



A crowded alley of Zahur Hawker Market, a popular shopping destination for middle income families in Chittagong city, yesterday noon where purchases were being made primarily marking the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr. Right, meanwhile buyers gather at a clothes shop in Nayasharak in Sylhet city intending to get a good deal for the celebrations.

Miscreants cut tendons of driver's forearms at Sylhet clinic

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Unidentified miscreants stormed into the premises of a private hospital and stabbed its driver in the shoulder and cut several tendons of his forearms in Sylhet city's Modhusahid early yesterday.

Imran Ahmed, 23, driver of Grameen Hospital, was trying to close its gate around 2:30am when the incident took place, said Suhel Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

The reason behind the attack, launched by three to four men, could not be ascertained immediately, he said.

Imran was taken to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

PHOTO: STAR

Devastating fire at Ctg market kills one

Guts 40 shops in 7hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A devastating fire killed a tailor and injured his fellow in a shopping centre housed in a multi-storey building at Chittagong city's GEC intersection yesterday.



A man being rescued from Central Plaza during the fire.

PHOTO: STAR

Six firefighting units from Agrabad, Chandanpura, Baizid, Bandar, Nandankanan and Kalurghat stations took nearly seven hours to douse the blaze, said fire service officials.

Md Hasan, 17, of the city's Khulshi, who used to work at Nirupoma Fashions, was

declared dead at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, on arrival, CMCH sources said.

Mohammed Oli, 18, of the same shop on the third floor of the five-storey Central Plaza, took treatment at a local hospital, said Jakir Hossain Rubel, general secretary of Central Plaza Market Shop Owners Association.

"Half of Hasan's body was outside the shop while the rest inside. Maybe, he was trying to come out but became unconscious after inhaling smoke," said Jashim Uddin, deputy assistant director of Agrabad Fire Service and Civil Defense Headquarters.

Fire safety measures of the market were inadequate, he said.

Jashim, however, declined to say anything about the damage or how the fire broke out on the third floor.

A three-member committee comprising fire service officials will be formed to investigate the incident, said Jashim.

Jakir Hossain said there are over 180 shops in the market. Of them, 40 are on the third floor, which were completely damaged, he said.

He estimated the loss caused by the fire at Tk 2 to 2.5 crore.

Adequate budget must for children

Prothom Alo discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adequate budgetary allocation for the underprivileged children and proper utilisation of the fund is a must for ensuring equal rights and opportunities for all children, speakers told a roundtable yesterday.

The discussion titled "Creating equal opportunities for all children" was organised by Bangla daily the Prothom Alo at its office in the capital.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroze Chumki said a project was approved yesterday at a meeting of Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) for construction of 20 day-care centres in the country. She urged the government and non-government organisations to work together to ensure equal rights and opportunities for the children.

Addressing the discussion, Edouard Beigbeder, Unicef representative in Bangladesh, said, "Globally, the infant mortality rate in 1990 was 98 percent and 43 percent in 2015. In Bangladesh, the infant mortality rate was 144 percent in 1990, which declined to 48 percent in 2015. It is indeed a good sign for Bangladesh."

Shafikul Islam, director of education unit in Brac, opined, "We should give priority to the children below five years of age in any policy making."

Sultana Kamal, director of Ain and Salish; Prof MM Akash of Dhaka University; Samsul Alam, deputy director of Save the Children, also spoke.

Ctg BCL leader Rony's bail extended for three months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday extended for three months its bail order for Chittagong Chhatra League leader Nurul Azim Rony in an arms case.

The HC bench of Justice Quamrul Islam Siddique and Justice Amir Hossain passed the order following his petition.

There is no legal bar for him to get released from jail now, SM Rezaul Karim, Rony's lawyer, told The Daily Star.

The HC on June 13 granted bail to Rony for six months. Six days later, police submitted the probe report and his bail order was cancelled, the lawyer added.

On May 7, a mobile court jailed BCL general secretary of Chittagong city Rony for two years for carrying an illegal firearm and vote rigging during UIP election.

Khaleda wants to help arrest 'real' killers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said perpetrators of the recent killings were not being arrested as they were members of the ruling Awami League.

Meanwhile, the party strongly condemned the framing of charges against BNP Dhaka city Joint Convener MA Quayum and six others over the murder of an Italian, Cesare Tavella, terming it "politically motivated and shifting blame to other's shoulders" and demanding its withdrawal.

Khaleda, addressing an Iftar BNP Dhaka city unit organised in the capital's Ladies Club, said, "Arrest the real offenders, we will extend our all out cooperation."

She said the recent countrywide crackdown against militancy and extremism was aimed at diverting attention and most of the arrestees were innocent. She demanded immediate release of these men, whom she said included over 3,000 BNP men.

Intending to cling onto power forever, the government is trying to suppress political opponents, said the chief of the 20-party alliance.

But Bangladeshis always stood for democracy and fought in the Liberation War for democracy, to establish the rule of law and for people to get justice, she said.

