

NEWS IN *brief*

Withdraw ban on rickshaws near edn institutions: Blass

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Society (Blass), a rights organisation, yesterday demanded the restriction on rickshaws in the city streets near schools and colleges in the city be withdrawn to relieve people of suffering.

Blass leaders placed the demand at a press conference at Supreme Court Bar Association building.

Blass President ABM Waliur Rahman Khan in a written statement said restriction on rickshaws is similar to "the violation of democratic and human rights."

Workshop on postal service starts on July 31

METRO DESK

A four-day workshop on the regional approach to field support for designated operators (quality of services) of the Universal Postal Union will be held at Hotel Rigs Inn of Gulshan in the city on July 31.

Bangladesh Post Office will organise the workshop, says a press release.

Secretary to the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications will be the chief guest while director general of Bangladesh Post Office will preside over the workshop.

Youth shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of miscreants shot a youth at Paltan in the city last night.

The miscreants shot Dulal, 25, a vendor on VIP extension road, at 10:30 and fled the scene.

Local people rushed the injured to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Dulal told the reporters at DMCH that some friends of one Shahin opened fire at him as he made a sweeping comment on drug addiction before Shahin.

But Shahidul Haque, OC of Paltan Police Station, said they primarily learnt from the locals that the incident occurred due to internal feud among the youths.

Porimol files petition to withdraw confessional statement

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Porimol Joydhor, the sacked teacher of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, yesterday filed a petition with a Dhaka court for withdrawing his confessional statement in the case filed against him for allegedly molesting a student.

The accused was produced before the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, which rejected his bail prayer.

Porimol in his petition claimed the investigation officer (IO) of the case tortured him inhumanly to extract a confession.

During the five-day custodial remand, the IO took him to a desolate place at Balur Math in the city's Bashundhara and pressed him for the statement, he said.

The IO even threatened to kill him in 'crossfire', mentioned Porimol adding, the charge brought against him was false, fabricated and concocted and he was implicated in the case under a conspiracy to harass him.

He was arrested on July 6 from Keraniganj just outside the capital for allegedly violating the class X student of Viqarunnisa's Bashundhara branch at his Badda coaching centre on May 28.

Bangla Bhai's associate held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police arrested an alleged associate of the executed JMB leader Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhai from Goalkandi area of Bagmara upazila last evening.

The arrestee was identified as Mamun Muhuri of the area and as one of the close associates of Bangla Bhai during his militant activities in Rajshahi in 2004.

Harunur Rashid, officer-in-charge of Bagmara Police Station, said they have obtained information that Mamun was reorganizing Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of AHS Ataul Karim, a noted diplomat and former foreign secretary, says a press release.

He also served as the Bangladesh ambassador to the United States of America.

On the occasion, doa and milad mahfil will be held at his residence at House No-89, Road No-7/A, Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

Jalal Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 14th death anniversary of Jalal Ahmed, a renowned businessman and social worker, says a press release.

He is an elder brother of Shaheed Brig Gen Jamil Ahmed, Bir Uttam.

He was also a district governor of Lions International, chairman of Bangladesh Jute Goods Association and former captain of Kurmitola Golf Club.

On the occasion, milad mahfil and special prayers will be held at Lalmatia Jame Masjid after Asr prayers today.

Relatives and friends are requested to attend the programme.



Garbage piled in the playground of Taltala government staff quarters in the city, shrinking free space for children even further. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

TOP 20 UNDER DHAKA BOARD IN HSC EXAMS

City colleges dominate list

RAKIB AHAMMED and PANKAJ KARMAKAR

The educational institutions in the capital dominate the list of top 20 institutions in this year's HSC examination results under Dhaka Board published yesterday.

Only five colleges outside the capital have secured positions in the list of top 20 colleges, prepared by the education ministry, on the basis of five criteria.

The criteria are regular examinees, total number of examinees, pass percentage, number of GPA 5 achievers, and average GPA in the institutions.

The education ministry introduced preparing the list of top 20 colleges in each of eight general education boards, madrasa education board, and technical education board last year.

