

NEWS IN *brief*

Aggyan party men dope bank official, snatch Tk 1 lakh

UNB, Dhaka

A senior bank official fell victim to aggyan party members, who drug people before mugging them, at Saidabad Bus Terminal in the capital yesterday.

The victim was identified as Emdad Hossain, 55, senior principal officer of Janata Bank at Head Office Branch in Dhaka and a resident of Delpara at Fatulla in Narayanganj.

The muggers looted all his belongings including Tk 1 lakh in cash when he was under the influence of drug, Emdad's family members said.

Passengers and transport workers found him lying unconscious in front of a ticket counter at the terminal at about 1:30pm. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital at about 2:30pm.

Emdad might fall victim to the trickery of aggyan party members, family members added.

Dhaka bar assoc polls on Feb 23, 24

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The annual election of Dhaka Bar Association (DBA), known as apex bar in Asia Continent, for the year of 2011-2012 will begin today and continue till tomorrow.

An official of the DBA election commission told The Daily Star that the casting votes will continue for two days beginning at 9:00am today.

A total of 10,937 out of 14,591 lawyers will cast their votes.

Two panels--one Sammilita Ainjibi Samanoy Parishad (white panel) of pro-Awami League lawyers and the other one Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikyo Forum (blue) of pro-BNP lawyers will contest the election.

A total of 50 candidates for the 25 posts will contest and they are working hard to win their respective posts.

Shaikh Hemayet Hossain and Mohammad Ali Hossain, president and general secretary respectively, from Sammilito Ainjibi Samannoy Parishad while Mohammad Masud Ahmed Talukder and Mohammad Iqbal Hossain, president and general secretary, from Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikyo Forum, will contest the election.

Tushikur short listed for Sony World Photography Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tushikur Rahman, a student at Pathshala South Asian Media Academy, was yesterday announced as one of the 10 photographers from across the world who has been short listed for the 2011 Sony World Photography Awards Student Focus competition.

Tushikur's short listed images have triumphed over hundreds of images entered from around the world into the world's one of the most high profile student photography programme and award, says a press release issued from London yesterday.

Being shortlisted, Tushikur has two parts to his prize. Firstly, his image will be exhibited as part of the Sony World Photography Awards Exhibition at Somerset House in London and secondly, he will be flown to London in April to take part in the World Photography Festival London and in the final stage of the competition.

Brac Bank Bangla spelling contest held

METRO DESK

Brac Bank for the first time in the country organised Bangla spelling competition for school students, says a press release.

Twelve schools took part in the competition styled "Brac Bank Banan Protijogita".

The grand finale of the contest was held on February 18 at Shishu Academy in the city.

St Joseph School clinched the title while Lalmatia Girls School came out the first runner-up and South Point School the second runner-up.

Brac Bank's head of SME Banking Division, Mr Syed Faridul Islam, was present as special guest.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly 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 river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:58pm and rises tomorrow at 6:25am.

Country's highest temperature 30.9 degree Celsius was recorded today at Rangamati and Sitakunda and lowest 12.0 degrees at Ishwardi and Chuadanga.

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	28.6	17.5	57	32
Chittagong	29.0	19.6	46	46
Rajshahi	27.8	13.4	76	51
Rangpur	27.3	13.5	83	54
Khulna	28.0	15.0	70	48
Barisal	29.0	15.4	58	50
Sylhet	30.2	15.1	57	49
Cox's Bazar	30.0	20.8	53	58

Minister for amending religious laws

UNB, Dhaka

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday stressed the need for amending the existing religious laws to establish the rights of women as well as real religious rules.

"Religious laws have been sometimes denying the religious rules in many ways. In real sense, many laws could not support the holy Quran and Islami sharia," he said.

As per advises and recommendations from the religious leaders, the new laws could be announced to eliminate discrimination against women, said the minister.

"Society, religions, and laws aim the welfare of people. Half the society's population is women. I never think the people will oppose the announcement of new laws for their welfare."

Shafique Ahmed said the government will consider all logical recommendations to reduce violence against women.

He said if the women can attain economic self-sufficiency through proper education, the violence against women would be reduced a great deal.

The law minister was addressing a workshop titled "Implementation of 'CEDAW' for



The youth enjoys a motorcycle ride on the Central Shaheed Minar altar in the city yesterday, just the day after Amar Ekushey February, despite the High Court's special direction to protect the solemnity of the memorial.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMAN

Tigers census starts using tracking technique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Sundarbans Tiger Project started a two-month survey to help track changes in the tiger population of the Sundarbans in Bangladesh.

The project is a joint initiative of the Forest Department, Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh (WTB) and the Zoological Society of London.

Instead of making a total tiger count, the survey team will cross the whole Sundarbans area counting tiger tracks along the narrow canal banks, said a WTB press release yesterday.

The survey results will be available in June this year, the press release said.

A team of some 18 people will be doing the survey for several weeks, said Assistant Forest Conservator Naser Hossain, who leads the team.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Bagum Ashrafunnessa, mother of freedom fighter martyr Col Abu Taher, Bir Uttam and Dhaka University prof Dr Anwar Hossain, says a press release.

Her other sons are brave freedom fighters Abu Yusuf, Bir Bikram, martyr Shakawat Hossain Bahar, Bir Protik and lawmaker of Netrokona-5 constituency Waresat Hossain Belal, Bir Protik.

Lt AM Ataul Haque

METRO DESK

Today is the 34th death anniversary of Lt AM Ataul Haque, a freedom fighter of Bangladesh Navy, says a press release.

Relatives and admirers are requested to pray for the departed soul. Haque passed away in 1977 at Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Dhaka.

Reprinted constitution should not come into effect: Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed yesterday said the reprinted constitution should not be in effect, as the government brought many changes beyond the court directives.

The former law minister also urged the Supreme Court to take necessary actions regarding the matter and summoned the law ministry besides examining the amended parts of the constitution.

He was addressing a discussion meeting at the National Press Club organised by Chinta Vabna Foundation to mark the International Mother Language Day. Khalequzzaman Chowdhury presided over the meeting.



Amar Ekushey observed in Doha

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Embassy in Doha observed the Jatiyo Shaheed Dibash and International Mother Language Day with due solemnity and fervor, according to a message received here yesterday.

The day's programme started with ceremonial hoisting the National Flag at half-mast by Ambassador Shahdat Hossain on the chancery premises.

Officials of the mission, professionals, cross-section of community members, and representatives of different socio-cultural organisations attended the programme.

Hoisting of the flag was followed by

the observance of one minute of silence to pay homage to the Language Movement martyrs.

A discussion was also held, which included recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, reading out of the messages of the president and the prime minister, and a short speech by the ambassador.

A special prayer was offered seeking the Almighty's blessing for salvation of the departed souls of the martyrs of the Language Movement and also for good health and long life of the language heroes alive.

Prayer was also offered for those who made supreme sacrifices for the

independence of Bangladesh and also for peace, progress, and prosperity of our beloved motherland.

Earlier, Bangladesh School in Doha observed the Amar Ekushey. The students of the school published wall magazines, arranged a cultural programme, and participated in a Bangla hand writing competition.

A cultural programme based on the theme of "Ekushey February" was also held in the evening. It was attended by a large number of expatriates and their family members. The expatriate Bangladeshi artist enthralled the audience by rendering patriotic songs highlighting the Amar Ekushey.



KNOWLEDGE CORNER



TOYS AND BOARD GAMES

Various archaeological evidence suggests dolls as the oldest known toy. World's largest revenue earning toy company Mattel Inc, created the Barbie doll, one of the world's best selling dolls, in 1959. At one hand it has been given honours that are rare in the toy world on the other hand critics have believed the doll can enforce harmful ideas about body image on impressionable young minds. Saudi Arabia banned Barbie dolls in 2003, suggesting that the doll was a bad influence.

From the beginning most of the dolls are meant for girls. Hasbro understood this market gap and launched G.I.Joe, a range of masculine dolls representing U.S. soldiers. They also coined the term "Action figure" and since then it has become the generic description for any posable doll intended for boys. Now virtual dolls can be designed, dressed up, and played with on web sites such as Stardoll.

Children have played with miniature versions of vehicles since ancient times, with toy two-wheeled carts being depicted on ancient Greek vases. Modern equivalents include toy cars, miniature aircraft, toy boats, military vehicles, and trains. Hornby Railways of United Kingdom and Lionel Corporation of USA have been the leading brands of model railway. Matchbox and Hot Wheels, the two leading and rival die cast toy car brand were united under the same corporate banner in 1997, as Mattel bought the Matchbox. Mattel announced to differentiate the two brands in a way that Matchbox cars would be modeled after real and existing car models, while Hot Wheels cars would be designed not to resemble real cars but to inspire imagination.

The most played commercial board game in the world is monopoly. It is a redesign of an earlier game "The Landlord's Game" and based on the economic concept of the domination of a market by a single entity. Other popular board games are scrabble, checkers, chess, ludo. But many board games are now available as computer games and can be played online against a computer and/or other players and this has led to a relative decline in board games.

THE CREATION OF WORLD WIDE WEB

The first recorded description of the social interactions that could be enabled through networking was a series of memos written by J.C.R. Licklider of MIT in August 1962 discussing his "Galactic Network" concept.

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Initiative of The Daily Star & teamcreative



Meeting

Organiser: International Business Forum of Bangladesh, Venue: House No-10, Road No-19A, Block-E, Banani, Time: 11:30am.

Citizen conference

Organiser: Wave Foundation, Venue: LGED auditorium, Time: 9:30am.

Launching of school banking

Organiser: Eastern Bank Limited, Venue: Rajuk Uttara Model College, Sector No-6, Uttara, Time: 11:00am.

Roundtable

Organiser: Bangabandhu Gram Daktar Parishad, Venue: DRU, Time: 11:00am.

Publication ceremony

Organiser: Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolan, Venue: National Museum auditorium, Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Organiser: Zia Parishad, Venue: Moulana Bhasani auditorium, Naya Paltan, Time: 11:30am.

Human chain

Organiser: Manabatabadi Nagorik Somaj, Venue: In front of TSC, Dhaka University, Time: 4:00pm.

Condolence meeting

Organiser: Jatiya Gonotantrik Party,