



THE EARLY BIRDS... The Kamalapur Railway Station sees rush for homebound tickets a day before ticket sales begin officially for the Eid vacation. Many thronged the capital's railway hub yesterday to buy tickets for May 30 (Thursday), hoping to leave the capital on the last working day before the holidays.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Govt to ensure women's equal rights to inheritance

Says state minister for social welfare

UNB, Dhaka

The government is planning to amend the existing law to ensure equal rights of men and women to ancestral property, said State Minister for Social Welfare Sharif Ahmed yesterday.

"The government is considering bringing a change in the law for equal rights of men and women to ancestral property... Women won't suffer from a sense of economic insecurity if they get equal rights to property," he said while speaking at an award-giving ceremony at the Jatiya Press Club.

Nari Unnayan Shakti (NUS) arranged the programme with support from Women's Fund Asia.

NUS awarded seven journalists in print and electronic media for their special reports on "empowering slum women and girls through reducing gender-based sexual and domestic violence in family".

The awardees in print media are Rita Bhownik of Dainik Jugantor, Nasima Khatun of Daily Ittefaq, Md Ehsanul Haque Khan of Dainik Orthoniteer Kagoj and

Wazed Hira of Dainik Janakantha.

Those who got the award from electronic media are: Sharmin Ibrahim Luna of Bangla Vision, Sheikh Humayun Kabir Surjo of News24 and Naznin Akter of Mohona TV.

Speaking as chief guest, Sharif said women's empowerment is a must for the country's economic development. "Women must be engaged with the mainstream economy to build a prosperous Bangladesh."

The state minister said the government is working sincerely to make women economically independent and ensure safe work environment for them. He said ensuring economic independence of women is very important for protecting their rights and empowering them.

Editor of United News of Bangladesh (UNB) Mahfuzur Rahman said it is essential to improve the standard of journalism in Bangladesh so that journalists can contribute to society in a better way.

Director of American International Hospital Dr Sultan Muhammad Razzak also spoke at the event, with NUS Executive Director Dr Afroja Parvin in the chair.

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BIWTA knocks down 27 shops at Sadarghat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday demolished 27 illegal shops near old terminal of Sadarghat yesterday.

The eviction drive began around 9am in compliance with a High Court order, AKM Arif Uddin, joint director of Dhaka River Port, told the Daily Star.

"We have conducted the drive as part of modernising the Sadarghat terminal, and these structures were becoming obstacles to our work," said Arif.

He said with the eviction of the shops, pollution in the front side of the terminal will now stop.

Arif requested launch passengers to carry their own food and water while entering the terminal,

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BIWTA demolishes illegal structures near Old Terminal of Sadarghat yesterday. The eviction drive began around 9am and 27 structures were demolished.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Pushing the boundaries of a lease

New structure violates Transfer of Property Act, mars beauty of century-old building



An illegal concrete structure has taken up the yard space at 15 BK Ganguly Lane, but the facade of the building (right) shows the historic architecture from the pre-partition era.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

The busy roads of Kahettuly in Old Dhaka are home to many timeworn buildings with interesting architecture and history. One such building stands at 15 BK Ganguly Lane -- a property owned by the government -- with seven leaseholders living there.

With a space of 10,000 square feet, the building also had a yard space. That space has now been taken up by a new structure. According to the Transfer of Property Act 1882, the lessee cannot erect any permanent structure on the property without the consent of the lessor (which is the government in this case). The act mentions that permanent or temporary structures can be built on such properties upon agreement between two parties.

The under-construction structure belongs to one Dr Emdad Hossain, a leaseholder of the property. The construction began mid-March to the dismay of the other lessees: Imran Hossain, Md Ali Manik, Shafi Uddin Ahmed, Shahjahan Ali, Abdur Rahman and Monir Hossain.

"The gentleman had come to us a few months ago, saying that he had permission to build a structure here," said one of the lessees. "He had only received permission for a temporary 40x20 feet structure. He not only took up more space, but also erected a permanent structure."

Lessees complained that it was difficult to move around inside the property because of the structure, and it ruins the character and beauty of this over hundred year-old building.

Upon receiving complaints from the

other leaseholders, the Ministry of Land served a letter to Emdad on April 25 this. The letter, signed by Joint Secretary Kamrul Hasan Ferdous, instructs that the construction work be stopped immediately.

The construction has been halted since, but there is no sign of any action for removing it entirely. The rest of the leaseholders fear the illegal construction will continue if strict action is not taken to demolish it.

In a conversation with The Daily Star,



Abul Fatteh Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, additional deputy commissioner (Revenue) of Dhaka, said that Dr Emdad Hossain was recently issued a warning from his office regarding the matter.

"We have told him to cease work on the structure, and take down the illegal foundation," he said. The ADC also added that if the warnings were not heeded, strict action would be taken soon.

In reply to the allegations, however, Dr Emdad Hossain said that he has no idea

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94th birth anniversary of Nurjahan Murshid



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 94th birth anniversary of Nurjahan Murshid, a renowned politician, women's rights activist, and one of the organisers of the Liberation War.

Marking the day, her family members, Nurjahan Murshid Sangskritik Kendra and Broti sought prayers from the countrymen for the eternal peace of her departed soul, said a press release.

Nurjahan was born in Taranagar of Murshidabad district in 1924, and passed away on September 1, 2003 in Dhaka.

She was amongst the small number of Muslim women who entered higher education, and obtained her

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SHIFTING KHALEDA TO KERANIGANJ JAIL BNP to challenge govt move: Moudud

UNB, Dhaka

BNP senior leader Moudud Ahmed yesterday said they will soon move to the Supreme Court challenging the government's decision of setting up a makeshift court in Keraniganj Central Jail to hold trial of the cases filed against the party chairperson Khaleda Zia.

"We visited Keraniganj Jail yesterday (Monday) and found no atmosphere or necessary facilities there to run the court and ensure justice," he told a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club.

"We think, setting up such a court is contrary to the constitution. The constitutional right of a citizen to have justice will be violated through it. We'll very soon challenge at the Supreme Court the legality of setting up a court in Keraniganj Jail," Moudud added.

Bangladesh Sammilita Peshajibi Parishad arranged the programme demanding release of Khaleda Zia.

On May 13, the government announced that trial proceedings of 17 cases filed against the BNP chief will be held at a special court set up in Keraniganj Central Jail.

Khaleda was sent to the Old Dhaka jail after she had been convicted in Zia Orphanage Trust graft case on February 8, 2018.

She has been receiving treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) for various health complications since April 1.

Moudud, a BNP standing committee member, said the government has started "hatching a new plot" to shift ailing Khaleda Zia to Keraniganj Jail from BSMMU.

He said their chairperson has become very ill as she was kept in an abandoned jail for a long time. "We blame the government for her illness and deteriorating health condition."

The BNP leader said they are taking all necessary legal steps to free Khaleda from jail. "But we can't succeed due to the government's evil design. Even after that we'll continue

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DHAKA TODAY

MEMORIAL PROGRAMME

Subir Nandi: Renowned Singer of the Country
Venue: Shilpkala Academy
Time: 3pm

EXHIBITION

Bodyspace Mindspace by Wakilur Rahman
Venue: Dwip Gallery, Lalmatia
Time: 6:30pm

WORKSHOP

Manuscript Writing
Organiser: GUSTO A Research Group
Venue: DOHS, Mirpur-12
Time: 11am

DEATH OF ABRAR

Court asks for report on further probe by June 27

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked detectives to submit by June 27 the report on further investigation into the death of Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP) student Abrar Ahmed Chowdhury in a road accident on March 19.

Metropolitan Magistrate Debdas Chandra Adhikary passed the order after Kazi Shariful Islam, inspector of Detective Branch of Police, failed to submit the report.

Earlier on April 30, the same magistrate passed the order after the investigation

officer of the case submitted a petition seeking permission for further probe.

In the petition, he said that earlier on April 25 two charge sheets were submitted to the court implicating Suprohbat Paribahan owner and three staffers in connection with the case.

But later the police official found evidence suggesting that more people were involved. So further investigation is needed, the petition said.

The accused are: owner of Suprohbat Paribahan Noni Gopal Sarker, driver Sirajul

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Fasting and Cardiac Illness

Patients with stable cardiac illness can fast during Ramadan, provided they comply with the recommended dietary and medication regimens. Patients with angina or chest pain and old myocardial infarction or heart attack who are able to perform normal activities can observe the fast as well. However, they should reduce their physical activity during the month. Fasting is helpful in patient with ischemic heart disease associated with diabetes, overweight & dyslipidemia. But those who have had recent heart attack should not fast.

Dr. Fatema Begum
Consultant, Cardiology

CALL 10666

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For Appointment
Emergency & Ambulance

EXHIBITION

Dawn of Black
Venue: Bay's Edgewater, Gulshan-2
Time: 10am

WORKSHOP

Cycle Repairing and Safety Checks
Venue: East West International

Zero tolerance against illegal migration: Shahriar Alam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken a zero tolerance policy to prevent illegal migration, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said yesterday.

"Our government will not tolerate any illegal practices in migration," he said at Brac Migration Media Award 2018 event, held at Brac Centre Inn in the city.

"...Even one story of successfully reaching Europe illegally cannot be an example for others to follow," the state minister said.

He suggested that those who had gone to Libya with the ultimate purpose of reaching Europe illegally should be brought under law.

Bangladesh imposed restrictions on migration to Libya in 2014, considering the civil war there. Yet, some people went there, knowing well what was happening in Libya and the Mediterranean, he added.

Some 40 Bangladeshis were feared dead and 15 were rescued from the Mediterranean on May 9 when a boat carrying nearly 80 people were crossing the sea to reach Europe.

"We don't encourage illegal migration. We signed an agreement with the European Union, and are bringing back and reintegrating the irregular migrants from

Europe," Shahriar Alam said.

He advised journalists to investigate and identify the middlemen who are duping the overseas jobseekers and leaving them in perilous situations.

EU Acting Head of Cooperation in Bangladesh Doerte Bosse said EU does not want to stop migration but is against dangerous means undertaken to migrate.

She said EU is working with International Organization for Migration and Brac to repatriate and reintegrate irregular Bangladeshi migrants, and create awareness against illegal migration.

Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, former vice chancellor of Dhaka University, said the government should focus more on welfare of the migrants.

"They should be given more respect at home... Their health and education should get more priority," he said.

The journalism teacher suggested media to disseminate information so that people are not deceived. He also demanded more allocation of resources for farmers, readymade garment workers and migrant workers -- who are the backbone of the country's economy.

Brac's Acting Executive Director Asif Saleh recommended that Bangladesh

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN