

Lawyer Farzana freed from jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Barrister Shakila Farzana, who was arrested for her alleged involvement in terror financing, was released from Chittagong jail last evening after getting bail from the High Court, said jail sources.

On August 18, 2015, Rab arrested three lawyers -- Farzana, Hasanuzzaman Litan and Mahfuz Chowdhury Bapan -- in the capital's Dhanmondi on the charge of depositing Tk 1.08 crore in a bank account of a key leader of the Chittagong-based militant outfit Shaheed Hamja Brigade.

The money was used for the group's training camps, claimed Rab. Earlier, Litan and Bapan were released from jail on December 15 last year on bail.

Six killed in road crashes

CITY DESK

Reckless driving killed a man and his wife and injured their daughter in Tilagarh area of Sylhet yesterday morning.

The dead were Arijit Roy, 50, administrative officer of Scholarshome School and College, and his wife Sumita Das, 45, a teacher of Mahalaksmi Government Primary School.

Their daughter Arunima Roy, 12, a class VI student of Scholarshome, is undergoing treatment at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

The incident occurred as a car collided head-on with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them.

Meanwhile in Sirajganj, four people were killed and 20 others injured as a bus collided head-on with a truck as the driver lost his control over the vehicle in Konabari area of Sirajganj yesterday.

The identity of the victims could not be known. Vehicular movement between Dhaka and northern districts halted for one hour.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING!



Dhaka South City Corporation has resumed its demolition drive against shops and hawkers illegally occupying roads and footpaths. But instead of using available manpower and a corporation truck to dismantle these few puny wooden platforms used by them, the corporation decided to add a dash of bravado and used a mighty bulldozer, which also comes with a hefty fuel price tag. The photo was taken in front of Gulistan Cinema Hall yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Cases against Khaleda ploy to divert public attention from killings

Alleges BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government wants to divert people's attention from recent killings and irregularities by pressing charges against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, the party's senior joint secretary general Rizvi Ahmed alleged yesterday.

In this connection, he referred to Darussalam police pressing charges against Khaleda and 38 others in three arson cases Monday.

Addressing a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan headquarters, Rizvi said they doubted whether the government would be able to catch the murderers of the wife of police officer Babul Akter because of its failure in the past. After the killings earlier, the prime minister gave assurance of arresting the perpetrators but police could not find them even when the activities of militants have grown, he said.

"Whenever an incident like this happened, she [prime minister] was quick to pass the blame on others without any investigation. For this reason we cannot trust her speech."

Rizvi also alleged that the ruling party leaders were involved with a syndicate which was responsible for hiking prices of essential commodities ahead of Ramadan.

Khan Jahan Ali airport put on fast track

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday decided to include one more mega project in the list of fast track projects, which are directly supervised by the prime minister for faster implementation.

The project, Khan Jahan Ali Airport Construction Project, will be constructed at Foyla under Rampal upazila of Bagerhat beside the Khulna-Mongla highway.

An inter-ministerial meeting headed by Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon at his ministry's conference room took the decision.

The airport will be built on 536 acres of land costing Tk 544.75 crore, Mahbubur Rahman Tuhi, public relation officer of the ministry, told The Daily Star after the meeting.

Tk 490 crore will be received from the government fund and the rest will be provided by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Enec has already approved the project, to be implemented by 2019.

This airport will open a new horizon of economical development and industrialisation in the south-western region and also boost tourism, the meeting observed.

The government has given a top priority to eight fast-track mega projects in the newly proposed budget, setting aside Tk 18,727 crore.

They are Padma Bridge, metro rail, Rooppur nuclear power plant, Rampal power plant, Payra sea port, Matarbari power plant, Padma bridge rail link and Dohazari-Cox's Bazar-Gundum rail line.

The government is planning to implement two other fast-track projects -- Sonadia deep sea port and LNG terminal -- on government-to-government (G2G) basis.

Three more will be included in the mega project list; they are Matarbari coal terminal, Bhola gas pipeline, and petrochemical industry in coastal area.

Focus on women, children in SDG projects

Four govt secretaries tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advancement of women and children should be emphasised in all projects aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, secretaries to four ministries told a workshop yesterday.

They also recommended that the ministries like finance and planning cooperate with the women and children affairs ministry in this regard.

The workshop was organised by the women and children affairs ministry at the capital's Biam Foundation over formulating an action plan to achieve SDGs involving these two groups.

Nasima Begum, secretary to the woman and children affairs ministry, said most SDGs were related to women and children, so this ministry needed support from other ministries.

She also said, "The goals can be achieved within 2030 if we can ensure development of women and children, as together they form the largest part of the population."

Dr Shamsul Alam, senior secretary and member of Planning Commission, said Bangladesh could be a "star performer" in achieving SDGs by taking timely initiatives.

The government has already taken some early initiatives, said Begum Shamsun Nahar, acting secretary at the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry.

Last year the United Nations set 17 goals called Sustainable Development Goals for the developing countries, to be achieved within 2030. Major goals include an end to poverty, zero hunger, gender equality, climate action, good health, quality education, and reduced inequalities.

NEWS IN brief

Tk 48.5 lakh looted in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Muggers snatched Tk 48.5 lakh from the officials of a garment factory in Parijat area of Koanabari in Gazipur yesterday.

The officials were passing through the area by a microbus after withdrawing the money from a bank, said Rafiqul Islam, sub-inspector of Konabari police outpost. The miscreants riding three motorbikes fired some blank shots, intercepted the vehicle and took away a bag containing the money from them, said the SI.

10 dope gang members held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court and detectives yesterday claimed to have arrested 10 members of a dope gang in the capital's Jatrabari.

They were jailed for different terms ranging three months to two years, said Abdul Baten, joint commissioner of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police at a press briefing. Executive Magistrate Moshui Rahman, who led the drive, said over 100 dope gang members were arrested since May 1.

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