

NEWS IN

brief

7 youths jailed for vandalism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile courts yesterday jailed seven youths for vandalising and attempting to torch vehicles in the capital.

Magistrate Khandakar Shamima Rahman sentenced Iqbal Hossain, Sajib, Sabuj Miah, and Nayan to jail for one year each in Mohammadpur area.

Another Magistrate Morarji Deshai Burman awarded Nur-e-Alam and Shawakat Ali jail for the same period in Meer Hajirbagh of Jatrabari area.

Besides, Magistrate Sarah Sadia sent Mostofa to jail for eight months in Notun Bazar of Gulshan area.

4 Shibir men held with Hefajat's leaflets in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday detained four Shibir men from a madrasa in Chittagong city with a bundle of leaflets of Hefajat-e Islam, six bottles of petrol, a banner of Shibir and some sticks.

Mirza Saiem Mahmud, assistant commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police Kotwali zone, said police raided Darul Ulum Alia Madrasa at Chandanpura around 6:00pm and nabbed the four.

Police raided the madrasa in their effort to avert any untoward incident ahead of the verdict in the war crimes trial of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Kamaruzzaman, which is scheduled to be pronounced today, he said.

Mahila Parishad condemns Hefajat violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday condemned the violence and mayhem created by Hefajat-e Islam in many places, including the capital.

The members in a statement said in the name of democratic programmes, they have carried out vandalism, arson, killed law enforcers and even burnt the holy Quran. They also condemned the Islamist group for involving young students of Madrasa.

They demanded immediate exemplary punishment for the miscreants and a ban on organisations which use religion for politics.

Dr Liaquat gets IAS-COMSTech Ibrahim Memorial Award

METRO DESK

Prof Liaquat Ali, acting vice chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Health Sciences, has won the IAS-COMSTech Ibrahim Memorial Award for his contribution in diabetes and nutritional research.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, IAS Director General Dr Moneef R Zou'bi handed over the award to Prof Liaquat at a ceremony of the 19th IAS conference in the capital on Tuesday, said a press release.

The Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) and the OIC Standing Ministerial Committee on Scientific and Technological Co-operation (COMSTech) give the award every two years.



Discussion

Bangladesh Television Shilpi Sangstha will organise a discussion, "Practice of the country's culture and Bangladesh Television"; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 10:00am.

Human chain

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad will form a human chain demanding trial of war criminals; Venue: before

the International Crimes Tribunals; Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

Mechanical Engineering Division of The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh will organise a seminar, "Role of renewable energy and energy efficiency in meeting electricity demand: Bangladesh perspectives"; Venue: its premises; Time: 7:00pm.



The authorities have not been able to move this bus, torched in the Hefajat-e Islam mayhem in the capital on Sunday. The bus could not be budged as all its wheels have been burnt. The vehicle now rests on its chassis. The photo was taken in front of Baitul Mukarram mosque yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

SUNDAY'S CRACKDOWN ON HEFAJAT MEN

Cyber propaganda continues to confuse people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cyber propaganda that some 2,500 Hefajat-e Islam activists were killed during law enforcers' action to flush them out from the capital's Shapla Chatter on Sunday night continues to keep people confused.

From early Monday, several bloggers posted fictitious accounts of the action in CNN's blog website "ireport.cnn.com" where anyone can post any "report" without any verification by CNN. However, after verification, CNN puts a note that the report has been vetted.

One such report by one "Hefajat" is headlined "Bangladesh Government killed 2500 thousand protesters in the confrontation Dhaka". A second report by one "TPSabuj" has a headline "2500+ Innocent people killed by Bangladesh Prime Minister" while a third reads "Motijheel, Dhaka, Bangladesh dead 2500+ wounded 12000+ please help Bangladesh".

Although all three had remarks that those were not vetted by CNN, the links of these stories are widely being circulated by presenting them as CNN's reports.

Fake pictures of mass killings are also flooding social media. A Facebook page "Hefajote Islam Bangladesh" shows a picture of hundreds of dead bodies lying on a hilly site. Its headline: "a part of the heap of dead bodies stolen by the BGB". It also contained a caption stating that the bodies were seen at a secret United People's Democratic Front den deep in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The picture was actually taken from a mass killing (the Jonestown massacre) in Guyana in 1978. Interestingly the image was removed from the site yesterday evening.

