

NEWSIN brief

Sayedee's son rearrested at jail gate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective police rearrested Shamim Sayedee, son of convicted Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee, moments after his release on bail around 5:00pm from Dhaka Central Jail (Kashimpur-2) in Gazipur yesterday. Shamim was arrested at the jail gate, sources in Kashimpur jail told The Daily Star.

Earlier on February 11, the police arrested him in the capital's Uttara area on charges of vandalism and arson.

Road crash kills 1

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Two motorcycles collided head-on on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Gilarchala in Sreepur of Gazipur yesterday afternoon, killing a man and injuring three others.

The deceased was Asraful Alam, 23, son of Siddique of Gazipur sadar upazila.

The injured Alaluddin, Sujon, and Masum Miah, 23, were taken to AK Memorial Hospital from where referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said highway police.

Ctg nursing students want internship

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Students of Chittagong Nursing College yesterday formed a human chain on the college campus to press home their three-point demand.

The demands are increment in stipend, inclusion of apron in uniform and introduction of internship programme after their course ends.

Shafikul Islam, a student, said the monthly stipend should be Tk 3,000 instead of Tk 1,000.

Refiners urged to be responsible in selling edible oil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Director General of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) AK Fazlul Ahad yesterday urged all refiners to act more responsibly in marketing Vitamin A enriched edible oil.

Addressing a meeting at BSTI office in the capital, BSTI said consumers should check the fortified logo of oil before buying it.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Rafia Begum, mother of central BNP leader and former deputy minister for land Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu, died of a cardiac arrest at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital yesterday. She was 95.

She left behind four sons and three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She will be buried at their family graveyard in Ramsa Kazipur village of Natore today after Zohr prayers.

Correction

Our yesterday's report about International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) and Belgium-based Bangladeshi legal expert Ahmed Ziauddin (Page 3) misstated Justice Obaidul Hassan as head of ICT-1.

Justice Obaidul heads ICT-2. It also misstated that tribunal-1 asked Ziauddin why legal proceedings should not be initiated against him. It was tribunal-2, not tribunal-1.

We regret the error.



Gonojagoron Mancha brings out a procession from Shahbagh in the capital yesterday protesting the hartal called by Jamaat-e-Islami.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

HEFAJAT VIOLENCE

Another dies Burnt cop sent to Singapore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A madrasa teacher, who suffered bullet wounds during a clash between law enforcers and Hefajat-e-Islam activists at Shapla Chattar on May 5, died in hospital yesterday, while a police constable burnt in the violence was sent to Singapore Monday night.

Nazrul Islam, 40, from Manohardi upazila of Narsingdi, died in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he was admitted in early May 6, said Shahbagh police.

According to Dhaka Metropolitan Police, 11 people, including a policeman, died in the Motijheel clash between May 5 and early May 6.

Mosharrar Hossain, a cousin of Nazrul, said Nazrul would teach at a Dhaka madrasa and lived in the capital Darussalam.

"He would also work at the Bangla daily Gonojagoron," he said. "Nazrul had been a Chittagong correspondent of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) for about 10 years. He came to Dhaka a few years ago, leaving Chittagong and his BSS job."

Mosharrar said Nazrul had no political affiliations. "My brother did not attend the Hefajat programme. We are not sure how he had suffered rubber bullet injuries and why he had gone to Motijheel."

The police constable, Md Piurul Islam, who was flown to Singapore for better treatment, had suffered burns over 45 percent of his body after the Hefajat men set fire to the office of Deputy Commissioner of Traffic (East) on the night of May 5.

He was being treated in DMCH.

Ban Hefajat, Jamaat or face Dhaka siege

Warns imam olama oikya parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Imam Olama Somonnoy Oikya Parishad yesterday threatened that they would besiege Dhaka on June 23, if the government does not ban Hefajat-e-Islam and Jamaat-e-Islami by June 20.

The parishad also declared to hold a rally at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque on June 22 to press home its demand.

The parishad's Chairman Ismail Hossain said, "Hefajat-e-Islam is a terrorist and militant organisation and they have no connection with Islam. In the name of Islam, Hefajat is trying to save the Jamaat."

He was speaking at a press briefing at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

He claimed that Hefajat-e-Islam patronised terrorism and militancy using madrasas.

Hijras seek rights, social security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eunuchs (hijras) yesterday demanded that government and non-government organisations take necessary initiatives to protect their fundamental rights and ensure social security for them.

Despite being citizen of the country, eunuchs are deprived of basic rights like education, health service, and accommodation. Steps must be taken to arrange the facilities for development of the community, they said.

They were addressing a discussion titled "Improving life standard of eunuchs" organised by the Department of Social Services at its office in the capital.

Pinky Sikder, executive director of Badhon Hijra Sangha, demanded that there should be an option for eunuchs like "male" or "female" in every application form from all the sectors, including job sector.

Bangladesh Hijra Foundation Vice President Bobby pushed for rehabilitation of eunuchs to merge them with the mainstream population.

Department of Social Services Director General Nasima Begum, who chaired the function, said they had already launched a programme for development of eunuchs.

Under this programme at seven districts, eunuchs are being trained up for different jobs including in beauty parlour, driving, and fish and agro farming.

Dr Nazmul Ahsan, chairperson of an NGO Losauk, in his keynote paper, emphasised countrywide census to figure out the accurate number of eunuchs for initiating development programme for them.

State Minister for Social Welfare Promode Mankin and other officials of the Department of Social Services also spoke.

HEFAJAT MAYHEM Another case lodged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A case has been lodged against 38 people, including Narayanganj district BNP President Taimur Alam Khandakar, in connection with the Hefajat violence on May 6 that reportedly left 20 people dead.

With this case, the number of cases lodged in connection with the incident stands at 14.

Sub-Inspector of Sonargaon Police Station Sheikh Sadi filed the case against 38 named persons and several unnamed others on Monday night.

At least 20 people, including two policemen and two BGB men, were killed as activists of Hefajat-e-Islam clashed with law enforcers in Kanchpur and Signboard areas hours after the Hefajat men were driven out of the capital's Motijheel.

VIOLENCE SINCE SAYEDEE VERDICT

Railway incurs Tk 24cr loss Say officials

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg

The Bangladesh Railway (BR) has suffered a loss of Tk 24 crore from damages of its properties in a string of violent incidents since International Crimes Tribunal-1 passed a death sentence on Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee on February 28, according to officials.

A total of 132 incidents took place during the period, causing damages worth Tk 24 crore, said the railway high officials, adding that arson attacks ruled the list, with 74 such incidents.

The incidents ranged from vandalising and torching train coaches, rail lines and stations to removing fishplates and rail tracks to hurling bricks and cocktails.

"A total of 106 incidents have taken their toll on the BR east zone comprising Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions since February 28," said Md Mia Jahan, chief operating superintendent of the zone.

The rest of the occurrences took place in the railway west zone consisting of the country's northern and south-western regions, the BR sources added.

The latest arson attack occurred at Chittagong Railway Station where five coaches of Subarna Express were set ablaze hours before its scheduled trip to Dhaka on May 7, causing damages worth Tk 2 crore.

Railway Minister Mujiburul Haque blamed Jamaat-Shibir men for the arson attack.

He said Jamaat-Shibir men have been conducting countrywide destructive activities, including sabotage in the railway sector, for the last few months to thwart the war

crimes trial.

Md Tafazzal Hossain, general manager of the BR east zone, said, "We are trying to avert further untoward incidents in the zone by tightening security."

Gazi Saleh Uddin, a sociology professor at Chittagong University, said, "Attacks on railway properties are a new phenomenon in political vendetta waged by religious fundamentalists and extremist forces."

He called for a ban on such religion-based politics.

On April 2, at least 30 passengers were injured when six coaches of Chittagong-bound Turna Nishita Express from Dhaka derailed in Comilla after miscreants, allegedly Jamaat-Shibir men, removed fishplates of the rails. The incident cut off rail links between the three districts for around 16 hours.

In another incident, six coaches of Mohanagar Godhuli derailed after miscreants removed fishplates of the rail track between Feni and Sharshadee Railway Stations on February 28.

On March 4, three compartments of Upakul Express at Kamalapur Railway Station in Dhaka and an abandoned locomotive at Chittagong Railway Station came under an arson attack, while a day earlier three coaches of Silk City Express were torched at Rajshahi Railway Station.

The next day, miscreants removed a section of the rail line between Bhatiary and Kumira Railway Stations in Chittagong.

In addition, a local train coach was torched in Mymensingh on March 26.

Youth, ex assault each other as suicide pact falls apart

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The youth courted the woman for two years until her family married her off to another man six or seven months ago. So, the two of them decided to kill themselves. And they would do it together.

Yesterday, the youth arrived at the woman's house in the capital's Badda with two bottles of poison, they had snacks together and each apparently took a swig from the bottles. But none of them swallowed it.

Police quoted the youth as saying he swallowed the poison but the woman did not. So, he insisted that she do so. At one stage, she attacked him with a chopper (boti). He then snatched it, forced her into drinking poison and landed blows on her with the chopper.

Both of them ended up in Dhaka Medical College Hospital after neighbours rushed in and separated them on hearing the commotion.

Doctors said the woman, 21, had four cuts on the body and the 23-year-old youth had a graze on his neck.

They were not clear about their health condition, but hoped that they would recover.

Badda police said the two developed a love affair when they were students of a private university in Rajshahi. Family members of the woman, however, denied that there was a relationship and called the young man a stalker.

They said he had followed her to Dhaka to assault her.

The husband of the woman was not at home when the incident happened.



Drainage works during the monsoon create difficulties for pedestrians in the capital's New Elephant Road area. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Policy must to respond to quakes effectively: Mozena

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As people cannot prevent earthquakes from occurring, policies, guidelines and plans must be developed in such a way that it ensures the most effective response to the natural disasters, said US Ambassador Dan Mozena yesterday.

Speaking on disasters, Mozena said earthquakes are especially threatening as they strike with little to no warning.

The US ambassador speaking at the closing ceremony of a 10-day multinational workshop titled "Multinational Planning Augmentation Team tempest Express 22 Shetubandhan" at a hotel in the capital.

About 150 participants representing armed forces and different humanitarian organisations from 20 countries took part in the workshop organised by the United States Pacific Command and Bangladesh Armed Forces Division.

Talking to journalists, Mozena said that there will be an event on debris management in July and another one in September on disaster response exercise and exchange where hundreds of people from Bangladesh and international organisations and different embassies will participate.

He said Bangladesh has sustained considerable damages due to disasters in the past but made considerable progress in disaster management in the last decade.

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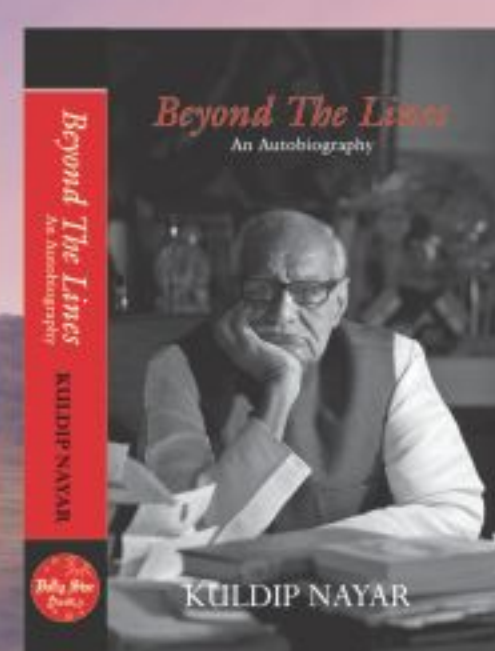
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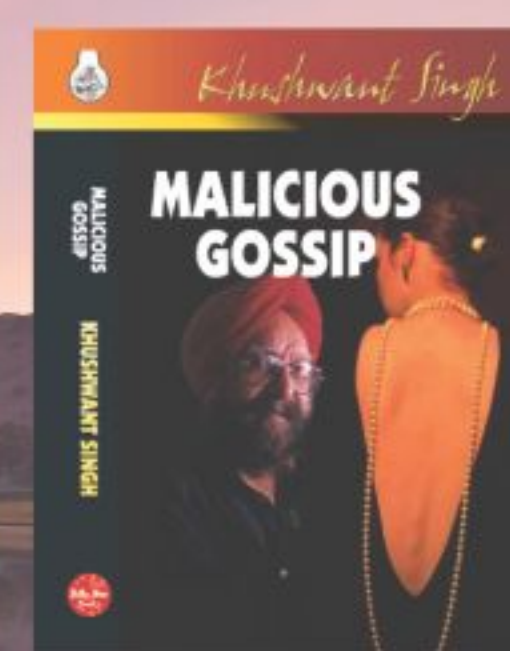
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