

Freedom fighter's mother wishes PM well

BSS, Sarda

Monijan Dewa, a centenarian mother of freedom fighter Sajedur Rahman, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Sarda of Rajshahi yesterday to convey her good wishes and wish the prime minister success in discharging state duties.

The prime minister arrived in Sarda Police Academy in the morning to attend the passing out ceremony of the 29th batch of assistant superintendents of police.

Monijan, an ardent admirer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, fasts every year on August 15 seeking salvation of the departed soul of the father of the nation and his slain family members.

While very disciplined in performing her religious duties, outstandingly pious Monijan, resident of Bangari of Chandpur village of Bagha upazila of Rajshahi, also fasts occasionally for Sheikh Hasina, said locals.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talked to Monijan at the academy and inquired about her wellbeing and health. She requested Monijan to pray for her and the welfare of the country's people.

Seven sent to jail for rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The seven youths arrested in connection with the rape of a college girl in Tahirpur upazila in Sunamganj were sent to jail by the district's Chief Judicial Magistrate Court yesterday.

The arrestees were Saifullah, Saidur Rahman and Ataur Rahman of village Shahidabad, Mushahid, Samayan and Rubel Mia of village Kunatchhara, and Shafiqul Islam of village Laurergarh in the upazila.

Police said the victim was gang raped by a group of locals when she, along with a friend, went on a visit to Laurergarh border site on September 1 afternoon.

The criminals also took photos of the girl with their mobile phones and posted those on the internet from a computer shop at Laurergarh bazar, police said.

Police arrested the seven youths following a case filed by the victim with Tahirpur Police Station in this regard on Thursday night.

Students of Digendra Barman Degree College of the district's Biswambharpur upazila, where the victim studied, held a rally and formed a human chain on Friday demanding punishment of the guilty.



Enraged passers-by vandalise a bus of Shatabdi Paribahan after it ran over a man in the capital's Motijheel area yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

JU ADMISSION FORMS Students to boycott classes today protesting price hike

JU CORRESPONDENT

Students under the banner of "Progressive Student Alliances" of Jahangirnagar University (JU) said they will boycott classes today as their demands including reduction of the prices of admission forms were not met yet.

They announced this at a press conference at Teachers Students Centre on the JU campus yesterday evening.

They will lay siege to the office of the vice-chancellor if the demands were not met, they said.

Later, they brought out a procession on the campus around 6:30pm protesting price hike of admission forms for the first year honours programmes in 2012-13 academic session.

Introducing online admission system by sending SMS, the university authorities have increased prices of admission forms in the forthcoming admission test which will begin on October 13 and continue till October 18.

The admission seekers will have to pay Tk 1800 to buy forms of nine sub-units of arts and humanities faculty this year. In the previous years, students had to pay only Tk 330 for taking test in the faculty.

Students will have to pay Tk 400 for application forms for the faculties of social science, mathematical and physical science, biological science, and business studies this year while in the previous year it was Tk 330.

Earlier, JU VC Prof Anwar Hossain held a views exchange meeting with JU students at Zahir Raihan Auditorium around 11:00am, where he said students would not be victims of harassment by authorities following the recent cop-students violence on the campus on August 2.

All the problems of the students would be solved

SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME

US donates 10,440 metric tonnes of wheat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

United States Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan W Mozena yesterday said America's support for Bangladesh's school feeding program supplements the two nations' partnership to build greater food security.

Mozena was addressing a ceremony in which 10,440 metric tonnes of wheat donated by US Department of Agriculture were handed over to Bangladesh under the World Food Programme (WFP)-run school feeding programme, "Feed the Future Programme".

The US ambassador handed over the wheat to the State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Md Motahar Hossain at the ceremony held at Chittagong Port Grain Silo.

He said the programme is playing an important role in helping Bangladesh increase its agricultural production and in turn assists Bangladeshis to improve their livelihood and ability to procure food.

"Our celebration today is about more than a mountain of donated wheat from America. What we celebrate today is partnership between America and Bangladesh to nurture the children of Bangladesh physically and mentally to build the nation's citizens of tomorrow," Mozena said.

"Our joy today is mainly for knowing that this wheat will soon be used to create nutritious food that will be distributed to poor children throughout the nation," said Mozena, who hopes that with these nutritious foods building their bodies, the children are more likely to remain in school and study better.

"They can learn and develop their skills

necessary to assure the brightest future achievable by this nation," he said.

Christa Rader, country representative of WFP, said the wheat that is donated will be converted into biscuits, not just ordinary biscuits but biscuits that are fortified with vitamins and minerals, which are needed by small children for proper growth and learning.

She said the contribution from the United States would feed 350,000 children in 2,000 schools in the poorest areas of Bangladesh.

Christa said, "Five million children, out of the total of 20 million children who attend primary schools, live in the poorest areas. Together with the government support and WFP support and help from donors, 2.7 million of these students living in poor areas receive school feeding support."

"We launched the National School Feeding Programme in September 2011 and initially 55,000 children would get school feeding from the government's own resources. Today the government assists 1.4 million children in this country with school feeding from its own resources. This is an enormous achievement," she said.

Christa claimed that the feeding programme has increased enrolment by up to 10 percent and attendance also by up to 10 percent and has reduced drop out of children from school in the poorest areas of Bangladesh.

Ahmed Hossain Khan, director general of Directorate of Food, and Saiful Hoque Chowdhury, senior assistant chief of Economic Relations Division of the finance ministry, also spoke at the ceremony.

JOURNO BEATING AT CU BCL activist served show cause notice

CU CORRESPONDENT

Protesting the recent assault of a journalist inside a university classroom, Chittagong University Journalists Association (CUJA) yesterday demanded an immediate bar on the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists, involved in the incident, from entering the campus.

Meanwhile, CU Proctor Prof Md Sirajuddoula said they have issued a show cause notice to Rubel Dey, a BCL activist and a student of CU English department, for his involvement with the journalist assault.

Protesting the incident, CUJA brought out a silent procession around 2:30pm from

CU Central Students Union building till the university proctor office, outside which they also held a rally.

The association leaders demanded lifetime expulsion of the perpetrators from CU campus.

The journalists also gave a 48-hour ultimatum to the university authorities to bring the guilty BCL activists to book.

CUJA President Sujon Ghosh, its General Secretary Khandokar Polash and other members were present at the programme.

On Saturday, some pro-Awami League BCL activists led by Rubel beat up Mujibul Karim, a journalist of CUTimes24.com and a student of CU journalism department.



(From left) Prof Dr MA Taslim, chairman of the economics department of Dhaka University; Salehuddin Ahmed, former Bangladesh Bank governor; former advisers to a caretaker government AB Mirza Azizul Islam and Dr Akbar Ali Khan; Khandoker Ibrahim Khaled, chairman of Bangladesh Krishi Bank; and Raihana Anisa Yusuf Ali, former deputy managing director of Sonali Bank; at a roundtable, "The way the banks run and the way they should", organised by Bangla daily the Prothom Alo at its office in the capital yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

of Bangladesh



United States Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan W Mozena, centre, hands over a bag of wheat to State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Md Motahar Hossain while Christa Rader, country representative of WFP, looks on at a programme in Chittagong Port Grain Silo yesterday. The programme was organised marking the donation of 10,440 metric tonnes of wheat by US Department of Agriculture to Bangladesh under the World Food Programme (WFP)-run "Feed the Future Programme" for schoolchildren.

PHOTO: STAR

Man held for killing mother, daughter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested a fugitive accused in the double murder of a woman and her daughter from Sadarghat area in the capital.

The arrestee was identified as Abdul Malek alias Hero Malek of Amanatpur of Noakhali district.

On August 16, Narayanganj Sadar Model Police recovered the bodies of Maria Akhter, 46, and her daughter Sadia Akhter, 12, a class VI student, from their residence in Paikpara residential area in Narayanganj.

Maria's brother filed a murder case accusing unknown persons.

According to police, Abdus Salam owed Maria Tk 4 lakh and the two quarrelled when Maria asked for the money.

Following the argument, Abdus Salam hired Hero Malek and Omar Faruque to murder her.

Earlier, police arrested Omar Faruque, 30.

BEXIMCO PHARMA Toxic gas emission ails students

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Six students of Hazi Kachhim Uddin Public School in the capital's Tongi were hospitalised yesterday when they fell seriously ill after inhaling toxic gas discharged from a factory of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

Engineer MM Helal Uddin, headmaster of the school, said after gas from an adjacent Beximco Pharma factory spread all over the school, several students were complaining of stinging pain in their eyes and started vomiting yesterday morning.

Of the sick students, SM Noor, 7, Tajul Islam, 10, Tabib Hasan, 9, Sinthia, 9, Arif Hossain, 11 and Sharifa Aktar, 8, were admitted to a government hospital, added the headmaster.

The headmaster also claimed that the same type of incident occurred in 2006 when 10 students had fallen sick.

Helal Uddin said although they have complained repeatedly to the factory authorities regarding the matter, nothing has been done so far to address the situation.

A general diary was lodged with Tongi Police Station. When asked, Md Asaduzzaman, human resources officer of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd, said it was only an accident.

"We have a paracetamol production plant adjacent to the school," he said, adding that the gas was emitted after a leakage occurred during production.

Mehbubul Haq, general manager of the factory, admitted to the gas emission and said they have already informed higher authorities regarding the matter.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Nafiz Reza alias Rony, son of Sattar Mollah and Zinnat Sattar,

died on August 18 this year at Carmel, Monterey, California at the age of 38.

His untimely demise was brought about by an unfortunate scuba diving accident.

He was buried at Five Pillar Cemetery in Livermore, California.

He is survived by his wife Rehana Siddique.

Nafiz was working as the senior software engineer of SAP in California.

Income Tax Day 5 Days to go...