

HOUSEWIFE ASSAULT HC asks SP, OC to appear on Jan 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered SP of Madaripur Sardar Tamizuddin and OC of Rajoir Moshir Rahman to appear before it on January 13 on charges of assaulting a housewife.

The court also directed the law secretary to form a judicial inquiry committee within seven days to investigate the incident.

SP Tamizuddin allegedly assaulted Sheela Mallick, a housewife of Aruakandi village of Rajoir upazila on October 5 last year, when she went to his office for remedy of her husband who was earlier beaten by some local goons.



Relatives of Sajib Anam Masud, a trader of Bangshal area in the city, break into tears as Sajib was found stabbed to death yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

Eleven projects get nod

UNB, Dhaka

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved 11 development projects involving Tk 2,318 crore, including construction of Inland Container Terminal at Ashuganj Port at a cost of Tk 246 crore.

With Ecneec Chairperson and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, the approvals were given at its meeting held at the NEC conference room in the city's Sher-e-Banglanagar.

"Of the total project cost of Tk 2,318 crore, Tk 1,391 crore will come from the government exchequer while Tk 927 crore as project assistance," said Planning Minister AK Khandker while briefing reporters after the meeting.

Answering a question, the Planning Minister said the container terminal at Ashuganj port will be constructed for the self-interest of the country, adding that India may use the port in future by paying charges or fees.

The project will be implemented by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) under the Shipping Ministry. Of the total cost of the project, Tk 219 crore will be borne from India's \$1 billion line of credit, while Tk 27 crore from the government exchequer.

The Ecneec meeting also approved three railway sector projects under the \$1 billion Indian line of credit.

Hasina asks BCL to do social works

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) to engage in social welfare activities including planting trees and eliminating illiteracy from the society.

The prime minister passed the instructions as BCL leaders met her at Gono Bhavan yesterday evening marking the 63rd founding anniversary of the student organisation.

BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon and General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton led the team of leaders.

Use RTI act for transparency Minister urges all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad yesterday asked all to effectively use the Right to Information (RTI) Act to establish transparency and cut corruption in the society.

"In the countries, especially in Europe, corruption is less because RTI act is implemented there," he told a discussion on "RTI and mass media" arranged by Bhorer Kagaj and Diner Sheshey at their seminar room in the city.

Admitting that many public offices did not designate officers and lack adequate equipment to provide information, he said these shortages will be addressed gradually.

Chief Information Commissioner Muhammad Zamir said they have prepared a by-law specifying the procedure of keeping records and applying for information and the cost to get information.

He called upon the media to publicise the RTI issue.

Information Commissioner Dr Sadeka Halim stressed the need for better coordination among the bodies like the Human Rights Commission and Information Commission.

Shahriar Alam MP said the fear about the public officials has to be removed to implement the act.

AP Bureau Chief Farid Hossain said journalists are yet to think that RTI is beneficial to them; so they are neither using it for their reporting nor contributing to creating mass awareness. "This attitude should go."

Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University said the ministries mostly linked to public services could be equipped on priority basis to provide information.

Prothom Alo Joint Editor Abdul Quayum and columnists Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury and Syed Abul Maksud also spoke at the discussion moderated by Bhorer Kagaj Editor Shyamal Dutt.

HC scraps Makbul's jail term

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday scrapped 13-year jail term of former Awami League lawmaker Makbul Hossain in a corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

A Special Judge's Court on May 6, 2008 convicted Makbul and sentenced him to 13-year imprisonment in the case filed on charges of amassing illegal wealth and concealing information about it.

An HC bench of Justice Md Abdul Hye and Justice Md Abdur Razzaque delivered the verdict overturning the special court judgment.

Hermaphrodites protest stalking of women

DU CORRESPONDENT

Several hermaphrodite people yesterday protested stalking and harassment of women at a cartoon exhibition on Dhaka University campus.

"As a human being we condemn the stalkers and the people who torture women. We also want to help the government uproot the vice from the society," said Mis Bobby, executive director of Shustho Jibon.

They emphasised the development of people's thinking about the opposite sex and raising awareness to rid society of the criminal activity.

Cartoonist Rights Network Bangladesh arranged a caricature exhibition in front of Faculty of Fine Arts of DU protesting stalking and harassment of women. Bobby and Mousumi inaugurated the programme on behalf of the hermaphrodites.

POLICE WEEK 2011 Recruitment of more officers demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior police officials yesterday demanded the government recruit more officers in the department to strengthen investigation and supervision capacity of the force.

They also put some other demands at a meeting with Home Minister Sahara Khatun on the occasion of Police Week-2011 that began yesterday.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Huq Tuku, Home Secretary KM Abdus Sobhan Sikder, and Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker among others, were present at the meeting.

The meeting sources said some senior officials told the home minister that police cannot conduct investigation properly due to poor number of officers in proportion to the number of constable.

For the same reason, police officials neither could supervise the investigators properly nor play fruitful role in the law and order management, added the sources.

According to the sources, the top police personnel also informed her of various difficulties they face to deal with the extremist groups, criminals, and the religious fanatics.

