

NEWS IN *brief*

Five doctors suspended

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday suspended four physicians for remaining absent in their workplaces without permission and another for submitting false academic documents.

The four are Chhanda Dhar, former medical officer Shakkura Health Centre at Boalkhali Upazila in Chittagong; Muhammad Chanchal Azad, medical officer of Sworajganj sub-centre at Doulatkhan Upazila in Bhola; M Ekram Hossain, medical officer of Gaibandha Sadar Hospital; and Dr Samina Sharmin, medical officer of Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said a health ministry press release yesterday.

Chhanda remained absent in workplace since June 5, 1996 while Chanchal since November 11, 2011, Ekram since April 24, 2005 and Samina since April 8, 2002.

Meanwhile, Gynaecology Assistant Professor M Abdul Quayum, OSD at the health directorate, was suspended as the allegations brought against him for "submitting false statement and certificate" were

Woman gang raped in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A female garment worker was raped by six men at her residence in Chittagong city's Alinagar area in the wee hours of yesterday.

The victim is undergoing treatment in Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH). The widowed woman has a child.

One Jamal Sheikh, a resident of the area, with five other men broke into her house in Alamer Colony around 12:30am and raped her repeatedly, said Joyanal Abedin, duty officer of CMCH Police Outpost.

A female neighbour rescued the victim, but the

Ruet admission tests on Nov 17

RU CORRESPONDENT

Admission tests for the honours programmes of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) for the academic session 2012-2013 will be held on November 17.

The date for form collection and submission will be disclosed by the end of August, Prof Sirajul Karim, vice-chancellor of Ruet, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Details concerning the admission tests will be available at the university website www.ruet.ac.bd.

First phase advance voting for

CU deans' election held

CU CORRESPONDENT

The first phase of advance voting for Chittagong University (CU) deans' election took place yesterday.

A total of 36 teachers voted in the first phase at CU Teachers' Association (Cuta) office, said Election Commissioner and CU Registrar Prof Md Soful Alam.

The second phase of advance voting will be held on August 2, he said.

The deans' election for seven faculties of CU is



An apathetic rickshaw-puller seems even not to bother to respond while a passenger is about to get on the vehicle in the capital's Shantinagar area yesterday. Such situation has been a common sight across the city these days, as rickshaw-pullers are trying to charge people excessive fares, sometimes double the correct amount.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

No provision for foreign lawyers: Shafique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said there was no scope for foreign lawyers to defend the accused of crimes against humanity before the International Crimes Tribunals as per relevant laws.

As per the Bangladesh Bar Council laws, only lawyers who are citizens of Bangladesh can practice law in the country, he said, adding that the council regulates the profession of the country's lawyers.

Shafique was talking to journalists after presiding over a meeting on Chittagong Hill Tracts Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act 2001 at CHT affairs ministry's conference room in Bangladesh Secretariat.

The journalists raised the issue against a

backdrop of a recent statement made by a defence lawyer in the ICTs.

The lawyer, Tajul Islam, said they were planning to seek the council's permission in allowing foreign lawyers to defend their clients.

On July 23, 2011, the council had rejected an application seeking permission for three foreign lawyers to defend five Jamaat-e-Islami leaders detained in connection with war crimes committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

The lawyers were Steven Kay QC, Toby Cadman and John Cammegh.

Justifying the rejection, the council authorities said anyone not having an enrollment certificate, issued by the council, allowing lawyers to practice law in the country, cannot represent anyone in a case.

BUSINESSMAN MURDER IN CAPITAL

No motive found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The motive behind the murder of 72-year-old businessman Mohammad Fazul Haque still remains unknown to police and his family members.

Fazul, an importer and the owner of Haque Paint, was stabbed in the neck in the first floor bedroom of his duplex house some time between Friday night and Saturday morning.

Sub-Inspector Pushpendu Debnath of Gulshan Police Station said, "We could so far ascertain that there was a single killer who fled through the main gate. But how he entered is still unknown.

"Besides, the killer had searched the bedroom for something specific and important."

He said police were trying to unearth how the killer entered and fled despite the presence of three security guards.

Eight people employed in the house, including the security guards, two drivers, and three housemaids, were detained for interrogation.

Police were also trying to locate the missing cellphone. With no sign of a tussle, the post-mortem report would confirm whether Fazul was sedated before being killed, said Pushpendu.

Burnt student dies at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A university student, who had set himself on fire on Saturday in the capital's Tejgaon Industrial Area, succumbed to his injuries early yesterday at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Victim Monirul Islam Shraban, 22, a sixth semester student of BBA in Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, had been admitted to the burn unit of DMCH with 55 per cent of his face, neck and chest burned. He died around 12:10am.

According to police and victim's friends, Shraban tried to kill himself at the house of a schoolgirl, who refused his romantic advances.

Shraban, hailing from Khulna, used to stay in a university dormitory in Kunipara.

Shraban's roommate Sabbir Ahmed Kajal said the girls' house was adjacent to their dormitory. Shraban had fallen in love with her and tried to establish a romantic relationship.

A few days back the girl's mother called Shraban to their house and asked him to give up his romantic advances. He may have committed suicide because of the rejection, he said.

"The night before the incident we had sehri together and I went to sleep. In the morning the watchman of the girl's building came to the dormitory and informed me of the suicide attempt," Kajal said.

Shraban was very emotional. He also took about 30 sleeping pills over a trifling matter a few months back, Kajal said.

Shraban was buried at his village in Khulna.



