

## HC verdict on DMP's authority to collect city residents' info Aug 17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court fixed August 17 for delivering verdict on completing hearing yesterday a writ petition challenging the legality of a provision Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has been using to collect information about the city's residents.

Three Supreme Court lawyers, including Aynunnahar Siddiqua, filed the petition as public interest litigation on March 20.

The petition said police did not have authority under the provision of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Rules and Regulations 2006 to collect information about tenants.

Under the provision, information could be collected on individual cases, not on a mass scale, it said.

DMP on February 29 announced that it had been collecting "identification information" about landlords and tenants since November 2015 and asked all to provide it by March 15.

Barrister Aneek R Haque appeared for the petitioners while Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu opposed the petition before the bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Ashish Ranjan Das.

On March 27, the HC issued a rule upon the government to explain why the provision should not be declared unconstitutional and illegal.

On March 13, the HC bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir rejected another petition seeking an order to stop the collection of tenants' information.

The HC bench said DMP was allowed to take any step under the rules and regulations to prevent terrorism and militant activities in the city.



A portion of the boundary grille of Barisal city's Bibir Pukur collapsed yesterday just three days after a heavily billboard was set up onto it for political publicity, violating law. The billboard completely blocked the walkway and ruined the beauty of the 200-year-old pond owned by the city corporation, which was frequented by city dwellers. Inset, the boundary seven days earlier.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN



## Saudi Oger unlikely to pay Bangladesh workers soon

Due to procedural issues, says Bangladesh labour counsellor in Riyadh, adding that the construction firm undergoing a financial hardship

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials at the Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh yesterday said there is no immediate possibility that more than 1,500 Bangladeshi migrants, who are working for Saudi Oger, a leading construction company, will get their arrears anytime soon.

"The Saudi king has already ordered the labour ministry to resolve the problems of the workers. But the solution may take time. We are now visiting labour camps to prepare database of Bangladesh workers," Sarwar Alam, labour counsellor at the embassy, told The Daily Star over phone.

The Bangladeshis have reportedly been suffering a shortage of food, as the company has not been paying its workers' wages for six to seven months.

It was also reported that the company was firing its employees.

Sarwar, however, said there was no food shortage for the Bangladeshis.

Early this month, the Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani workers at the company had faced difficulties in getting food due to a sudden closure of food supply by a catering service provider.

However, two groups of the embassy yesterday started preparing database of the Bangladeshi workers and knowing their problems after visiting the labour camps.

They are preparing the database to know who want to return home, who want to switch jobs and who want to stay at the company, said Sarwar.

The process is taking time as many

Bangladeshis are not responding, he added.

The company's workers are facing multiple difficulties as some of its projects were cancelled due to a financial crisis, he mentioned without elaborating it.

The news of the Bangladeshis' sufferings came to light early this month when some Indian media outlets reported that around 10,000 Indian employees at the construction firm were suffering a tremendous food shortage.

Like other oil-rich Gulf countries, Saudi Arabia depends on Asian migrant workers mainly from Bangladesh, Pakistan and India.

Around 1.5 million Bangladeshis are working in different sectors in the country.

## Two confess to Sylhet double murder

Say police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two accused yesterday confessed before a Sylhet court to the double murder in Khadimnagar area, said police.

They are Shipon and his accomplice Dulal, said AKM Sajjad, assistant commissioner of Shahporan Police Station.

On January 8 this year, two Banaful Confectionery workers -- Md Raju, 19, and Topu Miah, 25 -- were killed in Khadimnagar BSCIC Industrial Area in Sylhet, said the assistant commissioner.

Later, the two were arrested and taken on remand, AC Sajjad added.

## NEWS IN brief

### RU BCL stands by flood victims

A CORRESPONDENT, RU

Rajshahi University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League arrived in Fulchhari upazila of Gaibandha with relief materials yesterday to help flood victims.

They will provide dry food and first aid to the victims. They took three doctors of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with them.

BCL activists will distribute the relief materials with the help of local administration, said the unit BCL president Rashed Islam Ranju.

### CMP files 1,045 cases against traffic violators in one day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Traffic department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) filed 1,045 cases against the same number of vehicles for violating traffic rules in the city in the last 24 hours, starting from 6:00am on Sunday, according to a CMP press release.

Of the cases, 427 were filed against the CNG-run auto-rickshaws. Eighty-one vehicles including 16 CNG-run auto-rickshaws were seized for not having proper documents, and traffic department realised around Tk 4.7 lakh by fining vehicles for violations, it added.

### Post-1975 evil forces behind recent militant attacks: home boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said the evil forces emerging after 1975 were behind the recent militant attacks in the country.

They are changing names but their root is same, he told a function arranged by Greater Dhaka Journalists' Forum at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

"They are unleashing terror sometimes as Huji, JMB, Ansarullah Bangla Team and Ansar-al Islam, and sometimes as Hamza Brigade," he said, adding, "Their patrons, shelter providers, masterminds and instigators also belong to the same evil forces."

### RU ethnic students seek constitutional recognition of communities

A CORRESPONDENT, RU

Rajshahi University Adivasi Chhatra Parishad and Rajshahi Metropolitan Pahari Chhatra Parishad formed a human chain in front of the university's main entrance yesterday, demanding constitutional recognition of ethnic minority communities.

Their other demands include separate land commission for plain land ethnic peoples and full implementation of the CHT peace accord.

Adivasi Chhatra Parishad central committee President Bibhutibhusan Mahato, RU unit President Hemant Chandra Mahato addressed the programme.

### Recognition of female farmers demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding that women involved in farming to be officially recognised as farmers, Steps Towards Development and World Vision Bangladesh yesterday organised a views-exchange meeting titled "Right to Food: Bangladesh Gender Perspective" in the capital's Cirdap auditorium.

The discussants made 13 recommendations to ensure women's rights.

Dr Abdur Razzak, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on finance ministry, Fred Witteveen, national director of World Vision Bangladesh, and Dr Mahbuba Nasrin of Dhaka University, participated.

### Gazipur woman to die for killing husband

UNB, Gazipur

A Gazipur court yesterday sentenced a woman to death for killing her husband in 2015.

Habiba Akter, 33, of Shafipur in Kaliakoir upazila and daughter of Habibur Rahman Hawladar of Louhajang in Munshiganj, was also fined Tk 10,000.

On May 18, 2015, following a family feud, Habiba slit the throat of her husband Jakir, 46, with a sharp weapon while he was asleep at his house, according to the prosecution.



A motorcyclist goes through a space in between the pipe dividers to go to the other side of the road while a traffic cop stands oblivious. These dividers have been put up by the Sylhet City Corporation to mitigate the city's increasing traffic congestions, which remain a long shot for lack of awareness in both authorities concerned and commuters. The photo was taken yesterday around noon in the city's Bandar Bazar area.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## Bangladesh hopes to deepen ties with Asean

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali tells 3rd Asean Flag Raising Ceremony

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh looks forward to intensifying its political, economic and cultural connectivity with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) as a dialogue partner.

Institutionalisation of this relationship will not only make a bridge between the two historical regions, but also foster investment, trade flow and cultural exchanges, and there also exists a commonality of security interests between Bangladesh and Asean member countries.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali made these remarks yesterday while addressing the 3rd Asean Flag Raising Ceremony organised by Asean Dhaka Committee (ADC) at the Indonesian embassy in Dhaka marking the 49th founding anniversary of Asean.

ADC was established in 2013 with an aim to strengthen ties between Asean and Bangladesh.

Describing Asean as the most successful regional grouping in the developing world, he said Bangladesh's growing economy and geographical proximity makes it a natural candidate for a partnership with Asean.

Bangladesh's greater engagement with Asean would provide a valuable hub to improve regional connectivity between South and South East Asia, he said.

Ambassadors of Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam, and Singapore were present. The ADC members expressed deep condolences and tributes to the victims of the Gulshan and Sholakia attacks.

## Fazilatunnesa opened door of

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every movement including the non-cooperation against the rulers," said Hasina.

The prime minister was addressing a discussion organised by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs marking the 86th birthday of Fazilatunnesa at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka.

Hasina said Bangabandhu was in jail for six months without any information about this whereabouts after the Agartala conspiracy case was filed. After six months, he was taken to the court and at that time Pakistani rulers tried to pursue Fazilatunnesa to free him in parole through a negotiation meeting with Ayub Khan.

Bangamata was confident that the Pakistani ruler would not be able to harm

Bangabandhu, Hasina, eldest daughter of Bangabandhu, said, adding that as a result Ayub Khan was compelled to withdraw the case and free Bangabandhu.

Hasina said her advice also guided Bangabandhu to deliver the momentous speech on March 7, 1971.

A documentary on the life and works of Bangamata was played on the occasion.

"Bangabandhu could face so much sacrifice as he had got immense support from my grandparents as well as his spouse," Hasina said, adding that she has learned many things about politics, society and family from the great lady.

Hasina said Bangamata as a woman and wife who had no demand in her life and she led a very simple life.

## Titas gas

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industries as they will face tough global competition.

As per the proposal, household gas price will be hiked by the highest 140 percent, where gas price will be raised to Tk 16.80 per unit from Tk 7. The cost of a single burner oven will go up to Tk 1,100 from Tk 600 while the double burner will be Tk 1,200 from Tk 650 per month. The proposed hikes are 83 and 85 percent respectively.

The compressed natural gas (CNG) price has been proposed to be raised by 83 percent to Tk 49.50 per unit from Tk 27. The consumer will have to pay Tk 57.50 for per unit of CNG instead of Tk 35 per unit.

For captive power plants, the gas price was proposed to be raised by 130 percent to Tk 19.26 from Tk 8.36 per unit.

## PM slams BNP for inducting war

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who lost their honour during the Liberation War," she said.

The premier made the remarks while unveiling the cover of a book named "Sradya and Bhalobasai Smaraniya Bangamata Fazilatunnesa Mujib" at her official Gono Bhavan residence in the capital.

Bangladesh Awami Jubo League published the book on the occasion of 86th birth

anniversary of Bangamata Fazilatunnesa Mujib, the spouse of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She said, "BNP should see its constitution, how many members it has in its committee and what committee it constituted."

"What type of party BNP is, which has no regulations and policy? It seems that it is a gathering of vested persons, nothing else. What will they deliver to the nation?" she said.



Conservancy workers carrying waste material in daytime, making the stench of rot hang in the air. What else can passers-by do except holding their breath in the hope of making a quick cross owing to such a messy waste management system? The photo was taken in the capital's Farmgate area yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HUK