



People walk over sandbags put on a road for crossing while a vehicle remains stuck in a pothole there. The Latif Bhuiyan Road in the capital's Demra has been in a deplorable condition for over two months. In the absence of a proper drainage system, the road gets waterlogged whenever it rains. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Canada to help 10,000 flood-hit victims

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Canada will provide 262,500 Canadian dollars for immediate assistance to over 10,000 people who have been suffering from severe flooding caused by monsoon rains.

This support, which will focus on the delivery of an essential package of interventions for vulnerable flood-affected households, is being given through the Canadian Humanitarian Assistance Fund to support Plan International, said a press release of the High Commission of Canada.

Earlier, in response to Cyclone Mora, Canada provided a total of 45,000 Canadian dollars through the Emergency Disaster Assistance Fund in support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's emergency appeal.

NEWS IN brief

Gopalganj road crash kills three including two of a family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Three people including two members of a family were killed and 20 others injured as a bus plunged into a ditch beside Dhaka-Khulna Highway in Bedgram area of Gopalganj Sadar early yesterday.

The deceased are Shimul Hossan, 28, of Faridpur Sadar, Mohiuddin Hossan, 40, of Lahori village in Pirojpur and his five-year-old son Rahat Hossan. They died on the spot.

Locals said the accident occurred when the driver of the Pirojpur-bound bus lost control over the steering.

Police, fire service members and locals recovered the bodies and sent the injured to a local hospital, said Sub-inspector of Gopalganj Sadar Police Station Tanmay Saha.

BCC demolishes illegal structures

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Barisal City Corporation (BCC) in a drive demolished over 100 illegal structures in Rupatali Bus Stand area of the city yesterday.

BCC magistrate Imtiaz Mahamud Jewel, who led the drive, said the structures, mostly shops and houses, were built occupying government lands.

BCC Chief Executive Officer Md Wahiduzzaman said they would continue such drives.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Akhlakul Hossain Ahmed, a Liberation War organiser and member of Bangladesh Constituent Assembly of 1972, said a press release.

He was also member of the erstwhile East Pakistan Provincial Assembly.

On this occasion, a doa mahfil and Qurankhani will be held at his Mohanganj residence in Netrakona today.

Akhlakul Hossain Ahmed Smrity Parishad will also hold a memorial discussion and doa mahfil.



Plea challenges deduction of 2nd time MBBS admission seekers' marks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging legality of the government decision of deducting five marks from total marks of second time MBBS admission seekers.

Eunus Ali Akond submitted the petition saying that the government reportedly on August 20 has decided to deduct five marks of second time MBBS admission seekers, which is discriminatory, illegal and contradictory to national education policy.

The decision has violated the constitutional provision of equality and equal opportunity of the candidates, he said in the petition.

The petitioner also said the constitution of the republic has granted the rights of the people to get equal opportunity.

As per the constitution, nobody is subject to discrimination but the government decision to deduct the marks is discrimination against the second time admission seekers, he said.

Eunus in the plea prayed to the HC to stay the decision and issue a rule asking the respondents to explain why the decision should not be declared illegal.

In the petition, he also urged the HC to make the health secretary, director general of the directorate of health services, its director (public health), chairman of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council and vice chancellor of Dhaka University respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Jahangir Hossain may hold hearing on the petition today, Eunus Ali Akond told The Daily Star.

'Arbitration provokes girl to commit suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A teenage girl committed suicide on Saturday after she was humiliated at a local arbitration for allegedly having an illegal relation with her house tutor in Balli area of Satkhira Sadar.

The deceased is Rima Khatun, 15, a ninth grader of a local school.

Victim's brother on Saturday night filed a case with Satkhira Sadar Police Station accusing eight people for provoking the girl to commit suicide, police said.

On Friday night, neighbours of the girl arranged the arbitration accusing Rima of having an illegal relation with her tutor. Rima and the tutor were humiliated there, said Officer-in-Charge of the station Maruf Ahmed.

The next morning, she killed herself by hanging from a tree near her house, said the OC.

Victim's mother alleged that Mohabbat Al Kha -- a local who is also accused in the case -- and his family members made the 'false allegation' against her daughter to take revenge.

The body of the deceased was handed over to her family after autopsy, said the OC.

Right info can save lives during disasters

IOM, Action Against Hunger workshop told

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a workshop yesterday said dissemination of accurate information in right time through proper channels could save many lives during natural disasters, including flood and landslides, in the country.

They stressed the need for engagement of the private sector in "Communication with Communities (CwC)" model to help disaster-affected people.

UN migration agency "International Organisation for Migration (IOM)" and international humanitarian organisation "Action Against Hunger" in collaboration with UKaid jointly organised the consultative workshop titled "Engaging Private Sector in Communication with Communities Mainstreaming" at a hotel in the capital.

The speakers said telecommunication companies, print and electronic media could engage in the CwC model directly under Shongjog, a multi-stakeholder platform on CwC formed, aiming to ensure credible sources of information, where information is managed and updated during emergency.

IOM Project Development Officer Michael Hewitt made a power point presentation over the CwC programme taken by IOM.

"Right information in right time can save lives and families. But bad information or misinformation can cause death. CwC programme can be effective in saving lives and helping disaster-affected people," he said. Representatives from different corporate houses and media attended the workshop.

Finalise rules of children act to deal with violence

Demand rights activists at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has to finalise rules of the Children Act 2013 to protect child rights and deal with violence against children, demanded rights activists at a roundtable yesterday.

They also suggested introduction of a monitoring cell at the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs to follow up the trial of such violence cases and analyse the hazardous situation children face every day.

The speakers demanded establishment of a "Child Rights Commission".

Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh organised the roundtable titled, "Be alert to bring an end to violence against children right now", at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

A platform of 10 NGOs working for child rights, the coalition exchanged its opinions with public representatives and professionals in 19 districts this month and upheld several recommendations to prevent such violence, said its statement.

According to Bangladesh Manabdhikar Bastabayan Sangstha, 32 children were raped in July, it said.

On the other hand, Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum says, 336 children were

raped and 48 were gang raped from January to July, it added.

Addressing the roundtable, Shepa Hafiza, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra, said this year there has been an alarming rise in the level of violence against children compared to the last few years.

She sought cancellation of the special provision in the Child Marriage Restraint Act-2017 which may increase the risks of rape and early pregnancy. She demanded necessary measures so that no children will be involved in picketing or other activities in the upcoming general election. In this regard, "we will talk to the Election Commission."

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Kazi Rezaul, said "Children should not be used in any political activities in the election." He further said, to put an end to violence against children, more coalition is needed to make people aware of child rights.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, said, "Many children are harassed by their family members or religious preachers, but they remain silent fearing that their parents would not believe them."

She stressed campaigns to prevent all forms of violence against children.



HOMEWARD BOUND...no matter how difficult it gets, the journey home is always fun, especially during Eid holidays. The home-bound train journey began yesterday. The photo was taken at Kamalapur Railway Station. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



At first glance, one may not consider it to be a canal. Unabated dumping of garbage and growing plants in Nal Khali Khal have almost blocked the channel, obstructing the drainage of water in Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) embankment area. Protection of the waterbody is crucial to minimise the waterlogging woes there. The photo was taken near Shibu Market in Narayanganj yesterday. PHOTO: SANAD SAHA

Justice

FROM PAGE 3

such comments," he said.

Fakhrul came up with the remarks after placing a floral wreath at National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's grave on the Dhaka University campus.

Speaking at a programme on Saturday, Justice Shamsuddin Choudhury said, "Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha had taken only 25 days to write 400 pages, it's impossible. The verdict was not written by him at all."

Fakhrul said, "I don't know on which ground Mr Shamsuddin got an appointment as justice. I want to say the seven judges of the Appellate Division unambiguously gave the verdict on the 16th amendment to the constitution. So, those who raised questions about the verdict in fact questioned the independence of the judiciary."

Is it okay to use firearm

FROM PAGE 3

"...later I understood that it was illegal and I should not have used the arm during the tournament inauguration," he told The Daily Star.

The owner of the gun, Golam Mousa Firoz, said, "It's my licensed gun. It was only used for joy, not to create panic."

He, however, did not disclose where he got the license from.

When asked, why another person used his gun, Firoz declined to comment.

The Daily Star contacted Rezaul Haque, officer-in-charge of Dhamri Police Station, twice in this regard.

On the first day, the OC said they did not know about the incident, but would investigate it.

"If a man uses his licensed firearm for creating panic among people, police will directly take action against him," he said, adding that if it was used for joy, police would inform the deputy commissioner's (DC) office of the incident in writing.

When contacted for a second time to know whether they took any action, the OC said the men used the gun for "joy", and it was not their jurisdiction to take any action if someone did this.

The police station did not write to the DC office as well.

Regarding firearm use, Superintendent of

Police of Dhaka Shah Migan Shafiur Rahman said police would investigate the incident and legal steps would be taken if they found negligence in the use of the firearm.

According to Dhamrai Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Abul Kalam, a man cannot use his licensed firearm for any joy. It can be used only for self-defence, he said.

"The licence of a firearm can be cancelled for such use," said the UNO, adding, "I will inform the DC office in this regard."

The DC office issues the firearm licence and preserves the authority to cancel it.

To know whether the shotgun used in the tournament inauguration ceremony was licensed, The Daily Star contacted Mousumi Mahub, a senior assistant commissioner and executive magistrate, who is also in-charge of the firearm department of the DC office in Dhaka.

Echoing the UNO, she said even if a firearm was licensed, the owner could not use it for joy.

She also asked the correspondent to file an application to know whether there is any firearm licensed to Golam Mousa Firoz.

"We'll inquire whether the firearm is licensed and take proper action," she said.

The Daily Star filed an application in this regard under the Right to Information Act.