


PHOTO OF THE DAY

PALASH KHAN



Since monsoon rain stopped a few weeks back, water has been receding in the Turag. The shallow water in the river has been drawing a good number of fishermen. Some were seen waiting patiently on boats with fishing rods while others, like these two, started looking for fish near the bank. The photo was taken in Aminbazar area of Savar yesterday.

Stop needless c-sections

Experts urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors and health experts at a roundtable yesterday urged the government to stop unnecessary caesarean deliveries (c-section), which have been growing in an alarming rate in recent years.

They urged health service providers to give more priority to natural birth and encourage expectant mothers and families in this regard.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo in association with "Stop Unnecessary C-section" organised the discussion at the newspaper's office in Dhaka.

Speaking at the event, Ishtiaq Mannan, deputy country director of Save the Children Bangladesh, said mothers who have caesarean births face various health complications. It is also costlier, he added.

"Majority of doctors feel more convenient to handle caesarean birth," Mannan said, stressing the need for doctors' skill development on normal birth.

Noted gynaecologist Rowshan Ara Begum said the government needs to extend its [normal delivery] services and ensure quality treatment if it wants to stop the rising trend of c-section. She suggested increasing the number of community clinics, particularly in rural areas.

Prof Mohammad Shahidullah, president of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council; Abdul Quayum, associate editor of Prothom Alo; Shams El Arefin, a researcher of icddr; and Rashna Imam, a Supreme Court lawyer, also spoke at the event.

All illegal DTH services must go by Dec 15

Says info minister

UNB, Dhaka

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said that local or foreign illegal direct-to-home (DTH) downlink services must be stopped by December 15.

Hasan Mahmud came up with the announcement during a meeting at the Secretariat on digitalisation of cable television channels in Bangladesh.

"Only two companies have been given DTH licences but the government has not given

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Giving the gift of mobility

Indian High Commission donates 500 prosthetic legs to those in need

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight-year-old Morium Aktar Mim used to remain dispirited most of the time because she could not walk like her friends.

To bring smile to her face, her father Mohammad Joynal Abedin -- a rickshaw-van puller -- had purchased a prosthetic leg for Tk 5,000 three years ago from a roadside shop in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. But it became defective about a year ago.

Yesterday, as a technician at Nitor was taking measurements for a new prosthetic leg for her, Mim was all smiles.

"I saw news on television that prosthetic legs would be given away among the underprivileged, so I came here," said Joynal, who lives in Gazipur. He was among 50 people who gathered at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic

All talk, no action

Vector control guideline must for Aedes control: experts

HELEMUL ALAM

Despite the record spread of dengue fever this year, Bangladesh is yet to form a vector control centre and integrated vector guideline, both of which are essential to control vector-borne diseases.

Vector-borne diseases are human illnesses caused by parasites, viruses and bacteria that are transmitted by mosquitoes, sandflies, ticks, lice and various other insects.

"A national vector control guideline and its proper implementation is very important to control Aedes mosquito," said Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist of Jahangirnagar University.

He said a separate institute for mosquito control is also very important. It would also help with research on the matter and provide helpful information to authorities concerned.

Research is needed not only on mosquitoes, but other kinds of vectors such as sandflies (which spreads black fever), and bed bugs, he said.

Bashar said, in the meantime local government organisations would have to continue their drives against Aedes mosquito at least till the end of October.

An official of local government division (LGD) said a team from World Health Organisation (WHO) visited recently and provided technical advice to both city corporations of Dhaka and LGD. The WHO team will submit a report to LGD by this month, outlining the proper way of integrated vector management (IVM).

"We are now working to prepare an IVM strategy for the whole country and also preparing an institutional framework

for it. WHO's report will help us," said the official.

He said they are also planning to strengthen the activities of department of mosquito control, which is now in a shabby state.

Md Mahbub Hossain, additional secretary of LGD, recently told the Daily Star that as the huge spread of dengue was new in the country, city corporations were still figuring out their approach.

He said they have sought masterplans from every city corporation of the country regarding mosquito control activities.

Meanwhile, Line Director of Communicable Disease Control at Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Sanya Tahmina said they organised an integrated vector management (IVM) preparation workshop on Sunday involving entomologists and other stakeholders.

"We will start working on the IVM management guideline soon," she said.

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon said they want to prepare a five-year development project to control Aedes mosquito.

Under the project, an integrated research centre for communicable disease control will be constructed under a separate department, he said. "We will appoint necessary manpower, including entomologists, to conduct research and take steps accordingly," he said.

It will take around 10 days to complete the development project proposal and work will begin after the Executive Committee of National Economic Council approves it, he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

WAR CRIMES

Verdict in case against Rajshahi man any day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 will deliver verdict any day in a case filed against a Rajshahi man for allegedly committing crimes during the Liberation War.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Md Shahinur Islam yesterday kept the verdict waiting after both the prosecution and the defence counsel completed closing arguments in the case, said Prosecutor Muklesur Rahman Badal.

Abdus Sattar alias Tipu Sultan, 66, is facing two charges. He pleaded not guilty before the court and sought justice. He is now in jail.

He was a member Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

3 'Neo JMB' men held in Gabtoli

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Counter-terrorism officials claimed to have arrested three alleged operatives of "Neo JMB" in the city's Gabtoli area on Wednesday night.

The arrestees are: Md Abdullah, 24; Shafiqul Islam alias Mollaji, 38, and Musatafa Hosen Arif, 25.

A team of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit arrested them around 8:30pm after they arrived in Dhaka by a bus from a northern district, said Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

According to CTTC officials, the three were once members of JMB. They joined Neo JMB through Sohel Mahfuz alias Haatkata Sohel, an accused in the Holy Artisan attack case.

Officials said Shafiqul and Musatafa took several other operatives to India to train them on making bombs and using firearms.

Both returned after some of their associates were arrested by Indian authorities in June. Afterwards, they started strengthening the outfit through Abdullah, said the CTTC official.

A case was filed with Darussalam Police Station under Anti-Terrorism Act.

Don't go beyond rules: PM to UGC

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the University Grants Commission (UGC) authorities to strictly follow concerned rules in overseeing public and private universities in the country.

"Don't go beyond the law, and follow rules strictly in overseeing public and private universities of the country," she said when a delegation of the UGC led by its Chairman Professor Dr Kazi Shahidullah called on her at her office here.

After the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters. The prime minister also laid emphasis on increasing monitoring on private colleges affiliated with the universities.

She said UGC will be empowered by formulating a law, and its capacity will be enhanced further.

The UGC chairman said they are strictly following the law in monitoring public and private universities. The delegation apprised the prime minister of the activities of the commission.

Kazi Shahidullah said they have outlined a policy for conducting research at the universities.

"We want a training academy like the Public Administration Training Centre (PATC) for teachers," he said.

Prof Shahidullah said there are now 155 public and private universities in the country, adding that UGC has identified 30 private universities for various irregularities in running the institutions.

The UGC chairman also stressed the need for increasing manpower of the commission to deal with a large number of institutions, saying they are strung by inadequate manpower.

PM's Principal Secretary Md Nojibur Rahman and PMO Secretary Sajjadul Hassan were present at the meeting.

NEGLIGENCE, IRRESPONSIBILITY

Law ministry removes special PP Jahangir Alam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law ministry has removed special public prosecutor of Dhaka Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal Jahangir Alam Chowdhury for his negligence and irresponsibility in discharging duties.

The ministry has issued a gazette notification in this regard yesterday.

Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star yesterday that Jahangir Alam said in a talk show on Ekattor TV on Wednesday night that he did not know about the details of blogger Avijit murder case.

It shows his negligence and irresponsibility in dealing with the sensational murder case, he said. He has been removed considering his negligence and irresponsibility, added the law minister.

Contacted, Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said he did not specifically know why the government has removed him.

He, however, said he might have made some mistakes, though he tried to discharge his duties in a fair manner.

Sheikh Russel's 56th birthday today

BSS, Dhaka

The 56th birthday of Sheikh Russel, youngest son of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, will be observed today.

Sheikh Russel, also the youngest brother of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was born on October 18 in 1964 at the historic Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi.

He was assassinated on August 15 in 1975. Sheikh Russel was brutally killed along with most of his family members, including his father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, when he was a student of class four at University Laboratory School.

Different socio-cultural organisations including the associate bodies of the ruling Awami League have taken various programmes to observe the birthday of Sheikh Russel.

To mark the day, Awami League will place floral wreaths on the graves of all

martyrs, including Russel, of the August 15 carnage in the capital's Banani graveyard at 8am today.

Besides, recitation of fateha, milad and doa mahfil will also be held by the party members.

Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has requested party leaders, activists, well-wishers, supporters and people from all spheres of life to observe the birthday of Sheikh Russel in a befitting manner.

PM UNVEILS COVER OF COMMEMORATIVE BOOK Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday unveiled the cover of a commemorative book on Sheikh Russel.

The prime minister unwrapped the cover of the book titled "Hridoy Majhe Sheikh Russel" (Sheikh Russel in our hearts) at a ceremony at her office.

Advisory Editor of the book and State

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



GROWING PAINS... An aerial view of Purana Paltan intersection shows vehicles stuck in long tailbacks on all sides. Gridlock has become a regular phenomenon in the area as metro rail construction work has narrowed down the roads. Inset, often times, the congestion stretches to the north gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. The photos were taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

HOLEY ARTISAN CASE

Last witness starts deposition

JNU CORRESPONDENT

The investigation officer, last witness in the Holey Artisan café attack case, started giving his statements before a Dhaka tribunal yesterday.

Humayun Kabir, an inspector of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit, told the tribunal that he took charge of the investigation on July 5, 2016. On that day, he also visited the café in Gulshan.

He said he gathered some evidence from the spot. "I handed over all seized evidence [alamat] to the court along with the charge sheet," he said.

The blood and hair samples of five militants and another person -- killed on the spot -- were sent to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in America for tests, he said.

As FBI did not send any report due to "technical problem" in this regard, they [police] took Criminal Investigation Department's (CID) reports instead, he said.

On July 1, 2016, militants held around

100 people hostage, he also said. A total of 29 people, including five militants, died during the café attack incident, the IO added.

Judge Majibur Rahman of the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal of Dhaka recorded his statements.

Other than him, the tribunal has so far recorded statements of 113 out of 211 prosecution witnesses in the case. The tribunal set October 21 for the next hearing. Eight accused, now in jail, were produced before the tribunal during yesterday's hearing.

On July 1, 2016, armed militants stormed the bakery and killed 20 hostages, mostly foreign nationals. Two police officials were also killed during the 12-hour standoff.

On July 23 last year, the IO submitted the charge sheet to the chief metropolitan magistrate court of Dhaka, accusing eight people over the attack and naming 211 as prosecution witnesses. On November 26, the tribunal framed charges against the eight accused.