TAVELLA CASE
Police on Monday night submitted the charge sheet to a Dhaka



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Minister urges FFs to unite against conspiracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque yesterday urged the freedom fighters to be united to foil any conspiracy against the government alleging that BNP is plotting with Mossad, Israeli intelligence agency, to oust it [government].

The minister said this while distributing Eid gifts among the freedom fighters near the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Secretariat-Link Road in the capital, organised by National Freedom Fighters Foundation.

SM Jahangir Alam, chairman of NFFF and Monoranjan Ghoshal, its senior vice chairman, also spoke.

Bangladesh, Mongolia to strengthen ties

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Mongolia are eager to further strengthen relations though greater enhancement of bilateral trade between the two countries.

This was stated when the newly appointed Non-resident Ambassador of Mongolia to Bangladesh Gonchig Ganbold paid a call on Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali yesterday at the foreign ministry in the capital.

During the meeting, Mahmood emphasised the need for broadening and deepening the existing friendly relations between the two countries in all areas.

For greater enhancement of trade, the minister asked the ambassador to import more jute and jute products and pharmaceutical products from Bangladesh at a highly competitive price.

He also asked Ganbold to work for a closer cooperation in such fields as sports and culture.

In response, Ganbold assured that he would be working to further strengthen bilateral ties during his tenure.

He informed the minister that the two countries were already cooperating in matters related to digitisation, and asked him to encourage businesspeople from Bangladesh to import wool, cashmere, leather and meat products from Mongolia.

The Mongolian envoy mentioned that he already planned to hold Bangladesh film shows and translation of Bangla short stories in Mongolian language.

Earlier, the ambassador presented his credentials to the president of Bangladesh at Bangabhaban on Monday, said a foreign ministry press release.

Bangladeshi dignity for every citizen.

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"We want the state, government, all other political parties and people to jointly work together to implement the Liberation War's spirit," he said.

A vested quarter does not want religious minorities to enjoy rights and dignity equal to others and is hatching a conspiracy to destroy religious harmony, he viewed.

He also denied allegations that he sought Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure security of minorities in Bangladesh.

Quoting the Press Trust of India, Indian and Bangladeshi media stated on the second week of June, amidst a series of attacks on Bangladeshi Hindus, that the religious communities had urged Modi and the Indian government to take up the matter with Dhaka to ensure their safety and security.



Cars parked illegally on the road between Jatiya Press Club and Bangladesh Secretariat in the capital, causing severe traffic congestion and suffering for people intending to use the road. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



A favourite among Eid-ul-Fitr dishes, vermicelli is being laid out to dry in a factory in Chaktai area of Chittagong city. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Historic university lost in time

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The sources said the problem of funding rose when a body led by the education ministry proposed to build the institution under Public Private Partnership (PPP) in 2013. But UGC in its report opined that university such as Pandit Vihar should be established with the government's funding because of its historical value and speciality.

Insiders said during the PM's visit to China, the Chinese premier gave his government's commitment to extend help in starting the restoration works.

Later on August 4, 2012, PMO issued a letter to the education ministry to take essential measures.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the chief patroniser of the university. Realising its historical value, she gave the directives to restore it," said Dr Jinobodhi Bhikkhu, former chairman of the Department of the Oriental Language (Pali and Sanskrit) of Chittagong University, who was with the PM during the China visit.

"This university is a prestigious asset for us; the government should start the restoration works under its budget," he added.

The university was also rich with various invaluable artefacts from the Pala Dynasty from 8 to 12 AD, said Prof Jinobodhi, quoting a writing on Bangladesh's Buddhist artefacts from 4 to 12 AD of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, published in 1999.

"The artefacts are preserved in various museums around the country," he said.

A committee was formed in November 2011 and it visited the location of the ancient university at Anwara on December that year, he said.

UGC in its reports said the restoration of Pandit Bihar University is feasible as it had played a vital role in writing Charyapada, a collection of mystical poems, which was recognised as a precursor to the Bangla language.

There is a possibility to build the Trance Asian Highway up to Myanmar and Thailand; students from the neighbouring countries would also be interested in studying here, it added.

In a letter to the PMO, signed by Jinnat Rehena, deputy secretary of the education ministry, on December 21, 2015, said UGC officials had talked with the officials of different high commissions and embassies over the funding. They told the UGC that they could not make any commitment until the work started.

The ministry said in this circumstance the PM's decision in principle is required on the issue.

Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, state minister for land and lawmaker from the Anwara constituency, said his ministry is waiting for the decision taken regarding the issue and then will decide over handing of the land.

Asked, deputy secretary Jinnat Rehena yesterday told The Daily Star that there was no development regarding the issue. She said they were waiting for the PMO's decision.

Mohibul Aziz, professor of the Bangla department of CU, said, "Pandit Vihar was a historical university and played a vital role in spreading the knowledge including origination of Bangla language. "Re-establishment of the university will help to inform the world that our land was so rich in education, even in the past."