



It's anyone's game at Bangla Motor intersection. Pedestrians crossing amid haphazard traffic, motorbikes trailing behind, cars squeezing through the vacant space, and an officer watching helplessly -- all coming together to create a perfect Dhaka pandemonium. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Salim Prodhan on five-day remand  
GK Shamim, Khalid sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed alleged online gambling ringleader Salim Prodhan on a five-day remand, in connection with a money laundering case. Metropolitan Magistrate Sabbir Yasir Ahsan Chowdhury passed the order after Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Inspector Shahidul Islam Khan, investigation officer in the case, produced him before the court with a 10-day remand prayer. Salim was arrested while boarding a flight at Hazrat Shahjalal Airport on September 30. On October 3, he and his two associates were placed on a four-day remand in the case filed under the Narcotic Control Act. Meanwhile, GK Shamim, a top government-listed contractor, and suspended Jubo League leader Khalid Mahmud Bhuiyan were sent to jail yesterday, on completion of their remands in connection

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CHILD RIGHTS WEEK-2019  
Competitive education system a burden: students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education is the backbone of a nation, but teachers and guardians have induced such a competitive situation that students are under serious and constant pressure. This was the opinion of a ninth grader of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Sorkari Ucha Maddhomik Bidyaloy, Shanjida Sraboni, who spoke at a discussion held at Bangladesh Shishu Academy yesterday. The programme titled "Equality is my right" was jointly organised by the academy and Brac to mark World Children's Day and Child Rights Week-2019. Sraboni, who represented around 500 school students at the programme, said due to the present method of education they are forced to forgo learning from nature. Demanding the right to express their opinions, she said children cannot freely express themselves as seniors do not allow it. Stressing the need to stop sexual harassment and abuse, she said girl children of the country face the worst of it, adding in many cases the abuse is committed by family members. Speakers at the discussion underscored the need for an environment to reduce discrimination between girls and boys. Eminent writer Selina Hossain said, "To prevent abuse of children, we should not always wait for the police and the government to take measures. We must ourselves act strongly to prevent these abuses." Bangladesh Shishu Academy Director Anjir Liton said that as a nation we are not playing an effective role in the development of children. There's not enough response to the ongoing Child Rights Week in the media, Liton said. Brac's Gender Justice and Diversity Director Anna Mini said that almost hundred percent children are now going to school, which is a good thing. "We are also proud that our girl footballers and cricketers are bringing honour for the country by winning international competitions," she said. Among others, Judith Herbertson, country representative of DFID and Nobonita Chowdhury, director, Violence against Women Initiative of Brac, also spoke at the programme. The discussion was followed by cultural programme and a prize giving ceremony.

HOLEY ARTISAN ATTACK  
Court summons last witness on Oct 17

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tribunal in Dhaka court yesterday summoned the investigation officer, the last witness in the Holey Artisan café attack case, to appear before it on October 17 to narrate what he found in his probe. After recording statements of former Dhaka metropolitan magistrates, Judge Majibur Rahman of the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal of Dhaka, asked Counter Terrorism & Transnational Crime Unit's Inspector Humayun Kabir to appear before the court. The tribunal recorded statements of 113 out of 211 witnesses including complainant of the case. The witnesses who gave their statements before the tribunal yesterday are: former Dhaka Metropolitan magistrates Golam Nabi, Maruf Hossain and Nur Nabi. On July 1, 2016, armed militants stormed Holey Artisan Bakery in the capital's Gulshan and killed 20 hostages, mostly foreign nationals. Two police officials were also killed during the 12-hour standoff. Police held home-grown militant group "Neo JMB" responsible for the terrorist attack. On July 23 last year, investigation officer Humayun Kabir of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit submitted the charge sheet to the chief metropolitan magistrate of Dhaka, accusing eight people over the attack and naming 211 as prosecution witnesses. On November 26 last year, the tribunal framed charges against the eight accused.

Want to have Bangladesh ready for any calamity: PM  
Equipment worth Tk 1,000 crore to be procured

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she wants to prepare Bangladesh so it can face any sort of disaster -- manmade or natural. "Whether a manmade or natural disaster strikes, Bangladesh will always remain prepared to tackle it. That's what we need," she said while addressing an event at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) marking International Day for Disaster Reduction. Disaster management and relief ministry organised the programme, with the theme "Reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services". State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Dr Md Enamur Rahman, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Disaster Management and Relief Ministry AB Tajul Islam and Senior Secretary Md Shah Kamal also spoke at the programme. The Prime Minister distributed Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) awards to three volunteers from Chattogram, Barishal and Khulna divisions. This year, 82 volunteers got the awards. She also inaugurated 100 multipurpose cyclone shelters in 14 districts and 11,604 disaster resilient houses in 64 districts. Later, the premier inaugurated the Exhibition on Disaster Risk Reduction. After the country's independence, she said, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had built 172 'Mujib Killa' to protect and save people's lives and property from devastating cyclones. With cooperation of the then

Red Cross, he had undertaken the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) in 1972, he said. "Presently, CPP has about 56,000 trained volunteers. Besides, there are 24 lakh Ansar-VDP members, 17 lakh scouts, four lakh BNCC members and four lakh Girls Guides ready to be engaged in humanitarian response at any time," Hasina said. She mentioned that the government has constructed 378 more Mujib Killa. Apart from this, 3,868 multi-purpose cyclone shelters have been built in the coastal districts and 1,650 more shelters will be constructed gradually. The PM said the government has taken a project on providing 5,00,000 household grain stores (silos) to families in 63 upazilas of 19 districts. By April 2019, the government provided silos to 3,28,000 families. Besides, the government is constructing eight silo complexes in eight districts with a storage capacity of 5,00,000 metric tonnes. "We're constructing silos so that we could preserve food grains for two years to face any adverse situation," she said. Hasina said the government has designed a project titled "Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100" for combating climate change. "We've designed the project to provide a beautiful better future for the future generation," she said. To face any type of disaster, Hasina said, the country needs a large volume of equipment. "We have procured equipment worth Tk 236 crore, while the procurement of more equipment worth Tk 1,000 crore has been taken, so that we can face any disaster in every region of the country."



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joined the inauguration for International Disaster Mitigation Day at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: PTD

Pay Tk 10 lakh to Rajib's brothers in 30 days: SC to Sajan Paribahan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered the owner of Sajan Paribahan to give Tk 10 lakh in a month to the brothers of Rajib Hossain, a college student who died last year after his right arm got stuck between two buses and got severed. A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain gave the order after hearing a petition filed by Sajan Paribahan, challenging a High Court verdict.

The HC on June 20 asked two bus companies -- Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation and Sajan Paribahan -- to pay in two months Tk 25 lakh each to Rajib's brothers Mehedi Hasan Bappi, 16, and Abdulla Hridoy, 15. Rajib, a third-year student of Government Titumir College, died on April 17 after he lost his arm while two buses of the aforesaid companies were trying to overtake each other in the capital's Bangla Motor.

'A vicious attack on freedom of speech'  
Noted citizens say on Abrar killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent rights activists yesterday termed the killing of Abrar Fahad a vicious attack on freedom of speech, and said the government and university administration cannot avoid its responsibilities. "The ruthless killing of Abrar is an outcome of evil culture of forcibly curbing dissident opinion, political criminalisation, lack of justice and impunity," said a statement from the Committee for the Protection of Fundamental Rights. Expressing doubts over fair trial of the case, signatories said they are worried as trials of most university-based killing incidents were not held properly. Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Dr Shahdeen Malik, Prof CR Abrar, Dr Shahidul Alam, Prof Asif Nazrul, Syeda Rezwana Hasan, Prof Shahnaz Huda, Sara Hossain, Nur Khan Liton, Jyotirmoy Barua and Prof Rehnuna Ahmed, among others, signed the statement.

PROCUREMENT GRAFT AT RANGPUR MEDICAL  
Top official of medical equipment company held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday arrested a top official of a medical equipment supply company in connection with a case filed over misappropriating around Tk 4.48 crore from a procurement project of Rangpur Medical College (RMC). ACC Assistant Director Md Saiduzzaman arrested GM Syed Kamrul Ahsan, general manager of Bengal Scientific and Surgical Company, in the afternoon from the capital's Segunbagicha, said Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, public relations officer of ACC. On September 12, ACC filed the case against RMC Principal Dr Nur Islam and assistant professor Dr Sarawat Hossain; proprietor of Mercantile Trade International Abdus Sattar Sarkar, his son and proprietor of Bengal Scientific and Surgical Jaher Uddin Sarkar; and his grandson Ahsan Habib. Another accused in the case is proprietor of Universal Trade Corporation Asadur Rahman, who is the brother-in-law of Jaher. According to the case statement, there was no approval from the health directorate for the purchase and the tender process was flawed and lightning quick. The work order was issued only two days after the bidder was picked and the bill worth Tk 4.49 crore was collected in just 10 days. Meanwhile, a special court in Dhaka yesterday ordered to seize 605-decimal land of Crescent Group Chairman MA Kader, who brought

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Scrap Feni water-sharing deal immediately: LDA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left Democratic Alliance (LDA) leaders at a protest rally yesterday condemned banning student politics at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) following the murder of its student Abrar Fahad. Citing the contributions of student politics in the country's history, they said putting an end to something instead of addressing the core problems cannot be a solution; rather it indicates failure. They also strongly criticised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for signing the Feni water-sharing agreement with India, demanding that the government withdraw the agreement immediately and do not make such "anti-national" treaties in future. LDA organised the rally in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital. On October 5, the Bangladesh PM -- during her visit in India -- signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Indian PM Narendra Modi, allowing the country to take 1.82 cusec water from Feni river for drinking purpose. Abrar, on that day, made a Facebook post criticising the agreement. The next day, a group of Chhatra League leaders brutally beat Abrar to death at a dormitory on Buet campus for the post. Following this, the university authority on Friday banned political activities on the campus. "Chhatra League killed such a bright student just for protesting the anti-national treaty!" said Nazrul Islam, a central leader of LDA. He alleged that the ruling Awami League is using its student and youth organisations to carry out various forms of "terrorism" -- including murder, rape and extortion -- which must be stopped. Shah Alam, general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh, said the PM offered water from Feni river without ensuring the due share of Teesta, which suggests her "obedience to India".

Labaid Cardiac gets int'l accreditation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Labaid Cardiac Hospital has received an international accreditation for maintaining standards in healthcare services, said a press release yesterday. National Accreditation Board for Hospital and Healthcare (NABH) Providers awarded this accreditation recently, considering over 600 parameters in patient management and organisational structure standards. NABH is a constituent board of Quality Council of India. Following the accreditation, Labaid is observing a special health services week (Oct 12-18) in its centres.




ASM Abdur Rob, among other Oikyafront leaders, comes face to face with police in riot gear as the alliance brings out a mourning procession from Jatiya Press Club protesting the killing of Abrar.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Police foil Oikyafront rally

UNB, Dhaka

Police yesterday foiled a 'civic mourning rally' brought out by Jatiya Oikyafront in the city, protesting the killing of Buet student Abrar Fahad. Several hundred leaders and activists of the alliance, led by its convener Dr Kamal Hossain, brought out the rally wearing black badges and holding black flags from the Jatiya Press Club towards the Central Shaheed Minar around 5:10pm. Minutes after the rally started, police obstructed it saying the alliance leaders are not allowed to hold the rally. Oikyafront leaders tried to break the police barricade, but failed. At one stage, police allowed the vehicle, carrying Dr Kamal, to go to his Bailey Road residence while the alliance leaders left the spot in the face of obstruction by the law enforcers. Earlier, Oikyafront leaders held a public rally at the auditorium of the Jatiya Press Club protesting the murder of Abrar. At the programme, Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna announced to hold a public rally at any open space or ground in the city on October 18 on the same issue.



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