

NEWS IN *brief*

One dies from electrocution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An electrician died after being electrocuted while working at an under-construction building at Vatara in the capital yesterday noon.

The victim, Alam Sardar, 28, hailed from Barguna. Vatara Police Station Sub-Inspector Md Siraj said Alam was working with other construction workers on the roof of the second floor of a building at Purba Noorer Chala.

Alam was electrocuted after he came in contact with an iron rod which had connection with a live electric wire.

His coworkers rescued him and took him to a local hospital where he was declared dead, the SI added.

Students demand resignation of Sust English dept head

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

English department students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) yesterday laid siege to the department's office to press home several demands, including resignation of its head Prof Atiullah.

They also staged a sit-in before the department and handed over a memo to the vice-chancellor.

They raised a number of allegations in their memo including delay in result publication and financial and other irregularities in the department.

The students later suspended the agitation programmes following assurance from the VC of taking necessary measures immediately.

Contacted, Sust Registrar Ishfaqul Hossain con-

AUW to host leadership forum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Asian University for Women (AUW) is scheduled to host an 11-day long Grassroots Women's Political Leadership Forum from September 9 on campus in Chittagong.

Over 100 participants, trainers and speakers from Saarc member countries join the forum.

In order to assist women who are newcomers in politics, 16 lessons will be offered in the forum on topics ranging from effective public speaking and communication skills to economic empowerment.

There will be two special sessions -- one on "Media and Grassroots Women's Leadership" and another on "Political Challenges in Meeting Health

Cultural programme on Ajit Roy's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A discussion and a people's music will be held at the capital's Liberation War Museum at Segunbagicha at 6:15pm today, marking the first death anniversary of veteran music director, artiste and composer Ajit Roy, says a press release.

Romance Roy, son of the artiste and Hasan Arif, general secretary of Sammilito Sanskritik Jote, among others, will address the programme, says a press release. Eight music brands, including Udichi Shilpi Goshthi and



Students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), demanding resignation of the vice-chancellor and the pro-vice chancellor, put up a blockade on the Palashi intersection in the capital yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

HC cannot comment on all parliamentary affairs: Suranjit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Referring to a recent High Court (HC) verdict on the Speaker's ruling about an HC judge, senior Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta yesterday said the court could not comment on all affairs involving parliament.

"The court's comment on the Speaker's ruling was nothing but unwise, and it was not rational to create conflict among the main organs of the country," he said.

Suranjit, also a minister without portfolio, was addressing a discussion organised by Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote at Jatiya Sishu Academy in the capital.

In a July 24 verdict, the HC said the Speaker's observations that an HC judge (Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik) had violated the constitution had no legal effect and were baseless in the eyes of the law.

Suranjit said if the Speaker's ruling did not exist, Jatiya Sangsad also did not exist. "And if the Sangsad does not exist, the constitution does not exist and so as the judiciary and you [the judge]."

SPEAKER'S RULING ABOUT AN HC JUDGE

HC verdict wrong, unjustified: Govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday filed an appeal with the Supreme Court challenging a recent High Court verdict that termed the Speaker's June 18 ruling about an HC judge "ineffective and baseless".

In the appeal, the government termed the HC judgement "illegal, wrong, unjustified and unwise" for six reasons. It also said the HC verdict had no binding effect in accordance with the constitution.

On June 18, Speaker Abdul Hamid ruled that an HC judge (Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik) had

violated the constitution by making "derogatory remarks" about the Jatiya Sangsad and the Speaker.

Challenging the Speaker's ruling, a Supreme Court lawyer filed a writ petition with the HC on July 18. The HC gave a verdict on the petition on July 24.

The judgement which was released on August 27 said the Speaker's observations on the HC judge had no legal effect and was baseless in the eyes of the law.

The government challenged this HC verdict by filing a leave to appeal petition (prayer for permission to move a regular appeal) with the SC yesterday.

The appeal said the HC had done a grave wrong by disposing of the SC lawyer's petition by interpreting some provisions of the constitution and parliamentary rules of procedure without issuing any rule or notice and without giving any opportunity to the respondents.

Secretaries to the law ministry and Jatiya Sangsad and the Speaker were the respondents.

According to the appeal, the HC has done a gross illegality and stepped into the sovereign authority of parliament by declaring the Speaker's ruling non est (baseless) and unconstitutional.

