

BRTC draws

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to Rangpur on July 16. So, why should I wait for a particular bus when I have another option?"

Asked about the reasons behind the very low number of buses to be operated on the Eid occasion, officials of all BRTC bus depots gave the same reply -- tickets were yet to be sold.

Besides, many people are unaware about BRTC services due to poor publicity.

"We usually travel by private buses like Hanif, Shyamoli or SR. We don't know that BRTC operates special services and where tickets are distributed," said Zahurul Islam, a government officer, who travels from Dhaka to Rajshahi every Eid.

About uncomfortable travel, BRTC Chairman Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star, "We have to run the services with the buses we have."

About public apathy to BRTC services, he said, "Low-income people travel by our buses. I think the rush will increase after closing of the garments factories."

TRAINS

The sale of advance train tickets yesterday continued for the fourth consecutive day at Kamalapur Railway Station in Dhaka and at Chittagong Railway Station.

Tickets of July 16 were sold yesterday, while tickets of July 17 will be sold today.

Like the previous day, hundreds of people thronged the stations for tickets, and many returned empty handed even after long waits.

At Chittagong station, 5,554 tickets were sold yesterday, said Md Abul Kalam Azad, the station manager.

Candidates

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alleged that the SOS Hermann Gmeiner School and College authorities did not enroll the admission seekers although they were selected for this institution.

"We came here for admission, but the principal sir is saying they will not enroll anyone as they have no seat left," said Sanjid, who passed from Mirpur Bangla School.

"All the students nominated for this college obtained GPA-5 in the SSC exams, but we are denied admission."

The college Principal Lt Col (retd) Waliullah told reporters that all 110 seats for class XI had been filled.

The government this year initiated the online admission process for all colleges, madrasas and technical institutions centrally for the first time. It also decided that the education boards would publish a list of the students, specifying the colleges where they are to be enrolled.

But the entire system turned out to be a nightmare for more than 11 lakh admission seekers and their guardians due to inadequate preparations on the part of the government.

Man found dead

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about the July 8 abduction from his driver, Sohel, who was released two hours later by the perpetrators who had forced them inside a microbus.

Sohel is now in jail for being arrested by Mohammadpur police on suspicion.

One of the 11 cases was over the murder of a bystander and college student, Abdur Rahman Chanchal, during a clash over a piece of land in Pallabi on May 14 between, as per locals, supporters of Momin and one Shaheen Uddin.

On June 28, Momin's niece Laboni filed a case with a Dhaka court accusing 18 persons, including two Pallabi sub-inspectors, Zahidul Islam and Zubayer, of demanding extortion.

The 18 are involved in murdering Momin, allege his family.

Dadan Fakir, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station, said Laboni's case was against the college student murder case's plaintiff, investigation officers and Momin's opponents.

Bangladeshi expat killed in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around six to seven armed men stormed the flat of a man who just returned from the US and stabbed him to death yesterday. The incident happened at Bhasantek in the capital.

The dead is Monsur Rahman, 59. The assailants also took away 25 tolas of gold ornaments, 1.5 lakh in cash, two laptops and other valuables from the flat in a five-storey building.

Sufia Rahman, the victim's wife, told The Daily Star that around 7:10pm the criminals entered the flat finding its door open and started to look for one Sumon. Monsur was out then.

"When the killers were told that no one named Sumon lived there, they said they would search for him themselves," she said.

selves," she said.

At one point, the criminals tied the hands of the five family members, including Sufia and her daughter Jhumur, with rope.

When Monsur entered the flat after offering his prayers in a local mosque, his hands were tied as well. He was stabbed six to seven times in the back the moment he tried to resist the killers, Sufia said, sobbing uncontrollably.

The assailants fled afterwards.

Locals rushed in and rescued the family hearing their screams for help.

Monsur was rushed to a local hospital where duty doctors declared him dead, said sources.

The victim went to the USA around five years ago and had been living in New York. He returned to Bangladesh



Moin to face legal action

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violation of the Spotted Deer Rearing Policy 2009. We'll also recommend that the license of his Hillsdale Multi Farm be revoked," said Golam Mowla, Chittagong divisional forest officer (wildlife) of the DoF, yesterday.

Though the farm manager had failed to show the license when the DoF officials raided the farm on Thursday, he submitted it yesterday, Mowla told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, after a report published

in this newspaper yesterday, Moin Uddin in a Facebook post apologised "to the people who were upset after viewing the video".

However, he did not apologise for the killing. Rather, in an apparent attempt to justify his action, he stressed on the fact that it happened inside "a licensed deer farm".

This correspondent sent several messages to Moin Uddin on Facebook but he never responded.

Tanzania's ruling party picks presidential candidate

AFP, Dar Es Salaam

Tanzania's ruling party yesterday anointed government minister John Magufuli as its candidate for presidential elections due to be held in October, party officials said.

Magufuli, 55 and currently the east African nation's minister of works, will be widely expected to succeed President Jakaya Kikwete, who will be stepping down after his second and final term.

"I am proud of our candidate, he is a very hardworking man and I am certain he will be the best president," Kikwete said after ballots were counted in Tanzania's administrative capital of Dodoma.

"He is a no nonsense man. We hope he will help the country to conquer poverty, fight graft and indiscipline."

Presidential, parliamentary and local polls are due to take place on October 25. The ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party has been in power since modern Tanzania was formed in 1964, and currently has two-thirds of seats in parliament.

The party said Magufuli scored 87 percent of the votes, beating off Justice Minister Asha-Rose Migiro, a former UN deputy secretary general and foreign minister, and Amina Salum Ali, currently the African Union's ambassador to Washington.

Magufuli had not initially been

seen as a frontrunner, but was among three shortlisted from a field of nearly 40 other candidates that included Vice-President Mohamed Bilal, Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda, and former prime ministers Edward Lowassa and Frederick Sumaye.

"I am profoundly overwhelmed by the results," Magufuli said. "But I promise to give the CCM a resounding victory in October. I also promise to serve all Tanzanians to the best of my ability in line with the law of the land and spirit of good governance."

Police keep

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Kalabagan Police Station Mohammad Iqbal denied confining her. "I...requested her not to go to any programme because of the traffic jam," he said.

Mishu was a key organiser of Tuba Group garment workers' indefinite hunger strike demanding arrears and festival bonus before Eid-ul-Fitr last year. The protests forced Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) to pay the arrears of several hundred workers.

Garments Sramik Oikya Forum at a press release condemned the law enforcers' move and demanded immediate withdrawal of police from her house.

Water supply

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Development Potential" at a joint press conference of the TIB and Bangladesh Water Integrity Network (BAWIN).

They emphasised the need for ensuring good governance in the water sector.

During the presentation, the speakers said even though Dhaka Wasa has been improving in some particular areas, it still needs a lot of improvements.

The study said a section of Wasa officials are involved in grabbing Wasa land.

Clients do not get proper remedies despite filing complaints with Wasa, it said, adding that the Wasa still does not have the capacity to deliver water as per demand.

Lack of public participation in the decision making process, absence of necessary principles for effective water governance, including transparency, equality, accountability, legitimacy and legality, were among the major challenges for Dhaka Wasa.

The study said some BWDB staff are allegedly involved in corruption. It stated that the BWDB sometimes change work orders and approve payment of additional work without proper approval.

Some official forge documents and vouchers for getting money out of BWDB.

It said BWDB uses 22 inches dredger blades, instead of the required 24 inches, to gobble up project money.

While building embankments, some BWDA officials do not use proper or the required number of sand bags and put the money in their pockets.

The local monitoring teams of BWDA do not oversee project work or report to the head office.

They also appoint people for work disregarding rules and procedures.

Impunity for corrupt officials and lack of participations of locals allow the corruption, the report claimed.

However, the study mentioned several positive roles played by the BWDB.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzaman said even though Wasa claim that they have been providing good service, the client's view is that Wasa is incapable of supplying quality water in all areas.

Century-old

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Moreover, the Chittagong Development Authority's detailed area plan states of preservation of any water body which is more than 0.5 acres.

Anwarul, a lawyer at Chittagong district judge's court, said, "To the best of my knowledge there is no provision of compensation for the owners of any water body though law prohibits filling or changing those."

Ershad, one of the owners, declined to comment, while Abu Sufian said they could not manage the pond or benefit from it as their house was five to six kilometres off the spot. "Locals steal fish from the pond," he added.

Iqbal Shofi said he would build a picnic spot on 8,000 sq ft of the portion filled so far but would not fill the rest.

Wimbledon

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World number one Djokovic won 7-6 (7/1), 6-7 (10/12), 6-4, 6-3 adding the Wimbledon title to the Australian Open he captured in January.

For 33-year-old Federer, it was a bitter end to his bid to become the oldest Wimbledon champion of the Open Era.

The 17-time major winner has now gone three years since his last Grand Slam triumph.

Djokovic celebrated with his now traditional nibble of the famed Centre Court grass.

"It tasted very, very good this year. I don't know what the grounds people have done but they have done a great job," said Djokovic.

"It is a little tradition. As a kid I was dreaming of winning Wimbledon.

Arbitration saves

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his house which was close by, tied her hands and legs and gagged her mouth, and raped her.

Upon being released, the girl, devastated and traumatised as she was, returned home and broke down in tears as she told her parents of the horrendous incident.

When the parents went to Mominul Islam, a member of local Chandipur union parishad and an AL leader, he arranged the arbitration at the rapist's house on Saturday night.

There, Nur Islam was fined Tk 50,000 payable to the girl's family by August 20.

The 15-member jury at the arbitration also set a condition that the victim's family must not file any case in this connection.

"They imposed the decision on us. We didn't want money. We wanted justice," said the victim's mother while talking to this correspondent yesterday.

"We are in deep problems after the incident. I have knocked every door but nobody is helping us to lodge a case. Even the UP chairman [Afsar Ali, a BNP leader] stayed away.

"Nobody even came forward to help us arrange treatment for her," the mother said before breaking down in tears.

Nur Islam fled the village the

moment the arbitration ended, according to villagers.

A number of people, who were present at the four-hour arbitration that lasted till 3:00 in the morning, said Mominul and the other 14 arbitrators took bribe from the alleged rapist for passing the "soft judgment".

"Once the girl's parents started moving for justice, Nur Islam went to Momin Member and requested him to settle it," said a man, close to the member of Chandipur UP's Ward-9 and saw everything at close quarters.

"The whole arbitration was a charade. The judgment was finalised even before it began," he said, wishing anonymity.

"Before the arbitration began, Nur Islam had reached a deal with Mominul that he would pay Tk 50,000 to the jury members and another Tk 50,000 to the victim. In return, the jury would have to let him go scot-free," he said.

Officer-in-Charge Mahmudul Alam of Parbatipur Police Station told this newspaper that he learned about the incident yesterday morning and would take action after a case was filed.

This correspondent called Mominul Islam on his phone several times for his comments but he never responded.

War tribunal accepts

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"without failure" and show cause as to why he should not be punished for "scandalising" the tribunal.

This is the third time Zafrullah, also a freedom fighter, is facing contempt of court charges for his comments over war crimes tribunals and judges. If found guilty, Zafrullah may face highest one year imprisonment or up to Tk 5,000 in fine or both.

Earlier on July 6, five individuals - three freedom fighters and two organisers of Gonojagoron Mancha - filed the petition for initiating contempt proceedings against Zafrullah for his comments of June 10 when the same tribunal found him guilty of the same offence.

The court imprisoned him at the courtroom for an hour and fined him Tk 5,000 for criticising the punishment of Bangladesh-based UK journalist David Bergman for contempt of court.

As Zafrullah challenged the tribunal's order, the Supreme Court on June 16 stayed the verdict following his petition. The apex court is set to hear the petition today.

The petitioners said Zafrullah after the punishment on June 10 made a statement before the media, which was "scandalous" for the tribunal and its judges, and he should be punished for the crime.

"Today's contempt of court verdict is the proof of mental illness of the three judges. It proves mental illness of three justices. Ensuring justice is not possible if the judges can't tolerate criticism. When they can't tolerate criticism and lack rationality, they hide themselves under cover of law," reads a part of his comments.

The tribunal in yesterday's order said they had gone through the media reports on Zafrullah's statement and a CD, which was submitted by the petitioners' lawyers.

"As the guarantors of justice in a law-governed state, now we cannot remain mute, especially when the reports and briefing made to the electronic media go to show a demeaning attack made by the opposite party [Zafrullah] directing the tribunal and its judges without any valid reason and basis," reads the order.

The tribunal also mentioned a part of Zafrullah's comment where he said: "If we see today that the higher court [Supreme Court] finds the verdict [of tribunal] wrong, then

will they [the judge] be able to get back this bit of my life or will the three judges sit at the place [the court dock] for one hour where I had to sit?"

The order says the comment prima facie appears "derogatory and a threat to the lawful authority of the tribunal which is likely to diminish the public confidence."

"Above all, illegitimate conduct, actions, and attack displayed by Dr Zafrullah were visibly contemptible and scandalising the tribunal and its judges," the order reads.

"Prima facie, it transpires that the opposite party deliberately attacked the judges of the tribunal and their lawful authority by using extreme scurrilous language that is likely to shake public confidence in the justice delivery system of the tribunal, a court of law," it adds.

Zafrullah has already faced contempt proceedings twice for his comments on the tribunals. For the first time, he faced contempt charges before the International Crimes Tribunal-1 for his comment in a TV talk show, but the court pardoned him with a warning.

On June 10, the tribunal-2 found Zafrullah guilty of contempt of court for criticising punishment of Bergman. The tribunal said the statement Zafrullah and 49 others issued over Bergman's punishment was "contemptuous" and punished him for repeating the offence.

The tribunal, however, acquitted 22 eminent citizens with a caution as they "were not well aware of the consequence of their action" and as they regretted their action, one they had committed for the first time.

The court had earlier exonerated 26 signatories from the charge as they apologised unconditionally, while another signatory -- Khushi Kabir -- withdrew her name from the statement.

On December 2 last year, the tribunal-2 found Bergman, editor (special reports) of English daily New Age, guilty of contempt for writing two blog posts in January 2013 on the verdict of war crimes convict Abul Kalam Azad. He was sentenced to imprisonment "till rising of the court" that day and was also fined Tk 5,000.

On December 20, the daily Prothom Alo ran a report headlined "50 people express concern over Bergman's punishment," which stated that the order would restrict freedom of expression.

Jubo League man finally expelled

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Hours after his detention, Reza was released due to "lobbing", said a Rab official, wishing not to be named.

Jahangir Hossain Matubbar, commanding officer of Rab-10, said they received allegation of extortion at the market in Tikatuli from some shop owners at the beginning of Ramadan.

They had been monitoring the situation there with undercover Rab personnel, added the Rab official.

A Rab official, wishing not to be named, said they had picked up Reza as he was obstructing their activities during the raid. But Reza was released later as Rab did not find any evidence regarding his involvement in extortion, the Rab official said.

The mobile court, led by Executive Magistrate Sarwoer Alam and backed by Rab-10, raided the place around 10:00am Thursday.

The court detained the 10 people and recovered around Tk 1.6 lakh, extorted from different shops, said Alam.

Those who were sentenced to jail terms were: Sanaul Karim, 27, Abdul Haque, 54, Enayet Hossain Babu, 48, Kamal Uddin, 56, Mohammad

Arif, 44, Ahsanullah, 40, Zahurul Islam Zahir, 28, Ali Hossain Montu, 36, Sadaf Shahriar Hasan, 23, and Faruq Hossain Babu, 29.

He said of the detainees, Kamal and Arif were sentenced to 45 days and the rest eight to three month each.

The convicts were members of pro-ruling party organisations, including Chhakra League, Jubo League and Awami League itself, according to media reports.

According to shop owners, Reza is the "self declared" general secretary while local ward councillor Mainul Haq Manju is the "self-proclaimed" president of shop owners' association of the market.

They alleged that Manju, a local Awami League leader and councillor of ward-39, extorts them.

The Daily Star called Reza on his mobile phone but he did not pick up.

Contacted, Manju denied the allegations against him. He said there was no case filed in connection with extortion against him with the local police station.

He also demanded a fair probe into the matter.

Several shop owners at the market said they had been giving money on a monthly basis in the name of generator bills and salaries for security guards.

Although these bills were about Tk 900, they had to pay over Tk 2,000 ahead of Eid.

Wishing not to be named, a shop owner who has a home appliance shop at the market, said they threatened to cut off the electricity supply to the shop when the shop owner refused to pay.

TWO DAYS WITHOUT POWER

Power to the market was disconnected Friday night, creating a huge loss to the traders ahead of Eid.

The shop owners said they had been told that a technical failure caused the power outage.

They said they were counting losses every day since customers were reluctant to go there.

During a visit to the market yesterday afternoon, The Daily Star found that shops at the tin-roofed one-storey market were running with limited supply of electricity produced by generators.

Two to three florescent bulbs and a couple of fans were all that were on in a shop, less than half

Obituary

Major General (Retd.) Amjad Khan Chowdhury



We express our deep condolence on the sad demise of Major General (Retd.) Amjad Khan Chowdhury, Member of UCEP Association and former Chairperson, UCEP Board of Governors on 08 July 2015 in USA at the age of 76 years. (Inna Lillahe -----Rajeun).

Major General (Retd.) Amjad Khan Chowdhury became Member of the UCEP Board of Governors in the year of 1988. He was the Chairperson of UCEP Board of Governors from the year 1990 to 1993. He made enormous contributions in the development of UCEP Bangladesh. We shall keep following his directives and ways he showed for UCEP's development, growth and sustainability.

The Members of the UCEP Association, staff and thousands of underprivileged children of UCEP express heartfelt condolence to the bereaved family members and pray to the Almighty to give them the courage and strength to bear this irreparable loss.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

UCEP Bangladesh