



Demanding justice for Feni madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Rafi, rights activists form a human chain in front of National Museum yesterday.

'Killers must be treated as killers'

Sultana Kamal says at rally for Nusrat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights activist Sultana Kamal yesterday demanded a special tribunal for quick disposal of the case filed over murder of Feni madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Rafi.

"The country must get rid of the culture of injustice, and the culprits involved in Nusrat's murder must be punished," she said while speaking at a protest rally in front of National Museum.

The killers must be treated only as killers, irrespective of whether they belong to the ruling party or opposition, Sultana Kamal added.

Jouno Nirjaton o Nari Nipiron Pratibad Andolon, a platform protesting sexual harassment against women, organised the rally. Later, leaders and activists of the platform brought out a protest procession that ended at the central Shaheed Minar after holding another rally.

Speaking there, Dr. Susanta Kumar Das, a professor at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, urged the government to take adequate measures so that concerned authorities could ensure justice for Nusrat.

"The government should set an example of justice through the trial of Nusrat's murder, so that none can dare to commit such type of crime in future," he said.

Abul Hossain, Dhaka Metropolitan unit president of Bangladesh Workers' Party, thanked the prime minister for her prompt initiatives to ensure justice for Nusrat.

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PM grieves Notre Dame cathedral fire

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed deep shock at the damage to the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris on Monday.

"We are terribly shocked and deeply saddened at the colossal damage to the Cathedral Notre Dame due to a catastrophic fire," she said in a message to President of France Emmanuel Macron.

The damage to this iconic cathedral is heart-wrenching not only to people of France but for the entire humanity.

"With a deep sense of loss and grief, I, on behalf of the people and government of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, convey our profound sadness to you and to the people of France," reads the message.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of France," according to the message issued by the Foreign Ministry yesterday.

DHAKA TODAY

MUSICAL EVENT

Sador Tabla Duo: Arnab and Nilimesh

Organiser: The Junction Dhaka

Venue: The Junction Dhaka, Niketon

Time: 8pm

THEATRE

Fearless: A Play by the Differently Abled

Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy

Time: 6pm

PUBLIC LECTURE

Harnessing the Potential for Wind Energy in Bangladesh

Organiser: EMK Center

Venue: EMK Center

Time: 5pm

ARTWORK EXHIBITION

Rhythm of Life: 2

Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Mirpur Road

Time: 3pm

GROUP ART EXHIBITION

Tumi Robe Nirobe: Khalid Mahmood Mithu (Late) and Kanak Champa Chakma

Organiser: Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts

Venue: Abinta Gallery of Fine Arts, Badda

Time: 10am

HUMAN CHAIN

Protesting the Proposal to Price Hiking of Gas

Organiser: Bangladesh Sadharan Samaj

Venue: Topkhana Road

Time: 11am

DISCUSSION

Mujibnagar Government, Background and History

Organiser: Sector Commanders Forum- Liberation War'71

Venue: Jatiya Press Club

Time: 11am



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits the "Health Information System and eHealth" stall at Bangabandhu International Conference Center yesterday as part of National Health Service Week.

PHOTO: PID

Stop use of Glyphosate herbicides

7 orgs serve legal notice on authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven rights organisations on Monday sent a legal notice to the government, to immediately stop import, use, marketing and sale of all herbicides and pesticides that contain hazardous Glyphosate, including roundup herbicides, for the security of people's health and environment.

In the legal notice, they also requested authorities concerned to withdraw and destroy already-imported and marketed herbicides and pesticides containing Glyphosate, and to cancel their registration.

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PM for renewed focus on traditional medicine

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for popularising traditional medicine through a renewed focus on the age-old indigenous healthcare system, alongside conventional drugs, as she inaugurated the National Health Service Week 2019.

"We can't neglect treatment using herbal, ayurvedic, unani, and homeopathy medicines and should give more importance to their development to facilitate people in receiving treatment," she said at the event at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

The PM said Bangladesh has achieved huge success in producing standard conventional drugs and creating their demands abroad while "traditional medicine have a great value as well".

There is growing demand for herbal treatment across the globe, she said and stressed the need for extensive research to develop traditional medicine.

She also handed ambulances and SUVs, purchased with public fund during 2017-2018 fiscal, to facilitate emergency

healthcare services for people at grassroots level on the occasion.

She reiterated her government's commitment to take healthcare services to people's doorsteps, pointing out the initiatives taken so far for overall development in health sector.

Sheikh Hasina said setting up of community clinics across the country was a part of the commitment to bring all people under healthcare services.

The PM said around 14,000 such community clinics are currently rendering health care services to mothers and children and providing 30 different crucial medicines free of cost.

She regretted that such a basic health facility was closed down during the BNP-Jamaat government's tenure as it was initiated during Awami League's 1996-2001 term as government.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque presided over the function while State Minister Dr Md Murad Hasan spoke on the occasion as special guest.

Health Services Division secretary gave the welcome address while representatives from World Health Organization (WHO) also spoke at the function.



Tens of ambulances stall in traffic jam on the road beside Dhaka Medical College Hospital every day. Hawkers dominate the footpaths and road-sides, narrowing the way and causing gridlock -- making it impossible for emergency patients to get to the hospital fast. The photo was taken yesterday.

Settle Suprohhat's route permit plea within 30 days: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) to dispose of Suprohhat Paribahan's bid to restore its route permit within 30 days.

The bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashrafur Kamal passed the order following a writ petition filed by the bus company, challenging legality of BRTA's inaction to settle its application to restore permission for operating its 163 buses.

On March 19, a bus of the company ran over Abrar Chowdhury. The fatality, which pointed out yet again the unruliness in transport sector, drew widespread protests.

BRTA scrapped route permit for 163 buses of the company on March 20 saying they had no legal documents. Suprohhat placed an application before BRTA on April 1 seeking to restore its route permit, which they alleged was not heeded by BRTA.

On April 8, the company served a legal notice on BRTA in this regard, but BRTA did not respond. Suprohhat MD Ashraf Ali filed the petition on April 15.

HC order on govt to protect mangoes remains in force

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that directed the government to monitor, through executive magistrates and law enforcers, mango orchards in Rajshahi and major harvesting areas to prevent spraying of toxic chemicals on mangoes.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC Justice Md Nuruzzaman rejected a petition filed by the state seeking stay on the HC directive, considering that the petition was not placed properly.

The HC order will remain in force following the SC order, Deputy Attorney General ABM Abdullah Al Mahmud Bashir told The Daily Star.

He said following a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, the HC on April 9 directed the Rajshahi divisional commissioner to take necessary steps in seven days in this regard.

The HC also ordered the authorities concerned to monitor markets and storehouses with surveillance teams so that harmful chemicals could not be sprayed on fruits, and submit a compliance report in 30 days, DAG Bashir said.

He said the state has decided not to move the stay petition after going through the contents of the HC directive.

Meanwhile, Advocate Manzill Murshid, who moved a writ petition before the HC for deploying police at mango orchards in Rajshahi region, said he is yet to get the certified copy of the HC order.

The attorney general's office filed the petition with the SC on behalf of the state on April 15, seeking a stay on the HC directive.