

NEWS IN *brief*

Jamaat's hartal in Rajshahi today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Jamaat-e-Islami has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the eight districts of Rajshahi division for today demanding release of three arrested Jamaat-Shibir leaders.

Shahab Uddin, Bogra district unit ameer; Nazrul Islam, Chapainawabganj unit ameer; and Enayet Shafique, pro-Jamaat Shibir president of Chapainawabganj town unit, were reportedly arrested on Friday in the capital on charge of violence.

BFFA now can hold polls: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for holding election to the Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association (BFFA) under its administrator.

The court declared valid the appointment of Mir Moshui Alam, as the administrator of BFFA, on July 19 last year for holding its annual election within one year.

Yesterday, the HC delivered the verdict after rejecting a writ petition filed by ABM Rafiquezaman Sagar, the vice president of BFFA, challenging the legality of appointment of Moshui.

PM receives OFA money for Savar victims

METRO DESK

The Old Faujians Association, a society of ex-cadets of Faujdarhat Cadet College, has donated money to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund to help the victims of the Rana Plaza tragedy in Savar.

The association's Central Governing Body Chairman Maj Sobhan and Secretary General M Musleh Uz Zaman met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her office and handed over the token amount on April 30, said a press release.

Rezakul made Eastern University trustee board chairman

METRO DESK



Rezakul Haider, chairman of Shajibazar Power Company, has been elected the chairman of the Board of Trustees of Eastern University.

He is the chairman of Petromax Refinery, Comfit Composite Knit, Youth Fashion, Youth Garments, Chowdhury Apparels and director of Australian School in the capital.

The board also elected Saidur Rahman, Ali Azam and Abul Kashem Haider as the vice-chairmen and Dr Saiful Mazid as the treasurer of the University.


Navy receives second locally made patrol boat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The second patrol boat built by Khulna Shipyard Limited, BNS Surma, was handed over to Bangladesh Navy at Khulna Shipyard's quay yesterday.

The 50.4m by 7.5m boat, weighing 270 tonnes, has a maximum speed of 23 knots, cruising speed of 18 knots, two 37 mm and two 20 mm guns and mine laying facilities.

The shipyard will in total build five patrol boats for the navy at a cost of Tk 288 crore. China Shipbuilding Offshore Company is supervising the construction and providing the designs and materials.



Discussion

Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) will hold a discussion on participation of men and women in workplaces; Venue: IDEB Bhawan, Kakrail; Time: 3:00pm.

Meeting

Nouka Samarthak Goshthi will organise a meeting on violence of BNP-Jamaat and Hefajat; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to very heavy falls are also likely at places over 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 6:30pm and rises tomorrow at 5:20am.

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 | 24.6 | 20.7 | 84 | 81 |
| Chittagong | 28.6 | 21.0 | 73 | 96 |
| Rajshahi | 29.8 | 23.2 | 85 | 84 |
| Rangpur | 26.0 | 20.5 | 88 | 82 |
| Khulna | 33.8 | 21.4 | 72 | 76 |
| Barisal | 32.2 | 20.5 | 80 | 98 |
| Sylhet | 24.1 | 20.0 | 92 | 92 |
| Cox's Bazar | 33.5 | 21.7 | 74 | 83 |



Army officials and family members pay respect to Mohammad Ezazuddin Chowdhury Kaikobad after his body arrived at Shahjalal International Airport from Singapore yesterday. Kaikobad, a rescuer in the Rana Plaza collapse, was severely burnt during a rescue drive on April 28 and died in a Singapore hospital on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR

Hefajat's havoc condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-political and cultural organisations yesterday condemned the mayhem created by the activists of Hefajat-e-Islam in the capital on Sunday.

Teamed up with Jamaat-Shibir men, the activists set ablaze dozens of shops selling Islamic books and even Holy Quran among many other makeshift stalls on footpaths around Baitul Mukarram mosque.

The organisations which expressed the condemnations include Sector Commanders Forum, Liberation War-71; Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshthi, Citizens Rights Movement, Bangladesh Jubo Moitree, Muktiyoddha Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Shommito Islami Jote and Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote.

In the statements, leaders of the organisations said the acts of Hefajat clearly contradict to the true sense of Islam.

Condemning such anti-Islamic and anti-social activities in the name of Islam, they said Islam is a peaceful religion; and it never allows creating such anarchy and burn the Holy Quran.

In its statement, Sector Commanders Forum said the atrocities done by Hefajat activists remind the nation the time of the country's Liberation War.

The ways of creating unrest and anarchy resembles with the atrocities of Pakistani occupation forces in 1971, it said.

HC verdict tomorrow on DCC polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will give a verdict tomorrow over holding the bifurcated Dhaka City Corporation polls.

The court yesterday fixed the date for announcing the verdict after concluding hearing on a pending writ petition that challenged the schedule for holding the DCC (north and south) elections.

The Election Commission on April 9 last year fixed May 24 of the same year for holding the elections.

