

Devote yourselves to serving people

Hasina tells govt officials

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the importance of good governance and asked the government officials to devote themselves to serving people to make the society a better place.

"I hope you'll devote yourselves to serving people remaining faithful to the constitutional responsibilities," she said.

The prime minister was addressing the certificate-giving and closing ceremony of the 119th and 120th Law and Administration Training Courses at Bangladesh Civil Service Administration Academy in the capital through a videoconference from her official residence -- the Gono Bhaban.

As per the 7th article of the Constitution, Hasina mentioned, people are the owners of the country while the 21(2) article of the constitution stated that government employees are bound to serve people round the clock.

She directed the public servants to take innovative initiatives to serve people as the government has prepared a Perspective Plan and is



Stay involved in establishing good governance through proper enforcement of laws, stay beside people, and make sure people get justice and not a single person suffers from starvation, remains homeless, and is deprived of treatment and education.

implementing it. "We've already attained the status of a developing nation and we've to maintain that so that we do not fall behind."

Hasina said it is the desire of all that there will be a service-oriented administration in the country which will innovate new services to serve people.

"Stay involved in establishing good governance through proper

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For the past five years, Shahin Hossain has been making neon signs for the shops that surround him. Even though the 25-year-old didn't pursue formal education, he spent much of his time honing his sign-making craft. Because of people like Shahin, who can be seen working on the roadsides of the capital's Karwan Bazar, even small shops now light up with vibrant colours after sundown. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'We have no connection with cases filed in B'baria, N'ganj'

Says Hindu Mahajote; people using its name for 'personal agenda'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Mahajote, an organisation representing a section of the Hindu community in the country, yesterday protested the filing of two cases in Narayanganj and Brahmanbaria recently using the organisation's name.

"We have no connection with the filing of these two cases," they said in a statement issued yesterday.

They stated in the statement that individuals who filed the cases are not part of the Hindu Mahajote and that the organisation does not have anything to do with such activities.

"In principle, we oppose such filings of cases," read the statement, signed by its President Prabhash Chandra Roy,

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Reg must for news portals from next year: info minister

UNB, Dhaka

The government will make registrations mandatory ahead of operating any news portal from the next year, said Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday.

"Declaration is a must before publishing any newspaper, and there should be the same rule in the case of news portal operation. News portals must get registered before starting their activities which will help bring discipline in the sector," said the minister.

The minister came up with the remarks at BSRF Dialogue held at the secretariat, organised by Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters Forum (BSRF).

The minister said the government is taking an initiative to stop broadcasting news from IPTVs.

"Internet protocol television (IPTV) is a global reality. It's new media. Those shouldn't be shut. But the mushroom growth of IPTVs can't continue. So, we've put in place the registration process for IPTVs," the minister added.

Responding to a question, he said the proposed media workers law is now at the final stage.



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203 hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 203 patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday, of which 33 are from outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the new cases, a total of 1,139 were diagnosed during the current month out of a total 19,336 infected. Of the total infected, 2,527 are from outside Dhaka.

At least 7,841 were diagnosed in September, 7,698 were diagnosed in August, 2,286 patients were hospitalised in July, 272 in June while 43 were infected in May and rest from January to April.

According to the DGHS, 73 people have died of dengue in the country this year. Twelve people have died in July, 34 in August, 23 in September and four in October so far.

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MAN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS' JAIL IN KSA Bangladesh to appeal against Saudi court verdict

Family says he's innocent; govt to share evidence, if any, with Saudi authorities in his favour, says FM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh mission in Jeddah is preparing to file an appeal against a Saudi court verdict that sentenced Bangladeshi migrant worker Abul Bashar to 20 years in jail for carrying illegal amphetamine pills into the Gulf country.

Bashar's family in Bangladesh claimed that his jail sentence was unjust, adding that the migrant worker was forced by an employee at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) in Dhaka to carry a package containing the illegal drugs while leaving Bangladesh in March this year.

Bashar (40) from Mehendiganj of Barishal, was sentenced on September 26 in a case filed by Saudi authorities, according to a letter of the Bangladesh Consulate General in Jeddah.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said the government will share evidence, if any, with the Saudi



PHOTO: RASHED SHUJON

Rabeya and her daughter in front of the expatriates' welfare ministry on Tuesday.

government -- in favour of Bashar, reports UNB. "Saudi judges are independent and they never get influenced. They work based on evidence. If there's any new evidence, those could be put up," said the minister at his office.

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Charge framing hearing against Kajol adjourned

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday deferred the hearing on charge framing against photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol in a case filed under the Digital Security Act.

Kajol was charged with circulating indecent, defamatory, objectionable, and fake information about some ministers, lawmakers, and top Jubo Mahila League leaders on Facebook.

Judge Mohammad Ash Sams Joglul Hossain of Dhaka Cyber Tribunal fixed October 20 as the next date after Kajol's lawyer submitted a petition, Shamim Al Mamun, bench assistant of the tribunal, told The Daily Star.

After almost a 10-month long probe, Sub-inspector Mohammad Russell Mollah of Detective Branch of police, also the case's investigation officer, on February 4 submitted the charge sheet with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

Usmin Ara Bally, a member of the central committee of Jubo Mahila League, filed the case with Hazaribagh Police Station on March 10 last year.



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At a programme arranged by Jatiya Press Club yesterday, speakers reflected on the lives and works of 34 deceased journalists whom the country has lost in the past year to Covid-19 and other ailments. The speakers observed that their contributions to the field of journalism must be remembered.

PHOTO: STAR

'A vacuum that cannot be filled'

Jatiya Press Club mourns passing of 34 journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country has lost luminaries in the field of journalism, leaving a vacuum that can never be filled, observed members of the Jatiya Press Club as they mourned the death of their fellows to Covid-19 and other ailments in the past one year.

An unprecedented 34 journalists who were members of the Press Club died in one year since its inception in 1967.

Their contributions to the development of this country and to the profession of journalism ought to be remembered, they said at the programme held at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

The Jatiya Press Club organised the memorial to pay their deep

respect to the departed souls.

"It is an irreparable loss for the club and to journalism and we are shocked by the vacuum created by their demise," said President of the Jatiya Press Club Farida Yasmin, who chaired the programme.

She said journalists, especially the next generation, have many things to learn from them. Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul, former president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), said they took the club to a different level through their works.

Among others, former president of the Jatiya Press Club Saiful Alam, former secretary generals of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan and Omar Faruk, former general

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120 gold bars seized at Dhaka airport

Gold Recovery by CIID	
Amount	Fiscal Year
40kg (so far)	2021-22
174kg	2020-21
180kg	2019-20



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate seized 120 gold bars -- weighing around 14kg -- from an aircraft's tissue box chamber at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on Tuesday.

The bars were hidden in an aircraft of Biman that landed at the airport around 4:15pm, said CIID Director General Abdur Rouf at a press conference at his office in Kakrail yesterday afternoon.

None was arrested as the gold worth around Tk 10 crore was left abandoned, he added.

CIID said they have seized around 40kg gold this fiscal year while the amount of seized gold was 174kg and 180kg in last two fiscal years respectively.

Mahalaya celebrated

BSS, Dhaka

The Mahalaya was celebrated by the Hindu community yesterday all across the country, marking the advent of Goddess Durga.

Mahalaya signifies the invitation to Goddess Durga from her devotees to arrive at her paternal home (Earth) from Kailash, along with her children.

With the beginning of "Devipaksha", Mahalaya is observed six days before Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindu community in Bengal.

Marking the occasion, special programmes for Mahalaya were arranged at different temples across the country including the capital since morning.

Mahanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee arranged a programme

marking the Mahalaya at Dhakeshwari National Temple at dawn.

A special programme was also arranged at 5:30am at the Banani Puja Mandap.

Sri-Sri Lokenath Brahmachari Ashram O Mandir also arranged a clothing distribution ceremony among the distressed on its premises in the city's Swamibagh area.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder attended the programme as the chief guest.

Lawmaker and President of Ashram O Mandir Parichalona Parishad Pankaj Debnath presided over the programme.

Durga Puja will commence with different rituals on October 11, the day of the Maha Shashthi.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

University student killed by muggers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A university student was stabbed to death, allegedly by muggers, in the capital's Tejgaon area last on Tuesday night.

The deceased was identified as Keshob Ray Papon (24), a seventh-semester student of Computer Science and Engineering at Sonargaon University, said police.

He used to work at a courier services office in Elephant Road amid the pandemic, said Golam Sarwar, a sub-inspector of Tejgaon Police Station.

Unidentified muggers stabbed him to death at Karwan Bazar around 9pm on Tuesday when he was heading home in Monipuripara.

The Tejgaon SI said the youth was identified by family members and colleagues yesterday morning.

The police official said they have collected CCTV footage of nearby areas to identify the killers.

Police have so far detained four persons for interrogation, he said.



Getting drenched in the rain isn't always the best of options, but the clouds just do nature's bidding without a care about the people underneath. This youngster, for example, is trying his best to take refuge from the sudden drizzle under his backpack at the capital's Farmgate area in a rainy afternoon.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS