

Boy dies in road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A boy died as a battery-run three-wheeler ran him over in the capital's Bhashantek yesterday.

Maruf Hassan, 7, son of Jasim Uddin, was a shop worker in the area.

Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of Bhashantek Police Station, the incident happened while he was crossing a road.

Locals rushed the boy to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his head injuries, DMCH sources said.

Maruf was a student of a local madrasa.

Moudud criticises ex-CJ Khairul Haque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Moudud Ahmed yesterday criticised former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque as he wrote the final verdict of scrapping the 13th amendment to the constitution after his retirement and changed his short order regarding the issue.

Khairul Haque had written in his short order on May 10, 2011 that election to the 10th and the 11th parliament might be held under a non-party caretaker government as provided by the 13th amendment for national interest and welfare of the people, he said.

"But surprisingly he dropped that portion in his final verdict, which was written 16 months into his retirement," said Moudud, also the BNP standing committee member.

Addressing a discussion of the Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal at the Jatiya Press Club, he said the ex-justice had not only violated the constitution by writing the verdict 16 months after his retirement, but also set an example of immorality as a chief justice.

He did that to fulfil a political motive and deceived the nation; he will have to stand trial for this, he said.



Pedestrians risk their lives using a wobbly plank to cross a dug up section of a road in Gulshan 2 in the capital with Dhaka North City Corporation apparently turning a blind eye to the matter, including properly cordoning off the under construction sites, while installing sewer pipes. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Explain comment on judiciary by Monday

SC asks Mirza Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday asked BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir to explain his comment on the judiciary through his lawyers by February 22, Sagir Hossain Leon, a lawyer for the BNP leader, told The Daily Star.

He said different newspapers reported that Fakhrul, while addressing a party meeting in Sylhet on February 7, alleged that the government was trying to control the judiciary.

Yesterday, the apex court asked for the explanation on suomoto (of its own) move during hearing on three petitions filed by him seeking extension of his bail in three arson and vandalism cases.

The five-member bench headed by Chief Justice SK Sinha fixed February 22 to pass orders on the pleas.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam prayed to the SC to issue a guideline for the media to curb any adverse comments on judiciary in talk shows on television channels. The court is yet to say anything about the prayer.

On November 24 last year the HC granted bail to Fakhrul for three months in the cases on his health ground.

Crude bombs hurled at Ctg College picnic bus

One hurt, BCL leader blames Shibir men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Unidentified miscreants hurled two crude bombs at one of three picnic buses of Chittagong College in the city's Bakalia yesterday.

The buses carrying 200 political science students were moving towards Bandarban, college sources said.

A student, whose identity could not be known immediately, was injured and two windpanes of a vehicle was broken in the attack, said police and students.

Following primary treatment of the injured, the bus restarted, said Bakalia police Officer-in-Charge Abul Monsur.

Abu Mohammad Arif, vice president of Chittagong city unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League and a student of the college, alleged that Shibir activists were involved in the

attack as they "threatened" their teachers and students over the phone on Wednesday not to go for a picnic.

"...they (Shibir men) had to leave the campus in the face of protests by Chhatra League and general students few weeks ago," he said.

Mohammad Sanaullah, an associate professor of the department, said he was one of them who received such threat by an unknown person.

A general diary was filed with Chawk Bazar Police Station in this connection, he said.

The OC said they were investigating the incident.

No Shibir activist or leader of the college unit was available for comments. Moreover, this correspondent found the cellphones of Shibir city unit president Mohammad Ismail and publicity secretary Yasair Arafat

NEWS IN brief

6 jailed for selling jatka in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court, backed by Rapid Action Battalion, yesterday fined a fish trader Tk 5,000, and sentenced six others to one year's imprisonment each for selling jatka (hilsa fry less than 10 inches long) in the capital's Karwan Bazar kitchen market, says a Rab press release.

The convicts are Manik Mia, Md Alamgir, Monir Hossain, Lutfar Rahman, Sirajul Islam, Kanchan and Soheli. The court led by Executive Magistrate Helal Uddin raided different wholesale shops at Karwan Bazar around 6:00am and seized around 1,100 kilograms of jatka, the release added.

Rajuk reclaims parking lots, roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three teams of Rajuk cleared illegally occupied car parking spaces at over a dozen buildings, fined buildings and business owners, and dismantled more than six access ramps built illegally occupying footpaths and road width in Gulshan, Uttara and Dhanmondi in the capital yesterday.

Rajuk launched the drives simultaneously in Gulshan, Uttara and Dhanmondi on January 18 in a bid to recover the designated car parking spaces and remove illegal access ramps built occupying footpaths and road width.

US embassy closed on Feb 21

CITY DESK

The American Embassy, its Consular Section, American Center, Archer K Blood American Center Library and EducationUSA will remain closed on Sunday, February 21, 2016, in observance of International Mother Language Day, says a US embassy press release.

American citizens can call at 5566-2000 for emergency services.

Badruddoza passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Badruddoza, a valiant freedom fighter and former vice principal of Sylhet Cadet College, died on Wednesday at the Combined Military Hospital while undergoing treatment, said a press release.

He was 63.

Badruddoza left behind his wife, a son, a daughter.

Fair offers books

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The books are available at stall no. 293 of Anindya Prokash.

Liakat told The Daily Star that he had visited all 64 districts, and about 30 countries. "There are many attractive places around the world and the country. But we know little about them; that's why we are not interested in travelling," he said.

Ninety-four new books are on sale at the stall. Today the fair starts at 11:00am and closes at 8:00pm.

Chairmen hopefuls facing

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ballot boxes at night a few hours before the start of voting and accused the EC of being loyal to the government in previous elections.

"Trust on the election commission has already been lost. The EC did not enforce its constitutional powers to hold fair elections. Rather, it acted like a spokesperson of the government," he alleged.

He also feared that a partisan UP election would destroy social harmony at the grassroots. However, BNP would join the polls to reach grassroots people and unmask the government's character, Rizvi claimed.

For the first time, elections for UP chairmen posts will be held in partisan lines. Elections to over 700 UPs will be held in the first phase on March 22.

BNP DIRECTIVE

BNP high-ups have recently asked its grassroots to send names of chairmen aspirants to the chairperson's Gulshan office by tomorrow.

"In many cases, grassroots may send multiple names in same union parishad. So, it will take time to finalise the list," a BNP senior leader told The Daily Star.

"...we will sit with the district unit presidents and secretaries to pick candidates," said a member of a 15-member central scrutiny body, led by Mirza Fakhrul which would finalise the list.

SECOND PHASE OF UP POLLS

Elections to 684 UPs will be held on March 31 in the second phase.

District election officers yesterday announced the polls schedule at their respective districts yesterday, said an EC press release. The last date of filing nomination is March 2, nomination would be scrutinised on March 5 and 6 and the last date of nomination withdrawal is March 13.

Poet Nazrul's works in 2 more tongues

Portuguese, Spanish versions available now

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Nazrul Institute yesterday launched two Portuguese and Spanish translations of literary works of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at its auditorium in the capital.

The Portuguese translation titled "Nazrul: Prosa e Poesia Seleccionados" by Portuguese writer Ana Rita Baptista Rodrigues Jacinto contains a total of 78 poems, songs and essays, including Bidrohi, Dhumketu, while the Spanish translation titled "Nazrul: Prosa y Poemas Seleccionados" by Spanish writer and journalist Maria Helena Barrera-Agarwal contains 150 poems, essays and songs by the national poet.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor attended the programme as chief guest while Prof Emeritus Rafiqul Islam presided over it.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam and Deputy Chief of Mission of Brazilian Embassy in Bangladesh Julio Cesar Silva were the special guests at the programme.

Asaduzzaman Noor said the Portuguese and Spanish translations of Nazrul's literary works were crucial since a large number of people speak the two languages.

"The two translations will help us uphold Nazrul and his works across the world," he added.

The programme ended with a cultural event where Portuguese and Spanish versions of Nazrul's two famous poems Bidrohi and Dhumketu were recited.



Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor joins others at the launch of the two translations, Portuguese and Spanish, of literary works of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at the Nazrul Institute in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Star anniversary

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days back spending a few crore taka. Nearly 10,000 people were invited.

Many came from abroad. Was it merely a founding anniversary celebration?

"An eminent person of the country spoke at the founding anniversary function for nearly two hours. At this, many people of the country believed that it was a projection meeting."

He alleged that the newspaper had published false reports to have Sheikh Hasina removed from politics.

The joint meeting was chaired by party president member Obaidul Quader and attended, among others, by joint general secretary Jahangir Kabir Nanak, and organising secretaries Ahmed Hossain, BM Mozammel Hossain and AFM Bahauddin Nasim.

Evidence found against 3 Mymensingh men

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people of six villages on November 3; and killing of three brothers of Bhalukjan on November 21.

Meanwhile, Aatur Rahman, the case's investigating officer, handed over the probe report and other documents to the prosecution.

Hrishikesh Saha, the case's conducting prosecutor, said they would scrutinise the documents and, if those are found satisfactory, they would submit formal charges for initiating the trial.

On Pakistani prisoners of war, Hannan said a committee was working to gather information about those

who were allegedly involved in war crimes.

The committee has sent letters to many government offices seeking information and documents and was getting a good response, he added.

Hannan said, with a formal tribunal already present, there was no scope of symbolic trial of these prisoners.

TRIBUNAL

Meanwhile, International Crimes Tribunal-1 directed the prosecution to submit formal charges, if they have any, on March 20 against six Gaibandha men, including a former Jamaat lawmaker, allegedly involved in crimes committed during the

Liberation War.

The accused are Abu Saleh Md Abdul Aziz Mia, 65, a former Jamaat lawmaker from Gaibandha; Ruhul Amin alias Manju, 61; Abdul Latif, 61; Abu Muslim Md Ali, 59; Najmul Huda, 60; and Abdur Rahim Mia, 62; of Gaibandha's Sundarganj upazila.

The investigation agency completed the probe on December 27 and said to have found evidence over their "involvement" in war crimes.

Yesterday, Prosecutor Hrishikesh Saha said they have received the probe report and other documents and needed two months to scrutinise those and submit the formal charges.

Third gender deserves equal

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they were denied the opportunity to grow up with their identity.

But in absence of social recognition, hermaphrodites are denied livelihood opportunities and treated with indignity, said Samiul Alim Sammi, another member of the community.

"We could have lived an independent life with dignity had the government given us education, training, and housing," she said.

It is extremely vital to change people's mindset to look at the third gender humanely and with respect and due recognition, said Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Annisul Huq, adding that he would

engage a female ward councillor to look after the welfare of hermaphrodites.

Habibur Rahman, superintendent of police of Dhaka, said people of the third gender deserved equal human dignity and rights. The society should dispel the notion that hermaphrodites are some vicious beings, he said.

USAID agreement officer Jason Smith said the rights of all people should be respected equally, irrespective of their gender.

BSWS executive director Saleh Ahmed spoke among others, while Ain o Salish Kendra deputy director Sanaiyya Ansari moderated the discussion.

Security beefed up at Shaheed Minar

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EXISTENCE, ENTRANCES, PARKING

Commoners have been urged to use only Palashi intersection for entrance to, and Doyel Chatter and Chankharpul areas for departure from the Shaheed Minar due to the security measures, said the DMP commissioner.

Those wanting to reach Azimpur from Doyel Chatter area will have to use Doyel Chatter-TSC-New Market route.

Police will be on duty at each entrance of Dhaka University, and no vehicles except those carrying DU stickers will be allowed to enter the university campus.

The vehicular movement

will remain restricted from 7:00pm on February 20 to 2:00pm on February 21 while the security measures will remain active till 5:00pm on that day, he added.

Vehicles could be parked at the DU gymnasium playground only, said the commissioner, adding that the Dhaka South City Corporation has been tasked

with cleaning the area.

Replying to a query on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's visit to the Shaheed Minar, Asaduzzaman said, "otherwise important persons" will be allowed to enter through Doyel Chatter intersection upon request, following the departure of the president, prime minister, ministers and diplomats.

All DSCC streets to get LED

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Zero Point to Curzon Hall.

DSCC Chief Executive Officer Khan Mohammad Billal said there were 37,000 street lights in DSCC areas, including 8,000 in primary roads.

He said all the lights would be replaced by December if the LGRD and cooperatives ministry provides the around Tk 200 crore sought by DSCC.

DSCC Superintendent Engineer Zafar Ahmed said a sensor would automatically

turn the lights on and off. The Nagar Bhaban authority will be able to do the same and identify inoperative ones using a software, he said.

He said in many cases street lights were manually controlled, which was time consuming and caused electricity wastage.

LED lights last 10 times longer than sodium lights and the annual maintenance cost of one is Tk 5,600 whereas for a sodium light it is Tk 12,000, he said.