

NEWS IN brief

Mahmudur sent to jail after remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court sent Amar Desh Acting Editor Mahmudur Rahman to jail yesterday after a three-day police remand in a case filed against him in February over sedition.

Metropolitan Magistrate Ehsanullah passed the order after police produced him before the court in the morning.

No appeal for fresh remand or bail was made at the court.

Mahmudur was arrested in his newspaper office in the capital on April 11 on charges of sedition, hartal violence, and assaulting police.

Rickshaw-puller hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A gang of unidentified criminals hacked a rickshaw-puller to death near Satkhaimair Bazar in Sreepur upazila early yesterday.

The victim was Rafikul Islam, 40, of Daleshwar village in the upazila.

Amir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Sreepur Police Station, said the miscreants hacked him in the back with a sharp weapon while he was on the way to Satkhaimair Rail Station.

Rafikul was rushed to Sreepur Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead.

Man shot dead in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants shot a man dead at Nolgola in Old Dhaka yesterday.

Police said two miscreants opened fired indiscriminately on Nawshad Hossain, 35, a residence of Lalbagh around 5:00pm when he was in his brother-in-law's scrap metal shop at Nolgola.

He was taken to Mitford Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.

Eight-year-old boy dies as plank falls on him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An eight-year-old boy died as a plank fell on him from an under-construction building in the capital's Rayer Bazar.

Police said the incident occurred when Ridoy reached under the six-storey building while he was following his brother.

He was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

KAYES ABDUCTION Arrest main culprits: Poba

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poribesh Bachao Andolan (Poba) yesterday demanded immediate arrest of the main perpetrators who abducted its Narayanganj unit coordinator, Shahed Kayes, from a boat in Meghna River near Boydder Bazar in Comilla on July 25.

Local sand traders kidnapped Shahed from the boat as he was voicing against illegal sand lifting in Mayadip and Nunertek areas, alleged Poba leaders at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Shahed was abducted by a group of people while he was going to visit schools in the area to arrange free education for the underprivileged children, they said.

Police rescued him with stab injuries from Rampur Bazar in Meghna Upazila of Comilla district three hours after the abduction. He is now undergoing treatment in Dhaka Community Hospital. Police have arrested one person in this connection, they added.

Poba Chairman Abu Naser Khan and its General Secretary Kamal Pasha Chowdhury spoke at the event.



Seminar

Voluntary Consumers' Training and Awareness Society, and Bangladesh Muri o Chira Kal Malik Association will organise a seminar on "Our responsibilities to prevent food adulteration"; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Procession

Bangladesh Garments Sramik Oikya Parishad will bring out a procession

demanding Eid bonus equivalent to one-month salary for all RMG workers; Starting venue: 31/F Topkhana Road; Time: 11:30am.

Seminar

Communist Party of Bangladesh, and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal will arrange a seminar on "Ticfa deal and national interest"; Venue: Mukti Bhaban, Purana Paltan; Time: 11:00am.



Top: With Eid-ul-Fitr only about 10 days away, shoppers flock to a roadside market in Chittagong's New Market area yesterday. Bottom: Women look at Saris at a shop in KDA New Market of Khulna city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Eid shopping gains momentum in Ctg, Khulna cities

CITY DESK

With about 10 days left for Eid-ul-Fitr, one of the biggest religious festivals of the Muslim community, markets in Khulna and Chittagong cities are bustling with shoppers of all ages as sales gain momentum.

In Chittagong city, customers flock to roadside businesses looking for outfits and matching accessories for Eid.

Shoppers, mostly belonging to middle and low income brackets, can be seen thronging the roadside vendors in different areas of the city including New Market, GEC intersection, Number-2 Gate, Bahaddarhat, Agrabad, CEPZ, Oxygen and Chawkbazar.

The hawkers, who run their businesses either on rickshaw vans or makeshift shops, are passing a busy time selling different attires, mainly shirts, t-shirts, trousers and children's clothes.

Mohammad Hridoy, who sells jeans trousers in Number-2 Gate area, expressed satisfaction over sales in this Eid season.

His daily sales now stands near Tk 8,000 while it was less than Tk 4,000 before Ramadan, he said, adding that as Eid is getting nearer, numbers of customers is increasing significantly.

There are more than 12,000 hawkers in the port city who are involved with garment business, said Masud Rana, general secretary of Chittagong Sammito Hawkers Federation.

The scenario is the same in Khulna where shoppers are seen flocking markets particularly Picture Palace, Dawkbangla, Borobazar and KDA New Market.

However, with increased shoppers came crowded areas and more traffic jam on the city roads.

The roadside shops and small retailers are more crowded than the city's big shopping malls.

Muhammad Mamun Hossain, owner of Mamun Cloth Store at Borobazar market, said, "Our store has been packed with customers for the last few days. I am very pleased with sales at the moment."

"About 30 to 40 pieces of Indian Saris and Salwar Kamiz suits priced between Tk 2000-7500 a piece are sold daily," said Md Alif Hossain, owner of Aponjona at KDA New Market.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE AGAINST TARIQUE IO summoned to face court Aug 13

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned the investigation officer in a money laundering case against BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman and his friend Ghausuddin Al Mamun to appear before it on August 13.

Md Ibrahim, deputy director of Anti-Corruption Commission and also the IO, will have to appear before the court on that day to narrate what he found in his investigation into the allegations against the accused.

Earlier on the day, defence lawyer for Mamun submitted a petition seeking an adjournment of the hearing.

In the petition, the defence said they had earlier filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the legality of the case proceedings. But the hearing on the writ petition remains pending. So they prayed for adjournment of the hearing until finalisation of the writ petition.

After a hearing, Judge Md Motahar Hossain of the Special Judge Court-3 granted the petition seeking the adjournment and set the date.

Earlier, ten prosecution witnesses, including the complainant and an FBI official, had given their statements before the court in the case.

The ACC had filed the case against Tarique and his business partner Mamun in October 2009, in connection with siphoning out of Tk 20.41 crore to Singapore between 2003 and 2007.

Man held with Yaba pills in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a man with 7,000 Yaba pills at Jatrabari's south Kutubkhali Salek area in the capital yesterday morning.

The arrestee is Md Alam, 26, of Teknaf in Cox's Bazar.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab team waylaid a car that Alam had rented and recovered the pills which were hidden inside the vehicle, said Rab-10 Commanding Officer Lt Col Md Imran Abdur Rouf.

A case was filed with Jatrabari Police Station in this regard.

4 DU students suspended for beating up fellows

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University authorities yesterday suspended four students of the banking department on charge of beating up their fellows on July 25 over boarding a lift.

Shariar Kabir has been suspended for one year while Mahfuzur Rahman and Sajib Hossain for six months each and Tulif Khan for three months.

Acting proctor Amzad Ali of the university said they also sent show cause notices to six students of other departments under the business faculty asking them why action should not taken against them in connection with the incident.

VERDICT AGAINST SAYEDEE SC fixes Sept 17 to start hearing on appeals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed September 17 to start hearing on the separate appeals filed by Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee and the government challenging the war crimes trial verdict against him.

On February 28, the International Crimes Tribunal-2 sentenced Sayedee to death on two charges although it had found him guilty on eight out of 20 charges brought against him.

Sayedee on March 28 filed an appeal with the SC seeking acquittal of all the eight charges.

The government on the same day submitted another appeal to the apex court for seeking Sayedee death penalty in all the eight charges, which were proved before the tribunal.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain fixed the date after hearing arguments from both the defence and prosecution.

Defence counsel Abdur Razzaq prayed to the court to start hearing on the appeals two weeks after reopening of the court on September 15.

On the other hand, Additional Attorney General MK Rahman requested the court to hear the appeals during the vacation period that starts from August 2 for their quick disposal.

Death anniversary CITY DESK

Today is the 14th death anniversary of Dr M Youssouf Ali, former secretary of Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

On this day in 1999, he died of old age complications in Dhaka, says a press release.

Later, he was buried in Banani graveyard of the capital.

Youssouf played a key role as a researcher on fisheries, technocrat and green activist for about 50 years.

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Unplanned shrimp cultivation increases salinity of water

Say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unplanned shrimp cultivation in the country's southern region increases the salinity of water in the area which hampers crop cultivation and reduces availability of drinking water, said agriculture experts yesterday.

They said at present, shrimp cultivation uses over four lakh hectares of land in the region. Of those, only 1.5 lakh hectares are suitable for shrimp cultivation.

They were speaking at a ceremony where the government's 10-year long "Master Plan for Agricultural Development in the Southern Region of Bangladesh" was unveiled.

Ministry of Agriculture with the help of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations unveiled the master plan

in the capital's Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council.

The plan covers 39,617 sq-km area and approximately 29.86 million people of 14 southern districts. The total investment for the 26 plans of the programme is estimated to be over Tk 57,800 crore.

"Average production of shrimp in the southern region is 250 to 300 kg per hectare at present. It is possible to produce 1,200 to 1,400 kg shrimp per hectare through supplying virus-free fries and maintaining proper aeration in the enclosures," said Dr Z Karim, consultant at FAO.

Environment and Forests Minister Hasan Mahmud and Senior Water Resources Secretary Shaikh Altaf Ali, among others, were present.