

NEWS IN *brief*

SC stays HC verdict in graft cases against Makbul, Selim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for four weeks the High Court verdicts that cancelled the trial court judgements for confiscating the wealth of former Awami League lawmakers Makbul Hossain and Haji Md Selim in separate corruption cases.

The Anti Corruption Commission had filed the cases against the AL leaders on charges of amassing illegal wealth and concealing information during military backed caretaker government's regime. The trial court orders for confiscating wealth of Makbul and Selim are now in force following the SC orders, ACC lawyer MA Aziz Khan told The Daily Star.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice SK Sinha passed the orders after hearing two provisional leave to appeal petitions filed by the ACC against the HC verdicts. The judge also asked the ACC to file regular leave to appeal petitions with the SC against the HC judgements within this four weeks' period. The trial courts in 2008 had sentenced each of Makbul and Selim to 13 years' jail for corruption, and had ordered the authorities to confiscate wealth worth Tk over 5 crore of Mokbul and wealth worth Tk over 25 crore. Following separate appeals filed by Makbul and Selim, the HC recently scrapped the trial court verdicts, he said.

Mishu's release demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some forty-five academicians, writers, politicians and media personalities yesterday demanded immediate release of Moshrefa Mishu, president of Garments Samik Oikya Parishad.

In a joint statement, they expressed concern over the incident of confining her in jail without specific allegation and torturing her in remand.

Noted academicians Prof Mozaffar Ahmed, Anu Mohammad, Dr Gitiara Nasreen, Dr Kaberi Gayen, Prof Mesbah Kamal, Women leader Khushi Kabir, Politician Badaruddin Omar signed the statement. Mishu was arrested on December 14 last year on charge of RMG factory unrest.

Four 'robbers' held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a drive arrested four young robbers when they were taking preparation for robbery at Purabasti in the city's Mirpur area yesterday.

Rab also recovered a pistol, a magazine, two bullets and three sharp weapons, said a Rab press release. They are Nazmul Hossain Dipu of Noakhali, Rafizul Islam Sunny of Tangail, Mir Sohagh of Patuakhali and Ripon of Khulna.

'Free Michael Chakma'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday condemned the arrest of Michael Chakma, a member of Ganotantrik Jubo Forum, by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF), Hill Women's Federation and Greater Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Students' Council (PCP) condemned the arrest. Michael was held at Banik Para of Chittagong on Tuesday.

Forex worth Tk 2.59cr seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials at Shahjalal International Airport last night seized foreign currency equal in value to Tk 2.59 crore from a Singapore-bound Bangladeshi national.

Ashim Kumar Roy, 35, was detained for his attempt to smuggle foreign currency that include 2,75,700 euros and 32 Singaporean dollars, said Customs Superintendent Shikder Mojibor Rahman of the airport.

"We suspected two men when they were crossing the customs with two luggage around 10:00pm. After inspection, we found the currency," Rahman told The Daily Star. The other man fled immediately, he said.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talks to cub scouts after inaugurating 7th National Cub Camporee at Mouchak National Scout in Gazipur yesterday. PHOTO: PID

Govt to end child repression: Hasina

UNB, Gazipur

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her government's strong commitment to stopping all types of repression on children.

"We want every child in the society lives in safety, peace, and comfort and has easy access to quality health and education facilities."

Hasina said this while addressing the inaugural function of the weeklong 7th National Cub Camporee at Mouchak National Scout, Gazipur.

The premier yesterday declared open the camporee by releasing pigeons and balloons in the sky. She also opened a commemorative stamp on the occasion.

Hasina urged the country's affluent families and their children to stand by the poor and physically and mentally challenged children to build a happy and prosperous society.

Chief National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts and Camporee Chief Abul Kalam Azad and President of the 7th National Cub Camporee Organising Committee Kamrun Nesa Khanam addressed it among others.

The prime minister assured of giving all types of assistances to successfully holding the 24th regional scout conference of Asia-Pacific region to be held in 2012.

20 JCD men hurt in clash 15 shops damaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

At least 20 activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Sonaimuri upazila unit were injured during intra-party clashes of Mostafizur Rahman and Sahabuddin groups and 15 shops vandalised at Sonaimuri Bazar under the upazila in Noakhali yesterday.

The injured are Sahabuddin, Sujon, Bashir, Jewel, Soheli, Roni, Parvez, Raju, Belal, Rajon, Shemol, Mainuddin, Mitu, Jewel, Ali Hossain and Monowar.

Eyewitnesses said Mostafizur and Sahabuddin, joint conveners of Sonaimuri upazila JCD, were participating in a rally protesting the arrest of BNP activists on Monday.

The clash ensued over an altercation between the supporters of the two groups. On information, police went to the spot, arrested two JCD activists and brought the situation under control. Additional and riot police were deployed to avoid any untoward situation.

City shoe factory gutted in fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A shoe factory at Islambagh of Old Dhaka was gutted yesterday. The fire broke out around 4:30pm at the factory on the ground floor of a three-storey residential building.

Within moments, the entire floor was engulfed in flames, witnesses said. Chemicals were stored in the factory, which helped the fire spread quickly.

Factory workers, however, managed to escape. Locals said that as the black smoke entered the other floors, residents of the building in panic climbed up to the rooftop. Many of them jumped onto the adjacent buildings.

Four units of firefighters put out the blaze after a one-and-a-half-hour long effort. The workers said the fire originated from a spark of a switch. But the officials of fire service said they were yet to ascertain what caused the fire.

10 die, 26 hurt in road crashes

METRO DESK

Ten people were killed and 26 others injured in road accidents in Pabna, Gazipur, Chandpur, Jhenaidah, Laxmipur and Narayanganj yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Pabna reports: Four people died and 15 others were injured as a bus hit a three-wheeler Nasiman on Pabna-Dhaka Highway at Dariapur in Sujanagar upazila yesterday afternoon.

Police said a Kushtia-bound bus SN Paribahan hit the three-wheeler 4:45 pm and both the vehicle fell into the ditch beside the road.

Four of the dead are Md Hafizur Rahman, 30, of Baghailpur village in Sujanagar, Razia Begum, 25, of Singhair village in Bera upazila and her daughter Suchona, 6, and Helal Uddin, 35 of Kushtia.

Police said the accident occurred as the driver of the bus lost his control over the steering. The injured, most of them in critical condition, were rushed to different hospitals. UNB Gazipur adds: The death of a

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MASS MEDIA IN BANGLADESH

Like the whole world, mass media in Bangladesh is evolving gradually and providing an easier access to information for general people. Let's have a look at this evolution.

It is hard to believe that before the advent of satellite television in 1992 people in Bangladesh rarely needed a remote controller. There was only one channel, Bangladesh Television (BTV). BTV alone entertained the entire nation and kept people updated for nearly three decades. The beginning of this journey dates back to 1964 when Pakistan Television started broadcasting in the then East Pakistan. Immediately after Liberation in 1971 this television network emerged as Bangladesh Television and in 1980 it started telecasting programs in colour.

Although Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra in 1971 played the vital role of inspiring a nation, the state owned radio station Bangladesh Betar took a backseat as the popularity of television increased. Still it was media that reached the far ends of the country. The first private FM radio station, Radio Today, began transmission in 2006 and once again radio entertainment started to gain attention. As FM radios are now available in cars and on cell phones, many new FM radio stations are emerging and becoming popular.

Another medium that has played an important role in transmitting mass sentiments is the newspaper. Right from the first newspaper, the Daily Azad, newspapers have been privately owned by and large and had greater scope to provide unbiased news. Recently newspapers have also been seen undertaking social development programs. Prothom Alo has been the main sponsor and main organizer of Bangladesh Mathematics Olympiad since 2003. The Daily Star is at present the largest circulated English daily newspaper in Bangladesh. It was established by Syed Mohammed Ali (popularly known as SM Ali) on 14 January 1991. Now most newspapers have web versions. Online newspapers like bdnews24.com, which provide news updates throughout twenty four

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The burnt machinery of the shoe factory at Islambagh in Old Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during midnight till morning, Met Offices said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:51pm and rises tomorrow at 6:34am.

Country's highest temperature 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Majidee Court and Khulna and lowest 13.2 degrees at Ishwardi.

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	30.3	16.6	80	38
Chittagong	28.0	15.5	90	79
Rajshahi	28.7	13.4	60	57
Rangpur	27.5	16.5	82	52
Khulna	31.0	18.5	100	70
Barisal	30.9	19.5	98	68

Prof Khaleda Akhter

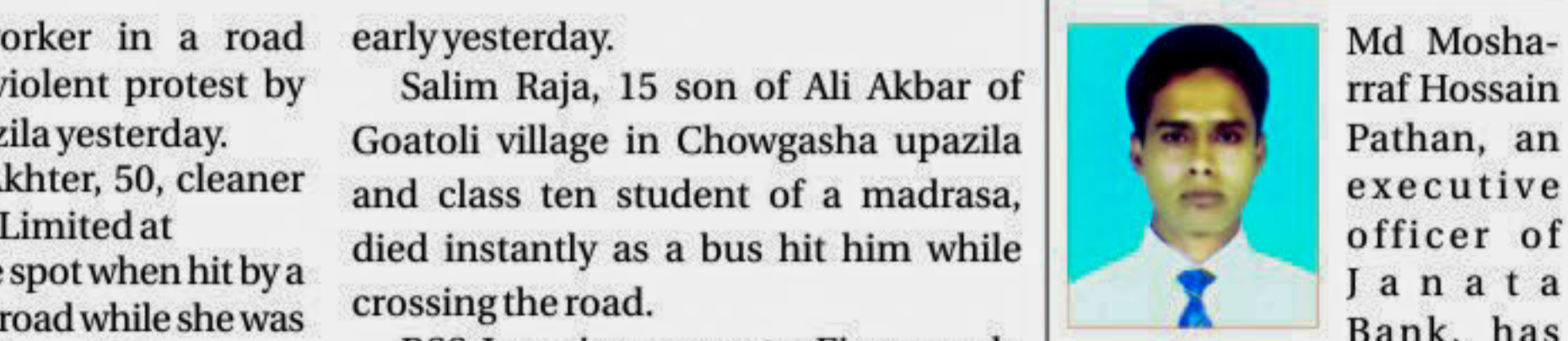
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the third death anniversary of Prof Khaleda Akhter Banu, chairman of Bangla department of Abu Zor Giffari University College and wife of Prof Abdul Mannan, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at Banani in Meherpur today and at 17/3 Sukrabad in the city tomorrow.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Md Mosharraf Hossain Pathan, an executive officer of Janata Bank, has been suffering from blood cancer for six months, says a press release.

He is currently admitted to the Valerie Christian Missionary Medical College Hospital in India.

Therefore, family members have appealed to well-off people for financial assistance.

Contributions can be sent to account no: 108101399434 of Duch Bangla Bank Limited or account no: 009001592 of Janata Bank Limited, Tejgaon industrial area branch, Dhaka. For more information, anyone can contact 01717371025 or 01915511441.