

Rowshan Ara laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Additional Inspector General of Police Rowshan Ara Begum, who was killed in a road crash in Congo on Sunday, was laid to eternal rest yesterday.

A Turkish Airways flight carrying her coffin landed in Dhaka at 5am yesterday, said Sohel Rana, assistant inspector general (media) at Police Headquarters.

Additional IGP Dr Md Moinur Rahman Chowdhury and family members received her body at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, according to a statement from Police Headquarters.

Her first namaz-e-janaza was held at Noyatola Jame Mosque in Moghbazar at 10am. The second janaza was held at Moghbazar Wireless Gate Jame Mosque at noon, and a third at Rajarbagh Police Lines after Zohr prayers. She was buried in Azimpur graveyard in Dhaka.

The 57-year-old was killed in a collision between a civilian lorry and her escort vehicle on way to a medal parade of Bangladesh Female Police Unit in Kinshasa, the capital of DR Congo.



Jute mill workers blocked a road near Sultana Kamal Bridge in the capital's Demra for five hours yesterday as they continued to demonstrate demanding their arrears. Some 70,000 workers are employed in 23 jute and three non-jute mills under state-run Bangladesh Jute Mill Corporation. Most jute mill workers have not been paid for six to 13 weeks.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

NEWS IN brief

'Hizb ut-Tahrir IT operative' held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) of police yesterday claimed to have arrested an IT operative of Hizb ut-Tahrir in South Keraniganj area of Dhaka.

The arrestee was identified as Riaz Uddin Sipai. He has been coordinating operations in Jagannath University, South Keraniganj, Shyampur, Dania and Gendaria areas for the last three years, Mahiduzzaman, superintendent of ATU (legal and media), told The Daily Star.

ATU will investigate the matter, he said.

Fall off building kills worker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A construction worker died after falling from the third floor of an under-construction building in Ashulia of Savar yesterday.

The accident happened while Nazmul Harun, 20, was working on the floor around 1pm, Ashulia Police Station Sub-Inspector Miraj Hossen quoted victim's co-workers as saying.

He was declared dead at a local hospital, he said.

The body was sent to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital for autopsy, he added.

Super shop fined Tk 50,000

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A mobile court yesterday fined a super shop in Narayanganj Tk 50,000 for selling and storing expired food items, not having price list and selling goods at higher price than retail markets.

Executive magistrates Rahima Akhter, Sheikh Mizbah-ul-Saberin and Nusrat Tara Khanam led the drive at the retail chain Shwapno in the city's Missionpara and found the anomalies.

The magistrates said the drive was conducted as per the direction of Deputy Commissioner Rabbi Miah to protect consumer rights during Ramadan. It will continue throughout the month, they added.

Mobile courts fine four stores

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Two mobile courts fined four stores Tk 42,000 in Barishal city on Wednesday for selling substandard, expired and overpriced goods.

Owners of Alamin Store, Alam Store and New Alam Store in Battala Bazaar area were fined for selling expired beverages, dates and other substandard consumer items. Another court in Port Road kitchen market area fined a meat trader Tk 2,000 for selling meat in unhygienic condition.

Mofizur Rahman passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Retired school teacher Mofizur Rahman passed away yesterday at a hospital in Dhaka, aged 87.

He left behind his wife, three sons and a daughter to mourn his death, said a press release.

He was buried in Shimrail Uttar Para graveyard following a namaz-e-janaza at Shimrail Uttar Para Eidgah field, the release added.

41 children raped in nine days: MJF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 44 children were either raped or subjected to attempted rape in the eight days between May 1 and 9, according to rights body Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

Of them, 41 were raped while there were rape attempts on three others. Three of the victims were killed after rape, MJF came up with the findings yesterday based on news reports of six national dailies. Of the rape victims, 37 were girls and four were boys.

In a press statement yesterday, MJF expressed grave concern over the increasing number of child rape incidents across the country.

It said incidents of violence against women and children have become so frequent due to the culture of impunity.

Urging the government to take steps to prevent violence and torture against children, MJF said the incident of rape puts short- and long-term impact on children's physical and mental health and on their social lives.

MJF also expressed their deep condolence over the death of Shahinor Akhter Tania, who was killed after being gang raped in Kishoreganj days ago.

INTEGRATING ROHINGYAS IN LABOUR MARKET

Bangladesh doesn't have the capacity: Wahiduddin Mahmud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leading economists and policy analysts have rejected the idea of providing Rohingyas access to local labour market in Cox's Bazar, and suggested their quick repatriation to ease pressure on Bangladesh.

They said the international community should take responsibility as long as Rohingyas stay here, because their presence has already posed serious threat to the local environment and host communities.

The comments came after a presentation indicating the impact on wages if Rohingyas are integrated into the local labour market, provided there are investments in Cox's Bazar and Chattogram.

"If the labour market of Chattogram

is considered, it can absorb Rohingyas without major fall in wage rates," said Dr Paul Dorosh of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

However, leading economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said the issue is not whether there will be economic gains if Rohingyas are integrated into the local labour market.

"Rather the issue is capacity, which we don't have," he said on the sideline of a seminar titled "Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals" jointly organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and IFPRI at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

Bangladesh is a densely populated country with limited land and natural resources. Due to rapid urbanisation and industrialisation, arable land is

shrinking very fast, he said.

Recent research says critical biodiversity areas in Cox's Bazar face a grave risk. Already, more than 2,000 hectares of forest have been lost due to the influx of some 7,50,000 Rohingyas since August 2017.

Besides, Rohingyas and Bangladeshis have a lot of differences in social terms. For example, almost all Bangladeshi girls go to schools and our birth rate is low, just the opposite in case of Rohingyas, he said.

"The only solution is repatriation; the international community has to come forward," Mahmud said.

BIDS consultant Dr Asaduzzaman said Rohingyas getting access to labour market in Chattogram will mean they have access to entire Bangladesh.

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PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN
An executive magistrate checks expiry date of products at a shop in Pahartali yesterday. Inset, adulterated food items being destroyed as part of the drive.

Seven shops, factory fined Tk 1 lakh in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court yesterday fined three shops Tk 35,000 for selling beef at high prices in Hathazari upazila of Chattogram.

UNO Ruhul Amin, who led the drive, monitored several kitchen markets in guise of a customer.

Beef was supposed to be sold at Tk 500 to Tk 580, but the shops were selling it for Tk 650 to Tk 700, he said.

The court fined a factory Tk 30,000 for producing sub-standard ingredients in Madhya Burishchar area of the upazila, Amin added.

Another mobile court conducted a drive at Pahartoli Bazar and fined four shops Tk 45,000 for selling expired food and baby foods, said Executive Magistrate Suriya Yasmin, who led the drive.

5,209 life-term convicts don't know duration of their sentence: Mahbub

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent criminal law expert Khandker Mahbub Hossain yesterday told the Supreme Court that 5,209 prisoners, who have been convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment, do not know how long they will have to serve in jails, although life sentence refers to 30 years' prison term as per law.

They will have to wait to know the duration of their sentence until the review petition regarding the meaning and tenure of a convict's life imprisonment is settled by the apex court, the jurist said.

He was placing arguments before a seven-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, during hearing of the petition, filed by one Ataur Mridha.

Mridha challenged an apex court verdict that on February 14, 2017 commuted his death penalty to life imprisonment in

a murder case. The Appellate Division bench headed by the then Chief Justice Barendra Kumar Sinha at the time said life imprisonment means jail sentence until natural death of the convict. Mridha submitted the petition to the Supreme Court seeking review of its judgment the same year.

Mahbub told the SC under Section 57 of the Penal Code, life sentence refers to 30 years' prison term, which becomes 22.5 years after the seven-and-a-half years' remission, adding that the rules of the law cannot be cancelled by any judgement.

Earlier, the SC appointed four eminent jurists -- Advocate AS Hasan Ariff, Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud, Advocate Abdur Rezak Khan and Advocate AM Aminudin -- as amicus curiae (friends of the court). They are expected to place their expert opinions on the meaning and tenure of a convict's life imprisonment before the court on May 16, the next date for hearing.

Road accidents kill three

STAR REPORT

Three people were killed and four injured in road accidents in three districts during the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Mymensingh, an elderly man was killed and four others were injured, when a CNG-run three-wheeler collided head-on with a pickup on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road in Rahmatganj Mazar area yesterday.

All the victims were abroad the three-wheeler, said police.

Motiur Rahman, 60, from Kendua upazila in Netrakona -- died on the spot, said Ahmed Kabir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Ishwarganj Police Station.

The injured were taken to Ishwarganj Upazila Health Complex from where they were transferred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, said the OC.

Police seized both the vehicles, and a case was lodged.

him while he was crossing a road in front of the town's Red Crescent market yesterday.

The deceased -- Kaushik Das, 49, from Goalchamot area -- was acting secretary general of the town unit of Jubo League.

He was rushed to Faridpur Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

AFM Nasim, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said, "After the accident, the battery-run auto-rickshaw driver fled leaving the vehicle on the road. We are trying to arrest him."

Meanwhile in Thakurgaon, a rickshaw-van puller was killed as a bus hit it from behind at Gobindanagar in the town on Wednesday night.

Abdul Jalil Kalachan, 32, from the town's Mandirpara Mujibnagar, died while being taken to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital, police quoted locals as saying.

A case was filed with Thakurgaon Police Station, said Sub-Inspector Belal Hossain.

DU student falls to death from tree

DU CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University (DU) student met a tragic end last night, after he fell off a coconut tree on the campus.

The deceased was identified as Barun Bishwas, a second-year student of Applied Mathematics department.

DU Proctor Prof AKM Golam Rabbani said the student was injured after he fell off the tree around 10pm. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead around 11pm.

His family members have been contacted, the proctor said.

"I urge all students not to climb any trees to avoid such accidents," he added.

A friend of the deceased, who was present on the spot, said, "Barun climbed up the coconut tree near the university central mosque to pluck coconuts; he suddenly slipped and fell off the tree."

Hailing from Barishal, Barun was a resident student of Jagannath Hall.

Last year in May, another DU student of Urdu department had died, after falling off a mango tree on the campus.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN
WATER THEFT... Amid an ongoing water crisis in Chattogram, some influential locals -- allegedly in connivance with a section of Wasa authorities -- have set up motors to pump out more water from the supply lines for themselves. The photo was taken in Motijharna area of Lalkhan Bazar yesterday.