

NEWS IN *brief*

Bablu made political adviser to Ershad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Presidium Member Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu was made the political adviser to the party's Chairman HM Ershad yesterday.

Ershad gave the appointment in line with his sole authority in the party's constitution, said a press release of JP.

Party insiders said Bablu, a former minister and a former general secretary of Dhaka University Students' Union, is known as a 'friend of Awami League (AL).'

He had played a significant role in the formation of the AL-led grand alliance before the 2008 parliamentary polls, they said.

Recently, some JP presidium members advised the party chief to quit the grand alliance, which comprises of 14 political parties including JP, while Bablu favoured continuing ties with the alliance.

Man dies as train runs him over

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed as a train ran him over in the capital's Moghbazar area yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Md Abbas, 30, a car driver.

Kamalapur Railway Police Station Assistant Sub-Inspector Mizanur Rahman, quoting locals, said the Kamalapur-bound train ran Abbas over at wireless railway level crossing at about 7:30am, leaving him dead.

Abbas was going to Wireless Gate from his Gabtola residence in the area, the ASI added.

IGP for stronger journo-police ties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker yesterday appreciated the role of journalists in identifying problems of the police department.

He said the relationship between journalists and police would be strengthened.

He was addressing the inaugural programme of the annual sports competition of Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh (CRAB) at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) auditorium in the capital.

Rapid Action Battalion Director General Moklesur Rahman, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Additional Commissioner Abdul Jalil Mandal, DRU President Sakhawat Hossain Badsha, and CRAB Vice-President Manjurul Bari Nayan, General Secretary Isharaf Hossain Isa and Sports and Cultural Affairs Secretary Indrajit Sarkar also attended the programme.



Police use tear gas to disperse protesting non-government school and college teachers in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club as they gathered there before heading for the Secretariat to besiege it yesterday, demanding Monthly Pay Order (MPO) facility from the government. The photo was taken around 11:00am. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

**BID TO STOP DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
HR boss for removal of state religion provision**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must amend the constitution to withdraw the provision of state religion and thereby prevent discrimination against women, said National Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman yesterday.

The government is not taking necessary steps in this regard over fears of being criticised by religious fundamentalists, he said while addressing a roundtable "Women's access to property in Bangladesh's context".

Jatiya Kanya Shishu Advocacy Forum and Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh jointly organised the roundtable in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Politicians, when not in government, raise their voice for women empowerment but become reluctant to implement this demand after being elected, alleged Mizanur.

He also criticised activities of development organisations, working to empower underprivileged women and establish their rights,

as no effective change was seen in this regard.

He emphasised the need for accountability and transparency in the activities of non-government organisations which spend huge amounts of foreign donations in the name of developing rural women's lives.

No law can help ensure the equal access of women to property or other sectors until women's opinions are accepted in society, said Mizanur.

The government can at least introduce a system of equal property distribution of a man and woman when they are married and even when they are divorced, he said.

Sujan General Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar chaired the roundtable and Assistant Prof SM Masum Billah of Jagannath University's law department presented a keynote on the occasion.

Bangladesh Law Commission acting chairman Prof M Shah Alam and Advocate Rehana Sultana of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers's Association also spoke at the programme.

**Govt to ensure strict security during Puja
Says home minister**

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir yesterday said strict security measures will be taken at Puja Mandaps across the country during Durga Puja.

"If anyone or quarter tries to create any untoward incident at Puja Mandaps, the law enforcers will deal it with an iron hand," he told journalists after a meeting with the high officials of law enforcement agencies at his ministry.

Durga Puja, the biggest annual religious festival of the Hindu community, will be held across the country on October 20-24.

The minister said control rooms will be opened at the police headquarters, DMP Commissioner's Office and district police offices across the country during the festival.

He said complaints could be lodged with the control rooms if any untoward incident happens at any Puja Mandap.

MK Alamgir directed the law enforcers to remain alert so that no one can hamper the country's communal harmony.

Today's meeting also asked the Puja Celebration Committee to keep their volunteers around Puja Mandaps.

Senior Secretary of Home Ministry CQK Mostaque Ahmed, IGP Hasan Mahmood Khandker and Rab DG Moklesur Rahman were also present at the meeting.

Zainul Abdin files damage suit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin yesterday filed a Tk 10

crore damage suit against seven government officials including the home secretary, inspector general of police (IGP) and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) commissioner.

He filed the case with Fourth Joint District Judge's Court of Dhaka on charges of insulting and assaulting him on July 6 last year.

Zainul said the physical tortures by the policemen, the probe report, the damage to his image and necessary medical treatments caused him a Tk 10 crore loss.

Judge Shahriar Kabir set October 30 to decide if he will accept the charges.

The defendants are the home secretary, IGP Hassan Mahmood Khandker, DMP Commissioner Benazir Ahmed, the then Additional Deputy Commissioner of Tejgaon Zone Harun-or-Rashid, Assistant Commissioner of Mohammadpur zone Biplab Sarkar, Assistant Commissioner of Detective Branch Md Obaidul Haque, and another secretary.

Zainul Abdin submitted a court fee of Tk 50,000 for filing the case.

In the case, he said police assaulted him on July 6, first day of a 48-hour country-wide hartal called by BNP.

Following the incident, a case was filed accusing 25 policemen, including Harun and Biplab, of assaulting the chief whip.

On September 3, Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Hasibul Haque dismissed the case, after a probe report, submitted by detectives, said the incident occurred after Zainul had behaved arrogantly with policemen and his accomplices provoked the law enforcers.

DHAKA TODAY

Memorial lecture
Bangalee Shamagra Museum will organise a memorial lecture on poet Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary; Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium, Bangladesh National Museum; Time: 5:00pm.

Citizens' rally
Nagorik Sanghati will arrange a citizens' rally on quality of food at eateries beside highways; Venue: before National Museum; Time: 10:30am.

Roundtable
The Saptahik will arrange a roundtable on price hike of electricity; Venue: Auditorium, Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs, House-22, Road-7, Dhanmondi; Time: 10:00am.

Citizens' rally
Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon and five other organisations will organise a citizens' rally demanding protection of environment; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Views exchange meeting
Amar Odhikar Campaign will arrange a views exchange meeting on education; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 3:00pm.

Concluding ceremony
Bangladesh Council for Child Welfare will arrange the concluding ceremony

of a five-day programme on World Children's Day; Venue: the council premises, 22/1, Topkhana Road; Time: 5:00pm.

Human chain
Khadye Bish Protirodh Andolon will form a human chain on formulation of law against food poisoning; Venue: Rayerbazar; Time: 10:00am-11:00am.

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Leaders of Bangladesh Shikkhak Samity and Shikkhak-Karmachari

of a five-day programme on World Children's Day; Venue: the council premises, 22/1, Topkhana Road; Time: 5:00pm.

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DB arrests five listed criminals

Four of them aides of Dakat Shahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of police arrested five alleged listed criminals, four of whom were aides of another listed criminal, Dakat Shahid, with firearms and ammunition in overnight drives at different parts of the capital on Wednesday.

Dakat Shahid, accused in 18 cases including six for murder, was killed in a "gun-fight" with Rapid Action Battalion at Laxmibazar in Old Dhaka on July 3.

The four aides -- Pata Russel alias Boma Russel, 24; Tusher, 23; Mamun alias Pichchi Mamun, 14; and Ibrahim -- were arrested from Laxmi Bazar in Sutrapur with four firearms, 10 bullets and three magazines.

The remaining Mohammad Ibrahim, 35, was arrested from Baunia Bottola under Turag Police Station.

The four claimed that they did not own the arms and ammunitions and they were "just keeping those for safekeeping in exchange for money".

DB (West) Additional Deputy Commissioner Mashiur Rahman said the arrested were involved with extortion, bombing, snatching and drug peddling.

A number of extortion cases were filed against them with Jatrabari, New Market, Sutrapur and Wari police stations, he said, adding that, of them, Russel had lost one eye last year while making bombs.

Ban on catching hilsa ends today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's imposition of countrywide ban on catching, transporting, marketing and selling of hilsa fish ends today.

The Department of Fisheries (DoF) seized 41.50 metric tonnes hilsa fish and 87.88 lakh metres of fishing nets from different parts of the country in the last ten days.

With help of law enforcement agencies, the DoF led about 851 mobile courts and conducted around 3,700 drives in coastal rivers and fish markets, said a press release.

During the drives, which started from September 25, the mobile courts jailed 694 people on different terms, fined Tk 11.20 lakh and filed 469 cases for catching and selling the fish.

Meanwhile, a DoF mobile court yesterday seized 45kg hilsa fish and sentenced a person to one month's imprisonment and fined another Tk 1,000.

**HIMU MURDER CASE
Charge sheet submitted**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Nearly five months into the death of college student Himadri Majumdar Himu, police yesterday submitted the charge sheet in the Himu murder case against all five accused.

Shah Selim Tipu, Junaid Ahmed Riad, Mahboob Ali Khan Danny, Zahedul Islam Shaon and Shahadat Hossain Shaju were the five accused in the case filed by Himu's uncle Prakash Das Asit with Panchlaish Police Station on May 24.

Chittagong Metropolitan



Police Assistant Commissioner Md Moim Uddin (Prosecution) said the charge sheet was submitted before the court of Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate Muntasir Ahmed

and October 18 has been fixed for hearing on the case.

The charge sheet said upon Tipu's instruction, the co-accused forcibly took Himu to the rooftop of Tipu's building in Panchlaish Residential Area in Chittagong in April this year.

They unleashed dogs on Himu and pushed him down the building, causing him injuries, it said.

Himu, a student of Summerfield School and College, later succumbed to his injuries on May 23 in the capital's Square Hospital.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to very heavy falls are also likely at places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions, Met Office said.

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:42pm and rises tomorrow at 5:53am.

Country's highest temperature 32.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Kutubdia and lowest 22.8 degrees at Sylhet.

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	29.3	27.0	89	96
Chittagong	31.0	24.3	97	95
Rajshahi	28.8	24.8	97	87
Rangpur	31.2	23.5	87	81
Khulna	30.6	26.6	88	98
Barisal	29.7	25.5	86	92



Ainjibi Oikya Parishad forms a human chain in front of the High Court in the capital yesterday protesting the torching and vandalising of 12 Buddhist temples and monasteries and over 50 houses in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong early Sunday by a mob.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA