

NEWS IN *brief*

DMP ban on rallies at Muktangon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday imposed ban on holding meeting and carrying sticks, explosives and firearms in the city's Paltan, Motijheel, Baitul Mukarram, Ramna and adjacent areas from this morning.

DMP Commissioner Benazir Ahmed in a press release said he imposed the ban as three organisations -- Shariyah Ain Bastobayon Committee, Sarbodalio Islami Oikya Parishad and Islamic Front -- called rallies at Muktangon and at the same time.

The DMP commissioner said he imposed the ban from the possibilities of the deterioration of law and order situation causing public insecurity.

Sources said the three organisations have called the rallies at Muktangon on the issue of Women Development Policy.

118 bags of OMS rice seized

STAR REPORT

Law enforcers in separate drives seized around 118 bags of rice meant for open market sales (OMS) from Moulvibazar and Noakhali districts yesterday.

Police raided a warehouse of rice trader Moynul Bari at Nosirganj bazaar under Kulaura upazila and seized 60 bags of rice (each bag containing 50kg rice), reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

Following a tip-off, Md Kabir, upazila food officer, in association with a police team carried out the raid.

Azizul Islam, sub-inspector of Kulaura Police Station, led the drive. Police sealed off the warehouse.

Sixty rice bags bearing the government's seal for OMS was found at the depot, SI said.

A case has been filed in this connection, said Kamrul Hasan, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Our Noakhali correspondent adds, Companigonj police raided a shop of an OMS dealer at Bashurhat Hospital road and seized 58 bags of OMS rice from a van.

The rice was being taken for sell on the black market, police said.

Cambodia, Thailand urged to end hostilities

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indonesia, the current chair of Asean, has called for immediate cessation of hostilities between Cambodia and Thailand.

In a statement issued by the Indonesian embassy in Dhaka yesterday, Indonesian government urged the two sides to continue to resolve their differences through peaceful means as has been reflected in addressing the border dispute between the two countries.

It said the foreign minister of Indonesia is in communication with his Cambodian and Thailand counterparts to address this latest development.

'Try killers of Aminul'

METRO DESK

A human chain was formed in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding immediate exemplary punishment to the killers of Aminul Haque, a businessman of Rajshahi.

Chapainawabganj Zila Samiti, Dhaka formed the human chain also protesting the brutal killing of Aminul. On April 13, police recovered his decomposed body, cut into nine pieces, from a house at Alupatty in Rajshahi city three days into his abduction.

President of the association Eng Mahtab Uddin and General Secretary Eng Nurul Islam, among others, spoke at the programme, said a press release.

Later, the association submitted a memorandum to the home minister.



Rayerbazar Land Acquisition Protection Committee stages demonstration in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city protesting the move to make a new graveyard adjacent to the martyred intellectuals memorial in Rayerbazar in the city.

PHOTO: STAR

Call for comprehensive plan of action to resist stalking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday stressed the need for formulation of a comprehensive plan of action to resist stalking.

They said massive programmes should be taken from the grassroots level to national level to combat stalking and sexual harassment that has turned into a social disease, they said.

The Department of Women Affairs (DWA) organised the workshop at its auditorium in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs acting secretary Tariq-ul-Islam said it is not possible to fight against staking by his ministry alone, coordinated efforts of different ministries concerned are required in this regard.

"The government is determined to ensure security for the girls and needs cooperation from the people and NGOs to reach the goal," he said.

DWA Director General Ashraf Hossain emphasise building a social resistance against stalking and called for formation of anti-stalking committee at all the educational institutions and localities.

He urged all the stakeholders to give specific recommendations for an effective plan of action to stop stalking.

Other participants in the workshop suggested the government to take short-mid and long-term strategies to fight the menace.

Their recommendations include -- division of works among different ministries and government agencies, making the guardians aware, ban on use of mobile phone of youths below 18, strict implementation of existing laws and making the law enforcement agencies more active on the issue.

Prior to the workshop, the DWA officials gathered recommendation for the school and college students (both male and female) of different educational institutions across the country.

Their recommendations include -- establishing library at every locality, stopping obscene film and programmes and ensuring proper use of Internet.

Representatives of Bangladesh Mahila Samity, National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) and different print and electronic media persons participated in the function.

DEATH OF GIRL Rampura OC, 13 others sued

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A human rights organisation filed a case against Saidur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Rampura Police Station along with 13 others for diverting a case of murder after rape.

Nurul Islam Chowdhury, coordinator of Human Resource- A Health Foundation filed the case against the accused under the Fourth Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression of Dhaka, on Monday.

The other accused include Sub-Inspector Joynal, Assistant Sub-Inspector Shyamal Chandra Dhar as well as the owner, manager and employees of Hotel Miraz at Malibagh in the city.

Judge (in-charge) Nur Mohammad Jahangir Sarkar of the tribunal recorded the statement of the complainant and directed the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner to submit a report within seven days after investigation into the matter.

On March 15, Sumi Akhter, a 16-year-old girl from of West Sheorapara was held at the hotel by force and raped, Nurul Islam stated in the complaint. Later, she was thrown off the six-storey building, which resulted in her death.

The police was informed, soon after she was held at the hotel, but they did not take any steps to rescue the victim, out of sheer negligence, Nurul Islam said.

