

NEWS IN *brief*

Farroque gets HC bail in Nayapaltan blast case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail for six months to opposition chief whip Zainul Abdin Farroque in a case filed on charge of blasting cock-tails near BNP's central office in the capital's Nayapaltan on March 11.

It passed the order of bail after hearing a petition filed by Farroque on April 7 seeking bail in the case lodged with Paltan Police Station on March 12.

Earlier on April 17, the opposition chief whip got bail from the HC in another case filed on charge of attacking police.

Ctg edn board reschedules HSC English 2nd paper exam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Education Board has rescheduled the HSC English second paper examination for May 17.

It was to be held on May 4.

Dr Pijush Dutta, examination controller of the board, yesterday said, "As there is an examination on May 3, examinees requested to change the date for the May 4 examination."

The paper would be held from 9:00am on May 4, he added.

Mobile court jails two, fines restaurants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday sentenced two persons to jail for making ghee with palm oil and other low quality substitutes at their house in the capital's Central Road area.

The court also realised Tk 4 lakh as fine from Heerajheel and Tk 2 lakh from Gharoa restaurants at Motijheel for preparing food items with expired and low quality ingredients, said Executive Magistrate AHM Anwar Pasha.

Of the two, Abdul Khalek was sentenced to jail for 15 months while Akhter Gazi to three months' imprisonment.

4 railway staff arrested for stealing ticket money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Government Railway Police arrested three staff of Bangladesh Railway (west zone) on Monday night on charge of misappropriating Tk 8.84 lakh from sale of train tickets at Rajshahi booking office.

The arrestees, Abdur Rahman, Shahabuddin and Mamunur Rashid, are all ticket-booking assistants, said Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Government Railway Police.

On Sunday, four employees of BR were suspended in connection with misappropriating the money from ticket sales.

The other accused Rabbel Ali is on the run.



Rally

Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation will stage a rally on the occasion of May Day; Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Procession

Bangladesh Garments o Shilpa Sramik Oikya Parishad will bring out a procession demanding capital punishment for those behind the death of workers in Savar building collapse; Starting venue: Kosturi Hotel, Purana Paltan; Time: 11:00am.

Red flag rally

Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation will organise a red flag rally marking May Day; Venue: Purana Paltan intersection; Time: 10:00am.



Cranes lifting concrete blocks from the debris of Rana Plaza yesterday as the rescue operation enters day seven. The rescuers started using heavy equipment Sunday night in the second phase of the operation.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

6 suspects held in Babu killing case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of Police arrested six suspects in connection with the killing of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader Fazlul Huq alias Babu from different parts of the capital and Kushtia Monday night.

They also seized three firearms, 23 rounds of bullets and two motorbikes from their possessions.

The arrestees are Golam Mahdin alias Titu, 30, his younger brother Golam Kader alias Rummon, 26, Shahriar Kabir alias Saimon, 27, Md Kamruzzaman Ahmed alias Azad, 38, Mizanur Rahman alias Swadhin, 41, and Sohrab Hossain alias Swapan, 42.

On Apr 21, Babu, president of BCL's Ward No 90 unit, was shot dead by criminals in the capital's East Kazipara.

Soon after the murder, Babu's father had accused Titu of killing his son following a dispute over a piece of land owned by an uncle of the deceased.

DB Additional Deputy Commissioner Mashiur Rahman said among the detainees Titu and Saimon had shot Babu while the rest four accompanied them in the murder.

"The firearms seized from the detainees were used in the killing and the motorbikes were used for fleeing the crime scene," he said.

DB officials at a briefing at the Media Centre of Dhaka Metropolitan Police said all the arrestees admitted their involvement in the murder.

The detainees killed Babu for three reasons, including dispute over a piece of land; establishing supremacy over controlling jhut (garment wastage) business; a personal enmity between Babu and Titu, they said.

The enmity between Titu and Babu was ensured as Babu filed a theft case against Titu with Kafurl Police Station, and police arrested him in the case.

4 Shibir men get life term jail for killing BCL man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday sentenced four pro-Jamaat Islami Chhatra Shibir activists to life term imprisonment for killing a Bangladesh Chhatra League leader.

The fugitive convicts are Muzahidul Islam Selim, Md Hamid, Rahamat Ullah, and Md Selim.

The court also fined Tk 10,000 each of them in default to suffer two more years in jail while acquitted four others.

Judge Reza Tareque Ahmad of Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal pronounced the verdict, court sources said.

According to the prosecution, BCL leader Ariful Islam of the port city's Bakalia thana unit was shot in the legs by some Shibir men on his way home on January 15, 2000 following a previous enmity over the then Chittagong City Corporation election.

Ariful died in Dhaka on January 19, 2000.

The victim's father Sirazul Islam lodged a case with Bakalia police accusing eight Shibir activists.

Police submitted charge sheet on August 4, 2009.

414 women faced violence in April

Says report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 414 women were victims of violence in the country only in the month of April, reveals a report of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

Around 102 women were raped, of 17 whom were gang raped and seven were murdered after rape. Moreover, 16 women fell victim to attempted rape, and 13 were sexually harassed.

The rights body collected the details from newspapers, says a press release.

The records show three women came under acid attack, while four women were involved in fire violence, three of whom died.

Five women were kidnapped and 64 women and children were murdered, while there were four incidents of women and children trafficking.

For the demand of dowry, 46 women were harassed and 25 of them were killed.

Two women were victims of domestic violence.

Around 45 women were stalked or molested, with one of them ending up committing suicide. Thirty more women killed themselves for different forms of violence.

A girl fell victim to child marriage, while a fatwa was issued on one woman.

Police four harassed women, while 25 women were harassed physically.

Lioness dies in Rajshahi zoo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The only lioness in Shaheed AHM Kamruzzaman Zoo in Rajshahi city died of heart attack yesterday morning.

The 14-year-old lioness took food in the morning and walked around in the cage normally before collapsing at 11:00am, said Forhad Uddin, veterinary surgeon of Rajshahi City Corporation.

She was buried at a corner of the zoo after autopsy, he added.

Collected from Chittagong Foys Lake Park at the age of three, the lioness grew up in the zoo and recently lost one of her teeth.

The autopsy found that 70 percent of her lungs were damaged, and her liver and kidney were partially affected, said Forhad. A lioness lives 14 to 20 years in cage, he added.

Forhad said the 18-year-old lion of the zoo was also suffering from illness.



PHOTO: STAR

CIMA Country Manager Zareef Matin, judge of Global Business Challenge 2013 Nazimuddin, CEO of LCBS Dhaka Abul Kalam and CEO of Brandcom Shahjada Siddique at a programme organised by CIMA Bangladesh in the capital's United International University Auditorium on April 25 announcing the Bangladeshi finalists of GBC-2013.



PHOTO: PID

President Abdul Hamid swears in the new Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

Anti-terrorism act being changed to deal with hartal violence

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is amending the anti-terrorism act to make it harsher and to address all forms of terrorism, including hartal violence, the law minister said yesterday.

"Any kind of violence is terrorism," Barrister Shafique Ahmed told newsmen at his office. "The amendment is aimed at suppressing acts and finance of terror."

Indiscriminate vandalism, damage to property and violence before and during the hartal day is not a political right, he said, adding that the government would not obstruct any political rallies and demonstrations.

Barrister Shafique spoke to the media after US Ambassador Dan W Mozena called on him.

Mozena, who followed the minister, urged all political parties not to perpetrate violence, particularly against minorities. "Violence is not a part of democracy," he said.

He conveyed his government's deepest condolence to the Savar building collapse victims and expressed readiness to help the wounded, particularly by supplying artificial limbs.

Mozena also said USA intended to assist Bangladesh in removing backlogs in the judiciary.



WEATHER TODAY

Slight rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind likely to occur at one or two places over Sylhet, Dhaka, Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kustia, Noakhali and Comilla in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, said Met Office. Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions Rajshahi and Ishwardi and it may continue. Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:27pm and rises tomorrow at 5:24am.

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	34.8	27.3	78	67
Chittagong	32.0	26.2	79	79
Rajshahi	39.1	27.8	79	63
Rangpur	30.0	24.0	96	83
Khulna	36.5	28.2	75	67
Barisal	35.0	26.9	84	71
Sylhet	30.6	22.8	86	78
Cox's Bazar	33.8	25.5	74	81