Following the writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, the HC on April 16 last year stayed the process for holding the polls.

RANA PLAZA COLLAPSE

Savar municipality's two engineers land in jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Savar municipality's two engineers, who were arrested in connection with two cases filed over the Rana Plaza collapse, were sent to jail after they were produced before a Dhaka court yesterday.

Police produced the municipality's Executive Engineer Emtemam Hossain and Assistant Engineer Alam Miah before the court on completion of their eight-day remand in the cases.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Wasim Sheikh passed the order as police did not seek further remand.

Moreover, no lawyers stood to defend them as Dhaka Bar Association had earlier decided not to give any legal assistance to them including the collapsed building's owner Sohel Rana.

In the yesterday's forwarding report, Detective Branch of police Inspector and also the cases' investigation officer Mir Shahin Shah Parvez said the information derived from arrestees was being verified, and they should be confined to jail until the end of the investigation.

On April 24, the building was collapsed that led at least 622 garment workers to death and maimed a number of workers.

Kaikobad helped people since childhood

Say family members; his body arrives from Singapore

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOLO

The Rana Plaza collapse rescue worker Kaikobad, who died in Singapore Saturday after suffering burns during a rescue operation on April 28, had always braved dangers in helping people since his childhood, family members said yesterday.

They said he never thought of his life while trying to help the helpless people in danger.

Mohammad Ezazuddin Chowdhury Kaikobad, 35, was burnt in a fire inside the rubble of Rana Plaza while trying to rescue Shaheena Akhtar, a garment worker who could not be saved in the end. He was admitted to Dhaka Combined Military Hospital (CMH) and later flown to Singapore on April 30.

Kaikobad is survived by her wife Jarneen Akhter and a daughter, 7, and son, 4.

Family members received his body at

Shahjalal International Airport yesterday.

Speaking to reporters at the airport, Kaikobad's elder sister Sultana Razia said, "My brother was mad about doing good for people whenever he saw anyone in danger."

The widow Jarneen Akter said she had talked to her husband on only one of the five days he had worked tirelessly to rescue trapped garment workers since the April 24 collapse. "He told me he could not come home. If he did, he could not save any life."

Jarneen said she was worried about the future of her two children, as their father could not leave any capital.

Kaikobad's body was kept at the CMH's mortuary. He will be buried at the Banani graveyard with state honour after his second namaz-e-janaza on Central Army Mosque premises following Zohr prayers today.



PHOTO: PMO

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, presents Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with a copy of the holy Quran transcribed by Hazrat Osman during a courtesy call by the former at Gono Bhawan in the capital yesterday.

Stop use of residential buildings for industries

Experts tell Prothom Alo roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deadly building collapses may recur unless the government immediately identifies and stops the illegal use of residential buildings for readymade garments factories and other industries, leading civil engineers said at a discussion yesterday.

The government should make it mandatory for every owner to display approval and occupancy certificate in a way so that anyone can check its authenticity through mobile phone using "quick search code" technology, said Eng Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury.

The Bangla daily Prothom Alo organised the discussion at its office on the country's deadliest Savar Rana Plaza collapse that killed at least 660 garment workers.

Prof Jamilur said the fire service department should build up standard search

and rescue teams, including engineers and physicians, while Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) should disaggregate too much responsibility it had taken upon itself for development control and real estate development simultaneously.

Rajuk should immediately survey the buildings housing industries and measure their vulnerability, as 70 percent of the capital's buildings are non-engineered, said architect Iqbal Habib, member secretary of the environmentalist group Bapa.

Rajuk Chairman Nurul Huda said they could not enforce building rules in municipality areas within the capital city's jurisdiction in the face of "vehement opposition" by Savar, Tongi and Narayanganj municipality authorities.

SAVAR BUILDING COLLAPSE VICTIMS Indian, German govts offer rehab help

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Indian and German governments yesterday offered assistance to rehabilitate the Savar building collapse victims to help the disabled persons regain their mobility, enabling them to lead a life in dignity and again work for their living.

The Indian government would sponsor, facilitate and arrange for the rehabilitation of the victims who lost limbs or were seriously injured using world renowned expertise available in India, said an India High Commission press release.

The German government will provide Tk 50 lakh taka to support some of the victims.

Moreover, financial assistance will also be given to victims or their families for accommodation, food and transport cost, said a German embassy press release.

The German Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross will implement the project. The Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed located in Savar will be included in the project concept and implementation.

The victims will also receive work rehabilitation support through skills development training.



Network of Instrument Technical personnel and User scientists of Bangladesh (NITUB)

NITUB is a registered learned society of scientists & technicians dedicated to scientific education and research. NITUB activity includes conducting training programmes on different instrument groups for scientists and technicians and repairing scientific instruments on demand.

Details can be found on www.nitub.org. For more information contact nitub@bangla.net or phone 02-9673136, 01715105391

Here is the opportunity of instrument training and repair conducted under the supervision of renowned university professors, scientists and technicians.

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