

NEWS IN *brief*

'Amend house rent control act'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is necessary to amend the house rent control act of 1991 to prevent landlords in the capital from charging excessive rent, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

Jatiya Bharatiya Kalyan Society organised the seminar styled "Make house rent control act effective after amending it" at the Jatiya Press Club.

In the last 22 years, no government has taken the initiative to make the act time befitting, said Advocate Manzill Murshid, president of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

He said that they submitted a writ petition to the High Court to make an existing rent chart, which shows rent based on area, effective.

The organisers placed a seven-point demand yesterday including area based standard rent following the house rent control act, appointing rent controller, deputy controller and assistant controller to monitor the standard rent.

AKM Golam Mohiuddin, chairman of Jatiya Bharatiya Kalyan Society, former Awami League leader Mahmudur Rahman Manna, among others,

2 Dhaka College students stabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Dhaka College students were stabbed allegedly by a group of Dhaka City College students in Dhanmondi area of the capital yesterday.

The injured, Redwan Islam Hridoy and Sakib Al Mahatir, are the first year students.

Sakib told The Daily Star that around 22 students of the City College attacked them with knife while they were waiting for bus in front of Popular Hospital in Dhanmondi, Road No-2 around 11:00am.

He, however, did not say anything about the reason behind the incident.

Dhanmondi police said the attack might be launched over a feud.

The injured took treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Japan funds training complex

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A multi-dimensional training complex has been constructed in Shariatpur with Japanese financial aid aiming to develop skill and create employment opportunity for the poor with special focus on women empowerment at rural level.

Shiro Sadoshima, ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, inaugurated the complex on Thursday, said a press release of Japan Embassy yesterday.

The training complex will impart training to 1,882 people every year.

The objective of the project is to organise training on different income generation activities and other development issues for the poor and ultra poor considering the market demand and need of the target group to change their socio-



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina consoles the wife of late architect Mazharul Islam at his Gulshan residence in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

Mazharul Islam laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Legendary architect Mazharul Islam was laid to rest at Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in the capital's Mirpur yesterday.

Earlier, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited his Gulshan residence in the afternoon to pay him a last tribute.

His body was brought to the Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University (DU) around 12:00 noon where friends, colleagues and well-wishers paid him their last tributes.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held after Zohr prayers at DU Central Mosque where he was accorded a guard of honour by a police contingent.

His second namaz-e-janaza was held at

Azad Mosque in Gulshan after Asr prayers. He was buried around 8:00pm.

People from all walks of life as well as different organisations expressed deep shock at his death and prayed for the departed soul.

The master architect, born on December 25, 1923, in Murshidabad, passed away at a hospital in the capital early yesterday.

CORRIGENDUM

The news report on the passing away of Mazharul Islam in yesterday's issue of The Daily Star noted that he is survived by his wife, two daughters and a son.

In fact, the late architect left behind, besides his wife, two sons and a daughter. The Daily Star regrets the error.

HC orders N'ganj DC to investigate 'wrongful jailing'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the Narayanganj deputy commissioner to investigate an allegation of imprisoning a man mistaken to be a murder convict and submit a report to it in this regard by July 30.

The imprisoned man, Zakir Hossain, was produced before the HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain yesterday as per its June 21 order.

On that day, the HC bench had also issued a rule asking the officials concerned to explain in two weeks why keeping the man detained should not be declared illegal.

The rule came following a newspaper report placed before the court by Advocate KM Saifuddin.

The report headlined, "Ekjoner jabojjibon khatchhen onnojon" (one man's life sentence is being served by another), was published in the Bangla daily Bangladesh Protidin that day.

The report says Md Zakir Hossain, son of Shamsul Haque of Hathkholapara under Arahazar thana in Narayanganj, was serving the jail sentence of another man, Zakir Hossain, son of Shamsuddin of Beparipara village of the thana.

The sentence came over the murder of one, Bikchan Mia, by some muggers at Bajobi of Arahazar on November 11, 1991.

Police had submitted a charge-sheet implicating Shamsuddin's son Zakir in May, 1992 and the District and Sessions Judge of Narayanganj passed the sentence on November 23, 1996 with the convict in absentia, said the report.

Afterwards, police, on December 10, 2007, arrested Md Zakir while the real convict remained at large, it added.

