



Police charge baton on activists of Workers Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesher Samyabadi Dal (ML) and Communist Party of Bangladesh at Shahbagh in the city yesterday. The parties, demanding reinstatement of the '72 constitution, were heading towards Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban from Central Shaheed Minar. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

Wasa not free from corruption, says MD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Wasa is not free from corruption and irregularities, Managing Director Taqsem A Khan admitted yesterday.

He also said the authority took initiatives to ensure transparency in its activities in the last one year.

"We have curbed irregularities and corruption and tried to ensure transparency in our systems. In some cases we succeeded, in some cases we could not. That doesn't mean corruption has left Wasa."

The chief of Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) was speaking at a view-exchange meeting with media representatives to describe progresses of "Turn Around Dhaka Wasa 2010-2012" programme at Wasa Bhaban.

He said some officials are involved in using illegal water lines, metre tempering, and other irregularities.

Wasa took departmental actions including filing case against some 100 employees for different allegations, dismissed some of them, and downsized pay scale of the con-

victed in the last one year, Taqsem claimed.

He also said Wasa has planned to reduce dependence on groundwater sources to 30 percent from existing 87 percent and shift the dependence on surface water sources by 70 percent within the next 10 years.

Two water treatment plants with each having a capacity to produce around 50 crore litres daily will be set up while the extension work of Sayedabad water plant is going on, which will generate around 22.5 crore litre more a day, he said.

About Ramadan preparation, the Wasa managing director said the crisis of water will be reduced significantly for some initiatives taken by Wasa.

Water vehicles, tractors, and generators will remain active while water will be supplied through trolleys and vans during Iftar and Sehri hours, Taqsem said.

Currently Dhaka Wasa is producing around 210-220 crore litres of water daily against a demand of 210-230 crore litres from its 586 deep tubewells and four water treatment plants, he said.

ASF help to make 26 acid survivors self-reliant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 26 acid survivors yesterday received Tk 7.80 lakh to fight their legal battle and to be self-reliant through investing in income generating activities.

Acid Survivors Foundation provided the fund with a view to ensuring social and financial rehabilitation of the acid victims.

Each of the 26 acid survivor women from 17 districts received a check of Tk 30,000.

ASF Executive Director Monira Rahman, distributing the checks, stressed the need for the victims' being self-reliant and making best use of the money.

"It is not an act of pity. It is the investment of ASF to ensure a meaningful and dignified life of the acid survivors," said Monira.

All the employees of the foundation were present at the check distribution programme held at ASF office in the city's Banani.

Two students drown in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two students drowned -- one in a jheel at the Botanical garden and the other at Kadamtoli -- in the city yesterday noon.

Apu Islam, 16, a student of class X of Mirpur Adarsha Bidyalaya and son of Abdul Matin of Senpara Parbata, went to Botanical Garden along with his friends in the morning. Apu drowned when he along with his friends was taking bath in the jheel.

His friends and locals took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the attending doctors declared him dead.

Meanwhile, local people rescued 12-year-old Abdur Razzak from a pond at Dholaipur Muradnagar in the city and took him to DMCH where doctors declared him dead.

Razzak, a resident of Medical Road in Jurain, was a student of class VI of a local madrasa.

57 killed in crossfire in six months

Says Ain O Salish Kendra report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 57 people were killed in crossfire with law enforcers and 10 others died in custody in the last six months, says a report.

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a rights organisation, yesterday disclosed the report prepared on the basis of news items published in 12 dailies of the county.

ASK in a press release said 103 reporters in all were oppressed with two of them having succumbed to their injuries during January-June period.

Mob beating killed 72 people, as public confidence in law has been lost, said the report, adding that local administration imposed section-144 in seven divisions 72 times.

A total of 25 people were killed while 3,514 people sustained injuries in political violence during the period.

The report said 51 people were killed

in Union Parishad election clashes and 15 in ethnic violence in Chittagong.

According to the report, 61 people, including 25 convicted prisoners and 36 prisoners under trial, died in jail.

It added that 14 people were killed while 49 others injured in boarder clashes.

The report revealed 311 women fell victim to rape, including 55 having been killed and 20 having committed suicide following their violation.

It also said 10 domestic helps were killed out of 63 oppressed and 26 died mysteriously while five committed suicide in the six months.

A total of 245 women fell victim to dowry and of them 163 were killed while eight of them committed suicide, it added.

The report also revealed 294 students fell victim to mental and physical torture at different educational institutions across the country while one of them died.

EXPLOSIVES CASES Court asks witnesses to appear July 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A Bogra court yesterday asked six witnesses of the three cases, filed in connection with recovery of bullets and explosives in Jogapara village of Kahalu upazila in June 2003, to appear before it on July 13 following withdrawal of a High Court stay order on the cases.

Kazi Shahina Niger, additional district and session judge-3 of Bogra, gave the order yesterday afternoon.

The six witnesses are former officer-in-charge of Dupchachia Police Station AFM Javid Hassan, former OC of Kahalu Police Station Wahidul Islam, and four local people Abdul Hamid Khan, Ashraf Ali, Altaf Hossain, and Mojam Mondal.

The High Court stayed the cases on February 27, 2005.

Visiting relative strangles boy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of an 11-year-old unidentified boy and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy yesterday. The morgue sources said the boy was strangled.

Residents of a flat at the city's Uttara alleged that the boy was strangled by their visiting relative on Wednesday.

They saw it while their relative Zakir Hossain, 30, was trying to hide the body under a sofa. Zakir fled immediately after the incident, they added.

Mizanur Rahman, a Biman official, lived in the flat in Sector 13. His paternal cousin Zakir came with the boy on Tuesday night, claiming he was a neighbour, said Sub-Inspector (SI) Matiur Rahman Sharif of Uttara Police Station, quoting the flat's residents.

Zakir strangled the boy inside a bathroom and wrapped the body with a mattress before putting it under a sofa, he said.

The domestic help saw protruding legs from under the sofa and informed the matter to Mizanur's wife, who tried to grab Zakir. But Zakir pushed her and fled, he added.

The SI said Mizanur's brother-in-law Rony, 22, who used to live there, has been picked up for interrogation as Rony, his brother, Zakir and the boy had slept in the same room.

Police are raiding different places including Zakir's village home in Barisal and Dhaka to arrest him but could not know the boy's identity till yesterday evening, he said.

US embassy closed July 4

METRO DESK

The US Embassy in Dhaka will remain closed on Monday (July 4) in observance of the US Independence Day, says a press release.

This closure includes the Consular Section and the American Centre's Archer K Blood Library and Student Advising Centre.

Emergency services, however, will be available for American citizens. They are requested to call 885-5500 and ask for the duty officer.

As the festival of Eid approaches, The Daily Star is putting together the Star Fashion- Eid Album 2011, ahead of the country's largest shopping season.

If you wish to participate, send outfits and accessories you would like to feature in the album.

Last date for submission
July 08, 2011

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3. All submissions must be accompanied with a short description of the product, including price.
4. Designs should be original and fabrics should suit the weather and environment.
5. The attires and accessories sent for the album are returnable.
6. Entry fee per entry is Tk 500 (minimum 6 entries for each participating house).

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