

SC allows Shafik Rehman to move his appeal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday allowed veteran journalist Shafik Rehman to move an appeal before it against a High Court order that rejected his bail petition in a case filed for alleged attempts to abduct and murder Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy.

The SC also directed the jail authorities to take steps for proper treatment of Rehman. If necessary, the jail authorities will admit him to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, it said.

A four-member bench headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha also asked Attorney General Maubhubey Alam to submit the report on police's progress in the investigation into the case. The SC passed the order following a leave to appeal petition filed by Rehman challenging the HC order that on June 7 rejected his plea seeking bail in the case.



A nearly impassable crowd on the footbridge at the capital's Farmgate intersection at 1:00pm yesterday, after most schools and coaching centres closed for the day in the area. This is an everyday situation in one of Dhaka's major hubs.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

NEWS IN brief

Ex-MP Dr Mannan passes away

CITY DESK

Prof Dr MA Mannan, a neurologist and former MP of Katiadi-Pakundia constituency in Kishoreganj, died in Dhaka on Saturday.

A participant of the 1952 Language Movement, Dr Mannan was the founder of Dr Abdul Mannan Women's College in Katiadi and Neurology Foundation in Dhaka. He served twice as the president of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council. He left behind three children including Ambassador Mosud Mannan (working in Bangladesh Embassy, Tashkent).

New department opens at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

A new department named "The Department of Organization Strategy and Leadership" opened at Dhaka University under the business studies faculty from 2016-17 academic session, said a university press release yesterday. The university's registrar office exposed this, issuing a circular yesterday, the release added.

KU admission tests start Nov 3

BSS, Khulna

The admission tests for the first-year honours programme of Khulna University under 2016-2017 academic year will begin on November 3 and continue till November 5, said a press release.

Details of the tests will be available on internet and mass media, the press release added.

Taginavulau new Cirdap DG

CITY DESK

Tevita G Boseiwaqa Taginavulau from Fiji joined on July 6 as the eighth director general of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (Cirdap) for 2016-2020.

Taginavulau worked in various ministries, including education and indigenous affairs, within Fiji's public service in a span of 31 years, says a press release.

He had also been the chairperson and member of various government boards and committees.

Cirdap is a regional, intergovernmental and autonomous institution based in Dhaka and working for prosperous rural communities.



Ignoring unity call to cost dearly

Say BNP leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leaders yesterday said the government would have to pay a high price if it fails to respond positively to Chairperson Khaleda Zia's call for national unity to combat terrorism and militancy.

On external pressure to sever ties with Jamaat-e-Islami for its anti-liberation role and alleged patronisation of various militant outfits, Standing Committee Member ASM Hannan Shah said they would prudently remove any barrier to forging the unity.

He was addressing a discussion pro-BNP platform Voice of Democracy organised in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

"The government's inaction over the call for national unity might be more dangerous," another member, Nazrul Islam Khan, told journalists after a dua mahfil at BNP's Nayapalton central office in Dhaka.

Jatiyatobadi Swechhasebak Dal organised it for Senior Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed, who is undergoing treatment at Square Hospitals Ltd.

600 large buses next yr

Quader tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will buy 600 buses, including 300 double-deckers, aiming to facilitate travel in public transport and discourage use of private vehicles, parliament was told yesterday.

In a scripted answer, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said 200 of the buses would be air-conditioned.

The large buses will be bought with foreign assistance and will be available on roads next year.

About the government's plan to reduce traffic jams in Dhaka, Quader said there was a plan to construct a 91km Dhaka circular route with two sections -- 24km Demra-Purbachol Sarak-Termukh portion and 67km Termukh-Abdullahpur-Dhour-Birulia-Gabtolli-Babubazar-Sadarghat-Fatulla-Chashara-Signboard-Shimrail-Demra portion.

In another reply, he said the government was not registering any autorickshaw and

minibus at the moment to encourage use of large public vehicles.

He said there were 25.74 lakh registered vehicles in the country at present -- 2.95 lakh cars, 87,765 minibuses, 14.75 lakh motorbikes, 37,144 buses, 1.16 lakh trucks, and 4,263 lorries.

The minister said the Awami League government had built 1,781.42km of roads across the country in the last seven years. There is a plan to build 170km of more roads this fiscal, he added.

About construction of bridges, Quader said the government had built 245 bridges in the last two and a half years since 2014.

In reply to a query, Public Administration Minister Syed Ashraf Islam said there are over 3.28 lakh government posts vacant at present under different ministries and departments.

Earlier in the evening, the 11th session of the 10th parliament resumed at 5:35pm after a 16-day recess. The current session is scheduled to continue till July 28.

Deputy speaker gripped by fear of quorum crisis

Stops MPs from speaking on point of order in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Speaker Fazle Rabbi Miah last night did not allow any MP to speak on points of order fearing a quorum crisis.

"The House used to suffer from quorum crises as most MPs leave parliament after end of the point of order session. Due to the quorum crisis we cannot pass bills. I cannot allow this," he said while presiding over the session after Maghrib prayers.

When the session resumed after the prayer break, several treasury and opposition bench MPs stood and drew the deputy speaker's attention to speak on points of order.

Fazle Rabbi requested the MPs to wait till end of all scheduled businesses.

In the afternoon, parliament strongly condemned the recent terror attacks in Gulshan, Sholakia, and France.

The parliament session resumed at 5:30pm yesterday after a 16-day recess.



In an overcrowded Dhaka city, with open space shrinking and playgrounds barely available, children try to have fun in whatever way they can. Playing with water from a broken Wasa supply line is just an example. The photo was taken on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue Friday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Obituary

DU CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Latif Patoary, treasurer and founding member of Dhaka Sangbadpatra Hawkers' Bahumukhi Somobai Samity Ltd, died due to old-age complications at his residence at Shosalia of Laxmipur on Thursday. He was 95.

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters, and grandchildren, said a press release.

President of the association Mostafa Kamal mourned his death.

Nusrat Jahan Rimu

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Nusrat Jahan Rimu, a cultural activist of Patuakhali, died of cancer at a Dhaka hospital early Saturday. She was only 26.

She was buried in Patiahali Muslim graveyard on Saturday night.

Security tightened in Rangpur city

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Law enforcers intensified security in and around some key establishments in Rangpur city yesterday to prevent militant attacks, said police.

The establishments include the offices of the city corporation and deputy commissioner, the district court and the residences of judges.

Police set up check posts on the way to three entrances of the court complex, said Abdullah Al Faruk, superintendent of police (acting) of Rangpur.

Besides, a large number of plainclothes police were deployed, he told reporters at his office.

Meanwhile, Rahat Anwar, deputy commissioner of Rangpur, held a meeting with local stockholders at his office yesterday to find ways to prevent terrorism.

30 indicted over Burdwan

FROM PAGE 3

on August 19-20 after reading the charges. He said the hunt for the Bangladeshi fugitives was underway. If found guilty, the accused may face life imprisonment, said NIA lawyers.

Two people died in an explosion while making bombs in a house at Khagrahar in West Bengal's Burdwan district on October 2, 2014. Police later seized arms and jihadi literature from the house. A Bangladeshi investigation team had also visited the scene. NIA claimed that JMB operatives had gathered there to conduct subversive activities in Bangladesh, with the aim to dislodging Bangladesh's government.

Road crashes

FROM PAGE 4

Police said the incident occurred when a battery-run auto-rickshaw hit a bicycle from behind while the boy was returning home with his father on it.

Meanwhile a BSS report says, a truck driver was killed and 10 people were injured when a bus collided head-on with a coal-laden truck on Kurigram-Rangpur highway in Kathalbari area of Kurigram Sadar early yesterday.

The deceased was Shajahan, of Chilmari upazila in the district. Police seized both the vehicles. A case was filed.

In Laxmipur, another truck driver was killed and three people were injured as a truck fell into a roadside ditch in Kurirbari area under Raipur upazila early yesterday, says another BSS report.

The deceased was Rabiul Islam, 28, of Thanakata area in Satkhira. The injured were admitted to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital.

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