Police department has now a total of 1.30 lakh personnel and of them only around 20,000 personnel have the investigation capacity or authorities against 90,000 constables, around 6,000 Naiks, 1,600 head constables, and 7,000 Assistant Sub-inspectors (ASI).

They also demanded cell phone allowance for all the police officials, mainly for the officer-in-charges of all police stations.

The home minister assured the policemen of considering their demands as well as solving the problems.

Ex-whip Jahed Ali dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP lawmaker and whip Jahed Ali Chowdhury died of cardiac arrest at a hospital in the city yesterday. He was 65.

Jahed Ali was elected lawmaker twice from Sherpur-2. He was also a publication affairs secretary of the party.

He left behind his two sons, wife and hosts of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia, Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and Speaker Abdul Hamid condoled the death.

Jamal Arsalan

METRO DESK



Noted journalist Jamal Arsalan died at his Sobhanbagh residence in the city yesterday. He was 65.

He had worked for The Independent for 12 years till a year or so before his demise. He also worked for Dawn, The Bangladesh Observer, The Morning News, The Bangladesh Times, Daily News, The New Nation, The Morning Sun and The Telegraph.

63RD ANNIVERSARY

BCL vows to build digital Bangladesh

DU CORRESPONDENT

With a vow to help build a Digital Bangladesh and the demand of quick start war crimes trial, hundreds of leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday celebrated the 63rd founding anniversary of the organisation.

The celebration began at 12:01am yesterday with cutting of a cake on Curzon Hall premises at Dhaka University, from where the organisation led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman started its journey on January 4, 1948.

BCL organised various programmes on DU campus and other educational institutions across the country to mark the day. Around 8:00am, top BCL leaders placed wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi in the capital.

Later, BCL held a rally on DU campus and brought out a colourful procession. Former BCL president and Awami League Presidium Member Obaidul Quader attended the rally chaired by BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon.

BCL General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury, DU Unit President Sohel Rana Tipu, and General Secretary Sajjad Saqib Badsha were also present.

Meanwhile, JSD-Chhatra League also celebrated the 63rd founding anniversary holding a rally and bringing out a procession on DU campus. JSD-BCL President Hossain Ahmed Tafsir presided over the event.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina awards medals to police and Rab members at Razarbagh Police Lines in the city on the occasion of Police Week 2011 yesterday. (See list of the awardees on Page 19)

PHOTO: PID



CJ for similar verdicts in similar cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque yesterday advised the presiding judges of High Court benches to pass similar judgments in the criminal cases of same nature.

The advice came from a meeting of the chief justice with 24 HC judges who preside the benches for hearing and disposing of criminal cases, a highly placed source in the Supreme Court told The Daily Star.

Lift bar to new enrolment Pvt universities urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The private university owners yesterday demanded withdrawal of the government decision that says the universities still without permanent campuses cannot enrol new students from October next year.

The education ministry and University Grants Commission (UGC) are trying to implement a "blueprint" in the name of implementing Private University Act 2010, they alleged.

"We will establish the campuses on the basis of students' tuition fees. If the student admission is barred, our revenue would stop and we will fail to buy lands and construct

building for permanent campuses," said Abul Quasem Haider, vice-chairman of Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB).

Asked whether the private universities run only on student fees, Haider could not give any specific answer.

On December 12 last year, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid disclosed the government decision, over which the APUB gave reaction in a written statement at a press conference in the city yesterday.

APUB Chairman CM Shafi Sami was not present at the conference. When contacted, Sami said the statement was not shown to him.



Pedestrians suffer as the construction materials are heaped all the way on the footpath of Road No 9 in the city's Dhanmondi. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Social works in higher edn emphasised

DU CORRESPONDENT

Two visiting US professors emphasised social works based higher education in Bangladesh to expedite humanitarian activities and ensure human rights.

Mildred C Joyner, president of US-based Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), and Executive Director Dr Julia Watkins were speaking at a seminar.

Dhaka University's Social Welfare and Research Institute organised it on Monday with the institute director Prof Muhammad Samad in the chair.

Withdraw cases against RMG workers Demands Bam Morcha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonotanrik Bam Morcha (Democratic Left Alliance) yesterday demanded immediate withdrawal of cases against garment workers in Dhaka and Chittagong.

In a written statement, Morcha leaders said the cases filed by police are baseless and based on lies.

"In recent times, an organised repression against the general people of the country and specially the garment workers is taking place," said the statement signed by coordinator of alliance Tipu Biswas.

The alliance leaders demanded immediate release of Moshrefa Mishu, and a stop of extra-judicial killings.

Over 33,000 cases have been filed against apparel workers for recent unrests at garment factories in Dhaka and Chittagong, it said.

NEW 7 WONDERS Sundarbans gets Tk 1.24cr

UNB, Dhaka

The government has allocated Tk 1.24 crore for launching a massive national and international campaign to vote for the Sundarbans mangrove forest as one of the new Seven Wonders of the World.

State Minister for Forest and Environment Dr Hasan Mahmud said arrangements are being made so the people could cast their votes toll-free through mobile phones.

He said Bangladeshis living abroad can also vote for Sundarbans at a cheaper rate.