



An official of the traffic department of Dhaka Metropolitan Police checking vehicle documents near Dhaka College on Mirpur Road yesterday. The DMP recently increased such check posts in several other parts of the capital.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

New council of BCL demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

A section of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders yesterday demanded immediate holding of council as the tenure of BCL's present committee expired on July 26 last year.

However, BCL insiders say that several mid-ranked leaders of the pro-Awami League student organisation are making the demand in a bid to get top posts in the country's oldest student organisation.

Those leaders were scheduled to make their demand formally at a press conference at TSC cafeteria yesterday, but they postponed it following assurance from the AL high command, Joint General Secretary of BCL central unit Sayem Khan, one of the leaders making the demand, told reporters on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

NEWS IN brief

Khulna jute mills' work abstention enters 5th day

UNB, Khulna

The indefinite work abstention of eight state-owned jute mill employees to press home their 11-point demand entered fifth day yesterday.

Some 25,000 workers of the mills in Khulna-Jessore industrial belt started the work abstention on Thursday.

The mills are Daulatpur, Khalishpur, Crescent, Platinum, Star, Aleem, Eastern, and JJI and Carpeting jute mills.

Payment of arrears of 35,000 workers, 20 percent dearness allowance, allocation of adequate funds to run the mills and removal of corrupt officials from the administration include their demands.

Gopalganj road crash kills one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A youth was killed and two others were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Khulna highway at Batgram in Gopalganj Sadar upazila on Monday night.

The deceased is Ismail Sheikh, 28, son of Munnun Sheikh of Batgram area. The injured were sent to Gopalganj General Hospital.

The three were standing near their motorbike and chatting when a fish-laden truck suddenly veered out of control, overturned and fell on them at Batgram, said locals.

Traffic remained halted on the highway for an hour until police removed the mangled vehicles with the help of locals and fire officials.

Four 'robbers' held in Old Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

Members of Detective Branch of police arrested four suspected robbers from different areas of the Old Dhaka on Monday night.

The arrestees were identified as Masud, Gazi, Md Idris, Md Asad and Faruk Ahmmmed.

Abdul Baten, joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan detective police, at a press briefing at DMP's media centre yesterday said a team of DB arrested Masud from the old part of city along with Tk 2 lakh.

After gleaning information from Masud, the team arrested Idris, Asad and Faruk from the same area along with Tk 11 lakh, he added. The DB official also said the arrestees had involvement with a robbery incident in a jewellery shop at Ray Saheb Bazar intersection under Kotwali Police Station. A gang of robbers numbering 10-11 looted Tk 5,167,000 from the shop on December 14 last year.

Youth injured in police

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In retaliation, police fired gunshots leaving Sujan injured while rest of his aides managed to flee, said the OC, adding that a sharp weapon was recovered from the spot.

A case has been filed, the police official added.

Experts urge maximum use of surface water

BSS, Rangpur

Experts at a workshop yesterday emphasised the need for creating awareness to ensure proper management and maximum use of surface water in a bid to reduce pressure on underground water.

They came up with the observation at a workshop organised by the Water Resources Planning Organization (Warpo) with assistance from Development Association for Self-reliance, Communication and Health (DASCOH) on Bangladesh Water Rules, 2017 (Draft) for implementation of Bangladesh Water Act, 2013.

Divisional Commissioner Kazi Hasan Ahmed attended the workshop as the chief guest with Additional Divisional Commissioner Minu Shill in the chair.

Director General of Warpo Khondker Khalequzzaman and Joint Chief of the Ministry of Water Resources Mantu Kumar Biswas addressed the workshop as special guests.

Director of Warpo Feroz Alam discussed steps taken since 1999 in formulating Bangladesh Water Act, 2013 and Water Rules (Draft) to ensure better management of water resources.

Project Director of Warpo Eng Rezaul Karim said severe water crisis can hit Bangladesh in future if unabated extracting of underground water continues.

"The media can play a vital role in presenting the water situation to create awareness for proper implementation of Bangladesh Water Act, 2013, and in ensuring better management and use of water resources," he said.

Joint Chief of the Ministry of Water Resources Mantu Kumar Biswas said pressure on underground water is increasing.

"We have to attain sustainable development goals considering all aspects regarding use and management of water and misuse of the most precious natural resources," he said.

He called upon the media to play the due role in reducing pressure on underground water.

Youths for enacting law to secure right to food

CITY DESK

With a call to enact the right to food law for ensuring food for all, an opinion-exchange meeting was organised by Youth against Hunger (YAH), a voluntary organisation, with the media and development workers on Sunday.

The event, welcoming the New Year, was held at its Lalmatia office in the capital.

SM Azad Hossain, chairman of Vision Forum 2021; development practitioners Lutfar Rahman, Anjuman Akhter and Murtaza Ahmed; Mohidul Haque Khan, vice president of BSAFE Foundation, development worker Manabendra Dev; Ruhil Das, acting executive director of BASTOB; and Rezaul Karim Babu, executive director of Hope-87; were also present.

On behalf of the youth, speaker of youth parliament, Ebsana Saria, and coordinator of a mass signature campaign programme, Raisul Millat Sifat, spoke on the right to food and called on the signature campaign to submit their appeal to the prime minister.



Akbor Anwarul

Akbor president, Anwarul secy general of Library Association of Bangladesh

CITY DESK

Sayed Ali Akbor, deputy librarian of Dhaka University, and Dr Md Anwarul Islam, librarian of Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, have been elected president and secretary general of Library Association of Bangladesh (LAB) election 2017, said a press release.

Other office bearers are vice presidents ADM Ali Ahmmad, Dr Md Mizanur Rahman and Kazi Abdul Majed; treasurer Md Hamidur Rahman Tushar; joint secretary general Md Shamsul Islam, principal librarian of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and a popular sports commentator; organising secretary Md Hurunor Rashid; research and publication secretary Md Amdad Hossain; female secretary Tanzeba Raihan Soma, and central councillors Sayeda Farida Parvin, Prof M Nasir Uddin Munshi, Md Akkas Uddin Pathan, Shama Prasad Bapari and Kazi Emdad Hossain.

LAB is the national association of library professionals, which started its journey in 1956. The election was held in eight divisions in the country on Saturday.

TSC tea stalls to stay

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The stalls were not allowed to open the next morning, which led to widespread criticism on social media.

Tuhin Kanti Das, DU unit president of Chhatra Union, criticised the move and said the decision was "undemocratic", and was imposed without an alternative.

Earlier, on October 17, the university authorities had asked all the TSC-based socio-cultural organisations to finish their activities by 8:00pm, which also led to controversy.

Some days later, in another decision, the authorities ordered the tea sellers to close their business in TSC area before 8:00pm but could not execute it facing protests.

Bangladeshi boy

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Das, district coordinator of child rights organisation CHILDLINE; Poresh Hajra, representative of Suwayan Home; Afiab Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Hili Police Station; and officials of BCB and BSF were present during the handover.

CHILDLINE coordinator Suroj Das said India's Balurghat police on May 20, 2016, detained Rafi, his sisters, and seven other

Bangladeshis. Of the detainees, four were children. Following a court order, CHILDLINE got custody of the four children for providing care and counseling. Of the four children, three were girls. Therefore, they were sent to Maldah Children Home.

According to the authorities of Shuvayan Home, Rafi along with some others was being taken to Pune in Maharashtra of India to be sold.

Stop drug abuse to protect

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social curse. All should work from their respective positions to raise awareness in this regard, he added. DNC Director General Mohammed Jamal Uddin Ahmed

chaired the function while Home Ministry's Security Services Division Secretary Farid Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, and Inspector General of Prisons Brig Gen Syed Iftekhar Uddin also spoke.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, surrounded by hundreds of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders and activists, waits in her car, inset, on the road at the entrance of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, yesterday. She waited there for nearly an hour to address a programme of JCD marking its 39th founding anniversary. PHOTO: COLLECTED



Demanding a speedy trial and punishment for the killers of two students and a housewife in Barisal city, who were killed in three separate incidents in the month of December last year, people from all walks of life, including the family members, form a human chain yesterday in front of Barisal Ashwini Kumar Hall. The event was organised by Bangladesh Shamajtantrik Dal. PHOTO: STAR

Defence begin their closing arguments

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vice-chairman Tarique Rahman, have been absconding.

Twenty-three accused, including former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and ex-deputy minister for education Abdus Salam Pintu were produced before the court yesterday. On Monday, the prosecution completed their closing arguments and sought the highest punishment for all the accused.

However, another prosecution lawyer Mosharraf Hossain Kajal yesterday told the tribunal that they would place more arguments on legal points, citing different verdicts at home and abroad. The judge said he would allow the prosecution after the defence counsel's arguments.

In his arguments, Chaitanya said police filed a case with Motijheel Police Station on the following day of the attack, but his client Hanif's name was not there and even Hanif's name was not in the first two charge sheets.

Hanif's name first came up in the confessional statement of Mufti Abdul Hannan, leader of banned militant outfit Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji), the lawyer said.

But none of 61 prosecution witnesses, who gave testimonies before

Hannan's statement, told Hanif's name in their testimonies.

Chaitanya argued that 19 prosecution witnesses gave testimonies before the tribunal, linking Hanif's involvement with the grenade attack, but none of them mentioned Hanif's name while giving statements before the investigation officer of the cases.

He added that most of the 19 witnesses, including former home minister Sahara Khatun, said they had learnt about the criminal conspiracy and involvement of Tarique, Babar and Hanif from media reports, but none of them produced those reports before the court.

BACKGROUND After the grenade attack, a case was filed with Motijheel Police Station on August 22, 2004.

But the Criminal Investigation Department submitted two charge sheets, one for hatching criminal conspiracy and killing and another for supplying and using grenades. The second charge sheet was filed under the Explosive Substances Act.

During the BNP-Jamaat rule until October 2006, the investigators misled the probe to protect real culprits, according to the prosecution.

During the tenure of the last caretaker government, charge sheets in the

two cases were filed against 22 people, including Abdus Salam Pintu and 21 Huji men, including Mufti Hannan.

However, the investigators could not identify the mastermind and the sources of the grenades used in the attack and an extended probe was launched in 2009 in this regard, the prosecution said. A supplementary charge sheet was submitted against 30 accused, including Tarique, Lutfozzaman Babar and former Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, in July 2011.

In March 2012, the tribunal indicted 52 accused, including Tarique, on murder charges, while 41 accused were indicted in the case filed under the Explosive Substances Act.

The 11 accused -- including three former IGPs, three ex-CID officials, two former senior police officials, Khaleda's nephew Duke, and two former army officers ATM Amin and Saiful Islam Joarder -- in the murder case were not implicated in the explosive case. The court conducted the two cases simultaneously.

The names of Jamaat leader Mojaheed, Mufti Hannan and another Huji man were dropped from both the cases as they had been executed in different cases.