

DU student stabbed by 'muggers'

DU CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University student was stabbed by muggers on campus on Sunday night. The injured, Anup Aditya, is a master's student of applied chemistry and chemical engineering and a resident of Jagannath Hall. A gang of muggers reportedly attacked Anup when he was returning to his dormitory from Palashi area around 9:30pm. "When Anup tried to escape, the muggers stabbed him and left," Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of Dhaka Medical College Hospital police outpost, told The Daily Star, quoting the victim's friends. He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with stab wounds in his abdomen, the inspector said. Contacted, DU Proctor Prof AKM Golam Rabbani said some miscreants stabbed the student after failing to rob him. "We would gradually bring the entire campus area under CCTV surveillance to prevent such incidents," he added.



Dhaka city traffic remains extremely chaotic as before although a road safety movement swept the country last year, highlighting how important it is to bring discipline in the transport sector. Ignoring any signal, dozens of motorbikes swarm across Bangla Motor intersection yesterday. Some of the motorcycles even stop in front of a row of cars at the centre of the intersection. In the same area, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, apparently in a desperate move to save time, gets stuck between two buses.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



AL holding doa and milad mahfil for Syed Ashraf today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Awami League will hold a doa and milad mahfil at Officers' Club in the capital today after Asr prayers for the salvation of the departed soul of noted politician Syed Ashraf Islam. Ashraf, former general secretary of Bangladesh Awami League and public administration minister, passed away at Bumrungrad International Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand around 9:45pm on January 3 after battling lung cancer. His body was brought back home from Bangkok on Saturday evening. Ashraf was laid to eternal rest next to his father Syed Nazrul Islam, who was the acting president of the Mujibnagar Government, at Banani graveyard in Dhaka on Sunday after three Namaz-e-Janaza in Dhaka, Kishoreganj and Mymensingh.



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A life lost to 'ill intentions'

Locals demand justice for toddler who died after fall from building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Locals in the city's Gendaria yesterday staged demonstrations demanding capital punishment for a house owner, who allegedly killed a two year-old girl after rape two days ago. The body of the minor was found in a pool of blood in front of the four-storey house on Dinnath Sen Road on Saturday evening. Owner of the house, Nahid, 45, was arrested yesterday morning, police said. "On Saturday evening, Nahid took the girl to his home on the second floor of the building with ill motives. At one stage, the girl started crying for her mother," said Mahbub Alam, inspector (investigation) of Gendaria Police Station, quoting Nahid's 12-year old daughter who was in the house at the time. In police custody, Nahid denied

killing or raping the girl but admitted that he took the girl to his home with ill intentions, police said. The girl died after falling from the building, the police officer said, adding they are yet to confirm whether Nahid killed her or she accidentally fell as there was no railing on the veranda. The father of the victim, meanwhile, alleged that Nahid took the girl -- luring her with promise of food -- on Saturday evening, killed her after rape and threw the body off the building later. "We initially thought my daughter died after falling from the building. But Nahid's daughter told locals that it was her father who picked my daughter up and later killed her by throwing her off the building," he told The Daily Star. "We want justice for the girl," the father said. Locals said they heard a loud bang and sound of screaming, seconds

before seeing the body in front of the building. She was declared dead after being rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The girl, who used to live with her parents in a nearby tin-shed house, used to play on the streets every day, locals said. She was second of four siblings. The victim's father, a welding worker, was not home and her mother was busy cooking. After news of the girl's death and arrest of Nahid spread in the area, locals gathered in front of the Gendaria Police Station, demanding highest punishment for Nahid. A case was filed against Nahid in this connection. Once a clothes trader, twice-divorced Nahid used to live off house rent. Sources at the DMCH morgue said they did not find any evidence of rape. The child died from the fall, the sources added.

AHSANULLAH MASTER MURDER CASE Hearing on appeals deferred till March 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The hearing on appeals filed against the High Court verdict in connection with Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master killing case have been deferred till March 4, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court said yesterday. A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the deferment order as all relevant documents required for the hearing were not produced before the bench, said Additional Attorney General Momtaz Uddin Fakir. On May 7, 2004, gunmen shot and killed Ahsanullah, also then president of Jatiya Sramik League, and Omar Faruq Ratan, a young man, and wounded 17 others. The next day, Ahsanullah's brother Motiur filed the case against 19 people, including Nurul Islam Sarkar, a Jubo Dal leader. On April 16, 2005, a Dhaka court handed down death sentences to 22 people and life terms to six others for killing Ahsanullah. A decade later, On June 15, 2016, HC confirmed death

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A giant campaign banner still stays at the base of a statue of freedom fighter Nur Islam although it has been one week since the election day. The photo was taken at Kadamtoli Chowrasta in Keraniganj yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Jubo League men vandalise 17 buses in Shakhari Bazar

Bus employees claim they were attacked over extortion

JNU CORRESPONDENT

Activists of Jubo League, the youth wing of the Awami League, yesterday vandalised at least 17 buses and beat up some bus employees, allegedly over seeking extortion in Old Dhaka. Witnesses said that some Jubo League men, led by Md Afjal - claiming to be Jubo League's acting organising secretary of Ward 43 under Sutrapur thana, torched several buses at Shakhari Bazar area around noon. Police detained Afjal and one of his associates, Abdullah, from the spot. Afjal said, "Juniors [of Jubo League] vandalised some buses over heated argument with the

bus employees." "When our boys, on Sunday night, went to the bus employees for some buses for our programme, they assaulted two of them [Jubo League men] in front of the court," he claimed. Afjal also said, "We needed the buses to meet local law-maker Kazi Firoz Rashid." Requesting anonymity, an employee of Supravat Paribahan told The Daily Star, "We did not assault any Jubo League men on Sunday night." "The attackers torched our bus counter and beat up two of our colleagues," he said. The Daily Star also talked to other bus employees in this

regard. They claimed that at least 17 buses belonging to six companies were torched by Jubo League activists. They also claimed that some local leaders of Dhaka south unit of Jubo League have been trying to extort them. As the transport workers did not give them any money, the Jubo League men attacked them, they alleged. However, considering their safety, they refused to disclose names of Jubo League leaders involved. When contacted, Jubo League's Dhaka south unit General Secretary Rezaul Karim Reza told The Daily Star yesterday, "No Jubo League man of

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Govt relaxes experience requirement for driving licence for six months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT


The government has again relaxed the requirement of experience for getting licences to drive medium and heavy vehicles for six more months. Last August, the government relaxed the requirement until December 31, 2018. It has been extended until June 30, following "request" of transport workers, officials said. As per the latest circular, issued on December 26, a person having professional driving licence for light vehicles and one year experience, can drive medium-sized vehicles. Similarly, a person with driving licence for medium-sized vehicles and one-year experience, can operate heavy vehicles. Under the current rule, motorists having driver's licence for light vehicle for three years can only apply for licence to drive medium-sized vehicles, and drivers of medium-sized vehicles can apply for heavy vehicle driver's licence. The government has taken the decision to make up for the shortage of drivers with licences for medium and heavy vehicles, reads the circular. However, road safety campaigners alleged that the government made the move under pressure from transport workers, while safety experts said the decision will make roads riskier. Amid outcry for road safety following death of two students in the capital on July 29, law enforcers and BRTA launched a crackdown across the country, where a large number of bus and truck drivers were caught with licences for driving light vehicles. Against this backdrop, transport owners and worker leaders had urged the government to relax the requirements.

Japan to support farmers and displaced Myanmar people

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Japan will provide USD 5 million to support Bangladeshi smallholder farmers and forcibly displaced people from Myanmar till December 2020. An agreement to this effect was signed by the Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh Hiroyasu Izumi and United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Bangladesh Representative and Country Director Richard Ragan at a ceremony at the WFP Country Office on Sunday. Japan's contribution will support 2,000 Bangladeshi smallholder farmers in Patuakhali and Cox's Bazar districts with training, new tools and infrastructure to support their livelihoods, said a press release of WFP. "We thank the people of Japan for their continued assistance to this ongoing crisis in Cox's Bazar. The needs remain substantial and this contribution enables us to continue our support to displaced people while developing new programme to support Bangladeshi smallholder farmers," said Ragan. "From this project, both farmers and displaced people will benefit. I sincerely wish that this project will be able to contribute to the development of Bangladesh and support of displaced people in Cox's Bazar,"

said Ambassador Izumi. Part of the contribution will support the expansion of WFP's e-voucher programme for people displaced from Myanmar. This innovative programme allows participants to obtain a variety of food at special outlets contracted by WFP in the settlements. About a quarter of people displaced from Myanmar, now living in Cox's Bazar, receive assistance by e-voucher, and this contribution from Japan will support 21,000 people with e-voucher assistance for 12 months. This represents a continuation of Japan's strong support to WFP's response in Bangladesh. Japan contributed USD 15 million to WFP Bangladesh in the beginning of the response. Japanese funds supported the construction of a bridge in the middle of the Kutupalong-Balukhali expansion site, which provides vital access to a section of the settlement that was completely unreachable by trucks carrying food and other supplies. In Cox's Bazar, WFP provides food assistance to over 870,000 people per month who have been displaced from Myanmar. WFP also supports nutrition and livelihoods interventions in the host community, supporting the most vulnerable people. WFP urgently needs USD 52 million to continue



WE MOURN

With profound grief we inform of the sad demise of our
Chairman &
Managing Director

Mr. Iftekharul Alam

We convey our sympathy and pray for his departed soul.

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