



Shops occupy the footpath and road near Baitul Mukarram national mosque in the capital, creating obstacles to pedestrian and vehicular movement in the busy area. Over the years police and other government agencies have overlooked the malpractice while traffic chaos keeps on plaguing the city every now and then. The photo was taken Wednesday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

North Korea H-bomb test worries Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern at the recent nuclear test North Korea announced to have carried out, Bangladesh yesterday urged the country to refrain from any activity which can "potentially escalate the situation".

"This is in contravention to the UN Security Council Resolutions, no 1718, 1874, 2087 and 2094 and the non-proliferation regime. As a state party to the NPT and CIBT, two international treaties, Bangladesh is committed to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament," said a foreign ministry press release.

People disregard Jamaat hartal

STAR REPORT

The nationwide dawn-to-dusk hartal yesterday called by Jamaat-e-Islami protesting "the government's conspiracy to kill" its ameer, Motiur Rahman Nizami, had no effect on public life.

With people defying the hartal, Jamaat even failed to get any response from people of Pabna, Nizami's hometown.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the death penalty handed down by a special tribunal in October 2014 for his war crimes during the 1971 Liberation War.

All the 4,500 or so shops in Pabna remained open, said Pabna Chamber of Commerce and Industry Senior Vice Chairman Mahbubul Alam Mukul.

Pabna Motor Bus Owner Samity President Baby Islam said over 70 inter-district buses left Pabna for their respective destinations and some 40 buses could not due to a shortage of passengers.

Apart from some processions and roadside meetings popping up in a few districts, no picketing and untoward

DPHE info official reprimanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The Information Commission yesterday reprimanded an information official of the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) for his negligence to provide information in time under the Right to Information Act-2009.

Information Commissioner Nepal Chandra Sarker reprimanded Md Moshirur Rahman Talukder, assistant engineer of DPHE in Savar and Dhamrai, when he went to the commission's office in the capital following a summons.

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DEFAMING BANGABANDHU Arrest warrant for Tarique issued by Sylhet court

BSS, Sylhet



A Sylhet court yesterday issued an arrest warrant for BNP

Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman for defaming Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Nazrul Islam issued the warrant following a case filed by Bangladesh Chhatra League's Sylhet district unit President Shahriar Alam Samad on December 24, 2014 following Tarique's derogatory remarks about Bangabandhu at a programme in London on December 15.

NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Bangladesh warned of high prevalence

Malaysian experts for investing more in preventive care

PORIMOL PALMA, back from KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysian public health experts have warned of high prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like heart diseases, cancer, and diabetes both in Malaysia and Bangladesh.

They recommended investing more in preventive care, adding that sharing of expertise between the two countries could help tackle the situation.

"We both share a similar demographic situation in terms of prevalence of heart diseases," said Dr Kumara Guruparan Ganesan, cardiologist of the National Heart Institute in Kuala Lumpur.

Fatty food, smoking, sedentary lifestyle are the major factors behind the high prevalence, he said.

According to the Malaysian National Health and Morbidity Survey in 2011, obesity in Malaysia is estimated to be 15.1 percent among adults aged 18 years and

above, Type 2 diabetes 15.2 percent, and hypertension 35.1 percent.

The National Cancer Society, Malaysia says there are about 90,000 to 1 lakh people in Malaysia living with cancer at any given time, while the National Cancer Registry of Malaysia records 21,773 Malaysians being diagnosed with cancer every year, but almost 10,000 cases remain unregistered.

Meanwhile, deaths from NCDs in Bangladesh soared by seven percentage points from the 2008 figure to 59 percent in 2012, according to a 2015 report by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Of the total 8.86 lakh deaths in 2012, 17 percent were caused by cardiovascular diseases, 10 percent by cancers, 11 percent by chronic respiratory diseases, three percent by diabetes, 18 percent by other NCDs, and nine percent by injuries, it said.

Dr SA Balan, consultant urologist at Pantai Hospital in Kuala Lumpur, said

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KHALEDA'S GRAFT CASE Court ends recording of IO's statement

COURT CORRESPONDENT



A Dhaka court yesterday concluded recording statement of the

investigation officer in the Zia Charitable Trust graft case in the absence of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

The other accused are Harris Chowdhury, Ziaul Islam Munna, former assistant private secretary of Harris Chowdhury, and Monirul Islam Khan, who was APS of former Dhaka city mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

Of them, Khaleda, Munna and Monirul are on bail while Harris is on the run. Khaleda could not

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No watch allowed in BCS preliminary test today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 36th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) preliminary test will be held today.

Some 2.11 lakh candidates will sit for the two-hour long test at 162 centres in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet and Rangpur simultaneously at 9:30am, said officials of the Public Service Commission (PSC).

For the first time, candidates have been asked not to carry any type of wrist watch, pocket watch or electronic watch in the test venues. Usage of electronic devices, including calculators and mobile phones, by test takers has long been prohibited.

Defaulters will have their instruments seized and candidacy cancelled, officials added.

Candidates will have to be in their seats between 8:20am and 8:55am. Answer scripts will be given at 9:00am and question papers at 9:30am.

Seat plans and instructions will be found at www.bpsc.gov.bd.

On May 31 last year, PSC issued a circular for the 36th BCS examination to fill 2,180 vacant posts of general, technical and professional cadres.

ASHULIA BANK HEIST Charges against 11 'militants' accepted at court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday accepted charges against 11 "militants" in the case filed for killing eight people during a sensational bank heist in Ashulia last year.

The accused are Md Borhanuddin, Md Saiful aliam Alamin alias Babu, Babul alias Babul Sardar, Mintu Pradhan, Md Jasimuddin, Abul Baten, Md Mozammel Haque, Md Ukil Hassan, Md Mahfuzul Islam alias Suman alias Shamim, Shahabuddin Sardar and Palash alias Sohel Rana.

Of the accused, Sohel Rana is on the run, while the rest are now in jail.

All the accused are

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WAR CRIMES IN KISHOREGANJ ICT accepts 6 charges against two

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday accepted six specific charges over the alleged involvement of two "Razakars" in crimes committed in Kishoreganj during the Liberation War in 1971.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque also fixed February 15 to pass the next order in the case against Syed Mohammad Hussain alias Hossain, 64, younger brother of convicted war criminal Syed Hasan Ali, and Muhammad Moslem Pradhan, 66.

Prosecutor Tureen Afroz yesterday placed a brief submission on the charges, pressed on December 3 last year, of "war crimes" and violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention 1949, a first for cases involving crimes committed during the Liberation War.

The remaining crimes against humanity and genocide charges, brought in previous cases, were over abduction, torture, rape and murder.

Syed Mohammad was originally from Machihata village (Pir Bari) in Brahmanbaria sadar upazila and had been living with his family in Kishoreganj sadar upazila since 1936 as his father worked there, according to the tribunal's investigation agency.

He was the alleged commander of the Razakar Bahini in Nikli and known as "Razakar Daroga" while Syed Hasan of Tarail upazila in 1971. Moslem was a Razakar member and Syed Mohammad's associate, it said.

Syed Mohammad left for Malaysia on May 21, 2014 and the investigations began on November 13 that year, according to the agency. Interpol has already issued a red notice and talked to Malaysian police to bring him back, it said.

Moslem, of Kamarhati village in Nikli upazila, was arrested on July 8 last year after the tribunal issued an arrest

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A versatile cruciferous vegetable, Cauliflower is one such vegetable that most Bangladeshis enjoy eating during winter.

Cauliflower pretty much dominates the breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack and dinner menus during winter. Some love it simply fried with turmeric and chilli powder and eaten with rotis for breakfast, while others love the curry version of cauliflower dishes prepared with either potatoes or an array of other vegetables (tomatoes, peas, carrots), pulses or cooked with fish. For many, nothing beats afternoon tea accompanied with cauliflowers coated in a batter and deep fried with their choice of condiment (ketchup, tamarind sauce, salads).

For the more health conscious an alternative option to smashed potatoes could be to have cauliflower boiled, smashed and seasoned. As yummy as this vegetable is, it also has a lot of nutritional value. Cauliflowers are a great source of vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and other phytochemicals. It contains Vitamin C, B6 and K, protein, thiamin, riboflavin, folate, pantothenic acid, potassium, and manganese. Cauliflowers contribute to brain and heart health; help prevent a variety of cancers and regulate digestion and inflammation in the body.

There are a variety of cauliflowers grown in Bangladesh such as pousha, 777, snow-white. The reason they are only available in winter is because the weather is best suited for cultivation. The process starts from October when the seeds are sown and takes about ninety days

before they are ready to be picked. Pavel from Kolatiya, Manikganj a farmer for the last seven years, cultivates seasonal vegetables as well as regularly supplies them to Shwapno. When cultivating cauliflowers he always mixes cow dung with soil after sowing the seeds. Sufficient watering of the cauliflowers is done a month later and throughout the whole process he consults the local agriculturists to ensure a good batch of cauliflowers. A team of experts inspect the land and cauliflowers grown and informs Pavel of the batch of cauliflowers selected. The team does further inspections of the batch of cauliflowers after they have been cut and before they are sent via trucks to Shwapno stores. The entire process of cutting and uploading the cauliflowers in the truck is done early in the morning and only lasts two hours. This is to ensure that the vegetables remain as fresh as possible.

Vegetables taste just an extra bit fresh during winter in Bangladesh. Many look forward to certain seasonal vegetables and fruits that are only available during this time of the year but let's also keep in mind that the winter season does not last as long, thus making the availability of cauliflowers short-lived. So wake up and get a good dose of cauliflowers before it becomes nothing more than a dream until next winter!



Photo: Dolon Talukder

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