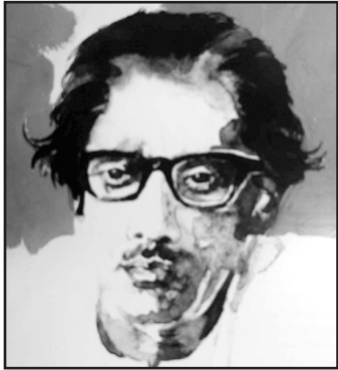


Capital punishment demanded for food adulteration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different human rights organisations yesterday demanded of the government to give capital punishment to those who prepare food



Memorial meeting on poet Sikander Abu Zafar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A commemorative meeting marking the 30th death anniversary of poet Sikander Abu Zafar was held at the Bengal Shilpalaya in the city yesterday.

Poets, cultural activists and poetry lovers gathered at the programme chaired by poet Shamsur Rahman.

The discussants recalled the contribution of the poet to Bangla literature as well as to the War of Liberation.

Poet Al Mahmud, Dr Anisuzzaman, Abdul Mannan Syed, Belal Chowdhury, Syed Didar Bakht and Syed Jahangir took part in the discussion.

A poetry recitation session was also held at the programme.

Born on March 19, 1919, poet Sikander Abu Zafar also worked as a journalist in various newspapers. He served as the chief editor of the Millat from 1954 to 57. During the liberation war, he published the weekly Abhijan from Kolkata.

The poet received the 'Ekushey Padak' and 'Swadhinata Padak' posthumously in recognition of his contribution to Bangla literature. He died at the PG Hospital in Dhaka on August 5, 1975.

Garment worker gangraped in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A garment worker was gangraped at Mirpur in the city on Wednesday night.

The victim filed a case with Mirpur Police Station against six rapists and owner of the house where she was raped.

The accused are Khalilur Rahman, Hasan, Ripon, Hasan 2, Bappi, Milon and house owner Sabina.

Police arrested Khalil and Sabina produced them to a Dhaka court with a prayer for seven days' remand for each.

Police said Khalil is a police informant while Hasan is the son of Yousof Ali, a havidar of the Riot Division.

Police said the six kidnapped the garment worker from Manipur area on Wednesday afternoon when she was returning home.

They took her to Sabina's house and raped her one after another there overnight. Later, the criminals left her on a road from where police rescued her and sent her to the One-Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

items in unhygienic environment and sell adulterated foodstuffs.

A rally organised by Citizen Rights Movement in association with Karmakutir Foundation at Shahbagh in the city, demanded continuation of the present drives by mobile courts to different restaurants, bakeries and factories.

Speakers at the rally called for formulating a law with the provision of confiscating the properties and giving death punishment to the convicts.

Another rally was organised by The Hunger Project at Shatayu Angan in Ramna Park titled 'Stop contamination of foods: ensure safe life for all' pressing for similar demands.

Speakers at the rally said the country is going to win the first position in food adulteration in the world.

It is a shame for the citizens of the country, they added.

The organisation will soon initiate a mass signature campaign against food adulteration and the use of chemical in food items.

Nagorik Adhikar Andolon at a rally at Shantinagar Krishti and Kolyan Sangsad in the city also urged the government to continue the present drive against food adulteration by ignoring the threats of unscrupulous traders.

Two extremists beaten

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two extremists were caught and beaten up by angry mob at Rupsha upazila in the district on Thursday. Later they were handed over to police.

The extremists were identified as Ismail Hossain Jony, 23, and Abdul Malek, 24, Srifaltala union under the same upazila.

According to Rupsha police, Ismail and Malek along with four others went to JBM Bazar at Srifaltala on a killing mission.

Police however did not say who was the target.



Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abul Kalam Azad, a father of two, has been suffering from brain cancer for the past four months.

He was first treated at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital and later he was taken to Kolkata for advanced treatment.

The doctors said Azad needs surgery to remove the tumours detected inside his brain, which involves Tk six lakh. But his family cannot afford such an expensive treatment.

His wife Parvin Akter Rina has appealed to the prime minister and the generous people to extend a helping hand to save her husband's life.

Contributions can be sent to the following account: Kazi Abdul Latif, A/C No.-150180148183, BRAC Bank, Gulshan Branch, Dhaka 1212.

Tributes paid to Santosh Gupta

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Paying tribute to veteran journalist, writer and columnist Santosh Gupta, speakers at a memorial meeting yesterday said he will always remain alive in the hearts of the people for his writings and active role in all progressive movements in the country.

An icon of self-sacrifice, honesty and patriotism, Santosh Gupta, senior assistant editor of the daily Sangbad, made significant contribution to all democratic movements, including the War of Liberation in 1971, they said.

The Santosh Gupta Smriti Parishad organised the memorial meeting at the National Press Club in the city to mark the first death anniversary of the dedicated journalist.

At the meeting, National Professor Kabir Chowdhury launched a book titled 'Santosh Gupta Smarak Grantha'.

