

NEWS IN brief

Journalists demand 9th wage board before Eid

Journalist leaders yesterday demanded payment of salaries and festival bonus and formation of the ninth wage board before the Eid-ul-Fitr.

The demand was placed at a discussion meeting at Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) office at Jatiya Press Club on the occasion of Journalist Repression Day with President of a faction of DUJ Shaban Mahmud in the chair.

Prime Minister's Media Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury addressed discussion meeting as chief guest. Moderated by General Secretary of the DUJ faction-Sohel Haider Chowdhury, the meeting was also addressed by Omar Faruque, secretary general of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalist (BFUJ) and former secretary general Abdul Jalil Bhuyian, among others.

Int'l Yoga Day celebrated in capital

Indian High Commission in Dhaka organised an exercise session marking International Yoga Day at the capital's Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday, participated by more than 1,500 people from all walks of life.

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, State Minister for Youth and Sports Biren Sikder and Indian High Commissioner Harsh Vardhan Shringla were present.

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Md Musharrof Hossain, Mohammad Mashequr Rahman Khan and Fahmida Chowdhury -- elected president, vice president and general secretary respectively -- in a 15-member new committee of Bangladesh Society for Human Resource Management in Dhaka recently.

THREAT LETTER TO RK MISSION PRIEST Businessman framed as sender: Police

Police investigation has found that the address of a businessman of Kishoreganj, used in issuing a death threat to the chief priest of the capital's Ramakrishna Mission, was actually used to harass him.

Police held AB Siddique, a retired army personnel, following the information obtained from the letter dropped at the mission's Dhaka office on June 15, Deputy Commissioner of Wari Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Syed Nurul Islam told The Daily Star yesterday.

A priest of the mission filed a general diary with Wari Police Station the next day, Zeahad Hossain, officer-in-charge of the police station told The Daily Star.

While investigating the address mentioned in the letter delivered by a thin youth riding a motorbike, police held a man named AB Siddique, whose name was used while issuing the death threat allegedly by

the militant outfit Islamic State (IS).

The OC said AB Siddique was released yesterday. Police have been verifying the information given by Siddique and working on arresting the real culprits, he added.

DC Islam said police have collected the video footage of the youth delivering the letter, who has no similarity with AB Siddique, who now runs a business at his village in Kishoreganj.

There was also no similarity between the handwritten notes in the letter and that of Siddique, he added.

After AB Siddique started his business at Kishoreganj, a local quarter has tried to harass him by complaining against him to cops and describing him as a drug trader and gambler, said the DMP DC quoting Siddique.

Siddique yesterday told a TV channel that he tried to do something for the welfare of the locality but a few became envious and he thinks that some locals were behind harassing him; otherwise they would not have used his village address in the letter.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist Santosh Mandal died of a cardiac arrest at a hospital in New York on Monday. He was 51. He was a former executive member of Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) and former executive editor of risingbd.com, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter. His body will be flown home tomorrow. DRU President Jamal Uddin, General Secretary Razu Ahmed and executive committee members mourned his death and expressed sympathy to his bereaved family.

Abdur Rahman City Desk

Former deputy secretary Abdur Rahman Mukul died yesterday at United Hospital in the capital. He was 68.

He left behind two sons. He will be buried today in his village in Shariatpur after his third namaz-e- janaza.

Abdur Rahman served as metropolitan magistrate and ADC of Moulvibazar as well as in several senior positions of the government.

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