

Serve PMO promptly, smartly

PM asks her officials; says new payscale for public servants this month

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the officials of her office to be prompt and smart while dealing with files so that time is not wasted in any way.

"Sometimes a file comes and is sent back with some questions, and then again the file comes and sent back with more questions. There should be no waste of time in file sending and receiving," she said.

The prime minister gave the directives at a views-exchange meeting with senior officials of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Hasina said the government will execute another payscale for public servants from this month.

She said the PMO is connected with all the ministries. "That's why I'll ask you to improve your communication with the respective ministries for accelerating all works."

She asked the officials to visit ministries concerned and keep in touch with relevant officials. "This is also necessary to complete work on time."

The prime minister directed the government officials to be more active to take the country forward by implementing its economic policies and goals.

She asked them to think about people, especially the poor and working class. She said her government's aim is to ensure overall development of every citizen of the country and asked the officials of her office to work in proper coordination to achieve the target.

She suggested they complete government programmes and projects to achieve its vision 2021 and 2041 to be a higher middle-income and a front-ranking developed nation respectively.

Hasina emphasised reducing the income gap between the lower and higher-income group

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



An altercation between a policeman and a demonstrator as workers of Swan Garments (Pvt) Ltd, brought together by Garment Workers' Trade Union Centre, tried to surround the labour and employment ministry in the capital yesterday demanding four months' wage arrears and Eid bonus.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

JCD chief doesn't get bail in Yaba possession case

BNP terms the case premeditated; demos going on demanding his release

STAR REPORT

A Patuakhali court yesterday rejected bail prayers of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal President Rajib Ahsan and five of his associates in a case filed for possessing Yaba tablets on Sunday night.

The court fixed August 10 for next hearing of the case, reports our Patuakhali correspondent.

Dumki police in the district arrested Rajib and the other five allegedly with 45 Yaba pills in a bag and a bottle of whisky at Lebukhali ferry terminal on Barisal-Patuakhali highway. They were reportedly on their way to Kuakata from Barisal by a private car.

The six were sent to Patuakhali jail Monday after police produced them before the chief judicial magistrate's court.

The court rejected the bail petitions of the six after brief hearing of the defence lawyers and the court sub-inspectors.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

BNP demands security of incarcerated activists, leaders

Appreciates Ashraf's promise of neutral administration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over the safety of its leaders and activists inside jails, BNP yesterday demanded that the government ensure sufficient security measures in this regard.

A convicted murderer attacked Habiganj municipality mayor Golam Kibria Gaus, an accused in the former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria murder case, with a knife inside a Habiganj jail on July 18 as per the jailer.

"Attack on the BNP leader inside the Habiganj jail spread panic among other BNP men behind bars," Spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon told a press conference at the party's Naya Paltan central office in the capital.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

FUGITIVE PRIME SUSPECT OF N'GANJ-7 MURDER Indian court yet to frame charges against Nur

A CORRESPONDENT, Kolkata

Charges against Nur Hossain, the prime suspect in the Narayanganj seven-murder case, are yet to be framed in India although over one year has passed since his arrest for trespassing into the country following the murders.

Nur will be brought to the court of Uttar Chabhis Pargana today for the 22nd time.

Senior secretary to the home ministry, Mozammel Haque Khan, in December 2014 told journalists that it was possible to bring Nur back to the country in seven days.

Court sources said the charges were not framed for lawyers' work abstention and as two other accused did not appear during hearings.

A lawyer of the case said a warrant might be issued for the arrest of one of Nur's associates, Khan Sumon, who did not



appear in the last two hearings.

Baguiati police on August 18 submitted the charge sheet against Nur before the Barasat court accusing him of trespassing.

The charges were brought under section 14 (A) of the Indian penal code and the foreigners act.

Modhumita Roy, judge of the lower court, on December 29, 2014 expressed resentment for the delay in disposal of the case and directed to send the case to the district higher court.

The case is now pending with the magistrate of the First Additional Judicial District Magistrate.

A day into Nur's arrest by Kolkata police on June 14, 2014, an Indian court placed Nur and his two associates on an eight-day remand.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

155 rescued Bangladeshis return today

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Some 155 Bangladeshis, recently rescued from Myanmar's sea territory, will be brought back home through Ghumdum border in Naikhongchhari upazila of Bandarban district today.

Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar M Ali Hossain told this news agency that Myanmar Border Guard Police (BGP) will hand over the 155 Bangladeshis to a Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) delegation through a flag meeting at the border around 11:00am.

The government has decided to repatriate the 155 Bangladeshis completing the police verification, the DC said.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Trouble rains on Jessore flower farmers

UNB, Benapole

Flower farmers in Jessore district are counting heavy losses as the crop has been badly damaged due to incessant rainfall for the last several days.

The flower growers are frustrated as the crop has started rotting in their fields.

However, the low price of flowers at Gadkhali Market, known as the biggest wholesale market of flowers, has brought the growers to their knees.

Of the total production in the country, around 75 percent flowers are grown in the district.

The flower petals are starting to fall due to the rain.

Local growers and traders said a vast area of Jhikargachha upazila has been brought under flower cultivation in the current season.

Farmers in the district produce flowers of different varieties worth Tk 50 crore in a year.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Tea brings fortune for distressed women

BSS, Rangpur

Tea gardens in the sub-Himalayan Panchagarh district have created jobs for over 12,000 people, including 8,500 extremely poor and distressed women, to make their fortune in this sector.

Even a decade ago, these unemployed rural women had to live in utter misery but now they are earning their living through plucking tealeaves in the third officially recognised tea zone of Panchagarh in the country.

According to the tea garden workers, including young girls, housewives, widows and divorcees, the prospective tea sector is growing fast and creating jobs for females every year.

Talking to the news agency, labour-

ers Merina, Afroza, Aklima, Shukla Rani, Motahera and Kulsum of Tentulia upazila said they are earning a daily wage of Tk 250 on an average.

Other workers Mahfuza, Sonali, Shyamoli, Swapna and Kulsum said they are now having three meals a day, using sanitary latrines, drinking safe water and receiving health care services whenever needed.

Supervisor of Moynaguri Tea Company Ltd Nazrul Islam said each of the female labourers generally plucks 80 to 100kg green tea leaves per day.

According to Bangladesh Tea Board (BTB) sources, tea production has been increasing by 1,00,000kg every year on an average since 2005.

Tea is now being cultivated on about 3,500 acres of land in 526

gardens, including 26 big estates, 17 medium and 483 small gardens in Panchagarh, and its cultivation is also expanding in the adjoining districts.

Assistant Tea Development Officer at BTB's Panchagarh Regional Office Minhajur Rahman said 14.21 lakh kg of fine quality tea was produced in 2014 while 14.55 lakh kg in 2013 and 11.41 lakh kg was produced in 2012 in Panchagarh.

Former President of Panchagarh Chamber Iqbal Kaiser Mintu said commercial tea cultivation on "small-scale gardening basis" has become popular in Panchagarh as the small, marginal and medium farmers are earning better profits through selling green tealeaves to the six tea-processing factories.



A bamboo-made arch erected by Awami Swechhasebak League marking its founding anniversary has been precariously dangling over the road at the Khamar Bari intersection in the capital for the last four days. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President also Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu places a wreath before a portrait of Col Abu Taher, who was a member of the party, at the organisation's office in the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday, marking his 39th death anniversary. Taher along with the party attempted to take over state power through a soldiers' uprising on November 7, 1975, and freed Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman from house arrest, who later became a military dictator, then the founder of BNP, and a president of the country, but not before railroading Taher through a military kangaroo court to his execution in 1976.

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