The HC has failed to consider that the Speaker's ruling was nothing but a pious wish/expression of the House of Nation upon the chief justice to deal with the matter in a manner he deems

fit and that the Speaker would fully support whatever his (CJ) decision or action be, it said.

It was not that the Speaker asked the chief justice to do something or pass any law, the appeal

Government appeals to the Supreme Court challenging the High Court judgement

said.

"The High Court Division was fully unjustified and unwise in holding that the privileges and immunities granted to parliament and its members were subject to judicial review and interpretations of Article 78 of the constitution."

The government feared that the HC order would affect the harmonious relationship of the three organs of the state and would lead to vendetta and create confusion in the public mind at large, causing great harm to the rule of law, independence of judiciary, and democracy.

ASSAULT ON BNP CHIEF WHIP Court dismisses attempted murder case against cops

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday dismissed an attempted murder case filed against 25 policemen, including a former ADC and AC of Mohammadpur zone, for assaulting Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque in July last year.

The accused include the then additional deputy commissioner (ADC) Harun-or-Rashid and assistant commissioner (AC) of Mohammadpur zone Biplob Sarker.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Hasibul Haque passed the order after Detective Branch of Police submitted a report saying that the charges brought against the police officials are not proven.

The court also rejected a petition submitted on behalf of the complainant saying that they would file a no-confidence (naraji) petition against the police report.

In the probe report, DB Assistant Commissioner Obaidul Haque said the incident took place after Zainul Abdin behaved arrogantly while his accomplices provoked the law enforcers.

So police acted accordingly to bring the situation under control, it said.

On July 10 last year, BNP lawmaker Ashraf Uddin Nizan filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka accusing the 25 policemen of assaulting Zainul Abdin Farroque four days earlier.

After a hearing, the court ordered the Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner to take legal action, upon investigation, against the policemen responsible for the assault on Zainul Abdin.

A total of 22 lawmakers led by Farroque brought out a procession on Manik Mia Avenue in the capital around 7:50am on the first day of the opposition-sponsored 48-hour hartal.

But two police officers along with their teams in a pre-planned way stopped them and hurled abuse at them. They also beat up the BNP leader leaving him seriously injured, says the case statement.

On the other hand, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police after a few hours of the incident filed a case accusing 10 to 12 people including Farroque of assaulting policemen.

RETIREMENT AGE FOR FF TEACHERS HC questions govt inaction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of the government's action of not extending retirement age by two years for freedom fighter teachers of non-governmental educational institutions enjoying monthly payment order (MPO) facilities.

In response to a writ petition, the HC issued a rule upon the government to explain in two weeks why its action of not increasing the retirement age of such teachers by two years should not be declared illegal.

According to the petition, the government on December 31, 2009 issued a gazette notification increasing the retirement age of freedom fighter teachers by two years, but it has not implemented the decision.

In yesterday's rule, the court also asked the government to explain why it should not be directed to take effective measures to increase the retirement age of those teachers.

The HC bench of Justice Hasan Foez Siddique and Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam came up with the rule after hearing the writ petition filed by Md Abu Yusuf, headmaster of Pitambarpur High School at Sonaimuri Upazila, Noakhali.

Yusuf recently filed the petition with the HC challenging the government's action of not increasing the retirement age of freedom fighter teachers of non-governmental educational institutions as per the 2009 gazette.


The petitioner prayed to the court to direct the government authorities to implement the decision.

Mahub Uddin Khokon appeared for the petitioner.



A platform of 42 human rights and development organisations forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital to observe International CEDAW Day yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Protest rally

Gonotantik Bam Mocha will organise a protest rally; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Roundtable

Management and Resources Development Initiative will organise a roundtable; Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel; Time: 10:30am.

Visit


Nagorik Sanghati will go on a visit; Venue: Dhaka Government Commercial Institute; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Deshpremik Jonogoner Mancha will hold a discussion; Venue: 2/4, Nabab Habibullah Road, Shahbagh; Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar

Bangladesh Press Institute will



WEATHER TODAY

Temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Day and night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:13pm and rises tomorrow at 5:42am.

Country's highest temperature 33.9 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chandpur and lowest 23.0 degrees at Sayedpur.

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 27.7	79 77
Chittagong	31.2 25.8	79 87
Rajshahi	33.2 26.6	85 79
Rangpur	31.5 25.5	76 93
Khulna	32.2 27.0	86 90
Barisal	31.2 26.4	92 83