



UNREST FOR PAY-HIKE



1. Children raise their hands during a clash between police and agitating readymade garment workers of EPZ to give them a safe passage to sit for exams in school in Chittagong yesterday.
2. Workers torch a motorcycle in the port city.
3. Agitating workers ransack a bus in the port city.
4. Police carry away one of their fellows injured during the clash in the port city.
5. Workers of Nasa Group set fire to a car at Badda in Dhaka city yesterday demanding wage-hike.
6. Nasa Group workers on a collision course with police.
7. A Dhaka street after the clash.

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PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS AND AMRAN HOSSAIN

BDR MUTINY TRIAL 39 accused cross-examine 5 witnesses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-nine accused of Record Wing under Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) headquarters yesterday cross-examined five witnesses who gave depositions before a court.

BDR Sector Commander of Dhaka Col Habibul Karim headed the Special Court-9, set up at Darbar Hall of BDR Headquarters at Pikhana in the city.

The allegations brought against the accused include -- leaving Darbar Hall showing solidarity to mutiny, staging mutiny with firearms, playing inactive role to prevent mutiny and failing to control unruly subordinates.

The trial of 111 border guards resumed yesterday at 10:05am.

One of the accused Havildar Assistant Saidul Haque, suffering from lung cancer since 2007, was brought to the court dock in bedridden condition.

"I had been taking chemotherapy and radiotherapy since 2007 at the BDR hospital. I could not move without the help of another. How could I take part in mutiny bending a red tag on my head?" he told the court.

The witness was giving false deposition and he did not want to cross-examine them, he added, urging the court to acquit him of the case.

Earlier on October 25, the same court framed charges against 111 accused for their alleged involvement in the February 25, 26 BDR mutiny last year.

Twelve, of 46 witnesses, have so far given depositions.

The court is adjourned till 9:00am today.

Stand against sexual harassment, stalking

Women rights leaders urge all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women rights leaders yesterday called all to stand against sexual harassment and stalking as an alarming 4,186 incidents of violence on women took place between January and September this year.

Among them, 458 women were raped, 82 of them were gang raped and 52 women were killed by the rapists, said leaders of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city.

They said these while talking on the drafted "Sexual Harassment and Prevention Act, 2010 (draft)" at the press conference, organised to observe the 'International Women Repression Prevention Fortnight and International Human Rights Day'.

BMP drafted the law to stop sexual harassment at all levels, clearly defining stalking, sexual harassment and repression and related punishments.

Moreover, 22 women committed suicide out of 434 who were stalked during that period, said the leaders of BMP, expressing their deep concern.

They demanded formulation of separate laws with punitive and correctional provisions for the perpetrators of sexual harassment and stalking.

Ayesha Khanam, president of BMP, advocate Masuda Rehana Begum, advocate Maksuda Akhter Laily and Shaghana Kali, among others, spoke at the press conference.

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3 promoted to major general

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three brigadier generals were promoted to the rank of major general yesterday.

They are Mohammad Habibur Rahman Khan, Rezanur Rahman Khan and Sheikh Mamun Khaled.

Chief of Army Staff General Mohammad Abdul Mubeen adorned them with the major general rank badges at the Army headquarters.

Later, the newly promoted officers called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office.

With the promotion, Major General Habibur was made Commandant of Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST), Major General Rezanur appointed military secretary at Army headquarters and Major General Mamun appointed Logistic Area Commander at Dhaka Cantonment.

Days of winning polls by flexing muscle over: CEC

UNB, Benapole

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Dr ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday viewed that the days of winning election by flexing muscle, money and power are over.

"Winning the election by flexing muscle, money and power and occupying polling centres is no longer possible. One cannot impose his will on others in this digital age," said Shamsul.

The CEC was speaking at a view exchange meeting of deputy commissioners, superintendents of police and election officials of seven districts of greater Jessore and Kushtia at the Jessore Collectorate Bhavan.

The situation congenial for holding peaceful elections is now present in the country. Everything possible for ensuring a peaceful, free, fair and neutral pourasava election would be taken, said Shamsul.

On the underground outfits active in the region and recovery of illegal arms before the pourasava polls, the CEC hoped police would take appropriate steps on this, regard to ensure free and fair polls.

"Do not sell out your conscious, vote for honest candidates who would dedicate themselves to meet your aspirations," asked the CEC to the voters.

Four killed, 25 injured in Faridpur road crash

UNB, Faridpur

At least four people were killed and 25 others injured when a Bhanga-bound bus collided with a truck at Baulkandi on Dhaka-Khulna Highway at 8:00pm yesterday.

Bhanga Agrani Bank Manager Abul Kalam, 55, Second Officer Khorshed Alam, 50, Shamim, 22, and bus driver Latif Matbar, 45, died on the spot.

The injured, five of them in critical condition, were rushed to Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

Survivors said the bus from Mawa was going to Bhanga upazila town when it collided head-on with a loaded truck. The front part of the bus was mangled.

Female RMG worker found dead in Botanical Garden

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a female garment worker hanging from the neck from a tree branch at Botanical Garden in the city yesterday morning.

The deceased Sharmin Akter Julia, 19, daughter of late Jalal Khan of Rupnagar tin shed colony, was a worker of Banga Garments at section seven of Pallabi in the city.

Officer-in-Charge Abdul Latif of Shah Ali Police Station said the garden staffs informed police of the body which they noticed hanging with a piece of scarf at about 7:00am.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy, he added.

Julia's maternal uncle Anik Rahman said Julia went to her workplace on Saturday morning and didn't come back.

Anik said they asked some of her colleagues about her but they said Julia didn't go that day.

Julia's family members suspect that a male friend of Julia, a youth who runs a grocery at Rupnagar, might have killed her and hung the body.

Police suspect it to be a suicide incident and said they found no injury marks on the body.

Scout delegation meets president

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the Scout leaders to engage the distressed, unprivileged and deprived street children in welfare-oriented programmes along with ensuring their education.

He made the remarks when a three-member delegation of the Bangladesh Scouts led by its President M Momtazul Islam called on him at Bangabhaban.

INDIAN ENVOY MEETS SHIPPING MINISTER

UNB, Dhaka

Use of 3 ports discussed

Bangladesh and India yesterday discussed on use of Chittagong, Mongla Ashuganj ports for transshipment of goods to its northeast states through Bangladesh.

Indian High Commissioner Rajeev Mitter called on Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan and discussed the issue, says a press release.

During the meeting at the minister's office in the city, they discussed in details matters relating to dredging of rivers for navigation of Indian cargo ships from Kolkata to Ashuganj, setting up new landing stations and construction of container jetties.

WEATHER TODAY

Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:13pm today and rises at 6:33am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 28.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khepupara and lowest 13.4 degrees Celsius at Rangpur.

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	26.4	17.0	61	68
Chittagong	26.8	17.1	71	55
Rajshahi	24.7	14.0	77	85
Rangpur	25.0	13.4	66	64
Khulna	28.0	17.0	86	76
Barisal	27.8	16.7	85	91
Sylhet	26.6	16.3	100	53
Cox's Bazar	28.5	18.5	57	54

President for proper application of traffic rules to cut road crash

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday emphasised proper application of traffic rules to reduce road accidents that claim precious lives everyday.

"All concerned including vehicle owners who are engaged in road transports, drivers, passengers, law enforcing agencies, licencing authorities and BRTA and road department will have to abide by the traffic and motor vehicle act," he said.

The president was addressing a seminar on 'Effective prevention needed for road accidents' held at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban on Dhaka University campus jointly organised by the Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA), Saif Foundation and the Families United against Road Accident (FUARA).

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain, Chairman of National Human Rights Commission Prof Mizanur Rahman, Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and Adv Tarana Halim

MP spoke at the seminar with DUAA President Syed Manjur-e-Elahi.

Zillur said despite creation of mass awareness about the road accidents, number of accidents has not yet declined; rather it has increased due to lack of proper implementation of rules and carelessness.

"Proper implementation of the rules will have to be enforced alongside ensuring each passenger's insurance," he said, adding that compensation for the dead in road accidents and also life long treatment expenditures for the injured will have to be provided.

He said the communications ministry would have to take effective measures for prevention of road accidents considering the recommendations that would emerge from the seminars.

Abul Hossain said the government is relentlessly working to build safe roads and already it has set up a target to reduce the road accidents by 50 percent within 2021. The Strategic Road Safety Action Plan is being implemented to reduce accidents by

20 percent within next three years, he added.

Pointing to a horrifying figure of deaths that occurred in road accidents, Prof Mizanur said according to the official data some 2,958 people are killed in road accidents every year in the country and some 324 were killed in Dhaka alone. "Eight people on an average are killed in road accidents everyday," he said.

He suggested the government to make all highways into four lanes to help reduce 60 percent of the road accidents immediately.

Prof Arefin emphasised updating of the existing traffic rules and formulating new rules. He also called for incorporating the rules into the primary education curricula to create awareness about the traffic rules in the country.

Chairperson of Saif Foundation Samia Halim and Convener of Families United against Road Accident (FUARA) Ikram Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 39th death anniversary of Shaikh Haider Chowdhury, a martyred intellectual, says a press release.

Razakars, collaborators of the Pakistan occupation forces, picked up him on this day in 1971 from his 921, Shahidbagh residence and took him away blindfolded then killed.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at Aminbagh mosque in the city.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Monirul Islam, a renowned businessman, passed away at the Metropolitan Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 88.

He left behind his three sons, grandchildren and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held after Zohr prayers today at Azad mosque in Gulshan.

He will be buried at Azimpur graveyard today.

It may be mentioned that his wife Sofia Monir (Reba) died on December 11 (Saturday).

Qulkhwani
Qulkhwani of Monirul Islam and his wife Sofia Monir (Reba) will be held on Friday, December 17 after Asr prayers at their residence in Gulshan.

Mohammad Ali Mollah
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Ali Mollah, former office secretary of Bhairab thana Awami League, passed away at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 75.

He is survived by his wife, four daughters and four sons.

He was laid to rest in Mollabari graveyard at Chandiber of Bhairab under Kishoreganj.

His qulkhwani will be held at his hometown in Bhairab on Wednesday.