



PHOTO OF THE DAY

STAR



Ahmed Sharif, a PECE examinee, leading his visually impaired father Abdul Jalil to the exam centre in Mohammadpur area yesterday. During public exams, parents are often seen accompanying their children for moral support.

Latif Siddique released on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former textiles and jute minister Abdul Latif Siddique was released yesterday after the Supreme Court upheld his bail in a corruption case.

"Abdul Latif Siddique walked out of the prisons cell at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, where he was undergoing treatment, yesterday evening after completing the relevant procedures as the Supreme Court upheld his bail order," his lawyer Advocate Shah Monjurul Hoque told The Daily Star.

Earlier in the day, the SC upheld a High Court order that granted bail to Latif Siddique.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order after dismissing a leave-to-appeal petition filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) challenging the HC order.

Advocate Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury argued for Latif Siddique, while Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan argued for ACC.

On November 4, the HC granted six-months' bail to Latif Siddique and also issued a rule asking the ACC and the government to explain why he should not be granted permanent bail in this case.

ACC Assistant Director Aminul Islam lodged the case with Adamdighi Police Station in Bogura on October 10, 2017. Jahanara Rashid, wife of late Harunur Rashid, was also made accused in the case.

According to the case statement, Jahanara Rashid leased a piece of land in Adamdighi upazila -- owned by Bangladesh Jute Corporation -- for three years at Tk 1.2 lakh per year on May 13, 2010.

Despite getting repeated orders from the textiles and jute ministry to pay rent for the land, Jahanara applied to the ministry to purchase the land on November 13, 2011.

The then textiles and jute minister Latif Siddique, without floating any formal tender, sold the land to Jahanara at Tk 23.94 lakh although its market price was Tk 64.63 lakh.

Following the incident, ACC filed the case against Latif and Jahanara under the Penal Code and section 5(2) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act 1947.

On June 20 this year, a Bogura court sent Latif Siddique to jail in the case, rejecting his bail petition.

Youths need to see impact from a global perspective

Speakers say on climate change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Weather in Bangladesh is turning more unpredictable due to increase in global temperature, climate and water resources expert Prof Ainun Nishat said yesterday.

Data suggests a sudden flood that occurred in Rajshahi in mid-October this year was unprecedented, he said at a discussion at BRAC Centre Inn.

Also, water levels of some rivers in Jamalpur, Sherpur and Lalmonirhat reached a record high this year, he said.

"Will this happen next year or the year after? I don't know," he added.

Around the same time this year, Jashore region experienced rainfall well below the average amount. As a result, farmers there faced shortage of water, he further said.

BRAC's Climate Change Programme (CCP) organised the discussion as part of its "Youth Convention on Climate Change".

Prof Ainun Nishat stressed that youths can play an important role in developing public opinion over climate change adaptation and mitigation in the country.

Youths have to be prepared with updated and correct information to this end, he said.

Prof Ainun Nishat said presence of seasons like spring and late autumn can hardly be felt in the country in recent times.

Efforts on climate change related adaptation and mitigation have to be made in a way so that the country's nature, environment and culture remain protected,

said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association.

"At every stage of [climate change]

adaptation and mitigation, we have to hear voices of those for whom these efforts are being made," she said.

SM Munjurul Hannan Khan, additional secretary to the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry, said the countrymen, especially youths, need to

"At every stage of [climate change] adaptation and mitigation, we have to hear voices of those for whom these efforts are being made."

-- SYEDA RIZWANA HASAN

understand the impact of climate change from a global perspective.

Developed countries are responsible for global temperature rise and Bangladesh is its victim, he said.

BRAC CCP Director Liakath Ali praised youths' participation in the convention and said they should include hard-to-reach groups like women and children when advocating climate change issues.

At the convention, youths from different public and private universities -- divided into five groups -- made as many presentations on topics related to climate change adversities in Bangladesh.

Covered van runs over 4-year-old in Mirpur

Demand for footbridge went unheard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-year-old child was run over by a covered van in the capital's Mirpur area yesterday morning.

Deceased Hafizur Rahman was son of Md Hanif and Pakhi Begum, residents of Jhilpar slum near Mirpur Commerce College.

A covered van of Bangladesh Milk Producers' Co-operative Union Limited (Milk Vita) ran the child over while he was standing by a road near the college area around 10:15am, Salahuddin Mia, officer-in-charge of Shah Ali Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Hafizur died on the spot, the OC said.

The child's mother Pakhi Begum, who sells pitha (rice cakes) by the road, said that she crossed the road to recharge her mobile phone when she saw the covered van running over her son.

Locals chased the van and were able to stop it near Shialbari area, but the driver and his helper managed to flee the scene.

Protesting the incident, locals put barricade on the road. Later, law enforcers rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control around 11:15am.

Police seized the covered van.

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Freedom fighters' retiring age in public service stays at 60

SC scraps HC order, saying it exceeded jurisdiction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court in the full text of its verdict in a case filed over retirement age of freedom fighters has ruled that retirement age of freedom fighters, who have been serving the republic, is 60 years as per relevant law.

The Appellate Division of the SC released the full text last week.

It also scrapped a High Court judgement that had directed the government to enhance the retiring age of some freedom fighters to 61 as per their writ petition.

A seven-member SC bench led by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain announced a short verdict on November 18 last year on an appeal filed by the government, challenging the HC verdict delivered on November 28, 2017.

In the full text, the apex court said earlier, retirement age of public servants was till completion

of their service up to the age of 57. Thereafter, by amending the law, retirement age of freedom fighters in public service was increased to 59.

When age limit of all public servants was enhanced up to 59 years upon amending the relevant law, retiring age of freedom fighters was increased to 60, it added.

"Here, in this case, it appears from the operative portion of the impugned judgment that the High Court Division directed the writ respondents to enhance the retiring age of the petitioners till completion of their service till 61st year of their age. Such enhancement can only be done by the legislature by amending the relevant law," it mentioned.

It said the HC, indirectly, directed the legislature to amend relevant law although it cannot do so.

"The High Court Division cannot assume the authority, by which, it can increase the retiring

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Adhere to the values of Maulana Bhasani

Speakers urge political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The political views of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani are essential for political parties of Bangladesh to follow, considering the current context, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

Bhasani, an iconic political figure in the country's history, always fought for the people who are deprived and oppressed. He continued the fight till his death, which the current political leaders need to appreciate and follow, they added.

Workers Party of Bangladesh yesterday organised the discussion on the life and works of Maulana Bhasani to mark his 43rd

death anniversary at Jatiya Press Club.

Presenting the keynote paper on the topic, writer and columnist Syed Abul Maksud said Bhasani was an uncompromising leader, who was respected by all in the Indian subcontinent. He wanted to build an equal and non-communal society.

"His fight against oppression and discrimination earned him the moniker 'leader of the oppressed'. Our current political leaders can learn a lot from him," added Maksud.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon said Bhasani made significant contributions to all major movements in

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BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT BANK ACC arrests former GM over Tk 174cr graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday arrested a former general manager of Bangladesh Development Bank Ltd (BDBL) in connection with a case filed over misappropriating about Tk 174 crore of the bank.

ACC Deputy Director Gulshan Anowar Prodhan arrested the accused, Syed Nurur Rahman Kadri, from Matsya Bhaban area in the afternoon.

On September 2, ACC filed the case with its integrated district office accusing 11 persons including Chairman of MM Vegetable Oil Products Hefazatur Rahman.

The other accused are: MM Vegetable Oil Products' Managing Director Jahir Uddin; its directors Kamal Uddin, Kafil Uddin, Rafiq Uddin, Shafiq Uddin and Jasim Uddin; proprietor of Lucida Trading Mohammad Nasir Uddin Chowdhury; proprietor of Globe International

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Discrimination starts in the family

Hijras vulnerable to social persecution in conservative society, speakers say



PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gender diverse populations, including the Hijra community, are vulnerable to discrimination, stigmatisation and social persecution in the country's conservative society, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

They alleged that although the country's constitution acknowledges all people as equal under the law, the reality is quite different.

Different stakeholders including government and non-government officials as well as rights activists came up with this observation while speaking at a discussion on "Hijra community progress and current situation in Bangladesh."

Bandhu Social Welfare Society organised the discussion at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

In his speech, district judge Ruhul Amin said that social and religious superstitions as well as different barriers must be eliminated to ensure the rights of Hijras.

"The government and NGOs should collaboratively introduce an action plan to deal with such issues," said Ruhul, also a secretary of the Law Commission.

Law Ministry Joint Secretary Umme Kulsum said that Hijras first face

discrimination in the family.

"Steps should be taken to increase awareness among their parents so that they consider Hijras as human beings first -- irrespective of their gender identity," she recommended.

Kulsum further said that without establishing equal rights for people of all communities, the government would not be able to fulfill SDGs.

"It's high time the government introduces Hijra repression prevention act, as members of this community are being deprived of proper health care and documented identity," she said.

National Legal Aid Service Organization Director Aminul Islam said that members of the Hijra community are often sexually abused and are frequent targets of discrimination -- from childhood to death.

"Strict laws must be introduced besides initiating adequate rehabilitation programmes for them to eliminate such crisis," he said.

Among others, Bandhu Social Welfare Society Executive Director Shale Ahmed, Dhaka University Law Department teacher Taslima Yasmin and at least 20 members from the Hijra community were present at the discussion.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

People from different parts of the country migrating to the capital is the norm, but on this occasion, some families were leaving Dhaka with all their belongings. This photo was taken from Showari Ghat.

Will not export rice

Food minister says

UNB, Dhaka

In the wake of newspaper reports, Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumdar yesterday said there should not be any problem over the price of rice.

Addressing a meeting with rice-mill owners at Khadya Bhaban, the minister said, "I've learned from newspapers that rice prices have gone up slightly in the last few days. However, our reserves are still high. Unlike onion prices, there shouldn't be any problem over rice prices."

Sadhan Chandra went on to say, "We are also monitoring the market. We've seen the price of fine grain rice going up a bit."

The minister said there will be no export of rice. "For export, we would have considered fine grain rice which is what people

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DHAKA TODAY

DISCUSSION

Dignified Return of Rohingyas
Organiser: Institute of Conflict, Law and Development Studies
Venue: Tofazzal Hossain Manik Mia Auditorium, Jatiya Press Club
Time: 11am

FAIR

Tax Fair
Organiser: National Board of Revenue
Venue: Officers' Club, Baily Road
Time: 10am

CELEBRATION

International Education Week
Venue: EMK Center
Time: 2:30pm

EXHIBITION

The Traveller's Song
Organiser: EDGE, The Foundation
Venue: Bay's Edgewater, Gulshan-2
Time: 10am

DRAMA

Sangbad Shironam
Organiser: Jhingeful Theatre
Venue: Bangladesh Mahila Samity, Baily Road
Time: 6pm

THEATRE

Mayur Singhasan
Organiser: Aranyak Natya Dal
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Time: 7pm

