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Work together to ensure justice for all  
Chief justice urges judges, lawyers

STAR REPORT

Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique yesterday said people are the owners of the state and they must be ensured services.

Justice seekers should not have to roam the corridors of the courts for years. Cases have to be disposed of quickly so that litigants can get justice without any hassle, he said.

The chief justice was speaking at the inaugural of “Nyay Kunju” – a

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While exchanging pleasantries with patients and their relatives, as well as the doctors, nurses, and employees at the national eye hospital, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday met 11-year-old Rabbi, who works at the hospital's canteen. Moved by his struggles, the premier decided to take responsibility of Rabbi's educational expenses and gave necessary instructions to officials concerned in this regard.

PHOTO: PID

PM takes over responsibility of 11-year-old Rabbi  
During checkup at nat'l eye hospital, Hasina buys Tk 10 ticket like other patients

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has taken over the responsibility of 11-year-old Rabbi, who works at the canteen of National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital.

The boy, who lost his father at an early age, told the PM yesterday that he wants to go to school during a conversation with her when she went to the hospital to receive eye treatment.

Like other patients, the premier also bought a Tk 10 ticket to have her eyes examined.

While leaving the hospital, she exchanged pleasantries with the patients and their relatives, as well as the doctors, nurses, and employees of the hospital.

During this time, Hasina saw Rabbi standing in the middle of the crowd. She went up to him and asked him what he does, with whom he came to the hospital, and which grade he's currently studying in.

Rabbi said he works at the canteen of the National Eye Hospital and lives there as well. He also informed the premier that his father is no more and he studied up to class two before joining the canteen.

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It's mostly Arafat out campaigning  
Dhaka-17 by-polls electioneering ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The electioneering deadline for the by-polls to Dhaka-17 constituency ended yesterday morning with Awami League Muhammad A Arafat and his supporters campaigning at full throttle.

The by-polls is scheduled to be held tomorrow.

The supporters of Arafat, conducted electioneering at Bhashantek, Sattala slums, cantonment and Banani areas throughout the day on Friday.

“We have received good responses from the voters during our campaigns,” Abul Hosen, an AL activist, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Ever since the candidates were allocated symbols on June 26, the ruling party's candidate and his supporters have been on a hectic campaign trail.

Besides, candidates of other political parties – including Jatiya Party, Jaker Party and Trinamool

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A champion of women's entrepreneurship

Speakers tell memorial event on Rokia Afzal Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pioneering businesswoman Rokia Afzal Rahman believed in financial independence, alongside excelling in education, for women empowerment and dedicated her life to this cause, speakers said at a commemorative programme yesterday.

They said she was “fearless” in facing challenges that would come in her way to establish her own businesses which ultimately aimed at helping numerous rural women for economic empowerment.

The life and spirit of Rokia Afzal Rahman was remembered at a programme “Remembering Rokia Afzal Rahman: The Fearless Spirit”, hosted by her family, at Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel in the capital.

A champion of women's entrepreneurship, Rokia passed away at the Mt Elizabeth Novena Hospital in Singapore on April 5 at the age of 82.

She undertook various initiatives in different sectors including media, insurance, real estate, and financial institute, leaving a lasting legacy.

She was the chairperson of Mediaworld Ltd, the owning company of The Daily Star, and a director of Mediastar Limited, the owning company of Prothom Alo.

In 2001, she became an adviser to the now abolished caretaker government.

Describing her pioneering role, Muyeed Chowdhury, her colleague energy,” he said.

In the caretaker government, Rokia was responsible for the ministries of social welfare and women and children affairs. Being a person from the fields, she wanted to do something in these sectors, he said.

In the video message, Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of Centre for Policy Dialogue, said by providing micro-credit loans to rural women, Rokia Afzal Rahman not only helped generate employment but also instilled a fundamental humane value among them.

Muyeed said he never heard of her being tired. “I always saw her bubbling with enthusiasm and

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**By providing micro-credit loans to rural women, Rokia Afzal Rahman not only helped generate employment but also instilled a fundamental humane value among them.**

DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA  
Distinguished fellow of CPD

**Rokia Afzal Rahman was an icon of courage as her presence and company would generate strength among women entrepreneurs in overcoming challenges.**

MONJULIKA CHAKMA  
Woman entrepreneur

Dialogue a must for free and fair polls  
Says Dr Kamal Hossain, urges govt to sit with all political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday urged the government to sit in a dialogue with all political parties immediately to make the upcoming parliamentary elections free, fair and participatory.

Though it's the constitutional right to cast vote, the country's people have had to fight to establish their basic rights, he said.

“People want to form a government through a democratic process by exercising their constitutional rights in a peaceful environment,” Dr Kamal said while presiding over the central committee meeting of Gonoforum at its office at the capital's Purana Paltan.

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Dhaka, New York direct flight likely to resume this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The much-awaited Dhaka-New York direct flight is likely to resume this year, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman said yesterday.

The CAAB chief said this at the “ATJFB Dialogue” organised by the Aviation and Tourism Journalists Forum of Bangladesh (ATJFB) at the HSIA.

ATJFB President Tanzim Anwar moderated the programme.

About the resumption of the Dhaka-New York flight, Mafidur said, “We wanted to resume the flight by October. However, Biman hasn't got permission (from the US) for flight operation.”

Mafidur Rahman said the overall process was delayed as Biman Bangladesh Airlines did not apply on time. “We have informed Biman about it. They applied late. Besides, the process has also been delayed due to the global Covid-19 pandemic. However, we are hopeful to launch New York flights this year,” he added.

Resuming direct flights on the route is a major pledge of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the government has been trying for years to resume flights on this route.

Biman had operated the New York flight

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**The process has also been delayed due to the global Covid-19 pandemic. However, we are hopeful to launch New York flights this year.**

M MAFIDUR RAHMAN  
CAAB chairman



Cartoonist MA Kuddus passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cartoonist MA Kuddus, senior vice president of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), died at his home in Dhaka's Shaheenbagh area yesterday.

He was 53.

Kuddus breathed his last in his sleep, said DUJ President Sohail Haider Chowdhury.

He was a cartoonist of bangla daily Sangbad. Before that he served in different newspapers, including the daily Ittefaq.

His namaz-e-janaja was held at Jatiya Press Club

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STIPEND HIKE  
Postgraduate physicians stage sit-in at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding a hike in their monthly stipends to Tk 50,000 from Tk 20,000, postgraduate private trainee doctors staged a sit-in at Dhaka Medical College Hospital premises yesterday.

Representatives of the Post Graduate Private Trainee Doctors Association said they will stage another sit-in on Shahbag intersection today to press home their demands.

They have also demanded a monthly payment of their stipends instead of the current half-yearly payment system.

“Last week, we enforced work abstention programme for three days. But we did not get any response to our demands,” Dr Zabir Hossain, president of the association, told The Daily Star.

He said around 8,500 post-graduate private trainee doctors serve in different public medical colleges and health institutes countrywide.

“Our fellow doctors from different parts of the country will also attend the event,” Dr Zabir said.

Postgraduate trainee physicians are medical school graduates who pursue further specialised training in a specific medical field for 2-5 years to achieve higher degrees.

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Two-year-old Junayed and 10-month-old Ayesha play with their grandmother in the capital's Mudga Medical College and Hospital as their parents prepare for their discharge. The siblings, residents of Madartek area, were hospitalised after both of them were diagnosed with dengue. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN