

Toll collection of big bridges to go online

Says Obaidul Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the government has taken an initiative to collect toll of all the big bridges through online.

"An additional amount of Tk 30-35 lakh is now being collected from Meghna and Gomoti bridges each month as theft in toll collection has stopped. So, the government has decided to collect toll of all the big bridges like Bangabandhu Bridge through online," Obaidul Quader said.

He asked the authorities concerned to make the weight scales set up operational on highways for measuring additional weight of vehicles and directed additional secretary Faruk Jalil to check the machines and inform the ministry by next Sunday.



A fisherman using his cast net for a catch in the Shitalakkhya will soon become a rarity with the end of the monsoon which had given the river fresh water. Within a few days, the water will take on its usual pitch black hue, exposing the level of its pollution. The photo was taken in Kanchpur of Narayanganj yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

NEWS IN brief

GPA-5 achiever dies in road crash after applying for higher study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Locals of Manikdi in Matikata blocked Kalshi New Road for about two hours up to 8:00pm yesterday after a student was killed in a road accident, said police.

A private car hit Sharmin Akhter, 18, of Manikdi while she was crossing the road at 12:30pm after applying to get admitted at Government Titumir College. She succumbed to her injuries in the evening at Combined Military Hospital, said Atiqur Rahman, officer-in-charge, Cantonment Police Station.

Police are yet to identify the car. Sharmin achieved Golden A in her Higher Secondary Certificate exam, said police quoting family sources as saying.

3 Sylhet BCL men suspended for attacking leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday suspended a leader and two activists of its Sylhet district unit over an attack on another BCL leader in the city's Tilaghar on Sunday.

The suspended are joint secretary HM Kamrul Islam; and activists Sanjoy Chowdhury and Mithu Talukdar, also students of Sylhet Engineering College.

Sahriar Alom Samad, president of the unit, confirmed the matter to The Daily Star.

M Raihan Chowdhury, general secretary of the unit, was attacked over forming a committee of the college unit of BCL on that day.

TIB announces anti-graft photo contest

UNB, Dhaka

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has announced an anti-corruption photo contest, marking the International Anti-Corruption Day 2015.

The first three winning entries will be awarded Tk 50,000, Tk 30,000 and Tk 20,000 respectively along with certificates and crests.

20 more participants will be given Tk 3,000 each.

Participants are asked to submit soft or digital versions of entries at pc2015@ti-bangladesh.org and hard copies at TIB head office before November 5.

Re-cross-exam of 11 Rajon murder witnesses starts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Counsel for the key accused Kamrul Islam yesterday completed cross-examinations of 11 witnesses in 13-year-old boy Samiul Alam Rajon murder case.

Accepting a petition filed by Kamrul, who was brought back from Saudi Arabia on October 15, a Sylhet court on Tuesday recalled the 11, including complainant suspended

sub-inspector of Jalalabad Police Station Aminul Islam, Rajon's parents Azizur Rahman and Lubna Begum, and suspended officer-in-charge (investigation) Alomgir Hosain.

It decided October 25 to hear arguments. On July 8, a group of brutes bludgeoned Rajon to death in Sylhet Sadar upazila as a punishment allegedly for his crime of stealing a rickshaw-van.

Five laundromats fined in capital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined five washing factories Tk 27 lakh in the capital's Rupnagar for polluting environment.

New Colour Design was fined Tk 11 lakh, Exim Apparels Washing Tk 7 lakh, Jamuna Washing Plant Tk 4 lakh, Wind Wash Tk 3 lakh and KM Washing Plant Tk 2 lakh.

AKM Mizanur Rahman, DoE director (monitoring and enforcement), called the factory representative and fined them, DoE sources said.

Prof Mahmuda hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Beggzadi Mahmuda Nasir, founder principal of Central Women's College and founder vice chancellor of Central Women's University, is undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit (ICU) of the capital's Square Hospital, says a press release.

Her condition is critical, it adds. All of her relatives, students, colleagues and well-wishers are requested to pray for her early recovery.

JS body for not renewing job contract of Biman MD Kyle Haywood

Accuses him of incompetence; project proposal sent to civil aviation ministry to develop Syedpur, Barisal airports; Biman to get 2 Boeing aircraft on Nov 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry yesterday recommended that the government do not renew the job contract of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Managing Director Kyle Haywood because of his "poor performance".

The committee came up with the recommendation at a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Kyle Haywood, a UK citizen, joined the national flag carrier as its MD and chief executive officer on January 5.

Haywood was appointed on a one-year contract with the provision of extension of his service. He replaced Kevin John Steele who was Biman's first ever foreign MD and CEO.

Faruk Khan, chief of the committee, told The Daily Star that Haywood's performance in

the last 10 months was not satisfactory.

"He cannot perform well. In the last 10 months of his job, he was on leave for around a month. Now he wants further leave," he said.

"The MD has failed to prove his efficiency. Biman pays him over Tk 10 lakh every month," he added.

He said the committee had also recommended that the ministry concerned takes a quick decision over the appointment of Biman's next MD.

Faruk said they had also asked the authorities concerned to investigate the reported harassment of Hajjis in getting their luggage and place the enquiry report before the committee as soon as possible.

Khan, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker, said they had also asked the ministry officials to place its plans before the parlia-

mentary body on the development of Chittagong airport over the next 10 years.

The body suggested increasing skilled manpower through direct recruitment and promotion in Biman.

The meeting was informed that there had been a government plan to upgrade Syedpur and Barisal airports.

A project proposal was sent to the ministry for conducting a feasibility study, formulating designs, preparing a master plan and making estimates by appointing a consultancy firm to develop the two airports.

BIMAN TO GET 2 NEW AIRCRAFT

US-based aircraft maker Boeing has invited Faruk Khan as chief guest to a programme to hand over two Boeing-737 on November 20 in Seattle, he said.

Govt hatching conspiracy to keep BNP leaders away from polls

Claims Nazrul Islam Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior BNP leader Nazrul Islam Khan yesterday said though the government was conspiring to keep their top leaders away from future polls by "punishing them in false cases", "big leaders were not necessary for winning any polls".

Pointing to recent killing of two foreign nationals, the BNP standing committee member said the government was blaming BNP without conducting any investigation.

"The government is accusing our leaders including the party's Dhaka city unit member-secretary (Habib-un-Nabi Khan Sohel)... But it is not right to accuse anyone without proper evidence," he told a doa mahfil at the BNP's Naya Paltan central office.

Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal organised the programme seeking early recovery of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, who is now in London for treatment.

Nazrul also said people want to see in power a representative government elected with their votes.

"But this government fears to face a competitive election. The government is conspiring to hold another election like the January 5 one by keeping its main opponents out of the race," he said.

He alleged that BNP Vice Chairman Sadeque Hossain Khoka was deprived of his right to self defence and punished in a graft case.

A Dhaka court on Tuesday sentenced the former Dhaka city mayor to 13 years' imprisonment in the graft case.



Bikers riding on sidewalks due to a huge tailback at Banglamotor in the capital around 3:30pm yesterday are creating chaos and difficulty for pedestrians even though this is strictly prohibited.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

HACKING OF CMCH DOCTOR Cops still clueless

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two days have passed since a doctor of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) was stabbed in his house at Agrabad in the port city on Monday but law enforcement agencies are yet to trace any of the assailants and the motive of the attack.

Earlier on Monday, two unidentified persons stabbed Tarek Shams, an outpatient medical officer of CMCH, leaving him critically injured at his house entering mysteriously in North Agrabad of Chittagong city.

Tarek's father, Dr Shamsul Alam, filed a case with Halishahar Police Station on Tuesday accusing two unidentified miscreants, said police.

Syed Mohammad Ahsanul Islam, officer-in-charge of Halishahar Police Station, said they recovered a cleaver from the spot.

Police suspect that the attack was launched as a result of previous enmity.

However, Tarek's mother, a former principal of Agrabad Mohila College, said that her son had no enmity with anybody as he was apolitical and popular among the locals.

The victim is out of danger now, the hospital sources said. He was taken to the ICU at CMCH and undergone an operation following the incident.

Question leak protesters to hold

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Meanwhile, the 17-member "public" committee which was formed by "concerned" citizens on Monday will start working through a general meeting at TSC at 5:00pm tomorrow.

Convener of the committee, economist Prof Anu Muhammad, yesterday told The Daily Star, "We will have an action plan, assign roles to the

members and analyse the evidence."

The committee will prepare a report by November 20 and later submit it to the government authorities.

About BMA's proposal to investigate the leak, Prof Anu said, "BMA's position is not transparent. They should have had formed a probe committee of their own earlier."

Khoka's health condition worsens in NY

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three from seven in a week, he said.

Doctors advised the BNP vice chairman to avoid all sorts of public gatherings.

Considering the present situation, the number of chemo tablets has been reduced to

three from seven in a week, he said.

The latest condition of his cancer will be known after carrying out some tests -- including MRI, CT and Bone Marrow Scan, he said. "Medication will be given in accordance with the results of the tests."

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