Rajuk Uttara Model College in the capital has secured first position [which was fourth last year] with 94.64 points and 891 GPA-5 scorers among its 1,050 successful examinees.

Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College has achieved second position this year securing 89.38 points, losing its last year's first position while Mirzapur Cadet College, Tangail, got third with 88.72 points.

Three other top listed colleges outside the capital are -- Abdul Kadir Mollah City College, Narsingdi (7th), Shahid Sayed Nazrul Islam College, Mymensingh (15th), and Cantonment Public School and College, Mymensingh (20th).

Principal of the city's Notre Dame College, Father Benjamin De Costa, said educational institutions in Dhaka dominate the colleges outside of the city in terms of result as

good teachers are not interested to continue in the rural colleges and the city students get much better facilities than the rural students.

"The students in science group in the rural colleges do not get better laboratory facilities and so they can not achieve expected result," he added.

"We are always caring to our students and we try to teach our students in interesting way so that they never feel bored," ASM Mushfiqur Rahman, principal of Rajuk College, told The Daily Star.

"I am so happy as this success will help build my career," said Nazmul Hasan Shuvo, a GPA 5 achiever of the college.

Sister Shikha Gomes, principal of the city's Holy Cross College that secured 8th position with 654 GPA-5 scorers, said she is not concerned

about the position but about the number of students with quality education.

Abdur Rahim, a father of a GPA-5 achiever at Notre Dame College that ranked 5th with 1,586 GPA-5 scorers, believes discipline and careful teaching of the college as well as hard work by his son are the main factors behind his son's success.

Other best institutions in Dhaka are Viqarunnisa Noon College (4th), Dhaka City College (6th), Residential Model College (9th), Shamsul Hoque Khan School and College (10th), Ideal School and College (11th), National Ideal College (12th), SOS Hermann Gmeiner College (13th), Bir Shreshtha Noor Mohammed Rifles Public School and College, (14th), Cambrian College (16th), Dhaka Commerce College (17th), Dhaka College (18th), Adamjee Cantonment College (19th).

Minor domestic help beaten dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A minor domestic help was beaten to death allegedly by his employers in the city's Dhanmondi on Tuesday as they suspected the boy for stealing a silver anklet.

The victim is Sharif Bepary, 14. He worked at the residence of Dr Anwar Hossain, 50, a physician of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

Enamul Haque, officer-in-charge of Kalabagan Police Station, said Dr Anwar informed him over phone at 11:00pm on Tuesday that Sharif committed suicide.

The OC said they recovered the victim's body from Green Life Medical College Hospital in Green road and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

The morgue sources said Sharif's body bore several marks of serious injury.

Dr Anwar and his wife, who is also a doctor, claimed that Sharif hanged himself from window with a rope but did not say why he committed suicide, police said.

The security guards and sources at the resident building said the couple used to torture Sharif, and on Tuesday Dr Anwar took Sharif to the parking ground at 9:00am and asked the security staff to tie him as he would hand the boy over to police, they added.

The sources said Sharif showed them injury marks over his body and said the couple lost a silver anklet and tortured him for that.

The couple returned at 2:00pm and took Sharif to their apartment, said the security guards. At 11:00pm the couple called a security guard and a staff to the flat where Sharif was found lying on the floor, they said.

Asked by the couple, the security staff took to Sharif to Green Life Medical College Hospital.

Sharif's elder brother Ibrahim Bepary told The Daily Star that the couple beat Sharif to death but is now trying to hide it in the name of suicide.

AL UK unit calls on PM

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of Bangladesh Awami League's (AL) United Kingdom (UK) unit paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban yesterday evening.

During the meeting, the UK AL leaders discussed the political situation prevailing in the country.

The delegation expressed gratitude to the prime minister as the government included Bangladeshi expatriates to the national voter list.

Hasina mentioned the expatriates' contribution to the national economy through the huge amount of remittance they send.

UK AL unit President Sultan Mohammad Sharif and General Secretary Syed Sajidur Rahman Faruk led the delegation.

