

Info commission website left without updates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The website of Information Commission, which is assigned to implement the Right to Information Act 2009, has not been updated properly since July.

It was found yesterday that the website showed an upcoming event dated November 17, after which three days have already passed.

The homepage of the website also showed the news report of a workshop organised by the commission at Dhaka Reporters Unity on July 22.

In addition, there was no information about the recent activities of the commission after December 24 last year.

Currently, the commission has no permanent information expert since June after the previous one resigned.

Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) Muhammed Farooq did not respond to calls to his official telephone and personal mobile phone.

Asked, Information Commissioner Prof Sadeka Halim, however, recognised the fact and said the problem was created as there had been no permanent IT expert since July. "People are being deprived of updated information of our activities," she added.

NEWS IN brief

Two Jubo Dal men held with 8 crude bombs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested two Jubo Dal men with eight crude bombs, three litres of petrol and a huge amount of bomb making materials at the capital's Pallabi in Mirpur.

The arrested, Swapan Khan, 38, and Md Parvez, 34, are activists of the youth wing of BNP, said Biplob Kumar Shil, inspector (investigation) of Pallabi police.

Pallabi police held them after raiding their houses on the fifth floor of a six-storey building at block-E of section-12 around 6:00am.

Police also found empty containers, marbles and gunpowder in their houses.

Falling steel plate kills girl in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A girl died four hours after a steel plate fell on her from an under construction nine-storey building in the capital's Tejkunipara yesterday.

The deceased, Morium Akter, 12, daughter of security guard Khokhon Matbar, lived near the building which has no scaffolding.

The incident occurred while Morium was washing household utensils beside the building, said the victim's mother, Rahima Begum.

Tejgaon police Officer-in-Charge Apurba Hasan confirmed the incident.

Youth beaten to death in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A mob beat a youth to death suspecting him as a thief at Deck Personnel Training Centre (DPTC) in Sonakanda of Bandar upazila of Narayanganj early yesterday.

The deceased was Al Amin, 35.

Police recovered the body from the bank of the river Shitalakha and detained a DPTC guard Ashraf for interrogation in this connection.

Bandar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Aktaruzzaman said they sent the body to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

4 Korean volunteers arrive in Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Four new Korean volunteers arrived in Dhaka yesterday to provide their services to different government organisations for two years.

They will render their services under the arrangement of Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica), said a press release.

Korean Ambassador Lee Yun-young welcomed the new volunteers who will receive a two-month long training on Bangladeshi language and culture prior to their placement in the respective organisations.

The volunteers will work in computer education and mechanical engineering fields.



The entire surface of the Buriganga river's second channel in the capital's Rasulpur has been covered with a thick layer of household waste dumped by locals. This irresponsible act is gradually choking the water channel to death on the one hand while polluting the locality on the other. On top of that, locals are occasionally subjected to toxic, acrid fume inhalation, inset, when the waste, mostly polythene and plastic scraps, is burnt. The unsystematic way of destroying such waste is also polluting the environment. The photos were taken on Monday. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



JU teachers confine pro-VCs, registrar

Demand VC panel poll soon

JU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of Jahangirnagar University yesterday confined two pro-vice chancellors and the registrar to their offices, demanding the VC panel election immediately and postponement of the December 7 election of teachers' representatives to the senate.

Under the banner of "Shikhhak-Shikhhathi-Karmokarta-Karmochari Oikya Forum", they went to VC Prof Anwar Hossain's office around 12:00pm and confined Pro-VC (education) Prof MA Matin, Pro-VC (admin) Prof Afsar Ahmed, and Registrar Abu Bakar Siddique, as the VC is on leave till November 23.

"We've long been observing the VC and his administration but they do not pay heed to meet the chancellor's directives for arranging the VC panel poll. So, we have no alternative to protests," said the forum's member secretary Prof Kamrul Ahsan.

"We will continue our movement [confinement] till our demand is met," he told a news conference at the administrative building and added that regular classes, examinations, and transport services would be out of their strike.

On November 6, President Abdul Hamid, also chancellor of JU, asked all concerned to "immediately arrange the senate election and take steps to nominate a VC panel."

GHULAM AZAM'S APPEAL

Submit concise statements against each other's appeals

SC asks state, defence lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday directed the state and defence lawyers to submit on December 2 concise statements against each other's appeals over convicted war criminal Ghulam Azam's 90-year jail term.

They had on November 5 placed succinct statements, containing the case background and particular argument points, supporting their respective appeals upon an October 8 SC order.

Ghulam's August 5 appeal sought to overturn his conviction and the

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Paedophile strangles 6-year-old girl in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 20-year-old paedophile strangled the six-year-old daughter of his father's tenant at the T&T Colony in the capital's Korail yesterday.

Infuriated locals vandalised and looted the residence of the accused Kazi Tarikul Islam Raju, who confessed to police during preliminary interrogation.

Zulekha Aktar was the only daughter of day labourers Jasim Uddin and Momtaj Begum.

Momtaj told The Daily Star that Zulekha went missing around 2:00pm and they found her sandals outside Raju's room.

Raju assured them of finding Zulekha and took Momtaj's cellphone number. After sometime Momtaj received a call for a Tk 3 lakh ransom, which later came down to Tk 10,000. Momtaj, suspecting it to be Raju, then informed police.

Police, as per information Raju provided, found the body in one of the tin-shed residences Raju's father had put up for rent. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Raju made paedophiliac advances towards Zulekha but did not get any response as she was too young to understand what he was talking about, said Banani Police Station Sub-inspector Abu Bakar Siddique.

Raju told The Daily Star that he had thought Zulekha had passed out and the ransom was for her treatment.

TUESDAY'S LEBANON BLASTS

7 Bangladeshis among injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least seven Bangladeshis were injured in twin bombs detonated by terrorists outside the Iranian embassy in the Lebanese capital Beirut on Tuesday, said a senior Bangladesh foreign ministry official yesterday.

The details of the victims, one in critical condition, who were admitted to local hospitals, could not be known immediately, said the ministry Director General (external affairs and publicity wing) Shameem Ahsan.

The Bangladesh embassy

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CTG ARMS HAUL CASES

Tribunal rejects Nizami's petition for summoning witnesses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A tribunal hearing the Chittagong arms haul cases yesterday rejected former industries minister and Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami's petition seeking its summons on five defence witnesses to prove his innocence.

Failing to produce them as per the order of Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal Number 1

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Man held at Ctg airport with 75 gold bars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Customs officials detained a passenger with 75 gold bars worth around Tk 3.75 crore at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong yesterday.

The detainee, Jamal Uddin, 35, of Feni, was going to Dhaka from Dubai on a Bangladesh Biman flight BG-048 that landed at the airport at 10:30am.

As the plane stopped in Chittagong en route to the capital, airport customs officials boarded the

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Samajik Protirodh Committee places a wreath at the portrait of poet Sufia Kamal at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital on the occasion of Sufia Kamal's 14th death anniversary yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY

Knowledge about agro-economy may bring more profit to farmers

Say speakers at a project launching ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Knowledge about agricultural economics may help farmers make more profit from sale of their crops, said speakers yesterday at a project launching programme.

The five-year project "Profitable Opportunities for Food Security (Proofs)" was launched at a hotel in the capital. The project aims to empower around 80,000 small scale farmers with skills in marketing, management, finance and networking in order to make their farms more profitable.

The Netherlands government will fund the 8.1 million euro project, which will be implemented by international NGOs -- ICCO Cooperation, iDE and BoP Innovation Center.

The project will run till June 2017, said Gijs Herpers, the deputy project manager.

He said the beneficiaries are from 320 unions under seven northern and southern districts -- Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Barisal, Bhola and Patuakhali.

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THE WAY THEY SEE IT



THE WAY WE SEE IT

SHIFT

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