Speakers at a views exchange meeting at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday, organised on the occasion of the 71st birth anniversary of former Ganotantri Party president Nurul Islam, who died in a mysterious house fire in the capital on December 3, 2008.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

NON-GOVT SCHOOLS, COLLEGES
Teachers, staff announce strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The teachers and employees of non-government schools and colleges yesterday announced a six-day strike in the secondary and higher secondary educational institutions across the country from September 8 to 13 to press home their 17-point demand, including nationalisation of the country's education system.

In a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, the teachers and employees, under the banner of Bangladesh Shikhhak-Karmachari Oikya Parishad, have announced a series of programmes including abstention from classes.

The programmes include views exchange meetings with the lawmakers of respective areas from August 20 to 26, formation of upazila and district level sangram committees [to organise agitation programmes] from August 27 to 31, views exchange meeting with the institutions' governing bodies from September 1 to 7.

They will also hold a grand rally in Dhaka on September 16.

They said the teachers of non-government schools and colleges had been deprived of necessary facilities despite carrying out the similar duties as the government teachers do.

Their other demands include providing facilities and allowances like the public educational institutions, extending teachers' retirement age up to 65 years, and formulating a separate pay structure for the teachers and employees.

NURUL ISLAM'S DEATH

No progress in finding fire source

Widow blames investigators' insincerity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over three and a half years into the death of former Ganotantri Party president Nurul Islam in a fire incident, no significant progress has been made to unearth the cause behind the fire, said Nurul's frustrated widow and political associates yesterday.

Nurul Islam, a nominee of the Awami League-led grand alliance at the last parliamentary election for Noakhali-1 constituency, died 36 hours after suffering from burns in the mysterious fire at his Lalmatia apartment on December 3, 2008. His son Tamohar Islam Puchi was burnt alive in the blaze.

Nurul Islam's wife, lawmaker Ruby Rahman, and his associates were talking to journalists at a views exchange meeting in the capital's Dhaka Reporters' Unity marking his 71st birth anniversary.

"Despite the government's assurance to hold a fair probe and trial, we see no progress in the investigation. We are frustrated due to the investigation team's lack of sincerity in completing the probe," said Ruby Rahman. Expressing frustration over the investiga-

tion's slow pace, they questioned the role of the investigators, accusing them of being negligent in taking some important clues into consideration.

One of the clues that the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) had not taken into account was that no plastic object or clothes were burnt in the fire, they said.

The investigation officer of the case, CID Inspector Shahinur Bari, told The Daily Star that the investigators had noted all possible clues and were carrying out the investigation with the help of the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Workers' Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon urged the home minister to clarify the ministry's stance over the investigation delay and urged the government to take effective steps in this regard.

Ruby Rahman hoped that the government would ensure the completion of the investigation and trial within this year.

Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam of Dhaka University urged the prime minister to monitor the investigation progress herself.

Six youths arrested with bombs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested six youths with five bombs and three sharp weapons in Dendabar area of Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital on Sunday night.

The arrestees are Sabuj Islam Sweet and Rafiqul Islam Shuva of Akkelpur upazila in Joypurhat, Rashidul Alam Munna of Peerganj upazila in Thakurgaon, Mohammad Robin of Ashulia, Sohel Rana of Sathiya upazila in Pabna, and Riaz Hossain of Munshiganj district.

Acting on tip off, a team of Rab-4 arrested them and seized the arms from their possession in the area around 9:30pm on Sunday.

A case was filed with Ashulia Police Station in this regard.

JS body for fish export ban in Ramadan

UNB, Dhaka

The parliamentary watchdog on commerce ministry will recommend for halting export of fish during Ramadan to ensure its sufficient supply in the market.

"We'll suggest the [commerce] ministry today to stop fish export... hope the fish export will stop," said Chairman of the committee ABM Abul Kashem told reporters after visiting two kitchen markets in the city yesterday.

On Sunday, apex trade body FBCCI urged the government to halt the export of fish during Ramadan mentioning that the monitoring cell of the FBCCI had found the export of fish created supply shortage in the markets and therefore, the prices shot up with the start of Ramadan.

COMMODITY PRICES STABLE

Yesterday, Abul Kashem expressed satisfaction over the market situation after visiting Karwan Bazar kitchen market.

He talked to buyers and sellers regarding the prices of fish, edible oil, rice and other commodities. "I'm very happy to hear that the prices of essentials remain at tolerable level though the prices were higher on the eve of Ramadan," Kashem said.

The JS body's monitoring team also visited Mohammadpur kitchen market at noon.

Senior officials of the commerce ministry, FBCCI Director M Helal Uddin, magistrates and police personnel were also present during the visit.

DHAKA TODAY

Human chain

Shramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:30am.

Discussion

Saarc Children Forum will hold a discussion; Venue: Central Public Library; Time: 11:30am.

Tree plantation campaign

Green Voice will launch a tree plantation campaign; Venue: Teachers' Training College; Time: 11:00am.

Human chain

Communist Party of Bangladesh will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Narsingdi Zila Forum-Dhaka will hold a discussion; Venue: Central Public Library, Shabbagh; Time: 4:00pm.

Food distribution

Muslim Aid-UK, Bangladesh office will organise a food distribution programme among distressed families; Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Mohakhali; Time: 5:30pm.

Views exchange meeting

Citizens' Initiatives on CEDAW,

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:42pm and rises tomorrow at 5:28am.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.0 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	31.6	26.0	77	73
Chittagong	28.8	24.5	90	93
Rajshahi	32.5	25.6	89	75
Rangpur	33.2	26.6	75	66
Khulna	32.5	26.0	88	92
Barisal	31.0	26.0	83	87
Sylhet	35.0	25.0	73	69