Apologise for comment

Hasina urges Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia to apologise for her "audacious" comments about the constitution.

Khaleda, at her party's mass hunger strike on July 13, said the constitution would be thrown away when BNP returned to power.

"The opposition leader must withdraw her audacious comment otherwise the nation would never forgive her. She has to seek apology from the nation for her comment," Hasina said.

She was addressing a function organised to mark the 18th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Awami Swechchhasebak League at Gono Bhaban in the morning.

The prime minister said the constitution has been made sacred with the 15th amendment. "After a long 35 years, we have been able to restore the spirit of 1971 War of Liberation in the constitution with the people's mandate," she said.

Hasina said the amendment secured people's voting rights and other democratic rights. "From now on, none can snatch away their (people's) voting rights," she said.

The prime minister said the opposition leader can make such comments about the constitution as she and her party is always against democracy and the people's rights.

"They are habituated to rig elections. In the future," she said.

Hasina said if the opposition leader had the sense of patriotism and belief in the nation's sovereignty and independence, she would not have made such comments.

The prime minister thanked the last caretaker government for formulating a flawless voter list after detecting 1.23 crore fake voters included in the list by the last BNP-Jamaat alliance government.

Hasina said Khaleda Zia is now crying for a caretaker government though the last caretaker government filed cases against her and her sons.

"If she cries for the caretaker form of government, she has to admit that the last caretaker government had done the right thing by filing cases against her and her sons.

"The opposition leader must agree that the last parliamentary poll on December 29, 2008 was held in a free and fair manner," she said.

Referring to Khaleda's allegation that the last caretaker government helped Awami League (AL) come to power, Hasina said the former president Iajuddin Ahmed, army chief Moeen U Ahmed and chief adviser Fakhruddin were Khaleda's men.

"Fakhruddin was called back from World Bank and made Bangladesh Bank governor during the last BNP-Jamaat regime while Moeen U Ahmed was made the army chief superseding nine major generals," she said.

AL Organising Secretary Bahauddin Nasim and Bangladesh Awami Swechchhasebak League President Mollah Kawser and General Secretary Pankaj Devnath also addressed the meeting.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina cuts a cake marking the 18th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Awami Swechchhasebak League at Gono Bhaban in the city yesterday. PHOTO: PID

Sugar at Tk 60 per kg from Ramadan

UNB, Dhaka

State-owned Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) decided to sell 15 lakh kilograms of sugar in the open market during the month of Ramadan.

"It (BSFIC) will start selling sugar at Tk 60 per kilogramme from the 1st of Ramadan," said Industries Minister Dilip Barua while laying the foundation stone of a 10-storied BSFIC building in the city's Motijheel yesterday.

Industries Secretary KH Masud Siddiqui spoke at the special guest at the function with BSFIC acting chairman and Additional Secretary of the industries ministry ABM Khorsheed Alam in the chair.

Speaking as the chief guest, Barua said good days are returning in the loss-incurring sugar mills.

He said the government is determined to keep the sugar mills in north Bengal operational to meet domestic demands for sugar.

The new building at 76 Motijheel Commercial Area will be centrally air-conditioned with 37,249 square feet of floor space. It will also have parking space, Local Area Network (LAN) and public address system.

25 rescued while being trafficked to India

UNB, Khulna

Twenty five people, including children and women, were rescued from Chuknagar in Dumuria Upazila yesterday while being trafficked to India.

Acting on a tip-off, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) raided a Satkhira bound bus of Eagle Paribahan near Chuknagar Degree College at noon and rescued nine unidentified women, 14 children and two males.

Three alleged traffickers Arjun and his two associates Niranjan Das and Bipul Das of Chittagong, were also arrested.

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rangpur and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:44pm and rises tomorrow at 5:26am.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.2 degree at Rangpur.

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	34.2	28.0	75	63
Chittagong	31.4	25.5	83	76
Rajshahi	35.0	26.5	86	70
Rangpur	31.0	24.2	87	82
Khulna	34.8	27.4	81	77
Barisal	33.2	26.6	76	75
Sylhet	31.8	25.5	92	73