Hefajat's supporting website BasherKella, run by Jamaat-Shibir activists, ran the same picture along

with many more. The site stated that these were fake pictures being posted by "Shahbagi" (activists of Shahbagh's Gonojagoron Mancha) to discredit Hefajat-e Islam's claim of 2,500 dead bodies.

Another post in the Facebook page reads, "Preparation underway to take dead bodies to India in transport carrying essentials. Keep a watch on Pilkhana".

Meanwhile, a video clip of Channel i covering Sunday night's police action is also being circulated on Facebook. The clip shows how Hefajat activists surrendered to police and Rapid Action Battalion personnel and left the spot.

Interestingly, the clip also showed several activists lying on the ground during the police operation, appearing to be dead or injured. But when policemen went up to them and pushed them, they got up and started walking (some did have injuries).

2 students hurt as plaster falls from ceiling in DU hall

DU CORRESPONDENT

Two students were injured as a chunk of plaster fell from the ceiling of the television room in Mohsin Hall of Dhaka University yesterday.

Jakirul Islam of library science and information management department and Jahidul Islam of Arabic studies department, both fourth year students, got first aid for themselves.

Jahid, who got hurt in one hand, said around 11:30am a large chunk of plaster fell on them while they were watching television. Jaki got wounds in one of his legs, he added.

MA Akkas, provost of the hall, said the university authorities would start the repair work from Thursday (today). He added that plaster of the wall and ceiling in different places got damaged in the hall built as far back as 1967.

Some of the DU dormitories, including Surya Sen Hall, Mohsin Hall, Shaheed Fazlul Haque Hall, are age-old, and house students three to four times more than their capacity.

Stressing renovation work for those dormitories, the university acting engineer-in-chief Mafizul Islam said, "We cannot carry out the repair work properly due to lack of money." Recently repair work at Salimullah Muslim Hall has completed, he added.

HOUSING INDUSTRY  
Govt sincere to provide support: Law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the government will take necessary steps to resolve the existing problems in the country's housing industry after examining the recommendations from the authorities concerned.

The government was sincere to provide necessary support to help develop the industry, he said.

He told these in a meeting with a delegation of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) at his Bangladesh Secretariat office, said a law ministry press release.

REHAB President Nasrul Hamid led the delegation at the meeting where State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam was present. Leaders of REHAB, a trade organisation of developers in the country, expressed gratitude to the government for the decision of giving gas link to the housing sector, the press release said.



William Hanna, head of EU delegation to Bangladesh, speaks to the press at the capital's Lakeshore Hotel yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Rescuer Omar Faruk laid to rest

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

No bugle played nor did any government official pay respect as Omar Faruk, a civilian rescuer at the Savar building collapse site, was buried in solemn silence in his family graveyard at Laltek, Savar yesterday.

A Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) autopsy revealed that Faruk committed suicide while marks on his throat indicated that death came through suffocation.

Doctors, from symptoms he showed since joining the rescue a day after the April 24 collapse, suspect post-traumatic stress disorder.

He was admitted to DMCH on May 2 after having nightmares and hallucinations over the thought of not being able to save the crying and screaming people trapped under Rana Plaza's rubble.

He was found dead inside the hospital on Tuesday. DMCH Deputy Director Dr Moshir Rahman said they would find what happened from CCTV footage.

Fifth among four sisters and two brothers, Faruk lost his father at the age of 13 and established an engineering workshop three years ago. He always financially helped the needy within his limited capacity, said his brother-in-law. "Why did he ever go there?" lamented his mother by the grave.

Faruk's death, however, does not draw the curtain. His story will continually remind us the principles of humanity that differentiate humankind from other beings, in its determination to live and die for others.



WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:31pm and rises tomorrow at 5:19am.

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

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.2	24.4	75	89
Chittagong	30.8	23.6	82	89
Rajshahi	33.0	24.4	91	75
Rangpur	29.0	22.8	82	75
Khulna	34.0	28.5	86	77
Barisal	31.4	25.0	89	85
Sylhet	27.5	21.0	91	86
Cox's Bazar	31.0	24.0	83	89



Youths of Gonojagoron Mancha gather again at Shahbagh in the capital last night demanding death penalty for alleged war criminal Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General Muhammad Kamaruzzaman. The verdict in his war crime trial is scheduled to be declared today.

PHOTO: STAR