Yesterday, Zakir told the HC bench that he was arrested by police on November 27, 2007 from the capital's Paltan area and he had no idea about the conviction.

Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder read out a letter from Kashimpur Jail Senior Jail Super Jahangir Kabir before the court. In it, Jahangir stated that police had confirmed the identification of the imprisoned man.

Afterwards, the HC bench asked the authorities concerned of Narayanganj District and Sessions Judge's Court to submit the case record before it by July 30 and the jail authorities to produce the man before it that day.

Nutrition services in poor condition

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the government has made much progress in some indices of health sector, progress in providing nutrition services to the people still lagging behind in the country, said Senior Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Ministry Md Humayun Kabir yesterday.

"The government has taken some effective measures to enhance the progress in health sector, and it has also achieved some successes in some indices like reduction of maternal and infant death rates," he said.

"But failures to speed up the progress in providing nutrition services pull down the success in the health sector", he added.

Humayun Kabir made the remarks at a roundtable on "Role of nutrition in increasing good health and working capacity of the women" jointly organised by Plan Bangladesh, a non-government organisation (NGO), and Bangla daily Prothom Alo in the latter's office.

Joint editor of the daily Prothom Alo Abdul Quayum moderated the roundtable where Dr Makhduma Nargis, additional secretary at the health ministry; Prof Khandaker M Sefayet Ullah, director general of Health Department; AKM Amir Hossain, director general of Family Planning Department; Prof Md Ekhlashur Rahman, director of National Nutrition Institution; Plan Bangladesh's Deputy Country Director Anwar Hossain Shikder, and Program Manager Takseen Chowdhury, among others, also spoke.

Speakers at the roundtable said country's women often suffer from different diseases due to lack of quality diet and adolescent pregnancy.

Dr Makhduma Nargis stressed bringing nutrition services to the mainstream of health services provided by the government.

Community clinics can play a significant role in providing the nutrition services in the country, she said.

The government and non-government organisations need to work together to ensure the health services to the country's women, she said adding that women should be considered as an important productive workforce.

Prof Sefayet Ullah said activities for raising awareness among people about importance of nutritious food should be increased in the country.

Takseen Chowdhury said country's around 30 percent women suffer from malnourishment, while 15 percent of them suffer from stunted growth for lack of nutrition.

Country made free of terrorism: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government has made the country free of terrorism and militancy after the synchronised bombings in 500 places during the previous government in 2005.

The prime minister said this when a three member delegation of Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) met her at her office.

ISESCO Director General Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri led the delegation.

After the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters.

He said the prime minister thanked the ISESCO DG for contributing to the celebrations of Dhaka as the Capital of Islamic Culture of the Asian Region for 2012.

Hasina said Bangladesh has the third largest population in the Muslim world and maintains solidarity with the Islamic Ummah.

Dr Abdulaziz Othman Altwajri invited Hasina to attend the upcoming IESCO conference in Azerbaijan in November next.

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad and Ambassador- At-Large M Ziauddin were present at the meeting.



People of Sylhet, who live in Dhaka, form a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday protesting the torching of some 42 rooms of Government Murari Chand College's hostel in Sylhet on July 8 by Bangladesh Chhatra League activists.

PHOTO: STAR

DHAKA TODAY

Cultural programme

Bangladesh Adivasi Forum will organise a cultural programme; Venue: at the base of Shoparjito Swadhinata; Time: 10:30am.

Workshop

Consortium of Christian Aid will hold a workshop; Venue: Brac Centre Inn; Time: 9:30am.

Seminar

Centre for Participatory Research & Development will organise a seminar; Venue: Spectra Convention Center, Gulshan 1; Time: 10:30am.

Viewsexchangemeeting

Pratyasha will hold a views exchange meeting; Venue: District Lawyers' Samity, Judges' Court; Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion

Gonoadhikar Charcha Forum will organise a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Human chain

Progressive Democratic Party will form a human chain; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Workshop

Voluntary Association for Family

WEATHER TODAY

Rain or thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions 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 6:49pm and rises tomorrow at 5:21am.

Country's highest temperature 33.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sathkhira and lowest 23.5 degrees at Feni.

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	32.2	26.5	80	76
Chittagong	30.0	25.5	96	83
Rajshahi	32.4	25.6	87	90
Rangpur	31.6	25.4	92	91
Khulna	33.0	26.5	92	84
Barisal	31.8	26.0	98	84

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