

NEWS IN

brief

Rangpur court summons ATN Bangla chief

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Rangpur Chief Judicial Magistrate Court Monday after noon summoned Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, chairman of ATN Bangla and ATN News, to appear before it on October 2 in a case filed against him for making derogatory remark about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Awami League supporter Isha Rihullah Abir, inhabitant of Rangpur town, filed the case demanding Tk 10 crore as compensation, said the plaintiff's counsel Nirmol Chandra Mahota.

15 govt officials selected for Japanese scholarship

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen young Bangladeshi government officials were selected for "The Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)" this year.

The fellows will leave for Japan in August for studying Master's degree in various fields including International Relations, Public Administration, Environment, for two years, said a press release

DU help sought for CRP occupational therapy course

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), Bangladesh called on Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique at his office yesterday.

Valerie A Taylor, founder and coordinator of CRP led the 10-member delegation.

Different issues such as improving nursing system, higher education and special care for the autistic children, came up for discussion during the meeting.

The delegation sought assistance from the vice chancellor for launching Master's course on occu-

Road transport, traffic law in the offing

UNB, Dhaka

The government has taken an initiative to enact a road transport and traffic law to rein in the chaotic traffic across the country.

The draft bill of the proposed law, both in Bangla and English, are available on the communications ministry's website (www.moc.gov.bd or www.moc.gov.bd), said a handout yesterday.

The ministry has urged the interested individuals, organisations and stakeholders to put forward their

Trader stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A trader was stabbed to death at Chalkbazar in the old part of the capital yesterday.

The deceased, Mohammad Moazzem, 30, was a scrap metal trader and a resident of Islambagh Baganbari area in Chalkbazar.

Police said a group of three to four local miscreants, over establishing supremacy in the area, stabbed Moazzem near his home around 11:30pm.

Moazzem was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Police, however, arrested a person named Masum



Workers present Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with two bangles at her official residence Gono Bhaban in the capital yesterday. Five thousand workers contributed 50 paisa per month to the making of the bangles.

PHOTO: PMO

Padma bridge corruption will be tried: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said Padma bridge must be constructed with the fund of World Bank (WB) by ensuring punishment of corrupt persons.

"Finance minister is making false and confusing statements regarding WB's decision to cancel loan agreement only to protect corrupt minister and bureaucrats. Such corrupt persons will be brought under trial if BNP voted to power," he said while addressing a discussion organised by party's Lalbagh unit at Jatiya Press Club.

He said government is now trying to collect loan from Malaysia with high interest rate for Padma bridge construction but people will not accept it.

At a separate discussion in the press club, party's Standing Committee Member Moudud Ahmed said cancellation of Padma bridge loan agreement for corruption allegation is a "morale fallen" of the government.

CHT REGIONAL COUNCIL

10 more govt bodies to come under council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authority of around ten more government offices and departments in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) under different ministries will be handed over to each of the Regional Councils of the CHT as per the 1997 peace accord.

However, the authority of police will not be handed over to CHT regional council soon as it needs amendment in existing police act, said acting Secretary Naba Bikram Kishore Tripura of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs yesterday.

"We are holding three meetings with the secretaries of 18 ministries from July 1 and today (Tuesday) we held the last one. We fixed August 30 as deadline for handing over the authority of some more government offices," he added.

He said since the signing of the peace pact the authority of 22 government offices were handed over to hill district council of Rangamati, 19 of Bandarban and 18 of Khagrachhari in CHT.

Emerging from a meeting on "Handing over government offices' authority to CHT Regional Council" held at the ministry he made the comments while briefing the newspersons.

Awami League government and Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity signed the deal on December 2, 1997, and according to the pact the authority of 33 government departments and offices will be handed over to each of the CHT regional councils.

State Minister for CHT Affairs Ministry Dipankar Talukdar chaired the meeting. Prime minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi was, among others, present.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Locals bring out a passenger from a mangled CNG-run auto-rickshaw after it was hit by a speeding truck in Kamtal area of Bandar upazila in Narayanganj yesterday. Five people died in the accident.

CPB, BSD form new alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) yesterday formed a new platform to strengthen democracy and ensure rights of people in the country.

Leaders of the platform named "Leftist Democratic Alternative Force", said it will work for materialising its 15-point agenda including democratisation of the constitution according to spirit of the country's Liberation War.

The platform was announced at a joint press conference at "Mukti Bhaban" in the capital.

According to the leaders, working for ensuring the trial and punishment of the war crime suspects is one of the main agenda of the platform.

The leaders suggested holding of national elections for two more terms under the caretaker government system following the apex court's order for the shake of political stability in the country.

"We think the national elections should be held under the caretaker government system for next two terms to make the elections credible and acceptable to all" said CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim.

It will hold a protest rally in front of the National Press Club to enforce its agenda on July 14.

HINDU MARRIAGE REGISTRATION

Bill placed in JS for making law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bill was placed in parliament yesterday seeking to enact a law on Hindu marriage registration, first of its kind for the Hindu community in Bangladesh, for, what it said, providing both males and females of the community with legal protection.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed placed the bill and said the proposed legislation would allow Hindu people to seek help from the court in case of necessity.

Currently, there is no specific marriage law or registration system for the Hindus in Bangladesh.

Thus, the Hindu marriages at home follow no legal proceedings but social customs. Moreover, the Hindu marriage rituals or formalities vary from caste to caste.

"Due to lack of any documentary evidence, marriage related any matter is dependent only on oral evidences. As a result, any party of the marriage, particularly of the Hindu women, are being cheated. But it is not possible to easily provide the victim legal aid [due to lack of documents]," said

the law minister in a written statement tagged along the bill copies.

Besides, he said, documentary evidence on marriage is essential for travelling, immigration and for other purposes.

In India, the Hindu marriage registration act was made in 1955, he added.

The proposed legislation seeks to make the marriage registration system optional, saying that legality of any marriage will not be questioned if it is not registered.

It, however, imposed a restriction on registering the marriage of any male aged below 21 years and female aged below 18 years.

After enactment of the law, the government would appoint marriage registrar in every upazila in this regard.

The law minister also placed another bill in parliament seeking to amend the Registration Act of 1908 to determine a fee of Tk 100 for registration of a declaration of gift of any immovable property under the Hindu, Christian and Buddhist personal law.

Such gift can be exchanged only with direct family members like spouse, parents,

BR RECRUITMENT TEST SCAM ACC quizzes officials, college teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday interrogated seven teachers of Chittagong College and 13 Bangladesh Railway (BR) East Zone officials for their alleged involvement in doctoring the tabulation sheet of the BR's recruitment examinations.

The teachers were Prof Hajarat Ali, Assistant Professors Alamgir Hossain, Subhash Das, Nurul Bashar and Prasenjit Paul and Lecturers Jahangir Alam and Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury.

They had prepared the tabulation sheet after examining the written papers of the recruitment tests.

According to sources at ACC, Golam Kibria, a suspended senior welfare officer at the BR's East Zone, allegedly lobbied the teachers for changing the main tabulation sheet on June 6.

Kibria requested the teachers to sign on another tabulation sheet which he prepared according to his own style saying that the tabulation sheet the teachers had prepared went missing, the sources said.

The BR authorities suspended Kibria after the mater was disclosed.

Meanwhile, the ACC launched an investigation into the matter.

ACC's Deputy Director Abu Sayeed and two other Assistant Directors Rashedur Reza and Majibur Rahman interrogated the 7 teachers and 13 BR officials.

Earlier on Monday, the ACC investigators quizzed nine teachers of Chittagong Muslim High School and eight BR officials in this connection.

HR situation improved

Says NHRC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The human rights situation of the country has improved significantly though it is yet to reach a satisfactory level, said Mizanur Rahman, chairman of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of Bangladesh.

"We can stand with our heads held high only after the rate of human rights violation in Bangladesh comes down to a zero level," he also told reporters after attending an inauguration programme at a hotel in Chittagong city yesterday.

He inaugurated a three-day-long "Teachers Training Programme on International Humanitarian Law" jointly organised by Faculty of Law of Chittagong University (CU) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Asked on the issues of police torture, harassment and extra-judicial killings, Prof Mizanur said these issues were still a matter of concern.

He said reports of the foreign human rights bodies do not project the real scenario of the human rights situation in Bangladesh.

He further said Bangladesh did not break the international law by sending back the Rohingyas, rather it treated them with humanity and gave them food and treatment.

"International organisations should put pressure on the Myanmar government instead of Bangladesh to solve the Rohingya issue," he added.

Prof Zakir Hossain, dean of Faculty of Law of CU, presided over the programme while Federic Dufour, head of delegation of ICRC, Dhaka, addressed it.

The NHRC chief, later on, visited Chittagong Medical College Hospital where he condemned its administration on finding the hospital in an unhygienic condition.

DHAKA TODAY

Report launch

The World Bank (WB), Dhaka will organise a report launching programme; Venue: WB Dhaka office; Time: 11:00am.

Product introducing

National Bank Limited will introduce a

new product; Venue: Winter Garden, Ruposhi Bangla Hotel; Time: 9:00am.

Annual paper meet

Electrical Engineering Division will organise the closing ceremony of the 3rd Annual Paper Meet of Electrical Engineering-2012; Venue: IEB Seminar

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 5:16am.

Country's highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Tangail and lowest 25.5 degrees at Cox's Bazar.

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 | 32.5 26.0 | 83 85 |
| Chittagong | 31.1 26.4 | 80 87 |
| Rajshahi | 32.6 26.3 | 89 92 |
| Rangpur | 31.4 25.8 | 88 83 |
| Khulna | 31.5 26.6 | 96 87 |
| Barisal | 31.6 26.2 | 80 92 |
| Sylhet | 32.9 27.4 | 80 89 |