

NEWS IN *brief*

Amar Desh acting chairperson gets anticipatory bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to Mahmuda Begum, acting chairperson of Amar Desh Publications Ltd, for six weeks in a case filed for printing the newspaper from the press of the Bangla daily Sangram without government permission.

Ramna Model police filed the case on Saturday.

An HC bench granted the bail after Mahmuda, also the mother of detained Amar Desh Acting Editor Mahmudur Rahman, filed a bail petition on Monday.

Jamaat constitution contrary to country's charter: Tania Amir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami's constitution is contrary to the basic structures of the charter of Bangladesh, as the party's constitution does not believe in human dignity and brotherhood, Barrister Tania Amir told the High Court yesterday.

She said Jamaat's constitution allowed the discriminations between male and female, and it has party offices outside Bangladesh, which are against the country's constitution. She was placing an argument before the HC during its second day's hearing on a rule issued by it on January 27, 2009 over the legality of the party's registration.

Diploma engineers to work an extra hour today demanding salary hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Diploma engineers across the country will work for an extra hour in their offices today to press home their two-point demand including removal of salary discrimination between BSC engineers and diploma engineers.

The unusual programme was chosen with a view to practising a positive culture of protest, said Md Shamsur Rahman, general secretary of Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh.

He urged the government to realise their demands soon, said a press release.

Rajshahi Ekattar Mancha organiser gets death threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A suspected militant outfit styled "Asadullah Bangla Team" has issued a death threat to Dr Sayed Shafikul Alam, an organiser of Ekattar Mancha in Rajshahi, by sending him a piece of cloth used to make shrouds.

Shafikul, also general secretary of Rajshahi unit Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, filed a general diary (GD) with Boalia Police Station on Thursday.

One Dr Tawfikul Hakim, in a letter, received by Shafikul on the day, said the organisation would kill him at his chamber within seven days.

Dr Shafikul told The Daily Star he was not afraid by the threat. "We will continue our movement against the war criminals," he added.



Dialogue

Unnayan Shamannay, Bangladesh and CUTS-International, India will hold a dialogue on Promoting Participatory Approaches for Removing Regional Trade Barriers in South Asia; Venue: Jatiya Press Club;

Time: 9:30am.

Discussion

Shisuk will organise a discussion on the present context of the laws to prevent human trafficking; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 9:00am.



WEATHER
TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions with isolated hail at places in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

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

Rain with isolated hails at places accompanied by temporary W/NWesterly Kalboishakhi squalls with a speed of 60-80 kph or more is likely to occur over the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Tangail, Mymensingh, Jessore, Kushtia, Khulna, Barisal, Patuakhali, Faridpur, Dhaka, Comilla, Noakhali, Chittagong and Sylhet during next 15 hours from 2:00pm yesterday, said Met office.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:21pm and rises tomorrow at 5:35am.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| | Temperature in Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
|-------------|------------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
| | Max: | Min: | Morning | Evening |
| Dhaka | 30.2 | 23.0 | 64 | 55 |
| Chittagong | 31.8 | 25.3 | 77 | 90 |
| Rajshahi | 34.6 | 22.1 | 60 | 63 |
| Rangpur | 27.3 | 19.4 | 64 | 69 |
| Khulna | 37.5 | 25.4 | 71 | 57 |
| Barisal | 35.4 | 24.7 | 76 | 76 |
| Sylhet | 24.9 | 17.8 | 94 | 85 |
| Cox's Bazar | 34.0 | 24.0 | 70 | 86 |



About half a kilometre trench dug along the road from Moghbazar level crossing to Hatirjheel intersection in the capital to install underground electric cables. The excavation, carried out by Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd, comes only three and a half months after the road was properly renovated under the Hatirjheel project. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Hefajat's demands communal agenda

Say Jagannath University teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 13-point demand of Hafajat-e Islam is nothing but an attempt to implement the political agenda and ideologies of the communal forces in Bangladesh, Jagannath University Teachers Association said yesterday.

The association described the demands as "medieval thoughts" and said Hefajat was financially and politically patronised by the anti-liberation forces, and it was scheming to foil the war crimes trial. The association made the observations at a solidarity rally on the campus to protest communal violence.

Reading out a declaration on the occasion, the association General Secretary Prof AKM Moniruzzaman called upon the pro-liberation forces to form resistance committees against the communal forces at every locality and neighbourhood across the country.

The eight-point declaration calls for banning organisations that committed war crimes, boycotting fundamentalists and militant forces socially, keeping all the financial institutions of fundamentalists under watch, and standing by the victimised minorities.

Addressing the function, National University Vice Chancellor Prof Harun-or-Rashid stressed more proactive role of college and university students to resist fundamentalism and communalism.

Saran Datta, representative of Sarbojonin Kali Mandir in Bhuapur, Tangail, which was torched on April 2, sought help of all for rightful existence of minorities in the country.

Couple use fake savings bonds to get loans from AB Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A couple in the capital's Moghbazar area used fake savings bonds to avail loans of over Tk 5 crore from AB Bank's Dhanmondi branch, according to an investigation by Anti-Corruption Commission.

The investigation found that the couple and 22 others, including a manager and a credit officer of AB Bank, were involved in creating counterfeit savings bonds between 2003 and 2004.

The commission yesterday gave approval to a charge sheet in one of three cases filed on August 14, 2011 against the couple -- Nira Mashfu and her husband Tanvir Mashfu.

