



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



CHICKENS ARE COMING HOME TO ROOST

This is the result of unchecked encroachment on the rivers and canals in and around the capital, filling up the city's drainage outlets. Despite years of media campaign, especially by The Daily Star, for reclamation, and punishment for the encroachers, the government so far has done next to nothing, making the electorate suffer. It rained heavily only for an hour yesterday, and a vast part of the city went under water. The photos were taken at Moghbazar, Khilgaon, and Malibagh.



NAT'L MOURNING DAY Elaborate programmes planned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation will pay profound respect to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on National Mourning Day today, marking the 39th anniversary of his assassination.

The ruling Awami League, its associate bodies, likeminded parties, and different socio-cultural organisations, professional bodies, government agencies, and Bangladeshi missions around the world have taken elaborate programmes on the occasion.

The day will start with the hoisting of the national flag at half-mast and flying of black flags atop all public and private buildings in the morning.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages on the occasion.

National dailies are expected to publish special supplements, while Bangladesh Betar, BTV and private TV, radio stations will air special programmes.

Special prayers will be offered at all places of worship countrywide. At the capital's Jatiya Press Club, a Sarbo Dharmo (all-religion) prayer will be held at 10:30am.

A group of disgruntled army officials murdered Bangabandhu, with most

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BCL men beat up student at RU

His fault was to protest harassment of female students by the attackers

RU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of Rajshahi University yesterday severely beat up a student after he protested sexual harassment of two female students on the campus.

Iftekhar Shahriar Ifti, a third-year student of law, was admitted to Rajshahi

Medical College Hospital with severe bruises and cuts in the forehead and face. He needed five stitches.

Witnesses said some BCL men, led by Sabrin Zamil Shusmoy, deputy human resource development affairs secretary at RU unit, also a second-year student of social work, and BCL activist Abu Khayer Mustafa

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JUSTICE ALTAF'S PETITION FOR HC APPOINTMENT

One bench member reluctant to adjudicate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the two members of a High Court bench yesterday expressed unwillingness to pass an order on a writ petition seeking directives upon the government to regularise the job of ABM Altaf Hossain as an additional judge at the HC.

The government in June regularised services of five additional HC judges leaving out the name of Altaf, who was appointed as an additional judge in June 2012 along with the others. The government did not mention any reason for the decision.

Altaf filed the writ petition with the HC on Tuesday, saying the government should regularise his job as per the constitution, since the chief justice has recommended appointing him permanently like the five others.

The bench of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice Abu Taher Md Saifur Rahman on Wednesday heard the petition and was scheduled to pass an order yesterday.

When the procedure started yesterday, one judge expressed unwillingness, said the petitioner's lawyer Salahuddin Dolon and Additional Attorney General Murad Reza. But neither mentioned the name of the judge and the reason for his reluctance. The petitioner's lawyer told The Daily Star that the bench would now send the petition to Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, who would assign another HC bench for hearing and adjudicating the petition.

Quality education still big challenge

Says Nahid; inaugurates website of country's first maritime university

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the number of students has increased in Bangladesh, the quality of education remains a big challenge, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said yesterday, as he inaugurated the website of the country's first maritime university.

He said quality enhancement was impossible without skilled teachers. "We're trying to do it but it can't happen overnight; progress is being made day by day," he told a seminar at the capital's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Maritime

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CASE OF KHALEDA'S BIRTHDAY CJ likely to assign HC bench this month to decide on court

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain is expected to assign a High Court bench late this month for deciding whether the case regarding celebration of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's birthday on August 15, which is National Mourning Day, will be adjudicated at the lower court.

The trial proceedings of the case have been stalled for around 15 years due to a stay order of the HC, which was passed following a revision petition filed by Khaleda challenging the proceedings.

Pro-Awami League lawyers did not take any move to get the stay order vacated due to the political situation during the BNP-led four-party alliance government between 2001 and 2006, said some Supreme Court lawyers.

The HC could not hold final hearing of the revision petition due to "no confidence" expressed by the BNP chief in its judges concerned.

On July 17 this year, an HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-ul Hoque sent the revision petition to the CJ, as it did not come to his bench through the CJ's office, court sources said.

The CJ will assign a bench for hearing this petition on its reopening on August 31 after the ongoing vacation, an SC official told The Daily Star.

Md Sohrawardy, an SC lawyer, filed the case on August 20, 1997, with a Dhaka court, seeking an injunction so that Khaleda could not celebrate her birthday on the death anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



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