

NEWS IN *brief*

Bangladesh, Myanmar for new air services

BSS, Dhaka
Bangladesh and Myanmar have initiated a new air services agreement (ASA) for operating passenger and cargo flights between the two countries.

The agreement was initiated following an air services consultation meeting between the two countries in Myanmar.

A three-member Bangladeshi delegation led by Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism M Atharul Islam is now visiting Myanmar to explore the scope of developing tourism and resuming air service between the two countries, said an official release.

Dhaka elected member of UN body to fix salaries

BSS, Dhaka
Bangladesh has been elected a member of senior advisory council of UN secretary general on fixing salaries and allowances for the forces in UN peace missions.

Bangladesh Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN, Dr AK Abdul Momen will represent Bangladesh in the council, said an official release here yesterday.

Students block road for damaging their bus

RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Rajshahi College blocked the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway near Katakhal Bazar in Rajshahi city for an hour protesting vandalism of the college bus by jute mill workers yesterday.

Sources said the students put up barricades on the highway at around 11:30am as the third and fourth class employees of Rajshahi Jute Mills Ltd vandalised the windows of the college bus.

The mill workers, demanding a fixation of their jobs, demonstrated for two days and pounced on the bus while the vehicle was returning to the campus carrying the students, witnesses said.

Asphalt plant set up for RCC roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) set up an asphalt plant in the city spending Tk 23.6 crore for easy maintenance of the city roads.

Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton inaugurated the plant on Monday and said that the plant would help the authorities in easy maintenance of the city roads.

Set up on 2.75 acres of land at Nawdapara, the plant has an asphalt paver, two tire roller, one bitumen distributor, one vibratory hand roller, one air compressor, two hydraulic dump truck, one low-bed truck, one excavator and a water sprinkler.

The plant is also equipped with a 750 kilo volt ampere (KVA) electric sub-station, a 300 KVA diesel generator and computer facilities, said RCC officials.

Jahid president, Kamal GS of Comilla City Press Club

METRO DESK

Jahid Hasan of Manabjabin and Md Kamal Uddin of the Daily Jugantor have been made president and general secretary of the nine-member executive committee of Comilla City Press Club.

The other members of the committee are--Vice President ATM Humayun Kabir (Daily Comilla Muktokantha), Assistant General Secretary Jasim Uddin Kanak (Comillar Alo), Organising Secretary Md Shakil Molla (Jono Kantha), Finance Secretary Kazi Mir Ahmed Miru (News Today), Office and Library Secretary Md Abdus Sobhan (Bhorer Kagoz), executive members Shahid Ullah Miaji (Naya Diganta) and Manirul Haque (Comilla Kantha).



A bus lies in ruins after it was hit by a container lorry at Kumira in Sitakunda upazila of the port city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

14 killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

Fourteen people, including five of family, were killed and nine others injured in separate road accidents in Natore, Sathkira, Narayanganj, Rajbari, Rangpur, Jhenidah, Benapole and Khagrachhari early Monday and yesterday.

Our Natore correspondent reports: Five members of a family were burnt alive and another was injured as their private car caught fire after crashing into a tree beside the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway at Baraigram upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Hasanuzzaman Babu, 44, former chairman of Moricha Union Parishad in Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia, his mother Lutfunnessa Begum, 65, wife Sikha Begum, 38, younger brother Asaduzzaman Sabu, 38, sister Tahmina Begum, 35.

Babu's daughter Farzana Yesmin Prithila, 6, the lone survivor of the accident, was admitted to a local clinic with burn injuries, police said.

They met the tragic end of their lives when the gas cylinder of the vehicle exploded at Rajakar square at around 3:40pm police added.

Taizul Islam, Babu's cousin, said they were going to Dhaka for treatment of Lutfunnessa as she had been suffering

from heart disease.

In Sathkira, Abdus Sattar, 60, of village Langaljhara in Kalaroa upazila, was injured seriously as he fell onto the Kalaroa-Baliadanga road from a trolley at Langaljhara Union Parishad at about 6:00pm yesterday.

He succumbed to his injuries at Kalaroa Upazila Health Complex.

In another accident, Ayub Ali Tarafdar, 26, son of Adam Ali Tarafdar of village Bodghona in Jhhikargachha upazila of Jessore, was killed on the spot as a bus hit a trolley on Sathkira-Jessore road at Charabat Tala in Kalaroa upazila at about 6:30pm yesterday.

In Narayanganj, rickshaw-puller Abdur Rashid, 26, was killed on the spot as a truck rammed his rickshaw on Dhaka-Narayanganj link road at Lampara in Fatullah area yesterday morning.

In another incident, construction worker Mohidul Islam, 32, was crushed under the wheels of a truck on Dhaka-Narayanganj old road at Fatullah in the sadar upazila yesterday.

Our Manikganj correspondent says: Motorcyclist Kollol Mashrafi, 32, son of Tokon Biswas of Dariapur village of Sreepur upazila in Magura died instantly as a Nasiman (three-wheeler) hit his bike on Rajbari-Kushtia road at Paikpara in

Pangsha upazila of Rajbari district yesterday.

Protesting the accident, local people blocked the road for about an hour.

In Rangpur, Aatur Rahman, 45, of Thakurgaon, was killed on the spot and eight others were injured as a passenger bus collided with a potato-laden truck at Khadmatpur in Pirganj upazila on Monday night.

The injured were rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

In Jhenidah, Bicyclist Mokbul Hossain, 70, son of late Abdul Aziz of Porahati village in Sadar upazila, was killed instantly as a truck rammed his cycle on Jhenidah-Jessore highway at Tetultala bus stand in Sadar upazila at around 3:00pm yesterday.

In Benapole, motorcyclist Jahangir Hossain, 25, son of Samsul Haque at Bosotpur Colony in Sarsa upazila in Jessore died instantly when a truck rammed his bike on Benapole-Jessore highway at Amrakhali yesterday afternoon.

In Khagrachhari, minor boy Royal Marma, son of Hero Marma, was crushed under the wheels of a jeep while he was crossing the road in Khagrapur area in Sadar upazila of the district yesterday.

Media urged to play role for road safety

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a memorial meeting of journalist Dinesh Das urged the media to play a more active role in ensuring road safety.

"Media have to be involved in removing all irregularities in the transport sector as well as stand against 'godfathers' of the sector for preventing deaths in accidents," they told the meeting in the city yesterday.

The journalist leaders said the journalist community is shocked at the death of its colleague Dinesh. They also mentioned about another journalist, Nikhil Chandra Bhadra, who lost one of his legs as a BRTC bus ran over him recently.

The journalist community will need to work together beyond their ideology for ensuring journalists' safety and establish their professional rights at any cost, they said.

Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) organised the meeting with its president Sakhawat Hossain Badsha in the chair. DRU General Secretary Sajjad Alam Khan Tapu conducted the meeting.

Among others, president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, former presidents of DRU M Anwarul Haque and Mahfuzur Rahman, Chief Reporter of the Daily Jugantar Rafiqul Islam Ratan, former general secretary of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Omar Faruque, DRU Vice-President Asaduzzaman Samrat were present at the meeting.

They said the law enforcement agencies should ensure traffic rules and check driving licences of drivers for curbing fake ones.

Later, DRU and Bangladesh Textbook Publication and Sellers Samity handed over Tk 2 lakh to the wife of Dinesh Das and his daughter Athayi Das.

Training institutes for drivers soon

UNB, Dhaka

The government will set up training institutes in the seven divisional headquarters of the country to train drivers with assistance from South Korea.

"We'll establish training institutes with modern technology for drivers in all the divisional headquarters with financial assistance from the South Korean government to check road accidents," said Communications Minister Obaidul Quader.

The minister said this to reporters after a meeting with South Korean Ambassador in Dhaka Taiyoung Cho at his secretariat office at noon.

Quader said all the activities of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) will be digitalised to bring dynamism and transparency into the organisation.

He said the South Korean government would provide US\$2.5 million to digitalise the BRTA services. A Korean expert team will arrive within a week to initiate the work, the minister added.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina lays the foundation stone of the new building of Dhaka Shishu Hospital in the city yesterday. PHOTO: PMO

WAR CRIMES Order on charges against Kamaruzzaman today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal today will pass an order whether it will accept the formal charge against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman in connection with his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity during the War of Liberation in 1971.

The tribunal's registrar's office yesterday sent a notice to the jail authorities to produce Kamaruzzaman before the tribunal this morning, Registrar M Shahinur Islam told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the tribunal judges at their chamber on Monday fixed January 18 (today) for passing the order whether they will take the formal charge against the Jamaat assistant secretary general into cognizance for his trial.

Earlier on Sunday, the prosecution pressed the formal charge with nine counts of crime, including conspiracy of genocide and crimes against humanity, against Kamaruzzaman after a revision before the tribunal.

Kamaruzzaman's areas of operation were Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Tangail and Sherpur, according to prosecutor Zead Al Malum. He also said Kamaruzzaman was the chief coordinator of Al Badr.

The tribunal on December 28 last year sent the formal charge against Kamaruzzaman back to the prosecution as the charges were not classified and organised properly and asked the prosecution to resubmit it by January 12.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Comilla in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Mymensingh, Tangail, Sitakunda, Rangamati, Comilla, Srimongal, Rajshahi, Ishwardi, Bogra, Dinajpur and Jessore and it may abate.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:35 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43 am.

Country's highest temperature 28.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 06.7 degrees at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.3	11.3	71	63
Chittagong	25.2	12.2	73	61
Rajshahi	25.4	09.6	92	78
Rangpur	19.6	11.5	87	76
Khulna	27.3	12.0	78	72
Barisal	26.8	10.5	84	78

FINE ON FEMALE STUDENT HC summons Nilphamari UNO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday summoned an upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Nilphamari for addressing a female college student as a "prostitute".

A Bangla daily on January 16 published a report saying that Kawsar Nasrin, UNO of Nilphamari Sadar upazila, called an honours student of Nilphamari Government College a prostitute and fined her Tk 100 through a mobile court on January 13 for having an affair with a school teacher.

Following the report, the court came up with a suo moto order directing Kawsar to appear before it along with the girl and her father on January 23 to explain her (UNO) conduct with the girl.

It also asked Laksmichap Union Parishad Chairman Aminur Rahman, who was present during the trial by the UNO against the girl, to appear before the court to explain the incident, Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain told The Daily Star.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim also issued a rule upon the district's deputy commissioner, superintendent of police and the UNO to explain in two weeks why legal action should not be taken against the UNO.

Gazi Abdul Hye passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former lawmaker and freedom fighter Gazi Abdul Hye passed away at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 60, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, four daughters, one son and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He will be buried at Karbala graveyard of Jessore after holding his third namaz-e-janaza on Jessore Eidgah ground today.

Earlier, his first and second namaz-e-janaza were held at the south plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban and in front of central office of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD).

Later, he was given a guard of honour. JSD president and secretary expressed deep shock at his death.

Police raid Shibir Ctg office

Bikes, iron rods, posters seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police raided the office building of Islami Chhatra Shibir Chittagong city unit yesterday following information of a secret meeting arranged for committing anarchy and sabotage.

The police arrested Helal Uddin, 24, of Satkania from the building. He claimed himself as a gatekeeper.

Six motor bikes, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, some sticks, iron rods, huge amount of posters and booklets containing anti-government messages, placards demanding release of arrested Jamaat leaders, including Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahed and Abdul Kader Molla, were seized.

Acting on a tip-off, around two platoons of police launched the raid on the four-storey building of Azizur Rahman Islamic Students' Research Academy on DC Road at West Bakalia at around 12:00pm.

A team of Detective Branch (DB) of police also joined the raid.

DB AC Tanvir told The Daily Star that they had information that over 25 Shibir leaders and activists were holding a clandestine meeting in the building to chalk out plans for committing anarchy and sabotage in the city. But they, however, managed to flee the scene, he said.

Women dies of burns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female worker succumbed to her burns 10 hours after she was caught in a fire in the city's Mohammadpur yesterday.

Shuvotara Begum, 32, wife of Ali Hossain of Poolpar, Jafrabad, died at 10:30pm at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Police said a fire broke out in a room on the third floor of Family World, a shopping mall at Mirpur Road, around 1:30pm when Shuvotara along with three to four workers were repairing shoes.

She was rushed to DMCH with about 95 percent of her body burnt, said the hospital sources.

Shuvotara had joined FamilyWorld two months ago.