



A child sleeps on a small strip of road median on the Shyamoli intersection, a busy area where buses drive as recklessly as they do anywhere else in the city. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## 'Allow me a writer during exams'

*Visually impaired candidate seeks HC directive on Judicial Service Commission*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A visually impaired candidate yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court, seeking its directive on Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission (BJSC) to allow him a writer at the time of examinations for the post of an assistant judge.

Sudip Das, who completed LLB and LLM from Chittagong University, submitted the petition, saying that he has become a candidate for the post of assistant judge in the forthcoming 13th BJSC examinations, as he wants to serve the nation as a judge.

He said he has already applied to BJSC on Tuesday to allow him a writer, as the preliminary test will be held on Friday.

Sudip, from Pahartali in Chattogram city, said BJSC has not yet responded to his application. Earlier, BJSC verbally refused his applications twice, he added.

In the petition, Sudip also challenged the refusals.

Citing the petition, Sudip's lawyer Advocate Cumar Debul Dey told The Daily Star that according to Article 29 (1) of the constitution, "there shall

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## 'Their cries fell on govt's deaf ears'

*Prof Mesbah Kamal says about attack on Santal community in Gaibandha*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Professor Mesbah Kamal yesterday alleged that the government is acting clueless regarding the attack on Santal community in Gaibandha, as it failed to ensure justice even after three years of the incident.

The news of the attack spread widely, drawing criticism from different parts of the world, but the government is yet to take any initiative to ensure justice and protect rights of the indigenous community, he said.

"...It seems not one but both ears of the government were not functioning. Otherwise, they would have heard the cries of those people," added Prof Mesbah, an academian renowned for his work on indigenous communities' rights.

He made the remarks while speaking at a press conference in the capital. Five non-government organisations, including Kapaeeng Foundation and Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, arranged the event on the occasion of third anniversary of the

Gaibandha attack.

On November 6 in 2016, three Santal men were killed and several others were injured during a clash between the community and police along with employees of Rangpur Sugar Mill, over a land.

The clash transpired when more than 2,000 Santal and Bengali families were ousted by the law enforcers and the sugar mill authority from the "disputed" farmland -- on which the mill was established -- in Gobindaganj upazila of the district.

One particular video during the eviction -- which showed policemen firing bullets and torching a house belonging to the community -- went viral and earned widespread criticism.

"How shameless and impudent the government has become! It doesn't care about [some of the] citizens," said Prof Mesbah, at the press conference.

Criticising involvement of Awami League leader and former lawmaker Abul Kalam Azad in the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## DHAKA TODAY

### DISCUSSION

Student Politics: Past and Present

Organiser: Siren

Venue: Ducus Cafeteria, DU

Time: 3pm

### WORKSHOP

Research Methodology for Social Science

Organiser: Change Initiative

Venue: B52, Rd 22, Mohakhali DOHS

Time: 3:30pm

### FUNDRAISING

Flaming Females on Fundraising

Female entrepreneurs will help

to raise fund for underprivileged

children.

Venue: Four Points by Sheraton,

Gulshan-2

Time: 10am

### WORKSHOP

Exploring Internet of Things (IoT)

Venue: EMK Center

Dhanmondi

Time: 4pm

### TRAINING

Cinematography and Lighting

Organiser: International Academy

of Film and Media

Venue: Lion Shopping Complex,

Monipuripara

Time: 10am

### FILM

Documentary film screening on

Sukumar Barua

Organiser: Dhaka Lit Fest

Venue: Cosmic Tent, Bangla

Academy

Time: 5:15pm

## What's the death toll from dengue?

*HC wants to know considering confusion over the number*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted to know the number of people who died of dengue fever across the country this year.

The court asked Deputy Attorney General Kazi Mynul Hasan to inform the number of deaths on November 11.

The bench of Justice Tariq-ul Hakim and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton passed the order during hearing a suo motu (voluntary) rule issued in this regard. It also set November 11 for further hearing on this issue.

Confusion over dengue death toll was created as government and media sources were presenting different sets of information regarding the number of deaths.

Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) death review committee confirmed 112 deaths so far after reviewing 179 suspected cases, while it received 251 suspected dengue death cases.

During yesterday's proceedings, the HC observed that authorities do not have much credit in controlling the Aedes mosquito menace.

The epidemic has reduced as the

season is over, it said.

The court, however, appreciated the role of media in raising awareness among people about the mosquito menace.

It made the observation as DAG Kazi Mynul told the court that the government has taken various steps to kill the mosquitoes and to prevent dengue fever.

On August 26, newspapers reported that authorities said they would review the deaths of 89 people, amid confusion over the number of fatalities from dengue.

A committee of DGHS reviewed 80 deaths and concluded that 47 were from dengue.

Citing hospital sources, different newspapers had by then reported between 115 and 172 deaths since the outbreak.

While hearing the same rule, the HC on August 28 expressed dismay at the deaths of people from dengue fever, and directed the authorities to take more effective measures across the country to prevent the spread of Aedes mosquito -- that carries the virus.

Insecticides will have to be sprayed intensively to destroy the mosquito breeding grounds, the court said, adding that a countrywide comprehensive drive against Aedes mosquito can be launched involving people from all walks of life after closing schools, colleges, universities, offices, courts, and other institutions if necessary.

### ONE DIES IN BARISHAL

A dengue patient died at Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) yesterday.

The victim was identified as Manija Begum (45), wife of Kamal Hossain, from Rajbari village under Nesarabad upazila of Pirojpur district.

Dr Bakir Hossain, director of SBMCH said Manija was admitted to the hospital on Saturday afternoon and passed away at 9am yesterday.

He said with this, the number of dengue-related deaths at SBMCH rose to 14 since July 16. A total of 2,921 dengue infected patients were admitted to the hospital so far, of whom 2,907 have returned home.

According to DGHS, a total of 184

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Long used to the situation, driver of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw rests his head on handlebars and waits for the gridlock to clear. The photo was taken near Saarc fountain intersection in Karwan Bazar area around 3pm yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



With dusty sewerage pipes on roadside and other construction materials blocking half the footpath, students and pedestrians often have to zigzag through Shaheed Baki Road in Khilgaon to go about their destination. According to locals, this frustrating situation has been prevailing for around four months. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Samrat charged in arms case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday pressed charges against Ismail Hossain Chowdhury Samrat, a former Jubo League leader and an alleged kingpin of illegal casino business in Dhaka, in a case filed under the Arms Act.

Rab's Sub-inspector Shekhar Chandra Mallik, also an investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court of Dhaka.

The charges brought against Samrat for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition at his office were primarily proven and he should be brought under trial for the offences, the IO said in his probe report.

In the charge sheet, the IO did not mention for what reasons the illegal arms and ammunition were used. The charge sheet will be placed before the court on November 20 for the next course of action, court sources said.

On October 6, Rab members arrested Samrat, former president of Dhaka South Jubo League, and his close aide

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Tk 2.59CR EMBEZZLEMENT

## Arrest 5, including Chinese national: HC to police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed police to immediately arrest five accused, including a Chinese national, in connection with a corruption case filed on charge of embezzling Tk 2.59 crore from National Bank.

The five accused are National Bank's former senior vice president Abdul Odud Khan; Sinfa Nitas Ltd chairman and Chinese national Yang Wang Chung, its managing director Khasru Al Rahman, and directors Mansurul Haque and Md Golam Mostafa.

The HC also asked the inspector general of police to take necessary steps to seize their passports so that they cannot leave the country.

At the same time, it ordered the trial court concerned to finish the trial proceedings of the case -- filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) -- in six months.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice KM Hafizul Alam came up with the order during hearing a petition filed by National Bank's former executive vice president Shahabuddin Chowdhury, seeking cancellation of the trial proceedings against him in the corruption case.

The bench rejected the petition of Shahabuddin, considering it was not placed properly.

The trial proceedings of all six accused, including Shahabuddin, will run at the lower court following the HC order, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

He said Shahabuddin is now out on bail.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3