



Clockwise from left, a commuter runs towards a moving bus to get on, while two other passengers get off in the middle of a busy street; an elderly woman gets on another moving bus at the same spot; and yet another passenger gets down from another moving bus in the same fashion. Drivers continue to slow buses according to their whims to pick and drop passengers in the middle of busy streets, not only multiplying already abysmal traffic congestions in the capital, but also putting the lives of the passengers at risk. Despite almost countless fatal accidents, the bus owners' and workers' syndicates act in such ways as if they are above the law, while the authorities keep on turning a blind eye. The photos were taken in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club on Saturday.



PHOTOS: BANGLAR CHOKH

Drive to curb waterlogging ongoing

Says DSCC mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) mayor Sayeed Khokon yesterday said they have already cleaned 70 percent of the deep drains of DSCC areas and will finish the rest by April, which will reduce the waterlogging problem in the upcoming rainy season.

Addressing a cleaning campaign at the foreign ministry premises, Khokon said that they also have taken initiatives to reduce the waterlogging problem in Shantinagar.

Khokon said they have started repairing 300 roads simultaneously in different parts of DSCC areas and added that to bring transparency in the tender process, they have introduced e-tendering system.

DSCC and the foreign ministry jointly organised the event as part of DSCC's ongoing awareness campaign on cleaning activities, where Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and DSCC mayor took part in token cleaning activities.

Foreign minister said everyone has a role to make the city beautiful and all have to come forward to clean their homes, offices, business places and localities.

IMPROVING MIDWIFE SERVICES

Community clinics must be adequately equipped

Prothom Alo-UNFPA roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The community level health facilities should be equipped with proper labour rooms, smooth supply of electricity and water, and accommodation for midwives posted there to provide the locality with quality mother and child care, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

They also identified the need for quality teachers at nursing institutes countrywide, imparting midwifery education to young women, who after obtaining the midwifery license, would be posted to upazila health complexes and union-level sub-centres.

The recommendations came at the roundtable on the role of professional midwives in providing health services to mothers and children. Prothom Alo and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) jointly organised the event at the daily newspaper's office in the capital.

"Over 5,000 women die every year due to pregnancy related complications in Bangladesh," said Dr SAJ Md Musa, special adviser to the representative (maternal

health) UNFPA, in his presentation.

He said that out of all deliveries in the country only 38 percent happen at institutional facilities such as hospitals and only 42 percent take place at the presence of skilled birth attendants.

Though the maternal mortality rate has decreased considerably over the years, it is still far from the Millennium Development Goals' target.

Giving examples of countries including Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Malaysia, Musa pointed out that packaged maternal care provided by professional midwives specialised and trained on ante-natal, post-natal and pregnancy related care, could play a significant role in reducing maternal and infant mortality.

The government has already created 3,000 midwifery posts, four in upazila health complexes and one in union sub-centres, said Farida Banu, national programme officer at UNFPA, noting that at sub-centres it would not be possible for one midwife to provide service 24/7.

"Already 600 nurse midwives after completion of an international standard six-

month training, have been posted to some of the community level health facilities," said Nelofer Farhad, director of the Directorate of Nursing Services.

Suraiya Begum, registrar of Bangladesh Nursing Council, said the first batch of 602 students graduated recently after completion of the three-year midwifery programme, of whom 597 passed the licensing test.

Students can study midwifery in 38 government and 13 private institutions in the country, she added.

Mafuza Begum, who is currently studying midwifery at Mymensingh Medical College, said that midwives' entire focus remains on mother and child care while nurse midwives conduct the midwifery function apart from other nursing services. So nurse midwives often cannot provide quality care as she has to remain busy with other tasks.

Samsun Nahar, principal of Nursing Institute, Mitford Hospital, said in big hospitals it is very difficult for midwifery students, who are required to conduct at least 20 deliveries, to reach patients, compete with medical

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NEWSINbrief

Islami Bank man, family held 'with books on jihad, Jamaat'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police in a raid yesterday arrested manager of a branch of Islami Bank, his wife, mother-in-law and brother-in-law from his Madya Pirer Bagh residence at Mirpur in the capital.

They also seized a huge number of leaflets and books on jihad and Jamaat ideology from the house, the cops claimed. The arrestees, Abu Laik Md Khaled, 46, manager of Lalbagh branch, wife Siddiqua Akhter Smriti, 30, mother-in-law Raushan Azad Lily, 50, and brother-in-law Salahuddin Ahmed, 32, were involved with Jamaat politics, claimed Jahanagir Alam Khan, sub-inspector of Mirpur police. A case was filed.

Prantik Ekushey rallies for war criminal Mir Quasem's execution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a protest rally on Monday demanded quick execution of convicted war criminal Mir Quasem Ali, a leader of Jamaat-e-Islami, and confiscation of his wealth.

Pro-Awami League Prantik Ekushey organised the rally in front of Jatiya Press Club. AL lawmaker Dr Habibe Millat, also president of the organisation, former Bangladesh Chhatra League president Liakat Ali Sikdar, and Shadinata Chikitsak Parishad Secretary General Dr MA Aziz spoke at the programme, among others.

Nadeem Qadir becomes DPAAL liaison committee member

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Nadeem Qadir, Minister (Press), Bangladesh High Commission London has been appointed a member of Liaison Committee of the Diplomatic Press Attaches Association London (DPAAL), said a press release from Bangladesh High Commission in London.

Nadeem, a UN Dag Hammarskjold Fellow in journalism, is the first ever Bangladeshi diplomat to become a member of DPAAL.



CARE, BIBM discuss financial inclusion of poor in banking

CITY DESK

CARE Bangladesh with the Bangladeshi Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) organised a roundtable discussion on financial inclusion of the poor and inclusive growth yesterday, said a press release.

Gerry Boyle, senior policy advisor of CARE International UK, and Jamie D Terzi, country director of CARE Bangladesh, attended the event held at BIBM.

Toufic A Choudhury, BIBM director general, moderated the discussion where bankers, SME experts, entrepreneurs and business organisation representatives were present.

Body of Ctg Udichi leader

FROM PAGE 4

saying. They also said his body might have been hung after murder.

His son Akar Dey Pinak said he had heard that his father had gone missing two or three days ago.



Bangladesh Kreta-Vokta Adhikar Sangrakkhan Foundation forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday, marking World Consumer Rights Day.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Ex-MP Shakhawat linked to rape

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The charges include genocide and crimes against humanity committed in Maheshkhali upazila mainly between May 1 and 6 in 1971.

"A total of 19 people have been charged in the case. This is the highest number of accused ever in any case related to wartime offences," Prosecutor Rana Dasgupta told The Daily Star yesterday.

JESSORE

Apart from Shakhawat, the other accused are Billal Hossain Biswas, Ibrahim Hossain, Sheikh Md Mujibur Rahman, Kazi Ohidul Islam, Aziz Sardar, Aziz Sardar (2), Lutfar Morol and Abdul Khaleq Morol.

The nine face five charges. Of them, Shakhawat, Billal and Lutfar are now in jail and the rest on the run.

The witness said he was an assistant teacher of Teghari Polli Mangal High School in Keshabpur and got engaged with an SCC examinee of Baga village in February 1971 and supposed to marry her in late March that year.

But he joined Muktibahini as the war broke out in late March and fought several battles in Nehalpur, Sagardari, Sheikhpura villages in the upazila in October, he said.

During the war, his fiancée used to supply information about Razakars to him and his co-fighter.

sources he learnt that accused Shakhawat, Billal, Ibrahim, Aziz and Aziz (2) along with 10 to 12 Razakars abducted his fiancée on 27th of Bangla month Ashwin and took her to Chingra Razakar camp.

Shakhawat had tortured and raped her for three days before releasing her following a negotiation between Shakhawat and her relatives and neighbours, said the witness.

Two days after her release, when he met his fiancée, she told him that she would commit suicide as she failed to protect her chastity, the witness said.

"Then I promised her that I would surely marry her after the country's independence," he said. "Please don't take poison," he requested her. He married her on January 22, 1972.

In November 1972, the then government gave her a job at Jessore Anath Shishu Sadan O Dustha Mahila Punarbhasan Kendra (orphanage and poor women rehabilitation centre) as a rape victim, said the witness, adding that her wife died in September 2006.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque adjourned the case proceeding until today after defence counsels completed his cross-examination.

COX'S BAZAR

The prosecution submitted the formal charges against the 19 men, statements of the witnesses and other documents

to the tribunal and the tribunal fixed March 23 to decide whether it will accept the charges.

The accused were mainly involved with Muslim League and Nezam-e-Islami, two anti-liberation political parties, in 1971. They joined Peace Committee, Razakar and Al-Badr. One of the accused was the officer-in-charge of Maheshkhali Police Station during the war, according to the investigation agency and prosecution.

Most of them are now involved with BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, they said.

The accused are Salamat Ullah Khan, Moulavi Zakaria Sikdar, Md Rashid Miah, Oli Ahmad, Jalal Uddin alias Jalal Ahmed, Moulavi Nurul Islam, Md Saiful alias Sabul, Momtaz Ahmed, Habibur Rahman alias Habib Munshi, Moulavi Amjad Ali, Abdul Majid, Badsha Mia, Osman Gani, Abdus Shukkur, Md Zakaria, Moulavi Jalal, Abdul Aziz, Ramiz Hasan and Samsul Haque.

Of the 19, Salamat, Nurul Islam, Badsha and Osman Gani are in jail, while Rashid Miah, former BNP lawmaker from Cox's Bazar, is on bail for illness. The rest are on the run.

Meanwhile, the defence yesterday sought bail for accused Osman Gani, citing mainly his health conditions. The tribunal fixed March 23 to pass an order on the bail petition.



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| Key Dates: | Application Deadline | April 21, 2016 |
| | Admission Test | April 22, 2016 (Friday) at 3:00 pm |
| | Commencement of Class | May 6, 2016 |

* Result will be published on April 22, 2016 in our website. For further information about the program, please visit our website or call: 01941-336337.