

NEWS IN *brief*

BDR staff found dead at Pilkhana

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A carpenter of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) was found dead at his government quarters at Pilkhana headquarters in the city yesterday.
Body of Lal Miah, 44, was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue. New Market police said they recovered the body on information by the BDR officials.
Police suspected Lal Miah might have died after falling on the ground from the bed. No injury marks were found on his face, said DMCH morgue sources.

Muggers stab two in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers repeatedly stabbed a garment employee and took away valuables in city's Buet area early yesterday and another gang stabbed a tailor to rob valuables in Kakrail on Sunday night.
Garment employee Zahidul Islam of Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha was attacked in front of Nazrul Islam Hall of Buet on his way to work at Kamrangirchar from Gulistan by a rickshaw around 5:30am.
Criminals took Zahid's valuables and left him unconscious on the road. Later locals rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).
The tailor Saidur Rahman, 25, was stabbed by a gang of snatchers around 11:30pm in front of Kakrail Islami Bank and was also admitted to DMCH.

Bangalees to remember Rokeya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Begum Rokeya will be remembered in the country as well as in the West Bengal for her contribution to women's education and development, educationists told a seminar yesterday.
Titled "Rokeya Charchar Prashar", it was organised by Dhaka University's Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities at the centre's conference room.
Prof Khandakar Ashraf Hossain chaired the seminar addressed by DU Prof Sonia Nishat Amin, Prof Latifa Akanda, and journalist Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury.
Head teacher of Shakhawat Memorial High School in Kolkata, Papi Singh Mohapatro; Prof Sayed Tanvir Nasrin of Burdwan University; and secretary general of Rokeya Institute of Value Education, Prantosh Bandhupadhyay; also spoke.

Safe water for students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has taken a project to ensure safe water, hygiene, and sanitation for the poor students, says a press release.
"Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Improvement in Schools Project" was launched yesterday at Champa-Parul Registered Primary School in Mirpur.
According to speakers, the project will ensure water and sanitation facilities to nearly 16,000 students of 10 schools of Dhaka and 25 schools of Comilla through Community Development Committee (CDC).
DAM in association with Concern Universal Bangladesh, UK Aid, DFID, UNDP, and Local Government Engineering Department has undertaken it.

Man killed in city road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed and another one injured after a passenger vehicle hit their rickshaw van at Mirpur in the city yesterday evening.
Ilias, 23, the rickshaw van puller, was declared dead after he was shifted from a local clinic to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). With injury, Shamim, 20, a sales representative, was under treatment at DMCH.
Police said the vehicle called maxi of Bhasantek-Gabtolli route rammed the rickshaw van in front of BRTA office at Mirpur 13 around 6:00pm.



(From left) UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Crown Prince Guillaume of Luxembourg on the podium during the World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi yesterday. (Related Story on Page 1)
PHOTO: AFP

Hasina seeks more UAE investment

UNB, Abu Dhabi

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina yesterday held bilateral talks with her UAE counterpart Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, discussing a wide range of issues offering scope for cooperation.
During the meeting, she requested the UAE government, as well as its private sector, to invest in potent sectors in Bangladesh including shipbuilding, gas-exploration and power generation.
After the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told newsmen that the two leaders discussed various issues of mutual interest including export of manpower from Bangladesh to the oil-rich country.
The PM also sought cooperation of the UAE government in big infrastructure development projects, such as construction of the Padma Bridge.
About problems in manpower export, the PM said her government has undertaken various measures such as introduction of Machine Readable Passports and imparting training to workers on language and culture of the host country to overcome hassle.
She also held separate talks with Higher Education and Scientific Research Minister of the UAE Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan and Foreign Minister Shaikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Four 'jhut' warehouses gutted in fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four tin-shed warehouses containing jhut (garment waste) were gutted in a fire at Mirpur in the city last night.
Two units of fire brigade with the help of local people doused the flames after one and a half hours' effort around midnight.
Fire brigade officials suspect the fire originated from a burning cigarette stub.
No casualty was reported though severe panic spread among locals.

Jalil admitted to hospital in Singapore

METRO DESK

Senior Awami League leader Md Abdul Jalil MP, also chairman of Mercantile Bank Ltd, has been taken to Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore, on Friday for kidney treatment, says a press release.



His first dialysis was done on Saturday. He is under treatment of kidney specialist Dr Akira Wu, heart specialist Dr Koh Siam Soon Philip, pacemaker specialist Dr Kam Ruth, and other specialised doctors.
The former AL general secretary, Jalil will remain under observation of the physicians for at least seven days. He has requested all to pray for his quick recovery.

DHAKA-DELHI MEET BEGINS TODAY

Killing by BSF to top agenda

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Killing of innocent people by BSF, security, demarcation of border, construction of military ware in the international border, simplifying of visa and a host of issues will figure at the three high official level meetings of Bangladesh and India begins today.
Official sources said Dhaka would host a two-day bilateral Joint Working Group (JWG) and Joint Boundary Working Group (JBWG) of the two countries simultaneously on January 18-19, and crucial home secretary-level meeting on January 19-20. Another meeting on the department of narcotics control was merged with the above two meetings.
The joint secretaries of the two countries will lead the JWG and JBWG meetings and the heads of the

department of narcotics control of the Bangladesh and India will lead the meeting on combating drug smuggling.
Joint Secretary (Political) Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed will lead 12-member Bangladesh team comprises by officials of different line ministries while Indian Joint Secretary Shambhu Singh will lead a 10-member team at the JWG and JBWG meetings.
Bangladesh Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Shikdar will lead a 15-member delegation while his Indian counterpart GK Pillai will lead a 13-member team at the crucial 11th home secretary-level meeting to discuss entire range of border related issues for taking final decision in light of the decisions to be taken at the JWG and JBWG meetings.

Bangladesh will put up a host of 11-point agenda at the JWG and JBWG meetings, which includes incidents of firing in the border; action against fundamentalists, militants and insurgent groups involving border terrorists activities; review of action taken to check smuggling of arms, ammunition and explosives, drugs, fake currency notes; construction of border fence within 150 yards of the international border; measures to check cross border movement; capacity building of law enforcing agencies; enhancement of cooperation between enforcement authorities that is BGB and BSF; passenger train; construction of flyover by India at Tin Bigha Corridor and consular access/ visa problems.

Bangladesh's agenda at the home secretary-level meeting include ratification of Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement 1974 by India; demarcation of 6.5 undemarcated border (1.5km at Doykhata under Nilphamari district, 2km at Muhurir Char at Feni and 3km at Lathitila in Moulvibazar); incidences of firing by BSF in the border; signing of Boundary Strip Map, construction of military ware obstacles within 150 yards of the international border; activities of different nodal points such as human trafficking, anti-terrorism and drug; sharing of information regarding arrest of wanted persons in other country, sentenced persons in other country's jail; and cooperation between BGB and BSF.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia shares a light moment with Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh Anneli Lindahl during a courtesy call at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday.
PHOTO: BNP

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AHM Fakhru Alam, a Bangladeshi born US citizen, died due to cardiac arrest at the state of Houston in the US on January 12 at the age of 55.
He is the brother of whip ASM Firoz. Fakhru left behind his wife.
His kulkhwani will be held at his village home in Kalaiya in Patuakhali after Zohr prayers on January 20.
Speaker Abdul Hamid condoled the death and convened sympathy to the bereaved family.

WEATHER TODAY

Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka
Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the regions of Mymensingh, Tangail, Faridpur, Jessore and Kushtia and it may continue for next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.
Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Dhaka and Madaripur and it may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.
Weather is likely to remain dry over the country.
Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins of the country and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning.
The sun sets in the capital at 5:35pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.
Country's highest temperature 25.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 05.5 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi.
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	21.1	11.0	39	33
Chittagong	23.2	16.0	66	42
Rajshahi	19.8	05.5	68	70
Rangpur	18.6	07.2	71	76
Khulna	24.0	12.5	61	49
Barisal	23.5	12.0	69	77

DHAKA TODAY

- Seminar**
Bangladesh Astronomical Society and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency will jointly organise a seminar. Venue: Bangabandhu Novotheatre, Time: 9:00am.
- Human chain**
Peoples Health Movement, Bangladesh will form a human chain. Venue: In front of National Press Club, Time: 11:00am.
- Conference**
A national conference will be held on dignity for all Bangladesh as a model for the global community. Venue: Osmani Memorial auditorium, Time: 10:00am.
- Workshop**
Liberation War Museum will arrange a workshop. Venue: Girdap auditorium, Time: 3:00pm.
- Seminar**
A seminar on envisioning new South Asia and people's perspective will be held. Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Time: 9:00am.
- Open discussion**
Deshpremik Jonogoner Mancha will

'Set up environment-friendly ship breaking industry'

UNB, Dhaka

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan yesterday stressed the need for setting up an environmentally friendly ship breaking industry in the coastal belt.
"Environment is a global issue now. A balance has to be maintained between environment and development. We have to set up environment-friendly ship breaking yards," he said.
He was speaking at a view-exchange meeting with leaders of Bangladesh Re-rolling Millers Association (BRMA) and Bangladesh Steel Mills Association (BSMA) at the secretariat.
BRMA Chairman Mohammad Ali, Senior Vice-Chairman Mizanur Rahman Bablu, General Secretary Abu Bakar Siddique, BSMA Chairman Sheikh Fazlur Rahman, Senior Vice-Chairman M Abdus Salam and General Secretary Dr Bashir Ullah also

attended the meeting.
Faruk said Ministry of Environment is preparing a ship breaking policy, which when announced, will leave no problems for the Ship Breakers Association in importing scrapped ships.
He said the government has already sought cooperation from the Netherlands to establish an environment-friendly ship breaking industry.
The delegation urged the government to take necessary steps to resolve the existing problems of the re-rolling industry to keep MS rod (iron) prices stable.
They informed that over 400 re-rolling factories are located across the country, meeting the country's demand for MS rod.
They said 80 percent of the raw materials in the re-rolling mills come from ship-breaking yards, with approximately 3.5 million metric tonnes needed per year.

OBITUARY



Mr K. Ali Arshad, former Managing Director of Akzo Nobel (Organon) Limited, passed away at the age of 74 due to prolonged illness.
He left behind his wife, 3 daughters, 4 grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.
His Namaz-e-Janaza will be held at the Gulshan Azad Mosque after the Zohr prayers on Wednesday the 19th Jan 2011.
His Kulkhwani will be held on Friday the 21st Jan 2011 after Asr prayers at his residence.
Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend.
Mrs Shamima Arshad Shabana, Samia, Arshia, Namira, Sameen, Anika, Sohaima