

NEWS IN *brief*

Bar council polls today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The election to Bangladesh Bar Council, a statutory body regulating the lawyers, will be held today. The polling will take place for a total of 14 posts of executive members of the council.

Of the total executive members, seven will be elected to general seats and one each to seven regional group seats.

A total of 56 lawyers will contest in the election. More than 40,000 lawyers registered with the council are expected to cast their votes across the country, said Bar Council Secretary Enayet Fazlur Rashid yesterday.

Attorney General Mahbub Alam, who is the ex-officio chairman of the bar council, will perform as

DoE fines two brick kilns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Environment (DoE) fined two illegal brickfields Tk 6 lakh for polluting the environment at Sirajdikhan in Munshiganj yesterday.

Owners of the brickfields--Hamid Bricks and Mamun Bricks--have been running those without environmental clearance since 2004, said a press release of the DoE.

The brickfields have also been using up agricultural lands, it said.

The DoE authorities ordered the owners of the kilns to stop brick production until those are

Blood donation camp to be held at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the High Commission of India will jointly organise a blood donation camp in the capital's Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre on July 20.

The blood donation camp will be held from 10:00am to 6:00pm, said a press release.

Anyone can donate blood voluntarily during the camp, it said.

The aim of the camp is to help thalassaemia and anaemia patients who need blood on a regular basis, and

Int'l Justice Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Justice Day was observed yesterday in the country to commemorate the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) by the international communities.

Odhikar, a human rights watchdog, held a discussion on the occasion in Dhaka, said a press release.

"It was a historic and delightful day for Odhikar when the statute was finally ratified by Bangladesh on March 23, 2010," the press release quoted Odhikar Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan as saying at the discussion.



Police in action after a group of Dhaka City College students took to the streets and vandalised vehicles in front of the campus in the capital yesterday, protesting attack on their college building and ransacking of its furniture by a section of Dhaka College students. PHOTO: STAR

DHAKA CITY COLLEGE

Students go berserk over attack on campus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of Dhaka City College students yesterday took to the streets, vandalising around 10 vehicles and halting traffic on Mirpur road in the capital for more than an hour.

They were protesting an attack on their college by a section of Dhaka College students earlier in the morning.

Several hundred students of Dhaka City College came down on the road and vandalised vehicles in front of their college and Science Lab intersection around 12:30pm, witnesses said.

Commuters suffered as vehicular movement on Mirpur road and its adjacent areas was halted during the agitation, they added.

Incidents of chase and counter-chase also took place between law enforcers and the students when police tried to disperse them

from the road, said police and witnesses.

Around 10 pedestrians suffered injuries as the students pelted brickbats at the law enforcers, they said.

Earlier at 11:30am, some 35 students of Dhaka College attacked Dhaka City College, pelting brickbats at the college building and ransacking its furniture and windowpanes, said witnesses.

The Dhaka College students went berserk hearing a rumour that one of the two fellow students, who were stabbed on Saturday by a group of Dhaka City College students, succumbed to his injuries yesterday, said police.

When police confirmed them that the rumour was false, the agitating students returned back to their college.

Dhaka College students Redwan Islam Hridoy and Sakib Al Mahatir were stabbed allegedly by some Dhaka City College students over a previous enmity on Saturday.

Law to be amended for speedy trial

Says minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1898 to make all kinds of trials speedy, said Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday.

"People have to suffer a lot due to the long procedure of trials. The amendment will lessen the number of adjournment during the hearing of a case," he said.

He was addressing as chief guest the concluding session of a three-day-long Survivors' Convention, 2012 jointly organised by USAID and Winrock International at Brac Center Inn in the capital.

The minister said the government is also going to enact a law for the protection of witnesses and victims to encourage people to fight for justice.

"We have set up legal aid committees at district and upazila level so that poor people, including the human trafficking affected ones, can get justice using government money," he said.

He called on all workers going abroad to gain a clear understanding of related matters from the labour and employment ministry prior to their departure.

Alternative roads to Ctg, Sylhet during Ramadan

BSS, Dhaka

Communications and Railways Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said two alternative roads would be opened for Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet routes on the occasion of the month of Ramadan and the Eid-ul-Fitr.

These roads would be opened to ease traffic jam around the under-construction Jatrabari flyover, he said while visiting the Dhaka-Keraniganj-Narayanganj (Pagla) road, said an official release.

The Chittagong-bound passengers will travel via Tongi station road to Mirer Bazar-Kanchan-Madanpur. Besides, the Chittagong road could be approached via Postagola-Chashara-Narayanganj link road.

The Sylhet-bound passengers would be able to reach the Sylhet road via Tongi station road-Mirer Bazar, Ghorasal Bridge and Pachdenar.

HSC, equivalent examinations results today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of this year's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent examinations will be published simultaneously today.

All the examinees will get their results from the respective centres, websites of their respective boards and through short message service (SMS) over mobile phones from 3:00pm, education ministry officials said.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will formally announce the results at a press conference at his ministry at 1:00pm after handing over the copy of the results to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at 10:00am.

The examinees can get their results directly from the website, www.educationboardresults.gov.bd

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop
National Consumer Rights Protection Department will organise a workshop; Venue: TCB Bhaban, Karwan Bazar; Time: 2:30pm.

Seminar
Centre for Sustainable Development will arrange a seminar; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 2:30pm.

Children's rally
Ain o Salish Kendra will organise a children's rally; Venue: Oxford International School, Dhanmondi, Road No-27; Time: 10:00am.

Views exchange meet
Dakkhin Anchal Unnayan Forum will organise a views exchange meeting; Venue: Tropikana Tower (sixth floor), Topkhana Road; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion
Ananna Social Foundation will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 5:30pm.

Roundtable
Affiliated Network of Social Accountability will arrange a roundtable; Venue: TK Bhaban, Karwan Bazar; Time: 10:00am.

Memorial meeting
Amra Surjomukhi will organise a memorial meeting; Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum; Time: 5:00pm.

Views exchange meet
Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha will

ACC pressed charges against 124 in June

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) last month submitted charge sheets in 77 cases against 124 accused including 45 government officials, 20 elected public representatives and 11 businessmen.

At a monthly press briefing in the commission's Segunbagicha office in the capital yesterday, ACC Secretary Faizur Rahman Chowdhury also said after investigation the ACC has permitted to submit final reports on 26 graft cases.

In June, the ACC filed 21 cases against 38 people on charge of their involvement in corruption, he said.

"Among the 38 people, 17 are government officials and 8 are businessmen," he said.

Faizur Rahman said five graft cases were disposed of last June while two people were convicted and three others cleared from graft charges.

The ACC received 5,778 graft allegations during the last six months among which 962 were received in June alone. After scrutiny of all those, the ACC accepted 586 graft allegations.

The corruption watchdog sent recommendations to 26 ministers and departments for taking legal against the accused.

A total of 395 reports on irregularities and corruption were published in the media and the ACC, after reviewing the reports, decided to investigate 75 graft allegations, said Faizur Rahman.

Replying to queries, he claimed that ACC is an independent institution and it works neutrally.



Leaders of journalist unions demonstrate in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, demanding punishment to all killers of journalists, including journalist couple Sagar Sarwar and Meherun Runi. PHOTO: STAR

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 Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet 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 6:48pm and rises tomorrow at 5:22am.

Country's highest temperature 35 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and Jessore and lowest 22.5 degrees at Rangamati.

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	32.7	25.5	81	95
Chittagong	29.5	25.5	92	90
Rajshahi	34.4	26.5	88	97
Rangpur	31.7	25.4	90	81
Khulna	33.5	27.7	90	99
Barisal	32.9	26.0	92	88

SYNCHRONISED BOMB ATTACKS

HC upholds 7 JMB men's life term imprisonment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld a Thakurgaon court's verdict that sentenced seven activists of banned Islamist militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to life term imprisonment in a bomb blast case.

The case was filed by Thakurgaon police on August 17, 2005 after JMB simultaneously blasted at least 459 time bombs in 63 districts that day, killing two people.

Some of the bombs exploded in four spots of Thakurgaon court premises, leaving a few people injured, HC sources said.

The convicts are Abdul Latif, son of Nazrul Islam, Abdur Razzak, son of Mujibar Rahman, and Abdur Razzak, son of Asir Uddin of Thakurgaon sadar upazila; Hefzur Rahman, son of Hazrat Ali of Baliadangi upazila in Thakurgaon; Rashidul Islam, son of Abdun Nur of Debanj; and Shafiqul

Islam, son of A Samad of sadar upazila in Panchagarh; and Rezowan.

Rashidul, Shafiqul and Rezowan were on the run and the remaining in custody. All of them were JMB's Thakurgaon and Panchagarh unit members, said Assistant Attorney General Md Jasim Uddin.

Life term imprisonment meant that the convicts had to spend 30 years behind bars, he added.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court in Thakurgaon had passed the sentence on August 31, 2006 and fined each convict Tk 10,000, in default of which they had to suffer another year in jail.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Khondker Musa Khaled and Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder delivered the verdict after dismissing four separate appeals filed by Latif, Razzak, Hefzur and Razzak against the Thakurgaon court's verdict.

Over 6 lakh children impaired in country

Says study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over six lakh children in Bangladesh are suffering from some sort of impairment and 60 percent of them do not get the opportunity to attend school, revealed a research yesterday.

Child Sight Foundation and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) jointly conducted the four-year research funded by Christian Blind Mission. Its key findings were disclosed at a workshop styled "Childhood Disability Study in Bangladesh" in a hotel in the capital.

Aiming to incorporate the findings in relevant projects of the ministry, Social Welfare Minister Enamul Hoque Mostofa Shaheed said, "The government has allocated Tk 30 crore for a survey to identify persons with disabilities."

Nasima Begum, director general at Department of Social Services, said, "Identified and categorised, all disabled persons will be given special IDs to ensure their rehabilitation and employment."

Ranjit Kumar Biswas, secretary to the social welfare ministry, Dr Sara Varughese, acting regional director of CBM SARO North and South, Islay Mactaggart, research assistant in disability at ICED/LSHTM, among others, addressed the programme.