

B’baria lawyers withdraw court boycott partly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The lawyers in Brahmanbaria yesterday partially withdrew their ongoing court boycott programme after the law minister assured them of resolving their issues with two judges in the district.

“We will take part in the court functions from Sunday as the law minister assured us of implementing our three demands. However, we will continue boycotting the court functions of Judge Sharmin Nigar and Judge Mohammad Faruque,” said Mafizur Rahman Babul, general secretary of Brahmanbaria District Bar Association.

The lawyers met Law Minister Anisul Huq at his Gulshan office on Thursday night, he said.

During the meeting, the law minister assured them of transferring Judge Sharmin Nigar and Judge Mohammad Faruque, of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal 1, and Najir (staff) Mominul Islam Chowdhury, Babul added.

However, it could not be confirmed as the law minister could not be reached over the phone after repeated attempts.

The Brahmanbaria Bar Association started boycotting the court on January 4, demanding withdrawal of the three.

On January 5, the High Court summoned Brahmanbaria Bar Association President Md Tanvir Bhuiyan, its Secretary (Administration) Md Akkas Ali and lawyer Zubayer Islam, directing them to appear on January 17 for misbehaving and scolding Judge Mohammad Faruque and for creating chaos in the courtroom on January 2.

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

To make sure that the vehicles have proper paper work, police conducting a drive in the capital's Shahbagh area yesterday.

Karnaphuli tunnel to be inaugurated on Feb 24

Says Quader

BSS, CTG

Noting that Chattogram is the heartbeat of the country's economy, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the project will become “one city with two towns” after completion of the Bangabandhu Tunnel, being constructed beneath the Karnaphuli River.

“It is the first tunnel in South Asia. About 95.50 percent work of the tunnel project has been completed so far and it will be inaugurated on February 24,” he said.

He made the remarks while exchanging views with journalists at the circuit house in Chattogram.

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Ex-DU teacher, who dragged woman by car to death, dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Azhar Jafar Shah, a former assistant professor of Dhaka University's International Relations department, who was in jail in a case filed over the crash death of a woman on December 2 last year, died yesterday afternoon.

Jafar Shah, 56, was declared dead around 3:30pm after he was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in an unconscious state from Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj, said Inspector Bachchu Miah, in-charge of DMCH Police Outpost.

Al Amin, a guard of the central jail said Azhar was sent to the hospital after he fell sick.

A postmortem will be conducted today to ascertain the cause of death, according to DMCH sources.

On December 2, Rubina Akhter, 45, died after Jafar hit her with his private car and dragged her for several hundred yards on the DU campus.

After the incident, Jafar was admitted to DMCH under police custody, as he was beaten up by students and pedestrians.

Later, a case was filed against him with Shahbagh

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Man’s body recovered in Gulistan

UNB, Dhaka

The body of a man was recovered from the pavement in front of Golap Shah Mazar in the capital's Gulistan yesterday morning, police said.

The deceased, aged around 40, could not be identified.

On information, police went to the spot and took the man to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he was declared dead around noon, Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of DMCH Police Outpost, said.

The body has been kept at the hospital's morgue. The exact cause of his death would be known after an autopsy, he said.

PRAYER
TIMING

JANUARY 14

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:30	12:45	4:00	5:36	7:00
JAMAT 6:05	1:15	4:15	5:40	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Winter is here, kitchen markets still on fire

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Although vegetable prices usually cool off in winter, this time the situation is different as prices of almost all popular winter vegetables are higher than the previous week at different kitchen markets in the capital.

Much to the delight of consumers, the prices went down in the end of December. But it shot up again by Tk 10 to Tk 20 per kilogramme within the first two weeks of this month. Even the prices of eggs shot up by Tk 6 per dozen.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

“I bought beans at Tk 25 per kg a few days ago. Now, the sellers are asking Tk 35 for it,” said Rahmatullah, a shopper in Karwan Bazar.

Another shopper Morium Akhter said, “I thought I wouldn't have to worry about food expenses at least in the winter. I was wrong.”

She said she bought one kilogramme of eggplant at Tk 60, a kg of gourd at Tk 70, a slice of pumpkin at Tk 30, a cabbage at Tk 35 and half kg of bitter gourd at Tk 40.

“The price of each of these vegetables was less by Tk 10 to Tk 15 even two weeks ago,” she said.

Meanwhile, the price of green chili almost doubled. It was being sold at Tk 50 to Tk 60 per kg in December, but now it was Tk 80 to Tk 100.

Aslam, a trader, said farmers were now more interested in producing dry chili as it offers more profitable. As a result, there was a shortage of chili in the market.

An officer of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh told this correspondent that many farmers were not collecting vegetables from their fields because of inclement weather, which leads to supply shortage and ultimately price hike.

“Dense fog also disrupts vegetable transportation. If the weather improves, the price will drop,” he hoped.

Consider running for national polls

Rehman Sobhan urges environmentalists to be at political forefront to better protect nature

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent economist Rehman Sobhan yesterday urged environmentalists to consider candidates from their movement for the upcoming general election, which could potentially enable them to execute environmental laws.

The noted public thinker came up with the suggestion in his inaugural speech at an environment conference organised jointly by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon and Bangladesh Environmental Network at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital.

“Our environment is under perpetual threat of greedy, powerful and unscrupulous people. Huge amount of wealth in the hand of politically influential people has enabled them to defy environmental laws and threaten the livelihood of working people by polluting rivers, cutting down forest and encroaching waterbodies,” he added.

The struggle is therefore as much political as social, and hence much more challenging. It's therefore important for environmentalists to be at the political forefront, he said.

“After 20 years, it's perhaps the time to consider whether the environmental movement in Bangladesh should consider putting up candidates for elections,” he added.

Anu Mohammad, former professor of Jahangirnagar University, said Rampal Coal Power Plant was built risking the world's largest mangrove forest, the Sundarbans.

The only hilly island of the country Moheshkhali has been endangered by building the Matarbari Power Plant, he added.

“There are three layers of power in the country. The first layer consists of giant conglomerates. Second comes the government and finally, the locally

grown politically connected groups which act like zamindars (landlord). The third group continues to grab rivers, kill forests, cut hills, and destroy arable lands. The fight to protect environment is the fight against this three,” he said.

Professor MM Akash of the School of

The struggle is therefore as much political as social, and hence much more challenging. It's therefore important for environmentalists to be at the political forefront.

Rehman Sobhan
Eminent Economist

The development that stems from need doesn't harm environment. But if it stems from greed, it destroys rivers, forest and air everything in the nature.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan
Chief Executive of Bela

Economics at Dhaka University, said, “If you look at Chattogram Hill Tracts, an important biodiversity hotspot of the world, you'll see forests were razed by rubber industries.”

“Influential people are ripping apart common public goods from Banisanta in Khulna to Mro Para in Bandarban. Together, we can resist those forces,” he said.

Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Dhaka Int'l Film Festival starts



STAR REPORT

The 21st Dhaka International Film festival (DIFF) starts today.

The eight-day-long event, organised by Rainbow Film Society will take place at the National Museum in Shahbagh.

The festival will screen 252 films from 71 countries under 10 categories including “Asian Cinema Competition Section”, “Retrospective”, “Wide Angle”, “Tribute”, “Bangladesh Panorama”, “Cinema of the World”, “Children Films”, “Women Filmmakers”, “Short and Independent Films Section” and “Spiritual Films Section”.

Rainbow Society has been an organiser for DIFF since 1992, in collaboration with other agencies.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen will be inaugurating the ceremony at the main auditorium of the museum at 4:00pm.

State minister of Foreign Affairs, Md Shahriar Alam will preside over the inauguration ceremony. The prime minister's private industries and investment adviser, Salman F Rahman will also be present at the event as a special guest.

Starting with film “JK 1971” under the Bangladesh Panorama Section, 81 Bangladeshi films including “Hawa”, “Paap Punyo”, “Damal”, “The Beauty Circus”, and “Deshantor” among others will be screened under different categories.

This time, the jury board includes Jon Jost, Pouran Derakhshandeh, Mostafa Kamal, Dr Arsen Arakelyan, Alexandros Kostopoulos, and Ellaheh Tahaei among others.

The event will also be staged at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangladesh National Museum Auditorium, Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, and Star Cineplex until January 22.



Mrinal Sen

Chanchal Chowdhury

Chanchal’s look in Mrinal Sen biopic revealed

STAR REPORT

Noted actor Chanchal Chowdhury has been seen in a completely new avatar, for his upcoming Mrinal Sen biopic, “Padatik”, which is being directed by Srijit Mukherji.

An Indian magazine, Anondolok, has published the new look of Chanchal Chowdhury in the role of Mrinal Sen. In this film, Tollywood actress Monamee Ghosh will be playing the role of Mrinal Sen's wife, Gita Sen. Her look in the film was also revealed.

The pictures have been circulating on social media. People have been commenting that Chanchal looks almost identical to the legendary director.

Mrinal Sen is regarded as one of the most accomplished New Indian Cinema directors. On December 30, 2018, at the age of 95, Sen passed away in Kolkata after a long struggle with age-related ailments.

‘Holiday Market’ kicks off in Agargaon

Features products of small businesses



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A “Holiday Market” has been launched on an experimental basis in the Agargaon area of the capital with an aim to promote small and medium businesses.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi and Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor

Atiqul Islam inaugurated this market yesterday morning.

DNCC and Oikko Foundation will jointly run the market, which will operate every weekend (Friday-Saturday) with products of cottage, micro, small and medium (CMSME) entrepreneurs.

Visiting the market yesterday,



PHOTO: COLLECTED

this correspondent saw at least 100 stalls were set up at the parking space of ICT Road, located in Agargaon's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, adjacent to Tourism Building and Election Commission Office.

The shops feature leather goods, jute goods, lifestyle,

fashion, home décor, handicrafts, organic, agricultural and food products. There is also a nursery for nature lovers.

Atiqul announced that the holiday markets will be launched in each of the 54 wards of DNCC if the Agargaon project is successful.