

Panicked, old man dies of heart attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
An old man died allegedly of a heart attack in panic after seeing a scuffle between his grandchild and some customers centring purchase of a gold chain in the city's Noyatola area last evening. The deceased Babar Ali, 60, is owner of a jewellery shop and resident of that area. Shiblee Noman, officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station, said a man came to the shop in the morning and sold a gold chain to Babar's grandchild Tuhin for Tk 1,200. In the evening, the man returned the money and took the chain back. Half an hour later, the man along with some others came and claimed that the returned chain was not his. A scuffle began and Babar, who was sitting there and watching the incident, panicked and died of a heart attack, said Noman.

DELAY IN DISPOSAL OF CASES
Law minister blames policemen, PPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the government would formulate rules of action against those found responsible for unnecessary delay in disposing of cases at lower courts. Most delays are due to public prosecutors (PPs) not timely producing witnesses before the court and police not submitting investigation reports of the cases on time, he said. The minister was speaking as the chief guest at an inaugural ceremony of a training course for public prosecutors at Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI) in the city. JATI, in collaboration with Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), organised the course, participated by country's 28 public prosecutors, with JATI Director General Justice Hamidul Huq in the chair. Shafique said cases must be disposed of quickly to establish justice and reduce harassment of litigants. He mentioned that emphasis on quick

disposal of cases by the prime minister or any other minister is not an interference to the judiciary. Prolonging disposal of cases is a severe problem in our country, he said, adding that public prosecutors must find the reasons behind this and address those. Urging to discharge duties with honesty and competency, Shafique said public prosecutors could dispose of cases through compromise between the parties involved outside the court, which would restore peace and harmony in society. He assured them that the government would address their problems regarding logistic support. Shafique at a view exchange meeting yesterday said the government is going to bring some changes in the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC) in order to accelerate trial proceedings of cases. The meeting on amendment to CPC 1908 was organised by Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division under Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs at Bidyut Bhaban in the city.



Street vendors beginning to set up makeshift shops at Laldighi Square in Chittagong yesterday ahead of the traditional 'Jabbarer Bali Khela' (Jabbar's wrestling game) and Baishakhi Mela. PHOTO: STAR

'Formulate national policy for street children'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the government to formulate a national policy for street children to ensure their basic rights. They said there are about 11 lakh street children in the country and development is not possible ignoring the children. Social and Economic Enhancement Programme (SEEP) organised the seminar at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city, says a

press release. Jatiya Sangsad Whip Sheikh Abdul Wahab MP said the state fails to ensure basic rights of street children. According to a research of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics 56 percent street children have to pay Tk 150-200 per month to hoodlums for dwelling on streets. Among others, General Secretary of SEEP Fazlul Hoque Chowdhury spoke at the programme.

April 18 Foreign Ministry Day

Announces Dipu Moni
BSS, Dhaka
The government is to observe the April 18 as the Foreign Ministry Day from next year commemorating the historic flag hoisting at Bangladesh Mission in Kolkata. On this day in 1971, the then deputy high commissioner in Kolkata M Hossain Ali along with 65 officials and staff of the mission declared their allegiance to the Mujibnagar government by hoisting its red-green national flag atop the mission. Foreign Minister Dipu Moni announced this at a function yesterday to honour the former diplomats who made outstanding contribution to achieve independence in 1971. Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Capt (Retd) AB Tajul Islam, Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes also spoke at the function with Dipu Moni in the chair. Former Secretary and Ambassador Mohiuddin Ahmed, ex-ambassadors KM Shihabuddin, Waliur Rahman, Kazi Nazrul Islam, former diplomats Mostafizur Rahman, Kazi Sekndar Ali, Akbar Lutful Matin and Anwar Hossain Chowdhury reminisced their role in the War of Liberation. "We have decided to observe the April 18 as the Foreign Ministry Day to inspire the present and future generations with patriotism side by side with remembering the brave diplomats for their role in the War of Liberation," said Dipu Moni. Later, Dipu Moni handed over crests to the freedom fighters diplomats -- Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, KM Shehabuddin, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, Syed Moazzem Ali, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Mostafizur Rahman, Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, Waliur Rahman, QMA Rahim and Anwarul Karim. Habibullah Habib, a nephew of late Hossain Ali, took the crest from the foreign minister on behalf of Hossain Ali.

'Enhance skilled manpower for treatment of cardiac patients'

National conference suggests opening cardiology deptt at all dist hospitals
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Speakers at a national conference of cardiology yesterday stressed the need for enhancing skilled manpower, equipment and infrastructure to address the increased number of cardiac patients. Terming cardiac problem one of the most prevailing non-communicable diseases, they said there should have cardiology departments at all the district hospitals. Bangladesh Cardiac Society organised the national conference at a city hotel. The speakers said there is no professor of cardiac surgery in the country. "Despite having meritorious and skilled cardiologists, the country has only two regular associate professors out of 12 and 12 regular assistant professors out of 24 as promotion is halted for a long time," said Badiuzzaman Bhuiyan Dablu, Health Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League. Even the post of professor of cardiology is only eight at 18 medical colleges, which is really frustrating, he said. The largest institute of the country to treat the cardiac patient is in need of 350 more man-

LAUNCH ACCIDENTS

Trial of people responsible demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Some non-government organisations (NGO) activists yesterday demanded trial of people responsible for Thursday's launch accident that occurred in the river Meghna in Brahmanbaria. The accident, claiming at least 33 lives, occurred due to negligence and corruption of some government officials and profit-mongering vessel owners. It is an offence similar to committing murder, they said. They were speaking at a rally organised by Safe Waterway Implementation Movement in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city. The movement Member Secretary Aminul Rasul alleged that mismanagement and corruption of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport

Authority and Department of Shipping (DoS) turned the country's riverine transportation sector risky. Citizen Rights' Movement Secretary General Tusher Rehman, Nirapod Development Foundation Chairman Ibnul Sayeed Rana, Green Belt Trust Director General Jashim Katabi and Campaign for Development Foundation Chairman Mashiur Rahman Rubel also spoke. Their other recommendations include increasing budgetary allocation for development of water transportation sector; increasing ship surveyors; regular checking of vessel fitness; formation of marine safety committee; and modernisation of Inland Shipping Ordinance, 1976.

Arrest of Amini, Golam Azam demanded

BSS, Dhaka
Cultural activists at a rally yesterday demanded arrest of Golam Azam and Maulana Fazlul Haque Amini on charge of anti-state activities and crime against humanity during the War of Liberation. There is no alternative to the arrest of Amini and Golam Azam to uphold the spirit of War of Liberation, they told the rally organised by Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city. Sangskritik Jote leaders, including acting general secretary Arun Sarker Rana, spoke at the rally with central leader Nasima Aktar Labu in the chair. They said some people including Amini and Golam Azam, who trade on religion for their own selfish interests, are trying to create instability in the country by raising different issues.

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Foreign Minister Dipu Moni hands over a crest to Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith at foreign ministry in the city yesterday while State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Capt (Retd) AB Tajul Islam, left, and Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes, right, look on. PHOTO: STAR

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