

HC questions DU decision to send teacher on forced leave

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of Dhaka University syndicate's decision to send its teacher Rushad Faridi to forced leave.

The court issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of DU to explain in two weeks why the decision to send Faridi, assistant professor of economics department, on forced leave should not be declared illegal.

The HC came up with the rule after hearing a writ petition filed by Faridi.

Petitioner's lawyer Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua told The Daily Star that the DU syndicate on July 12 decided to send his client on forced leave without providing any reason.



Clockwise from left, a doctor's chamber flooded so deep that the chairs almost sank in the water, at Maa O Shishu Hospital in Agrabad, one of the several parts of Chittagong city hit hard by waterlogging. A man walks out of a house; the water level a few more inches high, he would have to come out swimming. With roads under deep water, people travel on a rickshaw van to stay dry.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



Prof Keith speaks at IUB seminar

CITY DESK

Prof Keith West of Johns Hopkins University spoke at a seminar titled, "Preventing Micronutrient Deficiencies: Mechanisms of Impact on Health and Survival", organised by the School of Life Sciences (SLS) and International Center for Biotechnology and Health at IUB on July 20.

Faculty members, students, and staff joined the event, says a press release.

An eminent scholar who has published over 200 scientific articles, Dr West is currently the George G. Graham professor of infant and child nutrition.

IBU VC Prof M Omar Rahman also spoke at the seminar coordinated by Afreen Zaman Khan, a lecturer at the SLS.

ICT gets new registrar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Salim Miah, judge of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal of Chandpur, has been appointed as the registrar of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT).

The law ministry issued a gazette notification in this regard on Sunday, said Rezaul Karim, public relations officer of the ministry.

Shahidul Alam Jhinuk, who had been in the post of registrar since June 2015, was transferred to Sunamganj as the district and sessions' judge.

The government formed the tribunal in March 2010 to try 1971 war criminals.

TWO YEARS OF NASIR IN OFFICE Waterlogging still the sorrow of port city

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg



Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin completes the second year of his five-year term today, still struggling to address the city's debilitating waterlogging -- one of his key election pledges.

According to city dwellers, the problem is "worsening" every year.

Due to heavy rainfall, coupled with tidal water, Halishahar, Bakalia, Chandaon, Agrabad, Bayezid, Muradpur, Chawkbazar, KB Aman Ali Road, and Cement Crossing areas went under knee to chest deep water for the second consecutive day yesterday.

The residents of the port city have exper-

enced this for at least six times in the last six months. Every time it rains, roads go under water, houses and offices get flooded, businesses and livelihoods become affected, dealing a heavy blow to the daily life of the city dwellers.

Abdus Samad, a resident of Bakalia DC Road, said, "Nasir won mayoral polls pledging to build Chittagong as a clean and green megacity. But we see the city is now under water."

Nasir took office on July 25, 2015. During his election campaign, Nasir came up with a number of pledges and promised to fulfil those, if voted to power.

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BCL men lock BU classroom doors

Demand FFs' job quota

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Bangladesh Chhatra League activists locked the gate of the academic building, classroom doors and main entrance of Barisal University yesterday, demanding cancellation of its employment process without freedom fighters' quota.

They also demonstrated at a rally in front of the administrative building between 8:00am and 1:00pm.

The BU authorities were not paying any heed to them although they have been holding peaceful programmes to press the demand, they alleged.

Imran Hossain Naim, one of the BCL activists, said now they also sought removal of the vice chancellor.

Rumman Hossain Rusvelt, another activist, said the VC did not follow the quota system in the recent recruitment process violating the government rules.

BU Proctor Shafiu Alam told The Daily Star that the university authorities would hold a syndicate meeting in Dhaka yesterday to resolve the crisis.

The meeting was being held while filing of this report at 8:30pm.

However, the university authorities earlier issued a statement saying that to follow the freedom fighters' quota system is not mandatory for an autonomous organisation.

Following yesterday's protest, classes were not held on the campus. Police were deployed to avert violence.

Mosquito control, roads top priority

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With chikungunya

breaking out as a men-

ace and waterlogging

getting more frequent

than ever, Dhaka South

City Corporation yes-

terday announced its

budget for 2017-18

fiscal year, prioritising

mosquito control, road

repair and develop-

ment, and waste man-

agement.

The allocation for

mosquito control was

more than doubled to

Tk 25.6 crore this year.

Announcing the

budget at Nagar

Bhaban, Mayor Sayeed

Khokon said they pri-

oritised the issue and

were giving chikungunya

patients door to door

health services. "We will

continue the service...as

long as required," he

said.

The budget also laid

emphasis on develop-

ment of the roads rav-

aged by waterlogging;

the allocation rose by

Tk 186.85 crore to Tk

1,130.51 crore.

The waste management

sector also saw a

rise of more than Tk 10 crore.

The mayor said they

wanted to turn gar-

bage into a resource by

generating electricity

from it.

Apart from the alloca-

tion for regular

waste management, DSCC

kept Tk 150 crore

for landfill mainten-

ance and develop-

ment, which also in-

cludes the power gen-

eration programme.

The tender process in

this regard has

already been initia-

ted with five pri-

vate organisa-

tions offering bids so

far, said the

mayor.

On recreational facil-

ties, Khokon said

they would develop and

modernise 19 parks

and 12 playgrounds

under a project.

"We completed 95 percent of the bidding process. The development works will be of global standards and will be finished by June 2018," he said.

The allocation for parks and playgrounds was increased by nearly Tk 25 crore.

About traffic congestion, the mayor said DSCC would clear footpaths as only 7 to 8 percent of people used private cars and around 60 percent used footpaths.



Mayor Sayeed Khokon announcing budget for 2017-2018.

The corporation along with BRTA will also resume drives against old vehicles and underage drivers to bring the public transport under discipline, he said.

While DSCC raised the revenue income target in almost all sectors, the expected earning from bazar salami (market fee) was decreased by more than a half to Tk 313 crore.

About this, Mayor Khokon said the target was reduced because cases were filed over setting up of many markets.

Meanwhile, DSCC allocated Tk 140 crore for four unions -- Demra, Manda, Nasirabad and Dakkhingon -- which were brought under its area last year, for road and drainage system development there.



A view of an overcast sky seen from the runway at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday. For the last few days, Dhaka city has been experiencing heavy rainfall with the sky remaining cloudy almost all throughout the day.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

Tragic end of woman, baby

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A woman and her nine-month-old baby boy lost their lives and her husband was critically injured as a truck ran them over in Satbaria village of Manda upazila in Naogaon yesterday.

The dead are Osima Rani, 24, a degree (pass) examinee, and her son Bijoy Chandra. They hailed from Kola village in Badalgachhi upazila.

The husband, Ramayan Chandra Roy, 29, took treatment at Naogaon General Hospital.

Anisur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Manda Police Station, said the woman sat behind her motorcyclist husband on his bike with her son in her lap while returning home after attending an examination.

As rain started, the woman held an umbrella with her left hand, said the OC.

With a strong wind blowing, the mother and her son fell onto the road, the bike flipped over and a speeding truck hit them, said the police officer.

The bodies were sent to Naogaon General Hospital for autopsies.

Earlier on Sunday, a man and his seven-year-old son were killed in a similar road accident in Mohadevpur upazila of Naogaon.

Chikungunya spreading outward

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week of June, she said, adding that all the confirmed cases were detected at the IEDCR as no other hospital or health service facility has RTPCR and the reagent kit necessary to diagnose the disease.

Only a few medical facilities have the equipment to diagnose chikungunya and their charge is as high as Tk 10,000, but the IEDCR carries out the test free of cost, she said.

"This is why we usually do not recommend chikungunya diagnosis as it would not change the treatment procedure... instead, we advise [the patients] to spend the money on improved diet and get plenty of rest."

However, if any complication

arises, especially in the cases of pregnancy, elderly and co-morbidity (suspected chikungunya infection coinciding with other chronic ailments), test for chikungunya is advised, Prof Meerjady said.

GOVERNMENT HOTLINES: Advice on possible chikungunya infection can be found by calling the IEDCR hotlines on 01937110011 and 01937000011; and Directorate General of Health Services on 16263 (24 hours).

NORTH DHAKA CITY: Designated consulting physicians: Uttara: Dr Azizun Nesa a 01756209482; Mirpur: Dr Mahmuda Ali 01715456698 and Dr Md. Firoz Alam 0171639886; Mohakhali: Dr SM Wasimul Islam 01735843693;

and Karwan Bazar: Dr Dewan Md. Sakhawat Hossain 01715528898.

SOUTH DHAKA CITY: Nagar Bhaban information centre: 029563507.

According to the national guideline on clinical management of chikungunya, the fever is a viral illness caused by an arbovirus transmitted by aedes mosquitoes. The disease was documented first time in the form of an outbreak in Tanzania.

Symptoms of chikungunya are fever, muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue and rash. The disease often comes with a very debilitating joint pain which can last for days. Aedes aegypti mosquito is the carrier of both chikungunya and dengue viruses.

Iqbal, now on bail, was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment and fined Tk 50,000, in default to serve another six months in prison.

The court cancelled bail of Iqbal and sent him to jail with conviction warrant. Two others were also sent to jail after the verdict.

Judge Kamru Hossain Mollah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka handed down the sentence in presence of the accused.

Meantime, Reza -- in different places for their involvement in the incident. Of them, Shakil and Reza gave confessional statements before magistrates on different dates.

After an investigation, police pressed charges against the three on October 23 of 2007 while the court framed charges against them on December 27 the same year.