



Students of Sylhet Nursing College demonstrate in front of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital yesterday, protesting an attack on some of them, allegedly by interns of the hospital.

PHOTO: STAR

Ex-army man held for attempted abduction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Local people in Chittagong city rescued a businessman from an abduction attempt hearing him shout for help when some men identifying themselves as army officers were trying to force him into a microbus on Sunday night.

One of the alleged abductors, Arif Ahmed, 44, a former army major, was caught with his car and handed over to police but the rest fled in the microbus.

The victim, Golam Rabbani, owner of a chemical supplying company, filed a case against two men including Arif and four to five unidentified people with Double Mooring Police Station yesterday. The details of the other man, Faisal Nawsal, 40, could not be found, claimed police.

Arif and Faisal intercepted Rabbani around 8:00pm and asked him to go with them, saying there was an arrest order against him, said the case statement. When Rabbani refused, they tried to drag him to a microbus standing nearby with four to five men inside it, but he started shouting, bringing his brother Golam Masud and locals who were nearby, it said.

Arif currently works as manager of human resources and administration at GH Haewae Co. Ltd, a garment factory in Chittagong EPZ. His colleague Kamal Uddin told The Daily Star that Arif was sent into retirement for suffering from some sort of a mental disorder.

Arif lives in Montague DOHS in Bayezid area of Chittagong city. Police sent him to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and said they would take him to court later.

The victim said police initially refused to register the case. "And instead of taking the abductor to court, they sent him to hospital," he told The Daily Star.

Police did not say anything about their suspicion.

COUNTRY'S EDUCATION Nahid slams quality critics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday slammed a section of critics who claimed that quality of education is not being ensured despite soaring pass rates in recent public exams.

"Some people seem to be dissatisfied with the increasing pass rates. Possibly, they want 50 percent of the students to fail in the exams," Nahid said while addressing as the chief guest at a teachers' gathering.

Non-government Educational Institutions' Teachers and Employees' Welfare Trust organised the programme in the Public Library's Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium in the capital to handover retirement allowance to 1,261 teachers.

The minister said those, who doubt the quality of education, might not have idea about the learning capacity of the students. Students nowadays know far more than what the critics knew at their age, he added.

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SYLHET OSMANI MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL Attack on nurses by 'intern docs' prompts 7hr strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Services at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital were halted for seven hours yesterday as nurses observed work abstention after some student nurses were beaten up allegedly by interns.

The nurses withdrew their programme at 8:00am after hospital authorities assured them that necessary action would be taken against those accused. However, the student nurses have not yet returned to work.

The injured student nurses, Proloy Chandra Bapari and two others, are taking treatment at the hospital. Rishhat Ahmed, another student nurse, alleged an intern, Tofayel Ahmed, beat up Proloy as the nurse arrived late at the hospital after being called there at around 12:30am. When some fellow nurses inquired about the beating, they also came under attack by Tofayel and his colleagues.

The situation alleviated after some senior doctors reached the scene and broke up the fight.

Tanmoy Bhattacharjya, deputy director at the hospital, said a four-member committee has been formed to probe into the incident, and submit a report within seven days.

However, Intiaz Ahmed, organising secretary of Intern Physicians' Association of the hospital, refuted the allegation saying the incident was a matter of misunderstanding and interns were blamed falsely.

Meanwhile, over 200 students of Sylhet Nursing College boycotted examinations yesterday and demonstrated before the hospital protesting the attack.

Students of the college have to serve at the hospital from their first year as a part of their academic education.

AUGUST 21 ATTACK CASES Ex-DGFI officer summoned

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned an ex-official of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence to appear before it today to give deposition in connection with the August 21 grenade attack cases.

The Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 summoned Maj (ret'd) Monirul Islam.

BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman and 19 other accused are absconding, while 24 others, including BNP leaders Lutfozzaman Babar, Abdus Salam Pintu and Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojaheed, are now behind bars in connection with the cases.

Eight others, including BNP leader Ariful Islam Arif and Saiful Islam Duke, nephew of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, are out on bail.

The grenade attack left 24 leaders and workers of the Awami League dead, including late president Zillur Rahman's wife Ivy Rahman. As many as 300 others were injured in the attack.

TAMPERED GOLD CRESTS TO FOREIGN FRIENDS Replacement sought in High Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed yesterday with the High Court seeking its directive on the government to give new crests made with an alloy of gold and silver to foreign friends, who contributed to the country's Liberation War, after the earlier ones presented to them were found tampered.

Nasrin Ahmed, a member of a freedom fighter's family from Srinagar in Munshiganj, submitted the petition with the prayer, saying that the crests, which were given to foreign friends and institutions, were reportedly not made with the required amounts of gold and silver.

She also prayed to the court to order the government to recover the money from the supplier companies, which received bills for making the subpar crests. The petitioner also urged the HC to direct the government to publish the probe report on the fake crests. Real crests should be given to foreign friends and institutions for recovering the dignity and image of the country, the petitioner said.

Petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that the HC might hear the petition today.

Cabinet approves Khulna agriculture university act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aiming to expand agricultural education in the country, the cabinet yesterday approved the 'Khulna Agriculture University Act-2014' to pave the way for setting up a new agriculture university in Khulna city.

After the meeting, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told reporters that the university is being established in line with a promise Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made during her visit to the city on March 5, 2011.

He said the education ministry has already undertaken necessary preparations to set up the university. The cabinet had approved in principle the draft law in October 2011.

The cabinet also approved the draft of 'Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank Act-2014' aiming to expand the bank's services.

The bank can now open new branches and introduce mobile and online services, the cabinet secretary said.

He said Rangpur division would now be covered by the bank and that the number of directors of the bank would go up to 11 from seven.

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PHOTO: COURTESY

Road crash kills mother, son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mother and her nine-year-old son died when a truck rammed the rickshaw that the father was pedaling on Nurjahan Road in the capital's Mohammadpur area around 6:00am yesterday.

Rebecca, 25, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital from head injuries while Abdur Rahim died from spinal injuries, said morgue sources. Khurshed Alam is being treated at the hospital for his fractured legs.

The family was going to a traditional healer for curing Rahim from jaundice.

"The truck haphazardly hit the rickshaw from behind and then ran over my wife," said Khurshed. The family used to reside in the area.

Death anniversary DU CORRESPONDENT

The 12th death anniversary of Prof QAIM Nooruddin, the pioneer of journalism education in the country, was observed yesterday.

He was one of the founder teachers of Dhaka University Mass Communication and Journalism and made contributions to the advancement of journalism based research in the country.



ZIA TRUST GRAFT CASE

Hearing of Khaleda's procedural challenge begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday began hearing petitions filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia challenging the legality of appointment of the trial court judge who indicted her in Zia Orphanage Trust and Zia Charitable Trust corruption cases.

Hearing on the petitions would be continued today.

Bashudev Roy, judge of the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka, on March 19 framed charges against Khaleda, her son

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