

NEWS IN *brief*

Concern over woman's body recovered from MP hostel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday expressed deep concern over the incident of recovery of the decomposed body of an unidentified woman at a lawmakers' hostel on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises on Sunday.

President of the organisation Ayesha Khanam and General Secretary Maleka Banu in a joint statement demanded neutral investigation into the incident and exemplary punishment to those who were involved with it.

They also mentioned the incident as an example of women repression as the body was found at such a place where laws are made.

An unidentified woman's decomposed body, aged between 25 and 30, was found around a staircase of the hostel's Block-6 on April 22.

Graft Case: Mosharraf gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to former health minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain in a case filed against him on charge of amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 12.51 crore and concealing information about Tk 3.11 crore.

Judge (in charge) Borhan Uddin Ahmed of the Special Judge Court-8 issued the order after Mosharraf appeared before the court and sought bail in the case.

During hearing on the bail petition, advocate Masud Ahmed Talukder told the court that his client had earlier filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging legality of the case. After the hearing, the HC stayed the proceedings of the case on July 8, 2008 till disposal of the rule. The court also granted his client bail.



Pedestrians' suffering increases due to Dhaka City Corporation's (DCC) long-drawn development work on the footpath in front of Curzon Hall at Dhaka University. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladeshi plane makes emergency landing in India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A trainee pilot of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) had to make emergency landing his aircraft in Murshidabad district of West Bengal in India yesterday evening due to failing to locate position in the air.

Assistant Director Nurul Islam of ISPR told The Daily Star that flight Cadet Mohammad Rashed taking off from Bir Shrestha Matir Rahman air base of BAF in Jessore at 4:04pm, sent a message that he failed to locate his position in the air.

At 6:32pm, he further informed that he was going to land on a nearby field failing to locate any airport within his reach, he said quoting Rashed.

He added that Rashed managed to land at 6:37pm on the field and he then came to know that the field was under Murshidabad district.

Asked about the reason of failing to locate the position, Nurul Islam said the reason could not be ascertained immediately.

Two die as nor'wester sweeps capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified rickshaw-puller was killed and his passenger injured critically when a tree fell on their rickshaw near Central Shahid Minar during nor'wester in the capital last night.

Injured Fakhru Islam, an official of Supreme Court, was first taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later shifted him to Square Hospital in a critical condition, said DMCH sources.

Locals said an age-old rain tree near central Shahid Minar fell on the running rickshaw around 8:30pm.

The rickshaw was smashed by the tree, they said.

In another incident, one Jasimuddin, 25, who was injured when an electric wire fell on him during the storm at Purba Jurain died at DMCH at 11:45am.

Met Office said the highest speed of the wind of the nor-westerly was 64km per hour damaged some small and big trees in the capital including at Hare Road.



Seminar

Intellectual Property Association of Bangladesh will organise a discussion; Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel; Time: 9:30am.

Discussion

Japan International Cooperation Agency will organise a discussion; Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel; Time: 10:00am.

Founding anniversary

Bangladesh Chhatra Union will organise its 60th founding anniversary; Venue: Raju Bhaskarja;

ABSENCE IN MEETINGS

JS body blasts LGRD minister, state minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday blasted LGRD Minister Syed Ashraf Islam and his deputy Jahangir Kabir Nanak for their repeated absence in the meetings of the committee.

Expressing "utmost resentment," members of the parliamentary standing committee on LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry asked the ministers to attend the next meeting on May 2.

"If the minister and the state minister don't join the next meeting, I will resign from the committee," Abul Khair Bhuiyan, member of the committee, told The Daily Star at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The BNP lawmaker walked out of the

meeting protesting the absence of the ministers.

The parliamentary oversight body will inform Speaker Abdul Hamid about the matter and will seek his directions in this regard, added Bhuiyan.

Committee sources said Ashraf and Nanak have attended only about 17 meetings out of a total of 47 held so far.

The committee earlier several times had drawn the attention of the two about their frequent absence.

M Rahmat Ali, chief of the parliamentary body, questioned the rationale of holding meetings in absence of both the ministers.

"Neither the minister nor the state minister turns up at the meetings to reply

to the queries of the members of the committee," he added.

The committee members also alleged that ministry officials do not provide full information on matters they inquire about.

The committee had asked the ministry to provide information about the allocation in test relief, food for work and other such programmes, said Abul Khair Bhuiyan. "But the ministry is yet to provide that information."

The committee yesterday formed a five-member sub-committee headed by lawmaker Noor-E-Alam Chowdhury to examine the income and expenditure of 37 community centres in the capital.



In a snap visit to Kamalapur Railway Station, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, who is temporarily given the additional charge of the railways ministry, listens to the complaints of commuters and expresses his disappointments.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

KAMALAPUR RAILWAY STATION Minister unhappy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On a surprise visit to the capital's Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday, Communications and Railways Minister Obaidul Quader found numerous anomalies and some of the station staff absent from their duties.

