



President Iajuddin Ahmed attends the namaz-e-janaza of nine Bangladeshi peacekeepers at the Army Stadium in the city yesterday. The peacekeepers were killed in a militia ambush in Congo on Friday.

DEATH OF A UNIVERSITY STUDENT Punishment to culprits demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday demanded exemplary punishment to the persons responsible for the death of Mousumi Hasan, a student of Asia Pacific University. She died on February 26 at a city hospital after fighting for life for 11 days. A case was filed with Mohammadpur police station against her husband Emon accusing him of injecting Mousumi with poison that led to her death. Mousumi's father Daud Hasan said her daughter died because of her husband's addiction to drug and

money.

The Mahila Parishad held a rally in front of the Mohammadpur police station and submitted a memorandum to the inspector general of police (IGP) demanding proper investigation and fair trial.

The rally was addressed by Mahila Parishad leader Sharaban Tahura and Parishad legal advisor Rehana Yunus.

Parishad leaders Dipti Rani Sikder, Nurul Wara and Nasreen Mamun and Mousumi's parents were present at the rally presided over by Selina Begum.

PROTEST AGAINST US Khulna BCU president taken to Rab office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Benajir Ahmed Jewell, president of Khulna district unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) was taken to Khalishpur Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) headquarters on Monday night.

He was arrested on Monday noon from Picture Palace Cinema hall crossing for leading a procession in protest against the observance of America Week and arrival of US Ambassador Harry K Thomas. The BCU activists also burnt an American flag during the protest.

Meanwhile, Sub-Inspector Shah Alam of Khulna thana was suspended and closed to police lines yesterday for negligence of duty. He was on routine patrol at the Picture Palace Cinema hall crossing when the American flag was burnt.

BSF yet to return 2 Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) is yet to return the two Bangladeshis who were picked up from near the border on Monday.

The two are Krishnakumar Singha and Abdul Khaleque. Krishnakumar was collecting firewood at Bichnakandi border in Gowainghat upazila when the BSF men took him away.

The BSF men from Nayabazar border camp picked up Abdul when he went to the nearby areas to bring back his cattle.

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sent an official letter asking the BSF to return the two men, but there was no response as yet.

The BSF handed over the two men to the Indian police instead, sources said.

GIBR to probe train accident

UNB, Dhaka

Government Inspector of Bangladesh Railway (GIBR) MAMatin Talukder will investigate Monday's derailment of three bogies of Dhaka-bound Jayantika Express at Kalisima near Brahmanbaria railway station that left two people dead and some 50 injured.

The GIBR will collect information from the witnesses and passengers at Brahmanbaria railway station on March 5 from 9.00am.

Refer & Fly awards distributed

Standard Chartered Bank distributed awards to the winners of Auto Loan 'Refer & Fly' campaign at a local hotel recently, says a press release.

Auto Museum, a leading importer and seller of reconditioned vehicles, secured the top position in the campaign that lasted for three months. Md Habib Ullah Dawn, Managing Director, Auto Museum Ltd got the first prize of Dhaka-London-Dhaka air ticket.

Masihul Huq Chowdhury, head of Secured Products of Standard Chartered Bank, handed over the awards to the winners as the chief guest. Tarek Reaz, Senior Sales Manager, Auto Loan, and owners of a number of automobile showrooms of the city were present.

Standard Chartered introduced Auto Loan in 2003. The bank provides this loan facility for a maximum period of five years without any personal guarantee to help the customers buy automobiles for personal use only.

The bank has also started financing the purchase of used cars last year.

Wife dies from burns

Husband goes into hiding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mother of a seven-month-old daughter succumbed to her burn injuries at a city hospital yesterday nine days after her husband allegedly set fire to her at the Geneva Camp in the city.

Farzana Begum, 20, wife of Mohammad Islam alias Sistyay, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) on February 20.

Her father Mohammad Reza told reporters that Islam threw a type of chemical on his daughter and set her on fire at their Geneva Camp house at Mohammadpur at around 3:30am on February 20.

Farzana received burn injuries on her body from knee to neck.

Her father said he did not lodge any complaint against his son-in-law

as Islam threatened to kill his seven-month daughter Isha if the incident is disclosed.

Islam also married another woman with two children for the second time six months ago without taking Farzan's permission, said Reza.

The couple was locked into an altercation when the second wife along with her children came to his Geneva Camp house on February 19.

A case has been filed but police could not arrest anybody as Islam and his relatives went into hiding.

Obituary



Professor Md Mirza Abu Hanif of the Department of Bio-chemistry of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) died of old age complications at his residence on February 26 at the age of 68, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, three sons and one daughter.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr M Amirul Islam and leaders of BAU Teachers' Association, Officers Parishad and Employees Association condoled the death and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Abu Md Yunus Ali



a valiant freedom fighter and former member of Provincial Assembly, passed away at his residence at Bhangaura upazila in Pabna district on February 14 at the age of 85, says a press release.

He was survived by his wife, two sons and six daughters to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest at his family graveyard after namaz-e-janaza on the Bhangaura High School premises.

Adiluzzaman



Adiluzzaman, a social worker and industrialist of Kishoreganj, died at the Birdem Hospital in the city on February 28 at the age of 71, says a press release.

He left behind his five sons and three daughters to mourn his death.

Death anniversary

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Altaf Ali Hasu, former general secretary of Wrishish Shilpi Gosthi, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 336/7 TV Road, East Rampura in the city after Asr prayers today.

A memorial meeting will also be held at the Liberation War Museum in the city at 5.00pm on March 7.

DU IT Festival begins

DU CORRESPONDENT

An Information Technology (IT) Festival began at the Computer Science and Engineering Department of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

The three-day-long festival has been organised to mark the 12th founding anniversary of the department.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz inaugurated the festival.

The programmes of the festival include seminars, publishing of IT magazines, programming competitions, IT quizzes and debates, and software and hardware exhibition.

Sixty teams from 36 universities and colleges are taking part in the festival, the organisers said.

The inaugural function was followed by an IT seminar at the Teachers Students Centre of the university.

Addressing the seminar as chief guest, Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan said the investors are less interested in investing in science and IT sector as they want to make quick profit.

He however said our IT students are brilliant, and they could uphold the image of the country by making quality software for export.

Presiding over the seminar, Prof Faiz said the IT is an important weapon to overcome the poverty.

"Information Technology is a highly potential sector for the enrichment of the nation," he added.

Pro-VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, founding chairman of the department Prof Lutfor Rahman and present Chairman Prof Dr Hafiz Muhammad Hasan Babu also spoke at the seminar.

Long march against India's river-link project Mar 3, 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Farakka Committee (IFC) will stage a long march towards Chilmari in Kurigram district from March 3 in protest against the Indian river inter-linking project.

"We invite all to take part in the long march against the Indian mega project, which, once implemented, will cause colossal damage to Bangladesh's environment and economy," said IFC Chairman Atiqur RK Eusufzai at a press conference yesterday.

The march will start from the National Press Club premises in the city at 9:00am on March 3 with a convoy of 80 to 100 buses travelling across Tangail, Bogra, Sirajganj and Rangpur districts, he said.

More participants will join the march at different points along the route and the demonstrators will assemble at Chilmari river port by evening.

A grand rally will be held on the bank of Brahmaputra in Chilmari in the morning on March 4, which is expected to stage a massive show-down against the proposed river-linking project, the IFC chairman said.

Demonstrators from Roumari will also take part in the long march with a procession of boats, he added.

The IFC leaders called on all, irrespective of political affiliation, profession or religion, to take part in the long march to raise a voice against the India's unilateral move

to withdraw water from the transboundary rivers.

The IFC is a New York-based environmentalist forum of Bangladeshi expatriates.

IFC Secretary General Sayed Tipu Sultan, Md Saleh, Md Hossain Khan, Kazi Mostafa Kamal, Abul Kashem Laskar were present at the press conference, chaired by Yousofjai.

The conference was followed by the launch of a book on the issue of river-linking project.

Former vice-chancellors Prof M Maniuzzaman Miah and Prof Jasimuddin Ahmed were present at the launching ceremony.

4 officials get extension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday extended the contract service of four mid-level officials, including three political appointees for one year each, according to official notification.

They are Director General of Bangladesh National Museum Prof Mahmudul Haq, Private Secretary to the President Hemayet Uddin Khan, Director of National Book Centre Ahmed Musa and Director of Bangladesh Folk Art and Crafts Foundation Shafiq-ul-Islam (Mahmud Shafiq).



Members of Abayot Natyadal present a drama at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday, the first day of Bangladesh Street Drama Festival 2005, organised by Sammilita Sangskritik Jote.

PHOTO: STAR

DHAKA TODAY

Musical conference

The inaugural ceremony of 1st International Musical Conference, organised by the Centre for Education, Creative and Performing Arts, will be held with Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk as chief guest. Venue: Shaheed Ziaur Rahman auditorium, National Museum. Time: 6.00pm.

Geographical conference

The 11th National Geographical Conference, organised by Bangladesh National Geographical Society, will be inaugurated with President Iajuddin Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 11.00am.

Yoga Foundation

Yoga Foundation organises an introductory lecture on Quantum Method Meditation. Venue: 1/1 Pioneer Road, Kakrail. Time: 4.30pm.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

Highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 13.8 degree Celsius at Srimongol.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:02pm today and rises at 6:19am 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	32.9	19.0	58	35
Chittagong	31.5	18.0	64	82
Rajshahi	32.8	15.2	65	40
Khulna	33.3	18.2	87	66
Barisal	33.4	18.5	98	63
Sylhet	30.0	16.9	59	49
Cox's Bazar	32.9	19.5	72	78



Winners of the Standard Chartered Bank's Auto Loan 'Refer & Fly' campaign pose for photograph at the award giving ceremony at a city hotel recently.