



The transport owners' association checks relevant papers and driving licences at Mohakhali terminal in Dhaka yesterday before allowing buses to go on trips. The initiative was launched a few days ago as part of road safety measures.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Jahangir to take charge as Gazipur mayor today

BSS, Gazipur

Jahangir Alam, who was sworn in as the new mayor of Gazipur City Corporation (GCC) after winning the June 26 election, will take charge of office today.

On the occasion, an installation ceremony will be held at Vawal Rajbari Filed here around 11:00am.

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain will be present as the chief guest.

Liberation War Affairs Minister Advocate AKM Mozammel Haque, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Syeed Khokon, along with mayors of Khulna, Rajshahi and Narayanganj will be present, among others.

Jahangir, an Awami League-nominated candidate, won the June 26 election to become the second mayor of the Gazipur City Corporation.

JU law dept: Without a classroom for seven years

MD ASADUJ ZAMAN

The Department of Law and Justice of Jahangirnagar University (JU) has been facing an acute shortage of classrooms, forcing students to frequently cancel their regular classes and learn in cramped conditions.

Although seven years have passed since the department started its journey in 2011, the university authorities could not yet designate a single classroom for the department permanently.

The three-storey social science faculty building houses six departments, the law faculty (with one department), and the Institute of Business Administration (IBA). But it is only the law department that does not have any designated classrooms.

From the beginning, the law students had been using three classrooms -- two green rooms in Zahir Raihan Auditorium, and a classroom (no-340) which belongs to the geography and environment department.

Initially, the authorities concerned managed the geography department to lend a room to the law department under the law faculty but in July, the former department took it back, issuing a notice to the latter.

"Moreover, the two green rooms can hardly accommodate 40 students but we have some 60 students in each batch. At present, the department has some 350 students in six batches including master's," said Israt Ara Begum Atika, a third-year student of the department.

"The classrooms are usually overcrowded. It becomes unbearable especially when the power goes off," she added.

"Being a class representative, I always carry the extra burden to maintain class routine and arrange classrooms accordingly," she added.

"Cancellation or postponement of classes has been very common for us. Besides, it is a hassle to move from the social science building to the auditorium, some six minutes away, to arrange and attend classes every now and then," she said.

"When we were using another department's classroom, sometimes we had to vacate the room in the middle of class or exam as students of that department needed it," said fourth-year student Khan Muntasir Arman.

"The situation was very embarrassing for us. And now we do not have that classroom either," he added.

"Nor do we have a seminar library where we could sit, read, discuss class topics or study. We have to even use other departments' washrooms, which is very awkward and make us feel neglected," he added.

"If classes are not conducted regularly, how would we complete the syllabus in time?" asked Arafat Hossain Romeo, a third-year student.

Palash Roy, from session 2011-12, the first batch of the department, said, "Due to the classroom crisis, we had to cancel many classes which took us six extra months to complete our syllabus. As a result, we faced a session jam."

A teacher of the department, wishing anonymity, said, "Like students, we the teachers are suffering too. We don't have enough space to sit, rest or even take preparations for our next class."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Summit had no scope of discussion on Rohingyas

Says Bimstec secretary general at press briefing

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Rohingya issue could not be included in the declaration of the 4th Bimstec summit, held on August 30-31 in Kathmandu, as there was no scope for formal discussion on the matter during the summit, Bimstec Secretary General Shahidul Islam said yesterday.

He made the remark at a post-summit press briefing held in the Bimstec Secretariat at Gulshan in the city.

Responding to a query made by The Daily Star, he also said, "There was no proposal or request from any member country to include or not to include the Rohingya issue in the agenda for discussion or adding [it] in the Kathmandu Declaration."

Since the issue was not included in the agenda, there was no scope to discuss it during the summit, added the secretary general. Bimstec (Bay of Bengal Initiative for

Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) member countries are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

In another query, The Daily Star asked whether India or Myanmar had requested not to discuss the Rohingya issue at the summit. In response, the secretary general categorically replied in the negative.

Both Bangladesh and Myanmar have shown their prudence by not raising the Rohingya issue as they feel that raising any contentious issue would hinder the progress of the forum, Secretary General Shahidul Islam said, adding, "And we feel that both Bangladesh and Myanmar have shown diplomatic maturity by not raising the Rohingya issue when the organisation is not ready to deal with this sort of issue."

Senior officials of the Bimstec Secretariat were also present at the briefing.

NIKO GRAFT CASE Court sets Oct 11 for charge framing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed jail authorities to produce BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia before it on October 11 in connection with the Niko graft case.

Judge Md Mahmudul Kabir of the Special Judge Court-9 of Dhaka passed the order and set October 11 for framing charges in the case against all accused.

The judge directed all the accused, including Khaleda and BNP leader Moudud Ahmed, to appear before the court.

The judge passed the order after Khaleda's lawyer Sanauallah Miah submitted a petition seeking a direction on the jail authorities to produce her before the court.

Since her conviction in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case, the BNP chief has not been produced before any other court in connection with several other cases, although repeated orders were issued for her to appear.

Khaleda, who stands accused in over 34 cases, was jailed on February 8 after she was found guilty in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

On December 9, 2007, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the Niko graft case with Tejgaon Police Station accusing Khaleda and 10 others of abusing power to award a gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian company Niko during her tenure as the prime minister.

MALAYSIA'S CRACKDOWN ON UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS Bangladeshi drowns trying to escape detention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A migrant worker drowned in Malaysia's Malacca River yesterday, as he tried to escape detention by Malaysia's immigration department which began a nationwide crackdown against undocumented migrants since September 1.

During a raid in the state of Melaka, the construction worker jumped into the estuary of Malacca River around 1:00pm. His body was recovered by firefighters around 3:30pm, said Malaysian immigration department in a

Facebook post yesterday.

His body was sent for autopsy.

In a raid in Melaka yesterday, a total of 40 irregular migrants, including 21 Bangladeshis, were detained. Other nationals detained were from Indonesia, India and Myanmar.

As part of a major crackdown on undocumented migrants in a bid to free the country of undocumented migrants, Malaysian police detained over 500 undocumented foreign workers on August 1. The exact number of arrests and the nationalities in the last three days

could not be known, but migrants said a good number of those arrested are Bangladeshis.

Tariqul Islam, a migrant living in Cyberjaya, told this correspondent yesterday he knows some 200 to 300 migrants working in that area who live in the jungles at night in fear of police arrest.

Bangladesh High Commissioner Shahidul Islam or Labour Counsellor Sayedul Islam could not be contacted despite repeated attempts, to learn if they would negotiate with Malaysian authorities for any opportunity of amnesty.

Brutally beaten teenager succumbs to injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage boy succumbed to his injuries at a private hospital in Dhaka yesterday, days after he was mercilessly beaten by a group of youths.

Abdul Mannan Munna, 18, got involved in an altercation with another teenager, Mahi, at Gabtoli haat on August 21, a day before Eid-ul-Azha, family members said. Later that night, Mahi and his associates called Munna from his home and beat him up. Munna had been admitted in hospital since then in a critical condition.

A case was filed in this connection accusing six people who are still absconding, said Selimuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Darussalam Police Station.

RU admission application opens

OUR CORRESPONDENT, RU

Rajshahi University authorities yesterday opened online registration for undergraduate admission tests of 2018-2019 academic session.

The application process began at 12:00 noon and will continue till 12:00 midnight of September 12, according to a press release.

Admission tests will be held on October 22-23 under five units. Only students who passed HSC and equivalent examinations in 2017 and 2018 and fulfil minimum requirements are eligible.

Admission seekers can apply via university website and pay a fee through mobile banking service. A maximum of 32,000 applicants will be selected from each unit on the basis of SSC and HSC results. Selected applicants have to complete a final application process to sit for the tests, the results of which will be published by November 15. This year, RU will enrol 4,173 students.

Journalist Mostak Ahmed passes away



UNB, Dhaka

Senior journalist Mostak Ahmed of the Daily Bhorer Dak died yesterday at the National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology (NIKDU). He was 58.

The former president of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) was suffering from heart and kidney diseases and was admitted to the hospital on August 31.

He left behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

His body was taken to the Dhaka Reporters Unity and Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon.

A namaz-e-janaza was held on the DRU premises after Zohr prayers. Later his body was taken to his village home in Barisal.

NEWS IN brief

Justice Gour Gopal Saha passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Gour Gopal Saha, former president of Ramkrishna math and mission in Dhaka, passed away at a city hospital early yesterday. He was 79.