The charge sheet stated that the couple misappropriated over Tk 7 lakh from bank.

APPEAL AGAINST WAR CRIMES VERDICT SC rejects Mollah's plea against two judges' presence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday rejected two petitions filed by convicted Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah on April 4 seeking its intervention so that two judges abstain from the proceedings of appeals against his war crimes trial verdict.

The two judges are Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha and Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury.

Following the apex court order its bench of six judges, including Justice Sinha and Justice Shamsuddin, can now deal with the appeals in the war crimes case against Mollah, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, passed the order, as it earlier heard arguments from the attorney general and Mollah's counsel Khandker Mahbub Hossain.

The grounds for passing the rejection order could not be known, as its full text was not released yesterday.

The International Crime Tribunal-2 on February 5 sentenced Mollah to life term imprisonment for committing crimes against humanity during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

The government filed an appeal with the SC on March 3 seeking death penalty for Mollah, while the convicted Jamaat leader filed a separate appeal on the following day seeking acquittal from the charges in the case.

Dhaka condemns Boston blasts

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has strongly condemned the terrorist attack during the famous Boston Marathon in the USA where three innocent people, including a child, were killed and many others were injured.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, in a condolence message sent to the US Secretary of State John F Kerry yesterday, also said Bangladesh rejects such mindless crimes against humanity and denounces all forms and manifestations of terrorism.

AMJAD MURDER

Ten outlaws get life term

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday sentenced ten outlaws, including an Indian national, to life term imprisonment for killing Awami League leader Amjad Hossain in Naogaon.

It also acquitted 14 persons in the case.

The convicts are Robiul Islam Tarek, of Indian; and Mostafijur Rahman, Nazrul Islam, Russel alias Dablu, Monakka alias Shoton, Tufan Sonar, Alam Sardar, Babor Ali, Kamrul Islam alias Jack, and Shahin alias Foyzal.

Of them, Mostafijur, Monakka and Shahin are still absconding.

Judge Ekramul Haque Chowdhury also fined them Tk 30,000 each in default to serve one more year in jail, said Entajul Haque, public prosecutor.

On June 23, 2003 night, the outlaws of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (Lal Pataka) killed Amjad by slitting his throat at Raninagar Railway Station in the district, according to prosecution.

Journo factions reiterate demand for Mahmudur's release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of journalists reiterated their demands for the release of Amar Desh Acting Editor Mahmudur Rahman and reopening of the newspaper's printing press, which remains sealed off since April 11.

To press home their demands the journalists of two factions of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) held a rally before the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

Addressing the rally, Ruhul Amin Gazi, president of a faction of BFUJ, said, "We will continue the demonstration until our demands are met."

He also announced a four-hour sit-in programme to be held from 10:00am today at the same venue.

On April 11, police arrested Rahman in a case for publishing Skype conversations between Justice Md Nizamul Huq, former chairman of International Crimes Tribunal-1; and Ahmed Ziauddin, an expatriate Bangladeshi legal expert.

Rahman was also shown arrested in two other cases — one filed in connection with hartal and pre-hartal violence; and another for assaulting police and obstructing them from discharging their duties.



AL men 'assault' sculptor Shyamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of ruling party activists, in presence of police, allegedly assaulted prominent sculptor Shyamal Chowdhury and an official of the National Museum inside the museum at the capital's Shahbagh yesterday.

The museum official, Deputy Conservator Niru Shamsun Nahar, was attacked when she tried to save Shyamal, the sculptor of "Santras Birodhi Raju Bhaskariya" at TSC of Dhaka University.

Shyamal said some 10-12 people led by former president of DU unit Bangladesh Chhatra League Delwar Hossain attacked him soon after he dropped a tender schedule for the renovation of a diorama at the museum.

He said the cadres beat him up indiscriminately when he was in Shamsun Nahar's room. "They asked me not to join the bidding without paying them commission."

The sculptor said he informed the museum officials, including its director general, of the incident but no-one cared about it. He said he would take legal actions.

Shahbagh police said they did not know the incident.

HACKING OF BUET STUDENT Peers demand to know stance of security officials

DU CORRESPONDENT

Classes are yet to be resumed at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) as agitating students have been demonstrating on the campus for the third consecutive day protesting an attack on a student on April 9.

The students, including leaders of ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League, have kept the main gate of the university locked since the day of the attack and also locked the new academic building on April 13.

The protesters demanded that Buet security officials state their stance regarding the attack and that they, if found negligent in duty, be removed.

The students at a rally yesterday also demanded a high profile probe com-

mittee to investigate the incident and removal of the Directorate of Students' Welfare Director Delowar Hossain.

Delowar, against this backdrop, submitted his resignation letter to the vice-chancellor on April 13 but no decision has been taken as of yet.

Meanwhile, Buet Teachers' Association in a meeting yesterday decided to contribute to the medical expenses of the victim who is undergoing treatment at the ICU of Square Hospital and also urged the students to attend classes.

On April 9, Arif Rayhan Dwip, a third year student of mechanical engineering department and also a member of the convening committee of BCL Buet unit, was hacked by an unidentified man at Nazrul Islam Hall in broad daylight.

PHOTO: STAR

In a complete disregard to traffic rules, a motorcyclist with the help of a pedestrian gets his vehicle over the road divider so that he could drive on the wrong side to avoid traffic jam in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Such violations are a commonplace in the capital as these cases often get overlooked or go unnoticed and usually do not end up in punishment.