

PHOTO OF THE DAY

SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



A number of brightly-painted shipping containers on the Manik Mia Avenue have been turning heads for the last few days. The set-up is for a unique pop-up architectural exhibition that is set to open today, as part of international architecture forum Arcasia 20. Institute of Architects Bangladesh is holding seven exhibitions across the city as part of the event. The photo was taken last night.

'Chaos in sporting sector reflection of bad governance'

Says Mirza Fakhrul

The chaos in the country's sporting sector is a reflection of the current state of governance in the country, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

Addressing a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan central office, he said, "The way the government is running the country, no one [sports clubs] has accountability. Every federation has now become a means of making money through corruption."

Terming the issue of Shakib Al Hasan's ban by ICC from all forms of cricket unfortunate, he hoped that the ace cricketer will return to the field soon.

"Undoubtedly, Shakib is a very talented cricketer, and he is an indispensable part of our cricket team," Fakhrul said. "We expect that Shakib will return soon, and play again in full form and brighten the image of Bangladesh."

Fakhrul said they are not sure yet whether Shakib has been subjected to any conspiracy.

"There are conspiracies in such matters. There are plots to harm a talented player. These things will come out through investigation. I don't want to say anything specifically as I don't have any document and information about it. But such incidents happen in cricket," he observed.

BNP CHALKS OUT PROGRAMMES TO OBSERVE NOV 7 The party chalked out a two-day programme to observe the "National Revolution and Solidarity Day," marking the civil-military "uprising" on November 7, 1975.

Fakhrul announced the programmes after a joint meeting of the party and its associate bodies.

The party flag will be hoisted atop all offices of BNP

Death of a dream

Staff Correspondent

A bright student, Ariful Islam Sajal aspired to be an engineer. His impoverished family had high hopes from him.

He was resolutely working his way towards the goal. He obtained GPA 5 in both Junior School Certificate (JSC) and Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations and was an HSC second-year student at Mohammadpur Government College.

"Our hopes and dreams have been crushed," in tears, Sajal's mother Shilpi Begum told The Daily Star yesterday.

On Tuesday evening, Sajal went out of their home; around 9pm the family came to know that he was killed.

Police said Sajal and his friend Sanjida Akter Dolon were in Rayerbazar Dhal area around 8:45pm when some youths started sexually harassing Dolon. As Sajal protested, three of the four harassers left the area.

Sajal slapped the remaining harasser and the latter called his friends over

Workers Party suspends six central leaders

Party has deviated from communist ideals, they allege

Staff Correspondent

Workers Party of Bangladesh yesterday suspended six of its central committee leaders who had sought to refrain from joining the upcoming 10th congress of the party -- scheduled to begin in Dhaka on November 2.

"The final decision about them would be taken by the new central committee, as per opinion of majority of the congress delegates," said Fazle Hossain Badsha, convenor of the congress preparation committee.

He was speaking at a press conference held to disclose the party's 10th congress preparations, at its office on the capital's Topkhana Road.

The suspended leaders include the party politburo members Nurul Hasan and Iqbal Kabir Jahid, and central committee members Mofazzel Hossain Manju, Anil Biswas, Tusher Kanti Das and Zakir Hossain Hobi.

In a press release issued on Monday, the six leaders informed the party of not joining the 10th congress.

They alleged that the party has deviated from its communist ideals by forming alliance with the ruling Awami League.

"The party is going to hold a farcical congress and we, six central leaders of the party, took the decision to not join it," they said in the statement.

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Violating UgC Dir SC fines 2 private univs Tk 20 lakh

Staff Correspondent

The Supreme Court yesterday fined two private universities Tk 20 lakh for admitting students beyond the approval of Bangladesh Bar Council and University Grants Commission (UGC).

Stamford University and Dhaka International University, which admitted the students to their law faculties, have been ordered to give Tk 10 lakh each to the Liver Transplant Unit of BirDEM General Hospital within 15 days.

The apex court, however, upheld the High Court order that directed Bangladesh Bar Council, a statutory body regulating the country's lawyers, to allow the candidates who graduated from the two universities to fill up forms and to give them registration cards so that they can appear for the enrolment test.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, passed the order after hearing two separate petitions filed by Bangladesh Bar Council challenging the HC directives.

Advocate AY Moshuazzaman appeared

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Govt signs \$100m deal for safe water, sanitation

Unb, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday signed a \$100 million financing agreement with the World Bank to ensure improved water supply, sanitation, and drainage system in 30 selected municipalities, benefitting about 6 lakh people.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Monowar Ahmed and World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh and Bhutan Mercy Tembon inked the agreement on behalf of their respective sides at the ERD.

The "Municipal Water Supply and Sanitation Project" will provide safe piped water to residents of the municipalities that lack such facilities, said the global lending agency.

The project will facilitate public-private partnerships and help build infrastructures, including water treatment facility; water storage; transmission and distribution pipe network; house connections and improved sanitation facilities in low income areas and slums.

"Today, more and more people are living in cities, creating an urgent demand for quality urban infrastructures, including water and sanitation services," said Tembon.

She said this project will help people living in small towns, including slum dwellers, get piped water, improved sanitation and drainage services.

"With greater access to clean water, women will have more time, otherwise spent for collecting water."

"The health of their children will improve, resulting in better school attendance," said Tembon.

The project will help construct public toilets. It will invest in septage management and disposal, as well as provide training to cleaning workers in fecal sludge management. It will also identify and mitigate measures for critical areas prone to flooding.

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Victim-centric justice system needed

Says Prof Mizanur Rahman

diplomatic Correspondent

Legal expert Prof Dr Mizanur Rahman wants a shift in the country's justice system -- from offender-centric to victim-centric -- to ensure wellbeing of the affected.

"What happens to victims when an offender is imprisoned? Their suffering does not end," he said at a consultation on "Access to justice for Bangladesh migrant workers: improving the arbitration system" at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

Referring to the verdict that has sentenced 16 people to death for the murder of Nusrat Jahan Rafi, Prof Rahman said though the offenders were punished, the family did not get anything.

If the offenders were given rigorous imprisonment and the income from their labour was provided to Nusrat's family, it could have been a fitting compensation. It would have also helped the family, said the law professor of Dhaka University.

There are arrangements for compensation to victims in selected cases, but in the modern jurisprudence, especially in the US and Europe, the justice system is victim-centric, said Prof Rahman, former chairman of National Human Rights Commission.

"This also has deterrent implications on the offences," he told The Daily Star on the sidelines of the programme,

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Machetes recovered from DU dorm roof

DU Correspondent

Some 12 sharp weapons were recovered yesterday from the roof of Dhaka University's Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall.

A packet wrapped in fabric containing the weapons was found by dorm cleaners when they were cleaning the roof in the morning, said a notice issued by the dormitory's provost office.

Provost Prof Nizamul Hoque Bhuiyan said residential students of the hall might have left the locally-made machetes there, amid dorm authorities' drive the previous night to oust outsiders.

"It did not come from outside," the provost told reporters.

A probe body comprising two house tutors of the dormitory was formed to investigate the incident, he added.

Earlier on October 8, police arrested two former Chhatra League leaders with a yaba, a pistol and other sharp weapons from Mohsin Hall.

DU authorities on October 23 suspended four students including the aforementioned duo for possessing drugs and firearms.

They are Hasibur Rahman, a fourth-year student of Institute of Education and Research; Imran Hossain, fourth-year

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New passenger train service on the cards

Staff Correspondent

Railway authorities of Bangladesh and India will work together to assess viability of operating a passenger railway service on the Rajshahi-Kolkata route.

The development came after Riva Ganguly Das, Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka, held a meeting with Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan at the latter's office in the capital's Rail Bhaban.

Riva Ganguly raised the issue of the Rajshahi-Kolkata rail route via Malda of West Bengal, and the meeting decided to carry out a feasibility study on the route, Railways Secretary Mofazzel Hossain said.

"The final decision about the route would be taken after necessary study," Mofazzel, who was present at the meeting, told this correspondent.

There is an existing rail link between Bangladesh and India's Rohonpur through Chapainawabganj via Malda, to reach Howrah station. Freight trains are already using this route.

Earlier in July 2017, Fazle Hossain, a member of parliament from Rajshahi-2 constituency from Workers Party, had sent the proposal to the Indian government through the office of Assistant High Commissioner of India in Rajshahi.

Two passenger trains are currently being operated between the neighbouring countries. The operation of Dhaka-Kolkata train service resumed on April 14, 2008,

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Pedestrians leaping over mud and water accumulated on roads is a common occurrence. Bubbling water, however, is not. Authorities had dug up this road, and in the process damaged a gas line underneath. The road was later patched up, but not the pipeline, said locals. Besides gas fuel being wasted, this could also turn into a fire hazard when the water recedes. The photo was taken on Tuesday from Maleker Bari area in Gazipur.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Buses remain parked blocking half the road underneath Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover. According to locals, this situation has been prevailing for a while, choking traffic movement. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Jahangir alias 'Rajib Gandhi' gives statement

JU Correspondent

Jahangir Alam, an accused in the Holy Artisan attack case, yesterday gave his statement before a Dhaka court.

"I joined Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in 2002. From 2002 to 2014, I worked for JMB in various northern districts," said Jahangir Alam alias Rajib Gandhi, a recruiter of the banned outfit.

"In 2014, I received guidance from JMB leaders Tamim Chowdhury and Sarwar Jahan Manik. I took charge of the military wing of Islamic State (IS) in the northern part of the country," he claimed.

"I conducted some operations. Japanese national Hoshi Kunio was killed in one such operation in Rangpur and Hossain Sarder in Kurigram," he said.

He claimed he performed duties as an IS operative till mid-2016. However, law enforcers deny the existence of IS in Bangladesh.

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Advertisement for a medical clinic listing various services like proctology, gastroenterology, and general medicine, along with contact information.

Advertisement for a hospital named 'Ideen Manti - Keyar Hospital' with contact details and a website link.