

MILITANT LINKS 5 DU students suspended

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University yesterday suspended five of its students for distributing leaflets and CDs of banned militant outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir on the campus.

They are Nure Alam Md Sihab Uddin and Saidi Hasan Sajib, MBA students of Management department, Tarikul Islam, MBA student of Accounting and Information Systems department, and Nakib Farhan and Alamgir Hossain, BBA students of the same department.

The university administration identified them after verifying footage of CCTV cameras installed in the business faculty building. The action was taken against them as their activity went against the discipline of the university, according to a university press release.

Sihab and Saidi campaigned for the militant organisation by distributing its leaflets and CDs in the building during last week of June. On July 7, Sihab along with Tarikul, Nakib and Alamgir did the same thing again, said DU acting Proctor Prof M Amzad Ali.

"The five students have not been arrested yet. We have served show cause notices on them and asked them to respond to those within seven days. We will provide police with necessary information about them," he said.

JOB SCANDAL

Indian SC orders federal probe

AFP, New Delhi

India's top court yesterday ordered a federal investigation into a cash for jobs scandal after a spate of recent deaths fuelled claims of a mass cover-up by a state government.

The Supreme Court ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate the so-called Vyapam scam in which thousands of people are alleged to have bribed officials and politicians in Madhya Pradesh in return for jobs on the state payroll or places in training institutes.

"The Attorney General on instruction states that Madhya Pradesh has no objection whatsoever for transferring the investigation of criminal cases relating to Vyapam scam to the CBI and the cases related to deaths of those allegedly connected with the scam for free and fair probe," the court ruled in a judgement, a copy of which has been seen by AFP.



Holding their babies, two women cross Sonargaon intersection in the capital during the downpour yesterday. The tiny polythene bags wrapped around the babies' heads were of little use for keeping them dry.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Rain paralyses Ctg

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from her home on KB Aman Ali Road to Chawk Bazar, said, "I waited half an hour for a rickshaw but finally gave up and started walking."

Banker Tamanna Hossain was seen waiting for an auto-rickshaw at Rahattar Pool intersection to go to work at Agrabad. "I am already late for work ... I have been waiting for an hour to get transport," she said.

Many street vendors had to keep their businesses closed despite it being very close to Eid, a time when they witness high sales. "I set up my shop on the footpath at Rahattar Pool area every day at 9:00am. But I could not open my business today," said Nasir Hossain, a fruit vendor.

Despite repeated attempts, neither the newly elected mayor of Chittagong

City Corporation (CCC) AJM Nasir Uddin nor the Chief Executive Officer of CCC Kazi Mohammad Shafiqul Alam could be contacted for their comments.

Dhaka dwellers had to struggle to get to their designations yesterday, as traffic went haywire with day-long drizzles and heavy rain.

Hundreds of people absolutely drenched were seen waiting for transport to work at Topkhana Road, Karwan Bazar, and Shahbagh, Sonargaon, and Farmgate intersections.

Standing at Sonargaon intersection Fahmida Yasmin, a salesperson of an apparel shop, said, "I could not get on a bus to Mirpur in one hour, as vehicles are few and far between and over-crowded."

Harun-or-Rashid, a resident of Gulshan, said, "I had to struggle for two hours to reach Gulshan from Hatirpool, as the traffic was crawling."

Rasheduzzaman, meteorologist and Duty Forecasting Officer at the Dhaka Met Office, said the heavy downpour was due to an active monsoon triggered by a low pressure that moved in from the Bay.

He said the monsoon had affected Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna, Dhaka and Rajshahi regions badly.

The rain today would probably be like yesterday's, and it would start to ease off tomorrow, he said.

Between 6:00am and 3:00pm yesterday, Chittagong experienced 65mm of rainfall, Mongla 90mm, Rangamati 50mm, Jessore 34mm, Dhaka 17mm.

Srimangal got 59mm of rainfall between 6:00am Wednesday and 6:00am yesterday.

Leading urban planners have had

warned the government decision-makers time and again that waterlogging with even normal monsoon rain was the inevitable consequence of unplanned and unauthorised urbanisation ruining flood flow zones, rainwater retention areas, canals and wetlands.

According to transport engineers, roads submerged in rainwater force motorists, fearful of mishaps, to move to the narrower visible lanes of streets causing slow traffic movement. Pedestrians having to move on to the road from the pavements and vehicles breaking down in the water worsen the situation.

UK releases guidelines on business risk in Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The British government has released guidelines titled "Overseas Business Risk - Bangladesh" identifying some problems in terms of operating business in Bangladesh.

The guidelines were published in the website of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the UK government on Wednesday.

The 7-point guidelines provide a brief description of their assessment of politics and economy, human rights, bribery and corruption, terrorism threat, protective security advice, intellectual property and organised crime in Bangladesh.

The report says implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights makes clear the government's commitment to protect human rights and sets out the clear expectations for UK companies in this area.

"Bribery and corruption are entrenched in Bangladesh and, despite the best efforts of the media, civil society and the donor community, pervades many aspects of daily life."

The guidelines observe that corruption is often cited as a barrier to the effective development of the private sector and poses business risks that require proactive management in the form of regular due diligence exercises and up-to-date risk strategies.

"Procurement practices often lack transparency and are usually coupled with a significant bureaucratic burden."

Politicians, bureaucrats and law enforcement officials often wield significant discretionary power and notable abuses have been brought to light, the document reads.

It mentions that there is a residual threat from terrorism in Bangladesh, although there have been no significant terrorist attacks since 2005.

A number of small and fragmented terrorist groups continue to have a footprint within the country, with both a domestic and international focus, it says.

Since 2005, the Bangladesh government has tackled the terrorist threat with considerable effectiveness, arresting a large number of key individuals, it says. However, allegations of human rights abuses by elements of Bangladesh's security forces remain a serious concern.

It mentions that Bangladesh and its capital Dhaka are safer than many countries and large cities in the developing world.

BRIDAL TREASURES



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Sunny day likely

FROM PAGE 1

Then the question all around was: What's the weather forecast for Friday? The match is scheduled to begin at 3:00 pm. The forecast reads well though as daytime thunderstorms are expected to be followed by clear evening skies.

Cricket in June-July in this country had been an unthinkable issue, so it surprised many when rain hardly played foul in the limited-overs games in the series against India and, so far, South Africa, after rain had spoiled the one-off Test against India at Fatullah.

The two captains were also not ready to focus on the weather; rather they were looking forward to an exciting series.

"We cannot do anything about the weather as it's not in our hands. Both teams have to accept that. But this series is very important for us and we are looking forward to playing good cricket and finishing with joy," said Mashrafe.

The Tigers stand before a big challenge

to further enhance their reputation as a good and competitive ODI unit, after two stupendous successes against Pakistan and India. Bangladesh have given the impression that they have made the Mirpur ground their own fortress, but the visitors have also proven that they are a hard nut to crack. So, a success against this kind of a team will take the Tigers to another height.

History is on the visitors' side though, as their only loss against the Tigers in 14 encounters came in the 2007 World Cup. But by beating India and Pakistan, the Tigers showed the world that they have got the ability to beat any team in the world if they can play to their potential.

Unlike the previous series where Bangladesh went with a four-pronged pace attack, the Tigers have so far relied on their slower bowlers against the Proteas and that might see pacer Rubel Hossain make way for leg-spinner Jubair Hossain. Interestingly, the team was

pondering whether to leave out left-arm spinner Arafat Sunny -- who bowled well in the T20I series which the visitors won 2-0 -- to accommodate fit-again all-rounder Mahmudullah Riyad. Riyad is likely to play the match and if Sunny ultimately fails to make the cut, Litton Das then may get a chance.

Both teams will face another challenge, which will be to adjust to the new ODI rules -- no compulsory catchers in overs 1-10, no batting Powerplay between overs 15-40, five fielders allowed outside the 30-yard circle in overs 41-50 and free-hits for all no-balls.

Bangladesh will also desperately be looking forward to remaining within the top eight teams by the end of the series. The sudden announcement of West Indies joining Pakistan and Zimbabwe in a tri-series next month means Bangladesh will have to win at least one match to book their ticket to the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy.



We mourn the sad demise of
Major General Amjad Khan Chowdhury (Retd)
Founder & Chief Executive of
PRAN-RFL Group