Walking through the station at around 5:30pm, he found garbage on each and every corner while all the rooms were reeking of stench.

Observing a long queue standing still before a ticket counter for quite some time, he found the holdup to be caused by two black market dealers buying tickets inside the counter. The men fled the instant they saw the minister.

Finding no personnel in the luggage room, he ordered the suspension of Abdul Aziz, an assistant of luggage booking section, who was on duty at that time.

Quader found a woman charging Tk 5 for using the toilet in the waiting room of second class passengers. She claimed the charge was for the water she supplied.

He boarded a couple of trains where passengers complained of the poor condition of the toilets.

The minister also came to know that grabbers had taken over some 500 acres of the railway's land in and around Kamalapur.

Quader called Railways Director General Abu Taher and Secretary Fazle Elahi and asked them to fix the problems within a week or face action. "As long as I am at the ministry, I will not tolerate any negligence or irregularities."

He asked for the toilets to be adequately supplied with water and the station be kept clean. "Find who the grabbers are and recover the land," he instructed the railway bosses.

MJF protests attack on indigenous families

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) and its associated bodies protested and condemned the attack on the five families of indigenous people at Tanore of Rajshahi.

MJF said such attack would put negative effect on the activities of the government taken for development of the indigenous people, said a press release.

The organisation also protested grabbing of indigenous people's land, setting their houses on fire and harassing them through filing false cases recently in various areas of Rajshahi.

It demanded the government justice for the victimised indigenous people.

On April 22, local land grabbers attacked at least five indigenous families and set their houses on fire.

Savar dyeing factory fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) cancelled the environment clearance certificate of Birds A-and-Z Ltd, a dyeing factory at Baipail, Savar, and fined it Tk 25 lakh yesterday, as it continued to pollute the river Turag despite being warned six times since 2007.

The dyeing factory was set up in 2007 and since then it has been polluting the Turag violating the environment laws. DoE Director (monitoring and enforcement) Mohammed Munnir Chowdhury led a drive this February and found the factory still polluting the river.

Before the February drive, different teams of the department inspected it six times between 2006 and 2011 and found it continuing pollution. The factory was never fined beforehand and given chance each time to set up effluent treatment plant, said a press release.

World Intellectual Property Day today

UNB, Dhaka

The World Intellectual Property Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere across the globe today to appreciate the brains that create.

This year's theme of the day is: "Visionary Innovators".

Paint, Design and Trade Mark Directorate under the industries ministry, Copyright Office under the cultural ministry and Intellectual Property Association of Bangladesh (IPAB) will jointly arrange a seminar at Sonargaon Hotel in the city today marking the day.

Tough movement from Sunday if Ilias Ali not traced: Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said his party chairperson gave four more days to locate missing Ilias Ali and his driver so that the government can find out an exit route from this incident.

"The flame of movement will be raging across the country from Sunday if the government fails to return Ilias and his driver by Saturday. The government will not be able to douse the flame," he said while addressing a discussion at Jatiya Press Club organised by student leaders of 90s.

Aman Ullah Aman, former vice president of Dhaka University Central Students Union, presided over the meeting.

Ilias, a former general secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD) who was active in anti-autocrat movement in 80s, went missing on April 17 from the capital. BNP blames the government's agencies for the "disappearance" of Ilias Ali and his driver for which Khaleda Zia on Tuesday issued a four-day ultimatum for getting back them.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, however, termed Ilias Ali's "disappearance" "a drama" saying Ilias went into hiding following Khaleda Zia's direction to raise an issue of forging movement.

Meanwhile, BNP standing committee member Afiquel Islam Mia yesterday threatened the government to make the country paralysed through movement if Ilias and his driver are not returned to their families.

While addressing a human chain before the press club, he said the government's men have kept Ilias Ali hostage. But the home minister and its state minister are now silent.

A pro-opposition organisation Swadhinota Forum organised the human chain.

At a press briefing at the national press club, former minister and BNP leader Nazmul Huda urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to sit with leader of the opposition Khaleda Zia to overcome the ongoing crises of the country.

He, however, said hartal is the only effective way to mount pressure on the government.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Rangpur, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Comilla, Noakhali, Jessore and Kushtia in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country, Met office said.

Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions of Faridpur and Patuakhali and it may continue.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The highest temperature is likely 37-38 degrees Celsius and lowest temperature to be 20-21 degrees Celsius.

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

Country's highest temperature 38.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 18.1 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

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 | 34.8 | 25.4 | 66 | 63 |
| Chittagong | 32.2 | 27.0 | 76 | 76 |
| Rajshahi | 37.8 | 24.2 | 57 | 49 |
| Rangpur | 31.5 | 23.2 | 66 | 66 |
| Khulna | 36.5 | 24.5 | 77 | 70 |
| Barisal | 35.4 | 24.5 | 63 | 73 |