

Another step towards justice

Appeal filed on behalf of alleged rape victim who directly sought justice from HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An appeal has been filed with the High Court yesterday on behalf of the 15-year-old alleged rape victim from Nilphamari, who directly sought justice from the court while appearing before it, challenging a lower court verdict that acquitted the rape accused.

Bodrun Nahar, a panel lawyer of the Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee (SCLAC), submitted the appeal to the HC bench led by Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim, seeking cancellation of the trial court judgement and punishment for the accused Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) member.

The HC bench will hold

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Wading through a flooded road, a family, along with their cattle, sets off on foot in search of a safe shelter, as they couldn't find any vehicle that could carry them. The overflowed Kushiara river has flooded Golapganj, Balaganj, Biswanath, and Dakhin Surma upazilas in Sylhet division, trapping many residents. This photo was taken from Daudpur union in Dakhin Surma yesterday.

'Polls will be transparent'

Hopes Australian high commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Jeremy Bruer yesterday said Australia hopes that Bangladesh's next general election will go well and be transparent.

Jeremy Bruer, while on a courtesy visit with Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal, also inquired about the last-minute "chaos" in announcing the unofficial results of Cumilla City Corporation on June 15.

"It was a very good and productive discussion," Bruer told reporters, coming out from the meeting, at the Nirbahchan Bhaban in Dhaka's Agargaon.

"We also discussed the caretaker provision that worked in Australia's electoral system," he added.

CEC Awal hoped that the next general election will be better in all aspects.

"He [Jeremy] hoped that our election will go well. He expressed his desire to observe the next general elections," said the CEC.

On June 8, US Ambassador in Dhaka Peter Haas -- after a meeting with the CEC -- said the US wants a general election in which the Bangladeshi people can

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

BRRI Dhan-81 fails to live up to expectations



ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Production of BRRI Dhan-81 witnessed a sharp decline in Rajshahi during this boro season for bad weather and calamities.

This breed was the most promising among the high-yielding paddy varieties of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI). Many farmers choose this breed due to its yield expectancy of eight tonnes of paddy, per hectare of land.

Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) recorded an average of 3.75 tonnes of the yield of BRRI Dhan-81 in Rajshahi and Bogura this season, disappointing the farmers. Even last year's yield was 4.75 tonnes on average.

Dr Md Fazul Islam, regional chief scientist, said, the damage was marked on one-hectare experimental land in BRRI's regional centre in Rajshahi.

"It happened due to an unprecedented rise in the temperature, and rains," he told this correspondent.

During the paddy's sprouting stage, the temperature rose to 46 Degree Celsius in mid-April and that has never occurred in the last 10 years, he said.

"The paddy variety was only capable of sustaining temperature up to 35 Degree

Celsius," he said.

BRRI Dhan-81 was introduced to farmers in 2017. It was termed one of the "premium quality" varieties, producing exportable rice.

Normally, its per hectare yield is 6 to 6.5 tonnes, but with proper care, a yield of eight tonnes is possible, BRRI and DAE sources said.

Abdus Salam, a farmer of Rajshahi's Uttor Chalkpara area, said he cultivated the paddy this year as he received a high yield last season.

"If I get 30 maunds of paddy in exchange for the same expenditures of BRRI Dhan-28, why would I not cultivate this paddy?"

"But this year I was bamboozled at the results as I got around 14 maunds of yield in per-acre land only," he said. "This year the paddy didn't grow tall like last year. The grains were smaller too."

Almost 150 farmers of Chalkpara Beel have experienced a similar fate as Abdus Salam this year.

Robiul Islam of the same area said, "If there are 200 grains in a paddy sheaf, I found only 80 of those grains in good condition. The rest was damaged."

"I cultivated this variety for the first time this year. Now, I'm mad at myself for making

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Allow all agencies to send workers to Malaysia

JP lawmaker tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An opposition MP in parliament yesterday demanded a quick decision on sending workers to Malaysia and opening up opportunities for all recruiting agencies instead of a syndicate of few agencies.

Jatiya Party MP Rustum Ali Faraji made the demand while speaking on a point of order.

Drawing the attention of the expatriates' welfare minister, the JP MP said the minister had repeatedly visited Malaysia to send workers to Malaysia.

"Malaysia is ready for hiring workers from Bangladesh. But no decision is being taken because of the syndicate," he said.

Faraji observed that it will cost Tk 3 to 4 lakh instead of one and a half lakh if workers go through syndicate.

"You [minister] make the right decision without any excuse. You should allow all the requesting agencies to take expatriate workers to Malaysia," he added.

On June 2, Malaysia agreed to hire 5 lakh Bangladeshi workers over the next five years through the syndicate system, with the first batch of documented workers from

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

'Shihab was strangled to death'

Says autopsy report; two teachers arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Shihab, a fifth-grader of Sristy School in Tangail, was strangled to death, said Civil Surgeon Dr Abul Fazal Mohammad Shahabuddin citing the autopsy report published yesterday.

A three-member medical team from Tangail General Hospital conducted the autopsy, said officials.

Meanwhile, police and Rab raided the private school at the town's Suparibagan around noon and detained two of its teachers for their alleged involvement in the killing.

The arrestees are Abu Bakkar and Nasir Uddin, said Nazmul Huda, principal of the school.

Mir Mosharaf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Tangail Sadar Police Station, said they were investigating the incident sincerely.

Shihab, a residential student of the private school, was found dead in its hostel on June 20. His body bore injury marks on different parts.

The school authorities informed the family that Shihab hung himself in a bathroom on the seventh floor of the dormitory.



SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

ACC to probe graft allegation against ex-mayor of Gazipur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ACC has decided to inquire into the corruption allegations against former Gazipur City Corporation mayor Zahangir Alam.

ACC Deputy Director Nargis Sultana and Assistant Director Ashikur Rahman will investigate the matter, confirmed ACC Secretary Mahbub Hossain.

The ACC secretary said Zahangir allegedly misappropriated a huge amount of money from development projects. A week after the expulsion for life from Awami League for making derogatory comments on Bangabandhu, the LGD on November 25, 2021 suspended Zahangir from his mayor post over allegations of graft.

Man kills niece over property

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A woman was hacked to death allegedly by her uncle following a dispute over property in Mymensingh yesterday.

Police arrested Moydar Ali Sarker, said OC Shah Kamal Akanda of Kotwali Police Station. The victim is Hosna Ara (45) of Raghunathpur.

The OC said associates of Moydar Ali attacked Hosna Ara and her family members following a feud over property belonging to her father. Three people were injured in the attack, he added.

Boy found dead in jute field

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police recovered the body of a boy from a jute field at Bara Hijli village under Baliakandi upazila in Rajbari yesterday.

The deceased is Badol Mollah (15), son of Humayan Mollah. He was a student of class eight at a local madrasa. Md Asadujaman, officer-in-charge of Baliakandi Police Station, said police recovered the body after locals found it in a jute field. The body was sent for autopsy.

Private ambulances a menace for MMCH

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Private ambulances parked beside the emergency entrance of Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) has become a serious nuisance for the hospital's emergency ward patients and their attendants.

Attendants said not only private ambulances, CNG and battery-run auto-rickshaws remain parked at the emergency entrance gate to get passengers.

Besides, private ambulances parked on both sides of the hospital's main gate often occupy a good portion of the four-lane highway in Charpara area, causing gridlock during rush period.

Locals also alleged that this illegal parking has continued for years now, resulting in a long-term suffering for the city's commuters, patients, and their attendants. Even when the authorities take steps against illegal parking and brokers of different clinics on the hospital premises, the situation remains unchanged.



"What's ridiculous is that there are stickers forbidding illegal parking on the premises but the place is packed with vehicles -- especially during busy hours," said Emran Ali, an attendant whose wife underwent a C-section operation.

The patients and their attendants have

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

For over a month now, the authorities have left a rod structure meant for the construction of a drain right in the middle of Sonadanga-Notun Rasta road. For this, school children from surrounding areas have to face much difficulty to get across. This photo was taken from Boyra area in Khulna recently.

Allow Alal to leave country for treatment

HC directs govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to allow BNP Joint Secretary General Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal to leave the country for treatment and to re-enter home without any hindrance and disturbance.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the home ministry and immigration to explain in four weeks why their action creating such a hindrance should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

The HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice SM Maniruzzaman issued the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Alal challenging

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4