

NEWS IN *brief*

Rangpur court summons Inu

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A Rangpur court yesterday summoned Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haque Inu to appear before it by July 24 in a case filed against his derogatory remarks about late president Ziaur Rahman.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Nitya Nanda Barman passed the order after Advocate Badrul Islam Chhunu, joint convener of district BNP, filed the defamation case around 11:00am.

According to the complaint, Inu termed Zia as the fourth "mirjafar" (betrayal) of the country at a public meeting at Kataribazar in Rangpur on April 3.

Employee found dead in office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of an employee of a real estate development company from the company's office at Sector-4 of Uttara in the city yesterday.

The deceased Mobarak Hossain Sumon, 25, son of Khorshed Ali of Gaforgaon of Mymensingh district, was found in a room of Rupnagar Real Estate Company.

Zubair Hossain, brother of the company's owner, saw the body and informed police around 3:00pm.

Mobarak used to stay in the office at night, the SI said. Morgue sources said the victim was strangled.

Maleka gets Ananya Purashkar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted essay writer and researcher Maleka Begum has won Ananya Sahitya Purashkar-1418.

Ananya, a fortnightly magazine, would formally confer the award to her in October on the occasion of the magazine's anniversary.

Maleka obtained her postdoctoral degree from Gender Studies Research Centre of Calcutta University on the topic "Social state of dowry system and its impact on Bangla literature".

Currently teaching at women and gender studies department of Dhaka University, she always considers women issue a topic of research while being an activist of movements for women.

Maleka wrote books on War of Liberation and women and biography of Ila Mitra and Winnie Mandela, says a press release.

She also edited different issues of monthly "Begum" in three volumes.



Influent people are filling up and encroaching on this water body constructing slum shanties at Agargaon of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Swami Akkharananda passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Principal of Dhaka Ramkrishna Mission Parishad Subroto Chowdhury and general secretary Mongol Chandra Ghosh, president of Mohanagar Sarbojaneen Puja Committee Biresh Chandro Shaha and general secretary Babul Debnath and general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra Jub Oikya Parishad, Nirmol Kumar Chettarji expressed deep shock at his death.

Born in Satkhira in 1929, Akkharananda was the vice-principal of Narendrapur Ramkrishna Mission in India. He joined the Dhaka Ramkrishna Mission in 1974.

He was made MD of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation on September 15, 1978.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad expressed his deep shock at the death of Bazle Hossain.

Police arrested five people from Basupara in the city's Darussalam area last night for holding an arbitration to protect a man who allegedly molested a minor girl.

Sub Inspector (SI) Tariqul Islam of Darussalam Police Station said Masudur Rahman, 45, Khadem of a local mosque, attempted to rape the seven-year old girl near the mosque when she was returning home after finishing her Arabic lessons.

Being informed, her family asked the mosque committee for appropriate action. The committee held an arbitration and fined Masudur Tk 2,000. This meager punishment made the locals angry. They then informed police, said the SI.

Several other distinguished people including academics echoed him saying the government should immediately act to contain religious bigots like Amini with iron hand in the interest of the country's peace, progress and prosperity.

He said Amini took a direct stand against the constitution which guarantees equal rights of all irrespective of their gender.

Several other distinguished people including academics echoed him saying the government should immediately act to contain religious bigots like Amini with iron hand in the interest of the country's peace, progress and prosperity.

He said Amini took a direct stand against the constitution which guarantees equal rights of all irrespective of their gender.

Several other distinguished people including academics echoed him saying the government should immediately act to contain religious bigots like Amini with iron hand in the interest of the country's peace, progress and prosperity.

He said Amini took a direct stand against the constitution which guarantees equal rights of all irrespective of their gender.

Several other distinguished people including academics echoed him saying the government should immediately act to contain religious bigots like Amini with iron hand in the interest of the country's peace, progress and prosperity.

He said Amini took a direct stand against the constitution which guarantees equal rights of all irrespective of their gender.

Several other distinguished people including academics echoed him saying the government should immediately act to contain religious bigots like Amini with iron hand in the interest of the country's peace, progress and prosperity.

He said Amini took a direct stand against the constitution which guarantees equal rights of all irrespective of their gender.

Several other distinguished people including academics echoed him saying the government should immediately act to contain religious bigots like Amini with iron hand in the interest of the country's peace, progress and prosperity.

He said Amini took a direct stand against the constitution which guarantees equal rights of all irrespective of their gender.

Several other distinguished people including academics echoed him saying the government should immediately act to contain religious bigots like Amini with iron hand in the interest of the country's peace, progress and prosperity.

Fish traders murdered
Two arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two people were arrested yesterday in connection with the murder of two fish traders in Hamidchar under Chandgaon Police Station in Chittagong.

The arrestees Babul, 28, and Lokman, 27, were nabbed from Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) area, said police.

A group of Hamidchar's residents locked in a clash with a group from Bolihat area on Sunday over occupying a piece of land at Hamidchar to breed fish fries. Two people died and 15 others were injured in the half hour-long clash, during which gunshots were heard, said police.

Md Yusuf, one of the wounded, filed a case with Chandgaon Police Station on Sunday night naming 21 people and some 20 unidentified.

Officer-in-Charge Syed Abdur Rauf of Chandgaon Police Station told The Daily Star, "We are trying to nab rest of the accused."

The dead Abdus Sabur, 45, and his nephew Mohiuddin, 25, were residents of Hamidchar.

Of the injured, four were admitted to CMCH with injuries inflicted from gunshot and sharp weapons. Sabur, sustaining bullet injuries, died at CMCH while Mohiuddin's beheaded body was recovered from the spot.

Rapist killer Taleb arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Abu Taleb who raped and allegedly killed a student of class eight setting her on fire after she became pregnant for seven months from the capital's Rampura yesterday.

The victim Nilufa, 16, died on January 31 at the Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after fighting for her life for seven days.

Nilufa, a student of Matankur Paschimpara High School in Comilla, had been violated in June last year by Abu Taleb, 35, a neighbour, with help from Josna, a distant aunt of the victim, said Rab officials at a press briefing at Rab-1 office at Uttara after producing the arrestee before the press.

Comilla police arrested Josna on January 24 following the incident.

Lt Col Mohammad Rashedul Alam, commanding officer of Rab-1, said Taleb and Josna, also a neighbour, reached Nilufa's

home at Martaain Court under Comilla Sadar Dakkhin upazila on January 23 around 7:10pm and informed her that her father had met an accident while he was going to the mosque for Esha prayers.

As soon as Nilufa stepped out of her house, Josna clamped her mouth shut while Taleb, a father of two children, doused flammable liquid on her and lighted a match to her body fearing disclosure of their involvement in rape case, he added.

The victim gave a statement at the DMCH before Metropolitan Magistrate AEM Esmail Hossain on January 26 where she named Taleb and Josna as the culprits, he added.

According to a High Court order on February 23, Rab arrested the main accused Taleb.

Abu Taleb denied his involvement in the crime at the press briefing and claimed he was staying at a shop of nearby market when the incident happened. But he admitted sexual relationship with the victim.

MiG-29 PURCHASE Trial in graft case resumes

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The trial in the MiG-29 purchase graft case resumed yesterday at a Dhaka court with the deposition of complainant, Abdullah Al Zahid, deputy director of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Judge Mohammad Abdul Majid of the Special Court for Dhaka Division recorded statement of the complainant and fixed May 3 for the next hearing after the defendants' lawyers cross-examined him.

The four accused are Air Marshal (ret'd) Jamal Uddin Ahmed, former Defence Secretary Syed Yusuf Hossain, Air Commodore (ret'd) Mirza Akhter Maruf and former joint secretary Mohammad Hossain Serniabat.

Of them, only Akhter Maruf was present during yesterday's hearing while lawyers represented three others in their absence.

Earlier on April 6, this year the same court dropped all charges against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was also accused of the case.

The High Court on March 9 last year quashed the case proceedings against her.

On August 12, 2008, the court relieved another accused, former army chief Gen (ret'd) Mustafizur Rahman of all charges in the case, after he died on August 3.

The proceeding against Unique Group Managing Director Nur Ali was stayed following a writ petition challenging the legality of the case.

On August 20, 2008, the same court framed charges against Hasina and five others in connection with the case.

The case was filed on December 11, 2001 with Tejgaon Police Station against Hasina and six others.



President Zillur Rahman receives Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa and First Lady Shiranthy Rajapaksa on their arrival at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 3)

Amini's comments tantamount to treason
Say members of civil society

BSS, Dhaka

Leading members of civil society blasted controversial leader of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote (IO) Fazlul Haque Amini yesterday for his "audacious" comments about the Women Development Policy.

"Amini's comments are very objectionable and tantamount to treason for denial of the constitution," noted educationist Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury said as politicians belonging to different parties earlier demanded his arrest for threat to use madrasas to paralyse the country.

He said Amini took a direct stand against the constitution which guarantees equal rights of all irrespective of their gender.

Several other distinguished people including academics echoed him saying the government should immediately act to contain religious bigots like Amini with iron hand in the interest of the country's peace, progress and prosperity.

Amini recently threatened to paralyse the country using 20,000 madrasas across the country if the Women Development Policy was not scrapped as his group was trying to spearhead a campaign against the policy calling it anti-Islamic, disagreeing with leading Islamic scholars' observations and government clarifications.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said Amini's comments regarding the women policy clearly aimed at creating disorder and anarchy in the country which is a "serious crime".

"There is nothing in the Women Development Policy that goes against the holy Quran and Sunnah. But, religious fanatics led by Amini are out to create disorder and anarchy by confusing the people," Prof Siddique said.

"These elements are now opposing the women policy in the name of the religion again," he said.

Leading economist Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad said nothing was there in the women policy that contradicted the holy Quran as claimed by the ultra right elements like Amini.

"It (policy) contains nothing which could be cited to cause anarchy... it is the responsibility of the government to take steps so none can create an anarchic situation," he said.

Bangladesh Economic Association President Abul Barakat suggested the government to launch a massive campaign to disseminate the contents of the policy among the people so the "vested groups" could not mislead them.

"There is nothing in the policy which is against the holy Quran... I think the propaganda launched by Amini is the part of a campaign to frustrate the successes of the present government and stall trial of the 1971 war criminals," Barakat said.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion
Women for Women will organise a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:30pm.

Luncheon
The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry will hold a luncheon; Venue: Sonargaon Hotel; Time: 12:30noon.

Launching
Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Film Society will launch a film carnival; Venue: Buet premises; Time: 5:00pm.

Programme
Bangladesh Buddhist Federation will hold a reception programme; Venue: International Buddhist Monastery, Merul Badda; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion
Deshpremik Jonogoner Mancha will organise an open discussion; Venue: Gono Sangskritik Kendra, 2/8, Nabab Habibullah Road, Shahbagh; Time: 3:00pm.

Forestry congress
Ministry of Environment and Forests will hold forestry congress; Venue: Sheraton Hotel; Time: 9:00am.

Dialogue
Bangladesh Enterprise Institute will organise a dialogue; Venue: Information Commission Bangladesh, F-4/A, Archaeology Bhaban, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar; Time: 10:00am.

Exhibition
Goethe-Institut will hold an exhibition; Venue: Institut auditorium; Time: 5:00pm.

Musical performance
High Commission of India will organise a musical performance; Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre; Time: 6:30pm.

Human chain

Glaxose WEATHER TODAY
100% GLUCOSE

Change in temperature unlikely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Comilla in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Mild heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi and Pabna and it may continue.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:21pm and rises tomorrow at 5:34am.

Country's highest temperature 36.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 22.9 degrees at Srirampol.

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	35.2	26.4	68	57
Chittagong	31.8	24.9	73	76
Rajshahi	36.6	25.6	90	65
Rangpur	31.8	23.6	71	80
Khulna	36.0	26.0	75	53
Barisal	35.2	24.5	80	61

Instant energy, Instant recharge