



NEWS IN brief

32 houses gutted in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 32 houses and valuables worth around Tk 35 lakh were gutted in two fire incidents here yesterday.

In an incident at Kamil Chowdhury's house in Nodimpur union of Raosan, 16 semi pucca houses and valuables worth around Tk 30 lakh were gutted around 3:30am. Fire station sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit.

Another fire at Yasinpara of North Podua of Lohagara gutted at least 16 semi pucca houses and valuables worth around Tk 5 lakh. The fire originated from a kitchen around 12:10am.

Hearing deferred till Feb 23

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday for the third time deferred the hearing on charge framing against Jamaat leader Mir Kashem Ali till February 23 in a tax evasion case.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Hoque of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after Kashem's lawyers submitted a petition seeking an adjournment of the hearing.

Two garment workers stabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of criminals stabbed two garment workers early yesterday at city's South Badda on their way homes from work.

Injured Mohammad Helal Uddin, 30, and Al Amin, 22, of a packaging factory of Ha-Meem Group were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

UZ chairmen's hunger strike called off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Upazila chairmen and vice-chairmen yesterday agreed to postpone their hunger strike till March 28 after some leaders of the grand alliance assured them they would discuss the issue in parliament.

Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu visited the programme venue and assured them of placing their demands in the parliament's fresh session scheduled to start tomorrow.

The leaders also promised to talk to the prime minister regarding their demands, said Abdul Mazid Photo, president of the Bangladesh Upazila Parishad Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen Oikya Parishad.

"We have postponed our hunger strike till March 28 after receiving their assurance but we will launch a tougher programme, if our demands are not fulfilled," he said.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Hemayetuddin Ahmed, noted columnist and retired government servant, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on January 21, says a press release.

Hemayetuddin, former executive director of the Morning Sun, left behind his wife and two daughters to mourn his death.

He began his career as a journalist in the then Daily Azad. He was one of the founding directors of the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation. He was also director general of the Department of Films and Publication and Mass Communication and the external publicity wing of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

All have been requested to pray for salvation of his departed soul.

US OFFICIAL IN CITY

Move to fight human trafficking

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador-at-Large Luis CdeBaca, from the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, arrived in Dhaka yesterday for a two-day visit.

His visit is a part of efforts between the government of Bangladesh and the US to fight human trafficking and facilitate safe labour migration.

He will meet government officials, civil society organisations and representatives of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) during his visit.

Appointed by President Obama in May 2009, CdeBaca formerly served in the US Justice Department.

City Projonmo League leader shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Projonmo League city unit leader was shot as a gang of armed criminals fired on him last night in front of Bangladesh College of Leather Technology gate.

The bullet-hit Abed Ali, 40, also a former vice president of the college student union, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital. He was shot in his right leg.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the eighth death anniversary of Saleha Huq, wife of former director of Power Development Board late Sayed Nurul Huq, says a press release.

On the occasion, quankhwani will be held at the Dhaka residence of her son Engr Syed Ziaul Huque and Barisal residence of her son Dr Syed Maksumul Huq.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to pray for the departed soul.



PHOTO: PMO

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hoists the new flag of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) at its Pilkhana headquarters in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

ROAD NEAR MAHASTANGARH SITE

HC summons two Bogra AL men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday summoned two Awami League leaders and three others on charges of constructing a road near Mahasthangarh archaeological site in Bogra ignoring an HC order.

An HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain directed them to appear before the court on January 30 for their statements in connection with the construction work.

The summoned persons are Bogra AL leaders Khokon Sarker and Sabuj Sarker, officer-in-charge of the police station concerned, curator and president of Mahasthangarh Mazar Unnayan Committee.

The court passed the order following a supplementary petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

According to the petition, the two AL leaders are reportedly constructing a road near Mahasthangarh despite an HC order to stop it on December 7 last.

On that day, the same bench also directed the local administration to stop the construction work to preserve the archaeological site. The court had passed the order in response to a writ petition filed by the HRPB.

Advocate Manzill Mushtid appeared for the petitioner.

Written test result for pry teachers' posts published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of written test of freedom fighter quota for the post of assistant teacher in government primary schools were published yesterday with a total of 9,187 examinees coming out successful, said an official handout.

The lists of the successful candidate's roll numbers have already been sent to the district primary education offices concerned. The list will be available at the notice boards of the offices.

The district-wise roll numbers will also be available at the Directorate of Primary Education's (DPE) website: www.dpe.gov.bd.

MV JAHAN MONI Confined engr still in dark about his son's birth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mohammad Moin Uddin, second engineer of hijacked ship MV Jahan Moni, confined in the ship since December 5, became father of his first child yesterday.

But the news could not be sent to him as Somali pirates stopped contact for the last eight days.

His wife Sarjina Chowdhury Liza gave birth to the baby boy at a local clinic Jemison Maternity around 1:30pm, said Moin's family members.

The good news however could not erase anxiety off the faces of either the family, who gathered at the hospital, or Liza who lay in a cabin with teary eyes, looking at her child.



Seminar

ICDDR,B will organise a seminar. Venue: ICDDR,B auditorium, Mohakhali, Time: 12:00pm.

Meeting

Liberation War Museum will arrange a meeting. Venue: 5, Segun Bagicha, Time: 4:00pm.

Symposium

A Symposium on Technical Design for Community Adapted Affordable Housing will be held. Venue: Level-12, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Time: 9:30am.

Celebration

High Commission of Australia will celebrate Australia Day. Venue: 184, Gulshan Avenue, Time: 6:30pm.

Dialogue

International Organisation for Migration will arrange a dialogue. Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Mohakhali, Time: 9:00am.

Seminar

Jyoti Development Foundation will arrange a seminar. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 10:00am.

Science fair

Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research will organise a science fair. Venue: BCSIR premises, Time: 10:00am.

Dialogue

Family Planning Association of Bangladesh will arrange a dialogue.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Mild cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the regions of Tangail, Mymensingh, Jessore, Kushtia and Srimongal and it may continue for next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

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

Dry weather with temporary partly cloudy sky may continue over the country. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:39pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 27.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 07.8 degrees Celsius 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	24.6	11.9	73	64
Chittagong	24.8	12.9	81	68
Rajshahi	24.0	08.6	100	81
Rangpur	24.0	09.0	92	78
Khulna	25.7	11.0	94	67
Barisal	26.5	10.0	91	78

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