension of waiver for registration.

Headed by ruling Awami League lawmaker Dharendra Debnath Shambhu, the three-member committee has been asked to submit its report within next one and a half month.

The parliamentary standing committee on public undertakings also asked the civil aviation and tourism ministry not to interfere in Biman's activities so

that the national flag carrier can run on its own.

The rejection of national carrier's plea on June 14 forced Biman to halt flights with the leased Boeing 747-200 on the routes between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia that left hundreds of passengers into trouble, officials said.

On June 19, Biman however resumed flights with the leased Boeing after the ministry awarded verbal permission to use the aircraft for carrying passengers.

Earlier on June 23, a parliamentary body on civil aviation ministry blasted ministry's top-level officials on the same ground.

15 die in Filipino bus crash

AFP, Cebu

Fifteen people were killed and more than 40 others were hurt when a speeding bus slammed into a concrete fence in the central Philippines, police said yesterday.

The bus crash outside of central Cebu city Saturday was the second deadly road accident in the area in less than a month.

"Fifteen people were killed, while some 48 other passengers were hurt," provincial police chief Senior Superintendent Erson Dugal said on Sunday.

Dugal said the vehicle's brakes failed while it was going downhill and the driver rammed the bus into the concrete fence to avoid hitting pedestrians.

CONSTRUCTION OF BHAIRAB BRIDGE

Law not violated

Altaf tells ACC probe body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The construction of Bhairab Bridge was approved in line with the existing law, former commerce minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury told a probe committee of the Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday.

No deviation from existing laws or rules was made in approval of the construction of the Bhairab Bridge, said Altaf, also a former member of the cabinet committee on purchase.

"Experts examine and verify a project thoroughly before it is produced before the purchase committee for approval," he told The Daily Star.

ACC Deputy Director Harunur Rashid along with two officials questioned the former minister at the ACC headquarters with links to the allegation of corruption against former premier Khaleda Zia over the construction of the bridge.

The approval was made during the tenure of the previous BNP-led government causing a loss of Tk 100 crore to the state exchequer, according to the allegation.

The ACC has already questioned former agriculture minister MK Anwar, ex-communications minister Nazmul Huda and former LGRD minister Mannan Bhuiyan in this connection.

Call to restore publication of Amar Desh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists formed a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding immediate release of the daily's Acting Editor Mahmudur Rahman and restoration of its publication.

They said by putting journalists on the street the government intends to portray Bangladesh as a failed nation to the world, says a press release.

They warned that journalists would keep to the streets unless the daily Amar Desh, Channel 1 and Jamuna Television resume operations.

Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Amar Desh unit chief Basir Jamal chaired the program.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Secretary General MA Aziz, DUJ President Abdus Shahid, Secretary Baker Hussain, poet Abdul Hai Shikdar and Bangladesh Photojournalist Association Secretary Mir Ahmed also spoke at the demonstration.

'Review wage for water transport workers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Nourjan Sramik Federation yesterday demanded review of their recently announced new wage structure.

They placed the demand at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The leaders of the water transport workers said the new wage structure is not consistent with either the national pay scale or the current market prices of essentials. It is quite difficult to lead a life with this salary, they added.

Chowdhury Ashiqul Alam, general secretary of the federation, said such poor wage structure would cause worker crisis and a deadlock situation in the water transport sector.

He sought Prime Minister's involvement in

this regard saying, "The government should take necessary measures to review the wage structure to safeguard the lives of water transport workers."

Shah Alam, the federation vice chairman, alleged that about 50 workers, affiliated with the federation, are out of work for complying with the strike on May 8. He sought government's intervention in this regard.

He also demanded withdrawal of all cases filed with different police stations across the country in connection with the water transport strike observed from May 8 to 15, this year.

Vice president Zinnat Ali and joint general secretary Deen Mohammad of the federation and Lighterage Sramik Union vice president Abdur Rahim were present at the press conference.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Dr Patrick Dougherty, professor of Faculty of Education of Abu Dhabi Men's College and Higher Colleges of Technology in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Dr Steve Cornwell, extreme left, professor of Department of English and Interdisciplinary Studies of Osaka Jogakuin University in Japan, are facilitating a session at a two-day seminar titled "Bringing innovation into the ELT classroom" at AIUB recently. Bangladesh English Language Teachers' Association (BELTA), American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) and Teachers Helping Teachers (THT) jointly organised the seminar. The participants were English language teachers from all parts of the country.

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