He left behind three daughters, a son and many relatives and well-wishers.

The body will be kept on the Supreme Court premises at 9:00am today for paying tributes. Afterwards, his funeral will be held in the capital's Postagola Cremation Ground, said a press release.

Gour was also the president of the managing committee of Shree Shree Shiv Mandir in Dhaka's Gendaria.

The temple authorities announced a three-day programme to mourn his death.

Rezaur Rahman no more

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rezaur Rahman, the former principal of Phulbari Government College in Dinajpur, died at his residence on Sunday, said a press release. He was 85.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter to mourn his death.

He was buried in his family graveyard at Kanahar village in the upazila.

M Abdur Rahim's death anniv today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of M Abdur Rahim, a close associate of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and western zone chairman of the then Mujibnagar government.

Rahim was a Liberation War organiser, a veteran lawyer and a recipient of the Swadhinata Padak, said a press release.

On this occasion, his family members and various organisations have arranged a four-day programme including a doa mahfil, Qurankhwani, memorial discussions, blood donation and medical camp for the poor in Dinajpur, the release added.

ACC files 12 more cases

FROM PAGE 3

Documents show on March 22, 2016 the debit balance was Tk 3.61 crore and the market price of his securities was Tk 54.2 lakh.

Which means ICB officials gave Samad credit of about Tk 3.07 crore, breaking the margin rules, reads the FIR.

The correspondent could not get the copies of FIRs of the other 12 cases till yesterday.

However, plaintiff of the cases Gulshan Anwar Pradhan told the Daily Star that ICB officials gave loans worth about Tk 62 crore to the accused of these cases, breaking rules in a similar way between 2009 and 2011.

Amir Khasru challenges ACC

FROM PAGE 3

time from ACC for collecting necessary documents in this regard.

The same day, ACC granted his petition and issued another notice asking him to appear before the commission at 10:00am on September 10.

"If you fail to appear on the scheduled date, actions will be taken against you as per the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, 2004," the ACC said in the notice.

The HC may hold hearing on the writ petition today, the lawyer added.



PHOTO: UNB

Gymkhana Lake: A breath of fresh air in Narayanganj

UNB, Narayanganj

In rapidly urbanising, largely industrial Narayanganj, restoration work on the man-made Gymkhana Lake is proving to be a breath of fresh air -- quite literally -- for nearly 1.5 million dwellers of the city.

Part of the larger Baburail Canal Restoration project undertaken by the Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) under Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy, the lake named after the city's historic Gymkhana Club is already a popular recreation spot, where residents flock to avail the space it provides for enjoying leisure time or just to hang out with friends in an outdoor setting without the feeling of choking on smog.

Some of them call it the "Hatirjheel of Narayanganj" -- after the sprawling, mid-town drainage and sanitation project of Dhaka that, with some choice beautifications, turned into something of an urban oasis for residents of the capital.

The much smaller, more compact Gymkhana Lake is bordered on its south side by the Morgan School in Deobhog, from where it stretches till the Mobarak Shah Road.

There is seating provided by the NCC on the north side of lake, while Sheikh Russel Park is an emerging east side development, currently featuring an open stage. Though the park has no lighting system of its own

yet, illumination is not a problem thanks to the NCC's recent shift to LED lighting.

A pedestrian bridge in the middle of the lake is another beautiful spot on the Gymkhana Lake. Elevated and quiet, it is particularly lucrative to the younger generation.

A public toilet, a gymnasium and a women's swimming pool are in the pipeline of plans around the lake, under the Sheikh Russell Park development component, according to Mayor Ivy.

Already different cultural and political programmes have been held by the lake, the biggest of them during the last Pahela Baishakh, the Bengali New Year.

The Baburail Canal Restoration project, claimed to represent "a revolutionary milestone" in urban development by its supporters, is still nearing completion.

Yet the residents of Narayanganj already display a distinct affinity for this small component of the overall project, which once complete will reestablish the old link between the Shitalakkhya and Dhaleshwari rivers, that cradle this important city on the commercial route to Dhaka.

With important implications for commuting in the city, the two rivers' navigability, and dealing with waterlogging for the city corporation, residents of Narayanganj are eagerly looking forward to it.