

NEWSIN brief

AL man, officials sued for misappropriating project fund

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Anti-Corruption Commission on Wednesday lodged three cases against four people including an Awami League leader for allegedly misappropriating over Tk 1.5 lakh of three projects that involve construction works at two graveyards in Chittagong's Lohagara upazila.

The sued are AL south district unit's member Omar Faruque, Lohagara upazila's LGED Deputy Engineer Abu Toiyab, Padua Union member Ayub Ali, and the projects' coordinator Nurul Kabir.

The cases were filed with Lohagara Police Station. The three projects involve construction of boundary walls and walkways around Padua Bhati and Padua Malipara graveyards in 2011, said an ACC official.

Ctg students protest VAT on private university tuition fees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Students of eight private universities of Chittagong yesterday protested the government's decision to impose 7.5 percent VAT on their tuition fees, and demanded that the decision be withdrawn immediately.

Several hundred students of Premier University, East Delta University, Southern University, Chittagong Independent University, International Islamic University Chittagong, BGC Trust University, Port City University and University of Science and Technology, Chittagong under the banner "Private University Students" formed a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club to press home their demand.

Afterwards, the demonstrators handed over a memorandum to the deputy commissioner of Chittagong for forwarding it to the prime minister.

New Bangladesh envoy to Greece calls on President Abdul Hamid

BSS, Dhaka

Newly appointed Bangladesh ambassador to Greece Jashim Uddin made a courtesy call on President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The president advised the envoy to take steps to explore market for Bangladeshi products, especially medicine, garments, ceramic, and jute in Greece, President's Press Secretary Joyal Abedin told the news agency. The ambassador sought directives from the president so that he could strengthen its relation with Greece.

Bogra road crash kills motorcyclist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A motorcyclist was killed when a truck coming from the opposite direction hit his vehicle at Sherua Battola on Bogra-Dhaka highway in Sherpur upazila of Bogra yesterday noon.

The deceased was Habil Uddin, 48, of Professor Para in Sherpur municipality, said police.

What a driver to do?



This bizarre scenario was captured near the Khamarbari police box in the capital around 9:20am yesterday.

PHOTO: SANJID PARVEZ



Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police Abdul Jalil Mondol, along with his team and locals, fills a pothole on the road between Chittagong Export Processing Zone Intersection to Berek Building Intersection in the city yesterday. Driven by the urgency to mitigate public sufferings, the CMP chief did the same at some other points of the 5km road recently ravaged by rains to prevent major accidents for the time being. He called the work his social responsibility and called upon the well-off locals to come up with financial assistance to address the problem of their own accord until the government renovates it.

PHOTO: CMP

New platform launches battle against hunger

More than 800 organisations come under one umbrella

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the aim to end hunger and ensure nutrition rights by 2025, an umbrella network of about 824 government and non-government organisations, NGO networks, educational institutions, and civil society members started its journey yesterday.

The platform, Right to Food Bangladesh (RFB), was launched through a news conference at the capital's Jatiya Press Club where it stated the background to its creation and the issues it intends to work on.

"Our main objective is inclusive development. We have to focus on education and employment generation. People will access food either through production or employment," said economist Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, the platform's chairman.

The platform's creation is based on the Dhaka Declaration of "South Asia Right to Food Conference" held in the capital in May-June to strengthen a coalition among south Asian nations in facing the multi-dimensional challenges of food and nutrition.

RFB will also work on the enactment and implementation of a "Right to Food Act" to ensure availability, accessibility, and sufficiency of nutritious food.

"A deprived person can take protection of this law and question the state why it failed to take up policies to ensure his employment, which will facilitate his access to food," explained Mohsin Ali, executive director of

Wave Foundation, a member of RFB.

The platform's charter said safety net programmes should be transformed and linked with the law on right to food.

The umbrella vowed to work in areas to improve access to agricultural ingredients such as seeds, fertilisers and pesticides, expanding the irrigation system and making it affordable, crop preservation, increasing agricultural loan and ensuring its availability, ensuring the fair price of agricultural produce, giving subsidy to small farmers directly, and recognising the contribution of women in this sector.

The charter paper, read by Mohsin Ali, noted that women's accessibility to assets related to food production must be ensured, including land ownership, access to finance, education, training, social opportunities, employment, and fair and equal wages in workplace.

FRB will also work to mitigate the disaster risks of locals and increase their capacity to fight climate change challenges.

The network said laws and policies related to land, fishery, animal resources development, water and forests must also be in tune with the right to food.

Finally, it will work with government to make the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's (Saarc's) food bank effective and create a Saarc seed bank.

Dhaka University, National Human Rights Commission, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Steps Towards Development, CARE Bangladesh, and Nari Maitree are some members of the network.

Campaign starts to increase number of female voters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nine civil society and rights organisations yesterday launched a campaign, "Women Count", aiming at creating awareness among people to help increase the number of female voters.

Under the campaign, the organisations will to encourage eligible females to become voters through loud speakers, leaflets, mosque imams and other communication activities at the village level.

"Our prime target is to ensure registration of all females, who are eligible to be voters, in the electoral roll," Abdul Alim, director of Election Working Group, told a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

Female voters in the latest electoral roll were found less than males in some districts, including Noakhali, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Laxmipur and Sylhet, he claimed.

The organisations are --Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Bangladesh Alliance for Women Leadership, Brotee, Bikoshito Nari Network, Election Working Group, Institute of Informatics and Development, JAAGO Foundation, Kabidang and Khagrapur Mahila Kalyan Samity.

Details about the campaign will be available at www.womencountbd.org.

The EC on July 25 started electoral roll updating programme across the country. Of the 9.61 crore voters, over 4.84 crore are male while around 4.77 crore female.

Pickpocket gang busted

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The dope gangs usually become active ahead of religious festivals. At least six people were killed and scores more became victims after being doped ahead of last year's Eid.

Detectives arrested over 50 members of the gang before the last Eid-ul-Fitr.

Attorney general alarmed by "lawyers' link" to terror finance

Khandaker Mahbub doesn't believe there is any connection, SCBA protests arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Referring to Tuesday's arrest of three lawyers by Rapid Action Battalion in connection with financing Chittagong-based militant outfit Shaheed Hamja Brigade, Attorney General Mahbub Alam yesterday said such involvement was alarming.

"No lawyer has been held over such allegations before although people of other professions were arrested in connection with militancy and terrorism," he told journalists at his Supreme Court office.

He said whether they were guilty or not would be proven through investigations and trial as the arrest was based on preliminary evidence.

Supreme Court lawyers Barrister Shakila Farjana, 39, and Advocate Hasanuzzaman Liton, 30, and Judge Court lawyer Advocate Mahfuz Chowdhury Bapon, 25, were arrested in Dhanmondi area.

Meanwhile, Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President and BNP leader Khandaker Mahbub Hossain told journalists at his office that he did not believe there was any such involvement.

"If the allegations against them are proved, the Supreme Court Bar Association will not support them," he added.

Moreover a group of pro-BNP lawyers under SCBA's banner formed a human chain at the SCBA premises protesting the arrest.

Taimur Alam Khandker, Abed Raza, Golam Mohammad Chowdhury Alal, Ruhul Quddus Kazal and Mohammad Ali, among others, attended.

Tourism industry

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fancy houses cannot be tourism," he added.

Prof Sadeka Halim said the projects controlled by Bangalees often attempt to "preserve and showcase" the indigenous way of life.

She added that the families affected by land acquisition for tourism projects should be provided proper compensation.

Civil Aviation And Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon said there were opportunities to promote elements of eco-tourism like trekking in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Unite against extrajudicial killings: Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday underscored the need for a "unanimous resolution" to stop all extrajudicial killings in the country.

"Killing a person without a trial is unjust," he said, referring to the present situation in the country where several deaths in "shootouts" were reported recently.

The veteran lawyer made the comments while addressing a discussion, "Rule of Law and Freedom of Judiciary", in Chittagong Court Building, organised by Ainjibi Oikya Front.

He urged all citizens and lawyers to stand



united for establishing the rule of law and stop unlawful activities.

Recalling his memories with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the jurist criticised the people who are putting Bangabandhu's photograph beside theirs on billboards.

Bangabandhu is a national pride, he said, adding that those who were criminals or running illegal businesses nowadays were putting his photo beside theirs.

"It is disrespectful to him, and I protest this," said Dr Kamal.

Chittagong Bar Association Vice-President Afajur Rahman presided over the discussion.

Bangladesh missions

FROM PAGE 3

years on his contract being renewed four times, Momen will see his office tenure expire on October 30. Bangladesh High Commissioner in London Md Abdul Hannan will be made the ambassador in Rome, and Ambassador and Head of Mission to the European Union in Brussels Ismat Jahan will replace him. Bangladesh Ambassador in Rome Md Sahadat Hossain is expected to replace her. Former inspector general of police, Hasan Mahmud Khandaker, will be appointed as Bangladesh ambassador to Spain for three years. Bangladesh Ambassador to Qatar Syed Masud Mahmood Khondoker will be called back following internal conflict within the embassy.

“রেলওয়ে লেভেল ক্রসিং” পারাপারে সতর্কতা

ইহা লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ের লেভেল ক্রসিং গেটে দুর্ঘটনার প্রবণতা বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। এ সকল দুর্ঘটনায় স্বাভাবিক ট্রেন চলাচল ব্যাহত হওয়া ছাড়াও মূল্যবান প্রাণহানীর ঘটনা ঘটছে, যা অত্যন্ত দুঃখজনক। এ বিষয়ে মোটরযান (সংশোধনী) আইন, ১৯৮৮ এর ধারা ৮৯, ৯২ এবং ১৪৩ অনুসরণ করে রেল ক্রসিং পারাপারে নিম্নোক্ত সতর্কতা অবলম্বন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছেঃ

- লেভেল ক্রসিং পারাপারের সময় অনুগ্রহ করে অত্যন্ত সতর্কতার সাথে এবং নিয়ন্ত্রিত গতিতে গাড়ি চালাবেন।
- লেভেল ক্রসিং পার হওয়ার আগে থামুন। উভয় পাশ দেখে নিশ্চিত হোন। অতঃপর রেল ক্রসিং পার হোন।
- গেট ফেলার মুহূর্তে জীবনের ঝুঁকি নিয়ে তাড়াহুড়া করে গেট অতিক্রমের চেষ্টা করবেন না।
- গেট ফেলা অবস্থায় বিপরীত দিক দিয়ে রেল লাইন অতিক্রম করবেন না।
- গেট পার হওয়ার সময় সামনে খালি থাকলেই শুধু গেট অতিক্রম করবেন। কোন অবস্থাতেই রেল লাইনের ওপর সড়কযান দাঁড় করাবেন না।
- গেট সলগ্ন স্থানে অবৈধভাবে রিকশা-অটোরিকশা, বেবী ট্যাক্সি, বাস ও ট্রাক ষ্ট্যান্ড স্থাপন করে যানজট সৃষ্টি করবেন না।
- রেল কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদন ছাড়া যত্রতত্র লেভেল ক্রসিং গেট নির্মাণ করা থেকে বিরত থাকুন।

রেল লাইন পারাপারে সতর্ক হোন। নিজে বাঁচুন, যাত্রীদের মূল্যবান জীবন রক্ষা করুন এবং নির্বিঘ্নে ট্রেন চলাচলে সহায়তা করুন।

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আসুন, দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন সংক্রান্ত জ্ঞান ও তথ্য আহরণ করি এবং দুর্যোগ মোকাবেলায় সক্ষমতা পড়ে তুলি।

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