Following her death, they also took no legal action against the ones involved with the incident. When Sumi's father went to file a case, they refused to register it.

Meanwhile, Rampura police filed an unnatural death case in this connection to create diversion from the actual incident, the complainant said.

According to the police, Sumi jumped off the six-storey hotel during a raid by the law enforcers.

Govt isolated from people Says Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night said the government has become isolated from the people, as it failed to do anything for the country in the last two and a half years.

"In the present critical situation of the country, a pro-people government should be formed through a midterm election that we have been demanding to save the country," she said addressing the newly elected office bearers of Manikganj District Bar Association at her Gulshan office in the capital.

The popularity of the government has declined to zero, as it has completely failed to run the country. "The government is busy to loot and file cases against the opposition. They have no headache for the development of the country."

She alleged the prime minister's office is now controlling the judiciary.

BNP Standing Committee Member Rafiqul Islam Mian and Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, among others, were present.

ROLE OF DIPLOMATS IN 1971 Asma Kibria dismayed by non-recognition

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Asma Kibria, wife of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, has expressed dismay for not recognising the contributions of some of the diplomats for their service to the country during the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

Responding to observance of the "Foreign Office Day" on April 23 and awarding to a number of diplomats, who declared their allegiance to the Mujibnagar government on April 18 in 1971, she said that contributions of some of those diplomats such as her husband Kibria together with Enayet Karim defected in Washington D.C from the Pakistan Embassy were not recognised by the foreign ministry.

In a letter to Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes on April 24, Asma Kibria said after the liberation her husband (Kibria) served as director general and then secretary of the foreign ministry and developed its organisational structure and ensured official recognition for the country and met the diplomatic challenges of a generally hostile international environment.

"You yourself must be aware that Kibria is regarded as one of the people who laid the foundation for the modern foreign ministry."

Asma Kibria said in her letter and added that Enayet Karim also served as the foreign secretary with great distinction before he died in 1974.

It is ironic that the contributions of both these men were forgotten by the Awami League government, she added.

When contacted, a senior official of the foreign ministry told The Daily Star that the name of late Shah Kibria is very much in the list of the 25 awardees. "He (Kibria) is one of the prominent figures of the foreign service and the foreign ministry has not forgotten his name. Even his crest was ready, but on April 23 we awarded only 18 persons and rest of the awardees will be awarded soon," he added.

On April 18 in 1971, the then deputy high commissioner in Kolkata M Hossain Ali along with its 65 officials and staff declared their allegiance to the Mujibnagar government by hoisting its red-green national flag atop the mission. It was followed in other missions when Bengali officials defected service from Pakistan.



Sher-e-Bangla's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 49th death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq, a national leader of the undivided Bengal.

On the occasion, his daughter-in-law Ruksana Faez Huq and his five grandchildren will organise milad mahfil at their residences at Baridhara and 27, KM Das Lane at Tikatuli in the city.

Qurankhwani will be offered for salvation of his departed soul while destitute feeding programme will be held at Baridhara and Tikatuli mosques.

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia issued separate messages

National Democratic League will organise a discussion on the premises of the graveyard of Sher-e-Bangla at 8:30am today while Bangabandhu Sanskritik Jote will place wreaths at 8:30am to mark the day.

Umme Salema Khatun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the third death anniversary of Umme Salema Khatun, mother of

cultural activist and Dhaka Mahanagar Awami League leader Salauddin Badal and lyricist Shafat Khoiyam, says a press release.

On the occasion, foods will be distributed among the destitute at her residence at Wari at noon today. A milad mahfil will also be held after Maghrib prayers.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

S M Hedayet Hossain, an upazila social service officer of Godagari, Rajshahi, passed away on Monday, says a press release.

He left behind his father, mother, wife, one brother and one sister.

Bangladesh Social Service Officers' Association condoled his death.



Launching ceremony

Ministry of Education and Unesco, Dhaka will jointly organise a launching ceremony of English version of the Education Policy 2010. Venue: Cirdap auditorium, Time: 9:30am.

Inter-religious dialogue

Catholic Church will arrange an inter-religious dialogue. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 9:00am.

Roundtable

Business Social Compliance Initiative will hold a roundtable. Venue: Sheraton hotel, Time: 9:00am.

Seminar

Bangladesh Economic Association and Dhaka School of Economics will jointly organise a seminar. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 3:00pm.

Book launching

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will hold a book launching ceremony. Venue: 5, Old Secretariat Road, Nimtali, Time: 4:00pm.

Anniversary

Campaign for Popular Education will celebrate its 20th anniversary. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 7:00pm.

Meeting

Zia Parishad will hold a meeting. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 4:00pm.

Workshop

International Business Forum of Bangladesh will arrange a meeting. Venue: Soanrgaon hotel, Time: 10:00am.

Glaxose

WEATHER

TODAY

100% GLUCOSE

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:25pm today and rises at 5:27am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Tangail and lowest 20.0 degrees Celsius at Barisal and Dinajpur.

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	33.1	23.0	37	52
Chittagong	31.5	23.7	71	74
Rajshahi	31.6	21.0	86	77
Rangpur	31.2	21.0	80	58
Khulna	32.5	20.6	70	54
Barisal	32.5	20.0	82	70
Sylhet	34.2	22.3	60	55
Cox's Bazar	32.2	24.5	53	72

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