

'Will resist BNP's conspiracy to foil upcoming polls'

Says Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the next general election will be held as per the constitution.

"The next election will not be held accepting any condition set by anyone or any political party. It will be held as per the constitution. There is no necessity of holding any dialogue in this regard," he said at a press conference at the secretariat.

He rejected the four conditions, including release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, placed by pro-BNP academician Prof Emajuddin Ahmed for BNP's participation in the next polls.

Referring to the Election Commission's plan to declare the schedule for the next parliamentary polls in October, Quader said a polls-time government will be formed any time in October.

A small cabinet will be formed with participation of the political parties having representation in parliament, he said, adding that there is no scope of including anyone from outside parliament.

BNP had earlier said they will not participate in the election without Khaleda Zia, but now they are saying that they will resist the election, the minister said. "We apprehend conspiracy and sabotage by BNP to foil the upcoming polls. However, we will resist it."

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"Can a hammer strike break the backbone of us all?" A Dhaka University student holds a placard with this question as she takes part in a protest against recent attacks on quota reform activists reportedly by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists. The demonstrators also demand release of the movement leaders held in police custody or jail, withdrawal of "false" cases against them, and a safe campus. In order to foil the quota movement, BCL activists have beaten up students including females at different universities. The ruling party-backed student organisation also assaulted some teachers who protested the attacks and peacefully voiced their support for the movement. The photos were taken near Raju memorial sculpture at DU yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



No makeshift cattle market in Dhaka this Eid-ul-Azha

Home minister says

AGENCIES

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday said no makeshift cattle market will be allowed in Dhaka city ahead of the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha.

"This time all the cattle markets will have designated boundaries, which cannot be expanded," the minister said while talking to reporters after holding two back-to-back meetings with law enforcement agency officials at the secretariat.

This year, Asaduzzaman said, 22 cattle markets will be set up in the capital under Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), according to UNB.

No cattle market will be allowed in residential areas, near rail lines and/or on highways, he added.

The minister said there will be one police camp for each of the markets, while con-

stant supervision and security will be ensured by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) through CCTV surveillance.

Meanwhile, at an inter-ministerial meeting on "Veterinary services at the Qurbani Haat on the occasion of the holy Eid-ul-Azha", it was decided that the Department of Livestock Services (DLS) will set up laboratory test facilities at the livestock farms across the country for controlling use of unhealthy chemicals on the sacrificial animals.

The Health and Family Welfare Ministry's concerned department will take initiative to control the supply and selling of all steroid and hormone-related drugs which are harmful for animal health, according to BSS.

The law enforcement agencies will strictly monitor the border region to check smuggling of unhealthy chemicals, the meeting was told.

The number of sacrificial animals in the

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Slow internet likely from July 25 to 30

UNB, Dhaka

Internet users may experience slow speed on July 25-30 due to repair work on the submarine cable, SEA-ME-WE-4.

Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited (BSCCL) Managing Director Mashiur Rahman told the news agency yesterday that repair work and setting up of repeaters will be conducted during the period.

He, however, said the presence of international terrestrial cable (ITC) and the second submarine cable, SEA-ME-WE-5, will prevent internet speed from dropping drastically.

XULHAZ, TONROY MURDER

Top militant leader confesses to involvement

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A top leader of banned militant outfit Ansar al-Islam yesterday confessed to his involvement in the murder of USAID staffer Xulhaz Mannan and his friend Mahbub Tonoyn in 2016.

Sheikh Abdullah, a majlish-e-sura member of the banned militant outfit, made the confession before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ahsan Habib, saying the two were killed for their anti-Islamic activities.

The double murder was carried out by Abdullah and seven others on instruction of Syed Ziaul Haque, a sacked army personnel and alleged military chief of Ansar al-Islam, Abdullah said in his confession.

The murder was plotted by another militant leader Md Salim while five others executed the plan on April 25, 2016.

Xulhaz, 35, was an editor of "Roopbaan", the country's only magazine for the LGBT community.

"Along with two others, I was in the recce, but we were not directly involved in the murder of the duo" Abdullah said in his confession.

Inspector Tajul Islam, of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CITC) unit and also the investigation officer of the case, produced Sheikh Abdullah before the magistrate on completion of a four-day remand and appealed to the court to record his confession.

After recording his statement, the magistrate ordered to send Abdullah to jail.

CITC officials arrested Abdullah, from Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) on July 17, for his alleged involvement with the murder of blogger and writer Avijit Roy and Jagannath University student Nazim Uddin Samad.

Abdullah used to carry out militant activities under different pseudonyms like Zubair, Jayed, Jabed and Abu Omayer, police said.

Three other accused have so far given confessional statements in connection with the murder of Xulhaz and Tonoyn.

'HIDDEN TREASURE' Excavation suspended for now

Committee to be formed to supervise digging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Digging for the much-talked about "hidden treasure" reportedly kept under a one-storey house in Mirpur during the 1971 Liberation War remained suspended yesterday.

Dadon Fakir, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, said police along with a new executive magistrate visited the house around noon.

Quoting the magistrate, police said a committee comprising experts will be formed to supervise the excavation work.

As the building is over 50 years old, the excavation has been suspended for safety concerns, the OC said.

The excavation team would also use a scanning machine to see if there is any metallic substance, added the OC quoting the magistrate.

Meanwhile, Moqsud Ali Tapan, owner of the adjacent one-storey building, said his house shared boundary and roof with the one where digging was going on. Tapan was worried that his house may be affected by the excavation.

Police have been on guard at the house at Block C of Mirpur-10 since Wednesday. The house became talk of the city and locals and enthusiasts thronged the area for last couple of days.



Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister AKM Shajahan Kamal inaugurates the baby care zone at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka yesterday. Inset, inside the zone. The initiative was taken by Meghna Group of Industries.

PHOTO: STAR



First baby care zone at Dhaka airport opens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Meghna Group of Industries (MGI) yesterday launched a baby care zone at the departure lounge of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

Such a zone, a first of its kind in an airport of the country, will ease stress of passengers, especially mothers, travelling with toddlers and young children. It will have changing and feeding facilities.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister AKM Shajahan Kamal inaugurated the zone titled "MGI Baby Care" in a ceremony organised by Meghna Group at the airport.

At the programme, Kamal said the baby care zone will help mothers a lot, and such an initiative will help brighten the image of Bangladesh among foreign passengers. He thanked Meghna Group for taking the initiative.

MGI Chairman Mostafa Kamal said most of the airports abroad have such baby care zones.

"The baby care zone will increase service quality of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport," he said.

Under maintenance of Nakshikatha Communication, the zone has two diaper change stations and four breastfeeding zones. It also has toys and handwashing facilities.

Mothers will get the services free of cost and three service providers will remain active round-the-clock, said MGI officials.

Secretary (in-charge) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism Mohibul Haque, Chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Air Vice Marshal M Naim Hassan and Nakshikatha Chief Executive Officer Mahfuz Ahmed, among others, were present at the programme.

ANTI-NARCOTICS DRIVE

Rab seeks bar on mobile transactions to Cox's Bazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday sought restriction of financial transactions through mobile phones to Cox's Bazar for two months, claiming a huge amount of money is being sent to the district over mobile phones as payment for illicit drugs.

Benazir Ahmed, director general (DG) of Rab, made the proposition to Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal who was attending the inaugural of an anti-narcotics TVC at Rab media centre in the capital.

The Rab DG said, "Only 23 lakh people live in Cox's Bazar and there's no major industry... We suspect the illegal money [sent via the mobile financial services] is being used for drug purposes."

During the proposed restriction of mobile banking transactions to Cox's Bazar, Rab would test and evaluate its impact on the trade of illegal drugs in the area.

The TVC is being launched as part of the government's anti-narcotics drive that began on May 4, Benazir said, adding that around 10 thousand people including drug traders were sentenced to different terms by mobile courts and around Tk 102 crore worth of drugs were seized during the drive.

So far, the nationwide drive has seen arrest of around 37,000 suspected drug dealers and users, and deaths of 195 suspected dealers. Law enforcers claimed that most of the people died during "shootouts" with them.

Family members of the ones killed in the "shootouts", however, allege that law enforcers murdered their relatives and later made up the shootout story to cover up their crime.

Addressing the programme, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal stood by the law enforcers' version regarding the reasons for the deaths during the drive, saying that the law enforcers cannot sit idle when challenged by armed

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FFs to get free healthcare at govt hospitals

UNB, Dhaka

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs (MoLWA) and the Health Service Division under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare yesterday at the secretariat, which will allow freedom fighters to receive medical treatment at all government and specialised hospitals for free, or at minimal cost.

Health Minister Mohammad Nasim said that the government has decided to bear cost for treatment of all freedom fighters, many of whom are suffering from old-age complications.

The MoU states that MoLWA will allocate the funds for the initiative and distribute them to upazila and district health complexes, and specialised hospitals in Dhaka.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque said Tk 15 lakh will initially be distributed to the hospitals today, and

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COMPENSATION TO TAREQUE MASUD'S FAMILY

SC to hear appeals challenging HC verdict on Oct 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday fixed October 8 for hearing an appeal filed against the High Court (HC) verdict that ordered a compensation of Tk 4.61 crore for the family of eminent filmmaker Tareque Masud, who died in a road accident in 2011.

A leave-to-appeal was filed with the apex court by Kashet Miah and Khokon Miah, owners of Chuadanga Deluxe Paribahan and Jamir Hossain, the driver of the bus that caused the accident.

Chamber Judge Hasan Foez Siddique held a brief hearing on the petition and sent the matter to the apex court for full hearing on October 8.

In addition, the chamber judge fixed the same date for hearing another petition filed by Tareque Masud's family seeking its order on the insurance company concerned to give them the total sum of the compensation after collecting it from the defendants, Advocate Ramzan Ali Sikder, a lawyer for Tareque's family, told The Daily Star.

Tareque Masud, Chief Executive Officer of ATN News and former teacher of journalism at Dhaka University Mishuk Munier and three others were killed in a road accident in Manikganj on August 13, 2011.

On December 3 last year, HC ordered the defendants to pay Tk 4.61 crore in compensation to the family of Tareque Masud for causing the accident that claimed his life.

The court ordered bus driver Jamir Hossain to pay Tk 30 lakh, its insurer Reliance Insurance to pay Tk 80,000 and the bus owners to pay Tk 4.30 crore within three months after receiving the full judgment.

We Mourn

Mahmudur Rahman
(1944-2018)

Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, our honorable Chairman of MBM Group has passed away on July 22, 2018, Sunday at 2:40 pm (innalillahi wa inna ilaiha rajeon) in a hospital at Dhaka. He was 74.

We the MBM family are deeply shocked on his sad demise. We also pray to Almighty Allah for the peace of his departed soul and express deep condolence to his family.

From all the members of MBM Group

35 Years of Excellence