

3 cases filed over transport workers, SCC, police clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Three cases were filed in connection with the clash among transport workers, police and Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) workers on Wednesday, following an attempt to evict an illegal vehicle stand at Chowhatta-Amberkhana road in the city.

Among the cases filed with Kotwali Police Station on the same night, two were filed by police while another by SCC, said SM Abu Farhad, officer-in-charge of the police station.

One case was filed under Arms Act by SI Mostafizur Rahman against Foysof Ahmed Fahad, the Liberation War affairs secretary of Swachhasebak League's Sylhet city unit, who was detained with firearms from the spot.

SI Abdul Mannan filed another case against 17 named and 100-150 unnamed transport workers for attacking and assaulting police during the lawful eviction drive, said the OC.

In the case filed by SCC, the city corporation's Sub-assistant Engineer Debabrata Das accused 10 named and 100-150 unnamed persons for barring SCC officials and workers from discharging duties.

OC Farhad said, "Only one person was detained from the spot with firearms. We are conducting drives to arrest the other accused."

TRANSPORT STRIKE FROM MONDAY

Meanwhile, in protest against the drive that resulted in clash, transport workers called an indefinite strike in Sylhet district from 6am on Monday.

Moynul Islam, president of Sylhet Zilla Paribahan Sramik Union, called the strike after a meeting on Wednesday night.

On Wednesday afternoon, Sylhet city's Chowhatta and Dargah Gate areas witnessed violence for an hour, as transport workers clashed with police and SCC workers, following an attempt to evict an illegal vehicle stand.

Following the clash that started at around 1pm, transport workers barricaded Dhaka-Sylhet and Sylhet-Sunamganj highways for hours. The barricades were removed around 4:30pm.



As cleaners of Dhaka South City Corporation sweep away the mess left by a drive to remove PVC banners, underprivileged people collected some of the scrap to recycle. The photo was taken yesterday at Dhaka University campus.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Webinar held on care for special children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To mark the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Institute of Paediatric Neuro disorder and Autism (IPNA) of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University organised a webinar for parents and caregivers of special children yesterday.

Titled "Experience on the Management of Special Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic", it aimed at sharing experiences of the management of special children during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Prof Shaheen Akhter, Founder Director of IPNA and Professor of the Paediatric Neurology Department mentioned the background of IPNA and its activities, while Morshed Farzana Haider and Md Shamsul Alam, guardians of special children, spoke and shared their experiences.

Due to educational institutions being closed during the pandemic, parents and caregivers are facing various problems to manage their special children, they said.

BMMU VC Prof Dr Kanak Kanti Barua; Dr Gopen Kumar Kundu, Deputy Director (Administration) of IPNA; and Dr Kaniz Fatema, Deputy Director of IPNA, were also present at the webinar.

Three teens

FROM PAGE 3

Shahin Maltay (32) from Jhenidah and Sojib Mridha (33), the trucker from Khushtia, were killed instantly, said police.

In Faridpur, a rickshaw-van puller was killed on the spot as a truck ran him over on Dhaka-Barishal highway in Bhanga municipality area. The deceased -- Lutfar Kazi (35) -- was from Bhanga.

Police seized the truck but the driver managed to flee.

In Chapainawabganj, a truck hit a bicycle ridden by two students in Mahanada Bridge area of Sadar upazila, leaving them dead.

Mosafizur Rahman (20) and Minarul Islam (20) were students of Chapainawabganj Polytechnic Institute, said police.

Sadar Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mozaffor Hossain said the accident occurred while the two were returning home from the institute.

The truck driver and helper fled.

In Dinajpur, a teenager was killed and two were injured as a motorcycle they were riding collided with a tractor in Birol upazila.

The deceased -- Swadhin Barman (17), son of Nitai Chandra Barman -- was from Dharmapur, Birol.

Sumon Chandra Barman (15) and Kartik Chandra Barman (15) were undergoing treatment at M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital in Dinajpur.

Restrictions on

FROM PAGE 3

and Sciences (SLAS), Taylor's University, Malaysia; Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture of Malaysia (MOTAC); and Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur.

The event began with the song amar bhair rokte rangano in Bangla and Malay languages.

"Mother Language Day creates space for promotion of cultural diversity... this needs to be cultivated for developing a culture of humanity," said Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

Such multilingual programme will work as a bridge for linguistic and cultural connectivity among South and South East Asian countries, he said, stressing on cross-border cultural connectivity through more interaction among writers, academics, journalists and cultural personalities.

Malaysian Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture, Dato' Sri Nancy Shukri emphasised the importance of protecting and preserving languages as it translates to the protection and preservation of culture and heritage.

In a video message, she also applauded the efforts of Bangladesh in making International Mother Language Day a worldwide celebration, highlighting its importance to the world.

Centre for Genocide Studies Director Prof Intiaz Ahmed said the idea of singularity creates problems in society. Therefore, the recognition of all languages and ethnicities by states and societies is important for establishing inclusive society.

He explained that the spirit of February 21 does not speak against Urdu, but its domination. "We should celebrate all languages," he said.

Prof Neethiahnanthan Ari Ragavan, executive dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Leisure Management, Taylor's University; Prof Fakrul Alam of Department of English, University of Dhaka; Dr Salimah Binti Ja'afar, associate professor at the Department of Linguistics, Academy of Malay Studies, University of Malaya, Shigeru Aoyagi, director for the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education; Prof Firdous Azim, chair of the Department of English and Humanities, BRAC University and Prof Wan Zawawi Wan Ibrahim, Adjunct Professor, Taylor's University attended the event.

'Virtual courts have significantly reduced overcrowding in jails'

Says law minister at Commonwealth meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the virtual court system has significantly reduced overcrowding in jails during the pandemic.

"The Appellate Division has disposed of more than 7,000 cases in less than five months in 2020, while subordinate courts settled 1,47,339 bail petitions in just three months, all virtually. In fact, the virtual court system has significantly reduced overcrowding in our prisons during the pandemic," he said.

He was addressing a virtual meeting of Commonwealth Law Ministers and Attorneys General on "Legal Impact of Covid-19" with Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland in the chair.

Anisul said the law ministry continued to successfully deliver free legal aid services to the poor and disadvantaged people of Bangladesh.

"More than 2,00,000 free legal aid services were delivered to the poor and helpless justice seekers through dedicated national helpline and virtual methods," he said.

"Our judges, magistrates, public prosecutors and legal aid lawyers across the country received capacity building and skill training to conduct virtual court proceedings. Given our low Covid-19 incidence, regular courts have also been resumed in parallel with virtual courts, where dedicated monitoring cell keeps track of health conditions of judges and prosecutors," the minister said.

He said there is no legal barriers to equitable access to medicines and Covid-19 vaccines for any Bangladeshi citizen. "The Communicable Diseases (Prevention, Control and Eradication) Act, 2018 successfully protects the rights of citizens to access medicines and equipment without prejudice," he added.

Barishal

FROM PAGE 3

injured students would remain as witnesses. But no case has been filed yet.

"We demanded the implementation of three points in the next 48 hours," he said.

Deputy Commissioner (South) of Barisal Metropolitan Police Moktar Hossain said BU authorities have not filed any case yet. However, police are working to solve the problem and proper action will be taken if the case is filed.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front's Barishal city and district unit staged a human chain and rally in front of Ashwini Kumar Hall yesterday morning protesting the attack. Speakers alleged that government cadres were involved in the attack.

Meanwhile, a faction of Dhaka University students protested the attack as well, holding a human chain in front of Raju Memorial Sculpture in the capital.

HC summons

FROM PAGE 3

As the Grameen Telecom's chairman and MD did not reinstate the employees, Md Kamruzzaman filed the contempt of court petition with the HC, he said.

Contacted, Grameen Telecom's lawyer Mustafizur Rahman Khan told this correspondent that Prof Yunus and others involved in Grameen Telecom are always respectful of the court.

"We will take necessary measures after receiving the written copy of the High Court order and rule," he added.

Applications

FROM PAGE 3

on May 28 and 'Cha' unit (General Knowledge) on June 5, according to the decision of the admission committee.

For 'Ka' unit, the applicants should obtain at least 3.5 grade point average (GPA) in both SSC and HSC or equivalent examinations, and the total GPA should be up to 8.5 with additional subject.

For 'Kha' unit, the applicants should obtain minimum GPA 3 in each and total GPA 8 in SSC and HSC.

For 'Ga' unit, the required GPA is 3.5 in both SSC and HSC, and total GPA 8.

For 'Cha' unit, applicants need GPA 3 in SSC and HSC, and have to get minimum total GPA 7.

This year, exams will be held for a total of 120 marks. 'Cha' unit will carry 60 marks in written and 40 in MCQ.

Other four units will 40 marks in written and 60 in MCQ. Only 20 marks will be added based on the result of SSC and HSC exams, which was 80 in previous years.

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Obituary



Begum Rabia Ahmed passed away peacefully in Toronto, Canada on February 14, 2021 at 9:30am local time. Inna Lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un. She was the beloved mother of Nusrat, Jamil, Sarwat, Farhat and Javed. Her three sons-in-law are - Late K.M. Ejazul Huq, Shaker Nasrullah, Salahuddin Kasem Khan and her daughter-in-law is Kakoli Ahmed.

Her Namaz-e-Janaza was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at Masjid Usman in Pickering, Ontario. She was buried at the Duffin Meadows Cemetery in Pickering, Ontario, Canada.

Begum Rabia Ahmed (also known as Rabu Apa or Rabu Baiji) was born in Bogra in the year 1925. She attended the VM Girls School in Bogra and also the Sakhawat Memorial High School in Kolkata, India. She immigrated to Canada in 1992 and for the last 29 years had lived in Toronto, Canada.

Begum Rabia Ahmed is the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ahmadur Rahman and a granddaughter of the late Khan Bahadur and Begum Hafizur Rahman Choudhury of "Satani House", Bogra. Begum Rabia Ahmed was married to Abu Zahed Jalil Ahmed in the year 1945. Abu Zahed Jalil Ahmed, also known as Zahed Bhai was born in Kolkata in the year 1920. Jalil Ahmed had a brilliant educational career and in 1943 he was selected as a Rationing Officer, Government of Bengal, out of three thousand candidates. He was the youngest Rationing Officer in the Province. Jalil Ahmed was the second son of Khan Bahadur A. K. M. Siddiq and Ismat Ara Begum, the youngest daughter of Nawab Abdul Lateef. Khan Bahadur A. K. M. Siddiq belonged to a notable family of Bengal. Being a descendant of ancestors who migrated from Baghdad to Delhi where the Mughal Emperors, Shah Jahan and Alamgir accepted them as their Ministers of Religion and spiritual guides.

Begum Rabia Ahmed leaves behind 11 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. She travelled extensively and performed Hajj along with her siblings. May Allah grant her Jannatul Firdous, Ameen. Contact in Canada, jambaoo53@hotmail.com D-33

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