



THE ONION RUN... This truck of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh has been seeing mad rush everyday, while selling onions at fair price in front of the secretariat. As it began to move from there yesterday morning ahead of the cabinet meeting, customers who had queued up followed it through busy traffic, forming a human trail and waiting for it to stop at a traffic signal so they could get their ration. This photo was taken from Topkhana Road.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

'Ranga must apologise'

Noor Hossain's mother demands over JP leader's 'addict' remark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Secretary General Mashur Rahman Ranga referring to Shaheed Noor Hossain as an "addict" has stirred protests.

Staging a sit-in in front of Jatiya Press Club, Noor Hossain's family members yesterday demanded that the JP lawmaker apologise for his remarks.

"My son did not even smoke. How could he [Mashur Rahman Ranga] say this?... My son embraced martyrdom for the country. He took to the streets for the sake of countrymen," Noor Hossain's mother Moriam Bibi said.

"He [Ranga] has to apologise. As an elderly woman, even if I have to endure sufferings, I will not move from here otherwise," she said.

On Sunday, Ranga reportedly said, "Who was Noor Hossain? An addict... a yaba abuser, a Phensedyl abuser."

"Two democratic parties -- Awami League and BNP -- are elated about him. This day is being observed as Noor Hossain Day," he said at a discussion arranged by JP north city unit at the party's Banani office on Sunday.

A video clip of his speech has gone viral on social media.

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SAGAR-RUNI MURDER
HC slams lack of progress in investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday expressed disappointment at the lack of significant progress in the investigation into the sensational murder case of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Rani.

"The investigation of the case has not been completed in eight years. Will this just remain in the list of sensational cases?" the bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Md Mostafizur Rahman said while hearing a petition filed by accused Tanvir Rahman, who is now out on bail.

During the proceedings, investigation officer

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Inter-govt projects to come under PPP

Cabinet approves amendment to bill

UNB, Dhaka

The cabinet yesterday approved on principle the draft of the "Bangladesh Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Amendment) Bill, 2019" to pave the path for undertaking and implementing the G2G (government-to-government) projects under PPP as well.

The approval came at the weekly cabinet meeting, held at the secretariat with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

"There's no provision to implement G2G schemes in the existing Bangladesh Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Act-2015. After the enactment of the PPP Act-2015, the government took initiatives for the execution of the PPP projects with different countries," said Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam while briefing reporters after the meeting.

He said Bangladesh has already signed a number of memoranda/cooperations of understanding with Japan, Singapore, South Korea and the UAE under the "Policy for Implementing PPP Projects" through the G2G law framed in 2017.

Other countries have also shown interest in undertaking schemes in this process, said Anwarul Islam, adding that the provision for undertaking and implementing the G2G projects is also there in the proposed law.

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Cop summoned for arresting innocent youth in drug case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A tribunal in Dhaka yesterday directed a sub-inspector of Brahmanpara Police Station of Cumilla to explain why legal action would not be taken against him for arresting an innocent man instead of the real accused in a drug case. The tribunal also asked SI Mamenur Rashid of the police station to appear before it on December 4 through his authorities concerned, and respond to the show-cause notice issued yesterday.

Judge Abu Zafar Md Kamruzzaman of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 of Dhaka passed the order, after lawyer for Md Rajan Bhuiyan submitted a petition.

The tribunal also granted bail and discharged Rajan of charges, and directed the concerned police station not harass his family members.

Defence lawyer Nikunja Bihar Acharya told the tribunal that his client Rajan, 19 -- of Gopalnagar, Brahmanpara, Cumilla -- has been languishing in Dhaka Central Jail for 25 days, after police wrongfully arrested him in a case instead of the actual accused, Habibullah Rajan, 33.

Both Rajan Bhuiyan and Habibullah Rajan are from the same village. Rajan Bhuiyan's father is late Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, while Habibullah's father's name is also Abdul Mannan, and he is alive.

On October 16 morning, SI Mamenur detained

Rajan Bhuiyan, a mason by profession, from his house when he was sleeping.

The same day, a senior judicial magistrate's court of Cumilla sent Rajan Bhuiyan to jail, after he was produced before it. Since then, he had been in prison.

A supplementary order sheet was sent to the Dhaka tribunal on October 20 in the case.

On October 30, Rajan's lawyer submitted a bail petition narrating the fact, saying Rajan Bhuiyan was not the real accused in the case. Police wrongfully arrested him instead of Habibullah Rajan.

The tribunal then directed Cumilla jail authorities to produce Rajan Bhuiyan before it yesterday. He was present at the court during yesterday's hearing.

Habibullah Rajan was accused in a case filed with Bangshal Police Station in the capital, after 28 syringes containing drugs were recovered from him at Chairman Bari, Nayabazar in old Dhaka on May 9, 2012.

He was 26 years old when the arrest warrant was issued for him on June 6, 2013.

He was arrested and sent to jail in the case, but came out on bail after a few weeks.

Habibullah has since been on the run.

Special Public Prosecutor Abu Abdullah Bhuiyan told The Daily Star such offences should be stopped, so that no innocent person can be confined wrongfully in future.



Rajan Bhuiyan

DHAKA GLOBAL DIALOGUE

This is truly the 'Asian century': Momen

Dhaka seeks joint efforts for peaceful sustainable world

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen yesterday urged all to join hands for a sustainable world of "peace and stability", saying the "venom of hatred" and ignorance results in violence and wars.

"Without peace and stability, no country or region can prosper, achieve their goals. Of late, varieties of media, including social media, are promoting this venom of hatred," he said.

In order to attain peace and stability, Dr Momen said, it is important that everyone demonstrates respect for each other, and tolerance irrespective of ethnicity, colour or religion. To inculcate such a mindset, he urged everyone -- parents, teachers, opinion-shapers, think tanks, community leaders and governments to join hands and work together.

The foreign minister was addressing the inaugural session of the three-day 'Dhaka Global Dialogue 2019' in the city. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the event at InterContinental Dhaka hotel -- jointly hosted by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) and India's Observer Research Foundation (ORF). ORF President Samir Saran and BISS Director General AKM Abdur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

Dr Momen said that this is truly the "Asian century" and South Asian countries -- India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan -- and several others in the South East and East Asia are growing at a much faster rate than others. However, he said, it is not only the rate of growth but also sustainability

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'A new cold war emerging in the region'

BJP's Ram Madhav calls for rules-based system in the Indo-Pacific

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

As the Indo-Pacific is emerging as a major trading corridor, there should be a rules-based system in place to promote regional development, said policymakers and experts at the Dhaka Global Dialogue yesterday.

They suggested institutional arrangement like European Parliament in the region to frame policies and regulations and ensure their enforcement to promote regional peace and development, while protecting sovereignty of the nation states.

"Global power is shifting to the Indo-Pacific," said Ram Madhav, general national secretary of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the ruling party of India, at a session titled "The Dhaka Consensus: Growth and Development in the Indo-Pacific".

Ram Madhav said 50 percent of the global population live in the region, while 60 percent of container shipments happen through the Indian Ocean.

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SC stays Latif Siddique's bail order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed till November 17 a High Court order that granted bail to former textiles and jute minister Abdul Latif Siddique in a case against him on charge of misusing power in selling a government property.

The apex court passed the order following a petition filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), seeking stay on the HC order.

A four-member bench of Appellate Division of the SC, headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, also asked the ACC to file a leave to appeal petition with the court by November 17 challenging the HC order.

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A grand procession was brought out from Mirpur-1 on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi on Sunday. Organised by Anjumane Rahmania Moinia Maizbhandaria, the procession ended at Mirpur Bangla College.

PHOTO: RASHID SHUMON