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Teen held over murder of two aunts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has arrested a 14-year-old boy in connection with the murder of his two aunts in Shewrapara, said police.

On Friday, Mariam Begum and her sister Sufia Begum were killed in their rented apartment. Following the incident, Mariam's daughter filed a murder case with Mirpur Police Station.

Talking at a press briefing at DMP Media Centre yesterday, Nasirul Islam, joint commissioner of DB, said the accused, the 14-year-old nephew of the victims, went to the apartment of his aunt Mariam around 12:50pm on that day.

While Mariam was busy serving him refreshments and her younger sister Sufia was cleaning dishes on the

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A biker operates his phone with one hand while attempting to control his motorcycle with the other, putting himself at serious risk. The dangers of “distracted driving” are well-known, and such reckless behavior on the road is often a cause of accidents. The photo was taken yesterday on Manik Mia Avenue in the capital.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

NCP clarifies stance on controversial protest slogans
Calls for renewed nat'l unity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Citizen Party (NCP) yesterday expressed concern over controversial slogans chanted during recent “anti-fascist” student protests, clarifying that none of its members were involved in chanting anything that undermined Bangladesh's historic struggles.

In a statement signed by Saleh Uddin Sifat, joint member secretary of the party, NCP said, “While people from diverse political affiliations spontaneously joined the ongoing movement demanding the ban of Awami League, the inclusion of party-based trials under the International Crimes Tribunal Act, and the declaration of the July Proclamation, a particular group deliberately used slogans against Bangladesh's historical legacy.”

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No new industries within 10km of Sundarbans ECA
Govt issues notification

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has prohibited any new industrial activities or projects within 10 kilometres of the Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) around the Sundarbans.

The ministry issued a notification, signed by Senior Assistant Secretary Sabrina Rahman, in this regard yesterday.

It said measures of necessary environmental conservation and pollution control may be adopted in light of the announcement. Also, action can be taken aiming at sustainable management.

Eid train tickets go on sale from May 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway will start selling advance train tickets on May 21 to ensure a smooth and convenient Eid journey for holiday travellers.

Like in previous years, all tickets will be issued online.

Tickets for May 31 departures will be available from May 21.

Tickets for outbound journeys on June 1 to 6 will be released on May 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27, respectively.

Return tickets will go on sale from May 30, beginning with those for June 9. Tickets for June 10 to 15 return trips will be available from May 31 to June 5.

To accommodate the expected surge in passengers, five pairs of special Eid trains will run on various routes.

‘Prioritise labour reform, accountability’
Envoys tell govt

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Labour reform and accountability must remain a priority in Bangladesh across all political contexts, top western diplomats said yesterday.

They also appreciated the progress made in the country so far.

The diplomats made the statement during a high-level meeting with Lutley Siddiqi, special envoy to the chief adviser for international affairs, at the Chief Adviser's Office in the capital's Tejgaon.

The high commissioners and ambassadors of the US, UK, Canada, European Union, among others, and representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO), were present at the meeting.

The meeting was called to review the past eight months of progress on labour reforms and outline the interim government's roadmap ahead.

Technical experts and labour rights specialists were also present, according to a statement of the press wing of Chief Adviser's Office.

“We welcome the momentum under the current

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The ILO roadmap is not just a guide – it's a commitment. We're investing time, energy and goodwill to get this right both in terms of process and outcome.

Lutley Siddiqi

Cross-sector collaboration key to health reforms
Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Health Sector Reform Commission has recommended a major overhaul of the health sector, but implementing the proposals will be both challenging and time-consuming, said health experts yesterday.

They said in addition to government agencies, the involvement of political parties, non-governmental organisations, and professional bodies of doctors and nurses is essential to implement the recommendations effectively.

They made the remarks at a workshop on the reform commission's report, which was submitted last week, organised by Bangladesh Health Watch at the BRAC Tower in the capital.

The 12-member commission, led by Prof AK Azad Khan, recommended a range of reforms, including changes in health administration, the enactment and amendment of around two dozen laws, and recognition of primary healthcare as a basic right through a constitutional amendment.

The commission also proposed

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Recognise primary healthcare as constitutional right
- » Allocate 15% of national budget to health sector
- » Enact, amend around 2 dozen health-related laws
- » Start taking measures via ordinances, SROs
- » Form technical committee, separate secretariat

allocating 15 percent of the national budget to the health sector and creating nationwide networks of pharmacies, diagnostic laboratories, blood supply services, and ambulance services.

Public health expert Abu Jamil Faisel said the commission suggested changes to about 20 health-related laws and policies, along with nearly a dozen others.

“It would take at least five years to implement these changes,” he said.

He said the willingness of political parties would be crucial, as some new laws would need to be enacted.

Some recommendations, he noted, lacked clear guidance on how to be implemented. “It would have been better if there were clearer directions for implementation,” he said.

Yasmin H Ahmed, an adviser to Bangladesh Health Watch, said the report is very comprehensive,

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EC REGISTRATION SC set to hear Jamaat's appeal today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court is set to hold hearing on Jamaat-e-Islami's appeal today against a High Court verdict that scrapped its registration with the Election Commission as a political party.

On May 7, the apex court bench fixed today for hearing the appeal following a prayer from Jamaat's lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir.

The HC on August 1, 2013 scrapped the Jamaat's EC registration.

Syed Rezaul Haque Chandpuri, secretary general of the Tariqat Federation, along with 24 others, filed the petition on January 25, 2009, seeking its order declaring the Jamaat's registration illegal.

The EC scrapped the Jamaat's registration in October 2018, ahead of the 11th national election.

‘Fall of fascist ruler a victory for democracy’
Says Prof Ali Riaz

UNB, Dhaka

The primary victory of democracy has been secured through the fleeing of the fascist ruler during the July uprising, said Prof Ali Riaz, vice chairman of National Consensus Commission, yesterday.

“Now, everyone must move forward with collective efforts to achieve the goal of victory,” he said at a dialogue with Ganatantrik Bam Oikya (an alliance of leftist political parties) at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

A 20-member delegation, led by Abul Kalam Azad, coordinator of the alliance and also convener of Social Democratic Party, joined the talks with the consensus commission.

Chairing the discussion, Prof Ali Riaz said the people have long aspired to establish a democratic state, and their struggles over the last 53 years reflect that enduring desire. “Although that aspiration remains unfulfilled, people have consistently engaged in democratic movements,” he said.

Prof Ali Riaz said the commission aims to establish consensus whereas the responsibility of political parties and forces, alongside civil society, in Bangladesh is to maintain the continuity of the democratic struggle and to strengthen this unity to build an accountable state.



Every day, elderly couple Koram Ali and Rahima Begum set out in their small boat to collect shrimp fry from the Bhadra river in Khulna's Batiaghata upazila. They work side by side, gathering the fry and selling them at local markets, earning Tk 300–400 daily to make ends meet. The photo was taken yesterday in the Raipur area.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN