

RU DEPUTY REGISTRAR MURDER Son's call not to politicise killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The ruling four-party alliance and the alliance of Awami League and other pro-liberation parties here continued to blame each other for the murder of Rajshahi University (RU) deputy registrar, but his son has requested all concerned not to politicise the killing.

At a press conference yesterday, Abdulahel Kafi Shibli, son of Muhammad Mustafa and a low-profile Jamaat leader, expressed his concern that local politicians were doing politics over the death of his father.

"We do not want any politics, we want proper trial and exemplary punishment to the killers after identifying them through proper probe," Shibli said.

"The killing should be properly investigated without any abuse to any political party", Workers Party leader Fazle Hossain Badsha told the press conference.

AL leaders Khairuzzaman Liton and Meer Iqbal, CPB leaders Enamul Haque, JSD leader Abdullah Al Masud Shibli, language movement veteran Mosharraf Hossain Akhunjil and engineer Tajul Islam were present on the occasion.

The main opposition Awami League and 11-party blamed the internal feud of the ruling alliance for the murder while BNP lawmaker Mizanur Rahman Minu blamed AL and leftist parties for the killing.

Meanwhile, police have arrested two AL workers Manik and Jasim Uddin in connection with the killing.

British visa centre at Sylhet reopens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Visa Facilitation Centre at the British High Commission regional office in Sylhet opened yesterday after a 16-day closure.

The interviews for visa applicants, which was scheduled for May 23-June 4, will now be held from June 9 to June 21, sources said.

The visitor visa applicants have been asked to appear on June 12 and others, including students, on June 13.

The new applicants having work permits have been asked to appear on June 14 to obtain token for interview dates in the British High Commission in Dhaka.

Activities at the Visa Application Centre were suspended following June 21 bomb blast at Hazrat Shahjalal Shrine that injured 70 people, including the British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury.

Labour issues discussed with ILO DG

State Minister for Labour and Employment Amanullah Aman held a meeting with Juan Somavia, Director General of International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva yesterday, says an official handout.

He held a fruitful discussion with Somavia on labour issues and increased collaboration between Bangladesh and ILO.

Aman arrived in Geneva on Monday to attend the 92nd session of the International Labour Conference.

He apprised the Director General of the various programmes undertaken by the government for the protection of labour rights. He reiterated the commitment to eliminate worst forms of child labour and sought ILO's support in this regard.

He also briefed the DG on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's personal commitment towards this objective and mentioned innovative schemes introduced under her direction, such as stipend for girl child to increase their literacy rate and reduce school dropouts.

Juan Somavia recalled his meeting with Khaleda during her visit to Geneva last December for the World Summit on Information Society. He assured Aman of ILO's continued support to Bangladesh.

Aman will address the Council today.



Left Democratic Front forms a human chain in front of Bangladesh Bank yesterday demanding removal of foreign advisor to the central bank.

Cab study blames price hike on middlemen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prices of vegetables at Karwan Bazar wholesale market is 67 percent higher than the prices charged in Shibpur Bazar in Narsingdi because of middlemen's margin.

This was revealed in a study conducted by the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (Cab).

The prices of vegetables at retail markets in the capital go up by 223 percent compared to vegetables market in Narsingdi, it added.

In the capital, the difference of prices in the wholesale and retail markets is nearly 90 percent.

According to the study, a kilogram of brinjal costs Tk 10 at Shibpur Bazar while it sells at Tk 20 in retail markets in Dhaka.

In a press release yesterday, the Cab urged the government to take measures to check such price hike.

RU BCL council tomorrow

RU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Rajshahi University (RU) unit, is going to hold its council tomorrow after a seven-year gap.

President of BCL central committee Liakot Shikdar and General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu are expected to attend the council at Rajshahi Mohanagar Awami League office.

The last council of BCL RU unit was held on November 29 in 1997. Sakhawat Hossain Shafique and Ahsanul Haque Pintu were elected president and general secretary.

Soon after the election, the president and the general secretary became each other's rival over establishing supremacy on the campus.

Due to frequent clashes between the two factions, the council could not be held, said a local BCL leader.

With the fall of Awami League government in 2001, Islamic Chhatra Shibir cadres occupied all the dormitories and drove out the BCL men from the campus, he said.

Obituary



Delmonara Begum, Chairperson of Oposonin Group of Industries, died of old age complications and Alzheimer's disease yesterday at the age of 82, says a press release.

She is survived by her three sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at 11.00am today at Oposonin Bhaban at 30 New Eskaton Road in the city.

Captain Abdul Wahab

BSS, Dhaka



Valiant freedom fighter and Honouary Captain Abdul Wahab, Bir Bikram, died of old age complications at Dhaka CMH on Monday at the age of 77.

Wahab is survived by his wife, two sons and four daughters.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday morning.

Another namaz-e-janaza was held at his village home at Maricha in Devidwar upazila under Comilla district.

He was laid to rest with state honour at his family graveyard at Maricha village.

Wahab joined the then Pakistan Army in 1948 and was posted to the newly raised 1st East Bengal Regiment.

Md Shamim Ahmed



Md Shamim Ahmed, son of Abdul Kader of Kaliganj upazila, died at a city clinic yesterday at the age of 25, says a press release.

On Monday, he was rushed to the Gastro Liver Hospital in the city as he fell unconscious at the Zia International Airport. Shamim, a Kaliganj Chhatra League leader and student of Jagannath University College, was returning home after treatment of liver cirrhosis in India.

Mahbubul Alam Khan

UNB, Dhaka

Mahbubul Alam Khan, member of Bangladesh Film Producers Distributors Association (BFPDA), died of cardiac arrest at a city hospital yesterday at the age of 54.

Mahbubul Alam, owner of M/s Jumbo's Films, was survived by his father, wife and two sons.

BFPDA, in a condolence message, prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

PBCP Lal Potaka has foreign links

UNB, Rajshahi

Outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) Lal Potaka has links with extremist groups in six countries including India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan.

Claiming foreign links four regional commanders, now in custody, have confessed during interrogation that they used to collect tolls from the wealthy people and farmers under duress at the behest of political godfathers, police sources said without disclosing the identity of the godfathers.

Abdur Razzak alias Art Babu, Jewel, Shafi and Ali Tareq, arrested on May 24 by Ramna police in Dhaka city, were undergoing interrogation by Bagmara police since Monday.

Sources further said that Art Babu who hails from Taherpur admitted his involvement in six murders at Bagmara, Natore and Putiya.

Jewel who hails from Bagmara told police that his responsibility was distribution of leaflets explaining party programme and reasons for the killings. He denied his involvement in any of the killings.

Tk 1cr Indian sarees seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized a huge quantity of Indian sarees and other garments worth over Tk 1 crore at Chapainawabganj yesterday.

Tipped off, the team of the six

Rifles Battalion led by second-in-command Major AKM Tauhid-ul-Islam raided a place on Godagari-Mundumala road and seized Indian sarees, shirt pieces, shirts, and other garments.

The goods were handed over to local customs warehouse.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 35.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Majdee Court and the lowest 23.8 degree Celsius at Jessore.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:45pm today and rises at 5:10am tomorrow.

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	35.2	26.7	69	55
Chittagong	34.4	26.5	76	72
Rajshahi	35.5	26.1	73	96
Khulna	33.6	26.2	78	70