Recalling his contribution to objective journalism, the speakers said Santosh Gupta had inspired the people through his writings at

times of national transition and difficult days of the country.

Santosh Gupta, who always upheld the spirit of the Liberation War, spent 11 years in jail for his writing against imperialism, fundamentalism and autocracy, said Prof Kabir Chowdhury.

He pioneered the objective journalism in the country and was also a good poet, Prof Chowdhury added.

The nation will always remember the noted journalist for his contribution to all progressive and democratic movements, said educationist Sardar Fazlul Karim.

Santosh proved that the best way to serve the nation is through journalism, he added.

His works will also inspire the young journalists and cultural activists, said Dr Anisuzzaman.

Singer Fakir Alamgir, Golam Kuddus Ali, Mahbub-ul-Alam Chowdhury and Kazi Aziza Idris also spoke while Monayem Sarkar, convener of the Smriti Parishad, presided over the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

Citizen Rights Movement forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding hygienic food.

Principals place 9-point demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Principal Kalyan Parishad (BPKP) at a press conference yesterday placed a nine-point demand to solve various problems facing the approved private colleges.

The demands included payment of 60 percent of the basic pay scale to the teachers and employees of the colleges.

Speaking at the press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity Auditorium, the parishad leaders called for recognition of the colleges within two years of the approval by the education board.

They demanded inclusion of teachers and employees in monthly payment order (MPO) from the date of recognition.

The leaders said teachers and employees of over two hundred private colleges are facing financial crisis due to non-receipt of MPO.

The leaders also demanded counting of service and pension benefits of the teachers and employees from the date of approval.

They also demanded yearly allocation of development fund for approved colleges.

Parishad President Principal Nayan Rahman, Vice-president Principal Sajeda Begum, General Secretary Principal Gulam Mustafa, Women Affairs Secretary Nurjahan Parvin, and Advisor Dr Hafez Ahmed spoke at the press conference.

BSF returns bodies of 4 Bangladeshis

BDNEWS, Chuadanga

The bodies of four Bangladeshis youths, who had been beaten to death by Indians on Tuesday at Benipur border, handed over to to Jibonnagar thana police at 9:00pm yesterday.

The Indian Border Security Forces handed over the bodies after negotiating with BDR.

Local BDR officials and UP chairman and members were present during the handing over to the relatives of the dead.

Death anniversary

BSS, Dhaka

Today is the first death anniversary of eminent journalist, columnist and litterateur Santosh Gupta.

As part of the day's programmes, Santosh Gupta Memorial Committee will place wreaths at the memorial to the dedicated journalist at Postgola crematorium in the city in the morning.

Born in Jhalakathi on January 9, 1925, Santosh Gupta was one of the pioneers of objective journalism in Bangladesh. He was the senior assistant editor of the daily Sangbad.

Santosh Gupta, who actively took part in the War of Liberation, received many awards and prizes, including the Ekushey Award, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to journalism and society.

Rear Admiral MA Khan



Today is the 21st death anniversary of Rear Admiral Mahub Ali Khan, former Navy chief and minister of communications and agriculture, says a press release.

On the occasion, various programmes have been taken up -- placing of wreaths at the Banani graveyard, Qurankhwani, distribution of sweets at orphanages and special prayers at mosques.

A milad mahfil will be held at Mahub Bhaban at House # 40, Road # 05, Dhanmondi after Maghrib prayers.

Rear Admiral MA Khan Memorial committee, Sylhet and the UK will also hold similar programmes.

Bangladesh Navy will hold milad mahfil at all its bases across the country.

Surovi, a voluntary organisation, will also arrange milad mahfil at its branches across the country.

Mahmudunnabi Chowdhury



Today is the 10th death anniversary of Mahmudunnabi Chowdhury, former minister and founder-president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, says a press release.

He was popularly known as Nabi Chowdhury.

Various programmes, including prayers at his graveyard and Qurankhwani, and a milad mahfil at Meher Group office at Agrabad, have been arranged on the occasion.

Different social organisations will also hold various programmes at Kattali.

Profile of Natwar Singh

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, From New Delhi

If there was one ministerial portfolio on which the Indian media was unanimous as to who will get it when the Congress-led UPA government came to power in May last year, it was the seasoned diplomat-turned-politician Kunwar Natwar Singh and the Ministry of External Affairs.

Considered close to former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi, 75-year-old Singh's taking charge of the high-profile ministry was a foregone conclusion. Earlier, he had served as Indian foreign service officer and held key diplomatic assignments for three decades from 1956.

He also served as the minister of state for external affairs during the tenure of Rajiv Gandhi's government.

Born on May 16, 1931, Natwar Singh belongs to that rare breed of politicians who combine the art of diplomacy, politics, erudition and articulation.

A student of history in Delhi's prestigious St. Stephen's College and later Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, Singh joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1953 and served for 31 years in various important capacities in Beijing, Permanent Mission of India and important UN Committees between 1961 and 1966.

His first ambassadorial assign-



ment was in Poland from 1971 to 1973. He then served as India's deputy high commissioner to the United Kingdom from 1973 to 1977, high commissioner to Zambia from 1977 to 1980 and ambassador to Pakistan from 1980 to 1982.

In 1982, Singh was appointed the secretary general of the Non-Aligned summit held in New Delhi and the chief coordinator of the Commonwealth summit held at the same place in the same year before becoming a secretary in the Indian foreign ministry.

Natwar Singh quit the foreign service in 1984 and joined the Congress and made his parliamentary debut the same year by becoming a member of the Lok Sabha.

In 1985-86, he was the minister of state for steel, mines and coal and then fertiliser under the agriculture ministry. In 1986-89, he was the minister of state for external affairs.

In 1998-99, Singh again became a member of Lok Sabha and was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2002.

As the external affairs minister, Singh has for the last one year brought on all his diplomatic skills and experiences to bear in pushing the peace process with Pakistan initiated during the previous BJP-led NDA regime and giving a qualitative new dimension to India's relations with the United States.

Apart from politics and

diplomacy, Singh is an avid reader of literature and has also authored several books on the subject as well as history. Among his books are 'EM Forster: A Tribute', 'The Legacy of Nehru', 'Tales From Modern India and 'Stories From India', many of which were written when he was posted in New York and London as a diplomat.

Besides, Singh's book reviews have regularly appeared in leading Indian and foreign newspapers and magazines, including The Times of India, Indian Express, Hindustan Times, India Today, Outlook, New York Times, Sunday Times, New Statesman, Saturday Review and Financial Times (London).

6 killed, 60 injured in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least six people were killed and 60 others injured in separate road accidents in Sylhet, Chittagong and Comilla yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT from Sylhet reports, three people were killed and over 50 others were injured in a road accident at Ghopal on Sylhet-Sunamganj Highway yesterday.

The accident took place when driver of a Sunamganj-bound speeding bus from Sylhet lost his control over the vehicle and hit a roadside tree.

Several passengers said the accident occurred as the driver was gossiping with some of his fellow drivers, who were traveling in the same vehicle.

The bus skidded off the road and plunged into the roadside canal.

The local people sent the injured to the Osmani Medical College hospital.

Jewel, 20, son of Sajidur Rahman of Biswambharpur upazila died on the spot while Layek Uddin Sikder, 45, alias Rafique of Akhaila of Sylhet city and Lal

Miah, 40, son of Chunu Miah of village Selborosh of Dharmapasha upazila succumbed to their injuries in the hospital. Of the injured, condition of at least 20 are critical, hospital sources said. The driver and helpers

were admitted to a private clinic to avoid mob attack.

UNB from Chittagong adds, two people were killed and six others injured in a collision between a truck and a microbus on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Raushanhat in Chandanaisa upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Jamaluddin, 38, of Hathazari upazila and Bahadur, 32, of Satkania upazila.

Police said a Cox's Bazar-bound truck collided with a microbus carrying 10 passengers in the

morning, leaving microbus driver Jamaluddin and passenger Bahadur dead on the spot and six passengers injured.

All the injured were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Police seized the truck, but the driver managed to escape.

Another report from Comilla says, a teenaged boy was killed and four others injured in a road accident in Sadar upazila on Comilla-Noakhali road yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Rabiul, 18, son of Ayet Ali of Chhoto Barura village in Barura upazila.

Police said Rabiul and four other passengers of an auto-rickshaw were injured seriously when a Noakhali-bound bus hit the three-wheeler near Lalmal at about 10:00am.

The injured were taken to the Sadar Hospital where Rabiul succumbed to his injuries.



PHOTO: STAR

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain inaugurates the Gono Forum conference at the Institution of Engineers in the city yesterday. On his right is Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury.



Moderately heavy falls likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over the country till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also expected at places in Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the period, Met Office said. It said day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 33.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Syedpur and lowest 24.6 degree Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:38pm today and rises at 5:30am 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	33.2	27.0	80	89
Chittagong	29.6	25.3	85	90
Rajshahi	30.9	27.2	87	90
Khulna	31.8	26.8	86	82
Barisal	30.0	26.0	92	100
Sylhet	30.0	25.8	90	92
Cox's Bazar	30.5	25.5	88	96

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Umme Habiba Nurjahan, wife of late Wahiduddin Ahmed of once famous Wahid Launch Company of Bikkrampur, died at her Gulshan residence in the city yesterday at the age of 83.

She is survived by her six sons and three daughters. Her two sons - Ferdous Wahid and Khasru Wahid are noted singers.

She was buried at the Banani graveyard yesterday evening.

Md Awal Hossain



Md Awal Hossain, vice-president of Sutrapur thana Awami League, passed away at Birdem Hospital yesterday at the age of 63, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, three sons and one daughter. He was buried at South Moishundi Panchayet Graveyard at Tikatuli after a namaz-e-janaza at Narinda Chhoto Jame mosque.