

NEWS IN brief

BDR mutiny case: 77 jawans cross-examine five witnesses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventy-seven out of 667 accused of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), formerly BDR, yesterday cross-examined five prosecution witnesses on the 21st day of trial proceedings at a special court.

The special court-7, headed by BGB Director General (DG) Maj Gen Rafiqul Islam, is conducting the mutiny trial of 24 Rifle Battalion at BGB headquarters in Pilkhan.

In his deposition, Havildar Jasimuddin told the court that the taskforce found a stick of the then DG inside his crate. Jasimuddin later submitted a copy of the findings to the court.

The allegations brought against the accused include leaving Darbar Hall, showing solidarity with the mutineers, participating in the mutiny with firearms, doing nothing to prevent mutiny and failing to control unruly subordinates.

The court was adjourned till 9:00am today. A total of 74 people, including 57 army officers, were killed during the February 25-26 mutiny in 2009 at BGB headquarters.

President leaves for Kuwait tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman is scheduled to leave here for Kuwait tomorrow on a three-day state visit to attend the golden jubilee celebration of State of Kuwait's Independence.

A special flight to be sent by the Ameer of Kuwait will carry the president from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the afternoon.

During the visit the president will attend the air show, cultural function and state dinner. Besides, Zillur Rahman is scheduled to hold meeting with the Bangladesh community in Kuwait City.

President Zillur is leading a 31-member entourage. He is expected to return home on February 28.

Woman dies from 'suicide jump'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman, aged around 25 years, allegedly committed suicide by jumping off a rooftop of a building at DIT project in the city's Badda area on Tuesday.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Abu Azif of Badda Police Station said the woman went to the roof of a six-storied building at House #58, Road #8 around 6:00pm.

Two eyewitness, tenants of the building Hawa and Antora, were present there watering plants. The woman asked for a glass of water and suddenly went to the edge and jumped off, he added, quoting the witnesses.

She fell on a road adjacent to the building and died on the spot, he said.

After the incident police asked locals but could not confirm the woman's identity, the SI said.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Zillur for more ties among air forces of Saarc countries

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman has emphasised increasing mutual relations of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) with the air forces of other Saarc countries in the coming days.

The president made the remark when Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Shah M Ziaur Rahman called on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

During the meeting, the air chief apprised the president of various activities of the BAF including the recently concluded military drill as part of ensuring Cricket World Cup security and development activities of the air force particularly their role in the UN peacekeeping missions.

The air chief also informed the president that he would join the function marking the upcoming 60-year celebration of the Sri Lankan Air Force to be held in Colombo.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry 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 rise slightly over the country.

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

Country's highest temperature 32.0 degree Celsius was recorded today at Sylhet and lowest 10.8 degrees 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	29.3	17.6	56	28
Chittagong	29.7	18.5	54	60
Rajshahi	29.0	10.8	67	46
Rangpur	28.2	13.4	84	51
Khulna	28.7	14.5	67	58
Barisal	29.0	13.0	61	53
Sylhet	32.0	15.6	56	53

Two killed in 'shootouts' with law enforcers

STAR REPORT

Two criminals were killed in separate 'shootouts' with law enforcers in Chuadanga and Pirojpur districts in the last two days.

The deceased were identified as Azizul Islam, 38, second-in-command of the gang 'Enamul Bahini' of Chuadanga's Alamdanga upazila, and Motaleb, 38, ringleader of a pirate group 'Motaleb Bahini' in Sundarbans area.

Officer-in-Charge Ahsan Habib of Alamdanga Police Station said police, acting on a tip-off, raided a house at Khaskarra village at Alamdanga upazila yesterday. A gunfight ensued and later police recovered Azizul's body from the spot, he added.

A correspondent from Pirojpur reports, a shootout between pirates and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members in Tagra ferryghat area in Pirojpur's Zianagar upazila on Tuesday night left Motaleb dead.

Rab said its two teams went there to catch Motaleb after tracking his cellphone.

Ruet shut after clash, 25 hurt

College inside it set ablaze

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) was declared closed for an indefinite period following a fierce clash between the students of the university and its school and college yesterday that left 25 people injured.

The Ruet authorities asked its students to vacate their halls by 9:00am today.

After an emergency meeting, the Ruet authorities took the decision in the evening following a sequel of clashes between the students of Ruet and Agrani School and College (ASC), located inside the Ruet complex.

Sources said, the clashes ensued when some Ruet students protested on seeing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) ASC unit President Hasan sitting on the Ruet Shaheed Minar wearing shoes around 1:00pm.

Hasan called upon his unit's BCL activists, and slapped one of the protesters.

At one stage, a group of Ruet students chased Hasan and his men, leaving him and ASC unit's BCL Secretary Bipu injured. ASC students along with locals also attacked Ruet students, leaving at least four injured.

Ruet students later vandalised and set ablaze ASC's school furniture and windows.

Fire fighters rushed in and brought the flame under control around 2:00pm. Ruet students also dispersed the school's sports award ceremony during the clash while local MP Fazle Hossain Badsha was present as the chief guest. They also attacked photojournalists Abdullah Iqbal of Daily Jugantar and Abus Samad of the Daily Sun while taking snaps, leaving them injured.

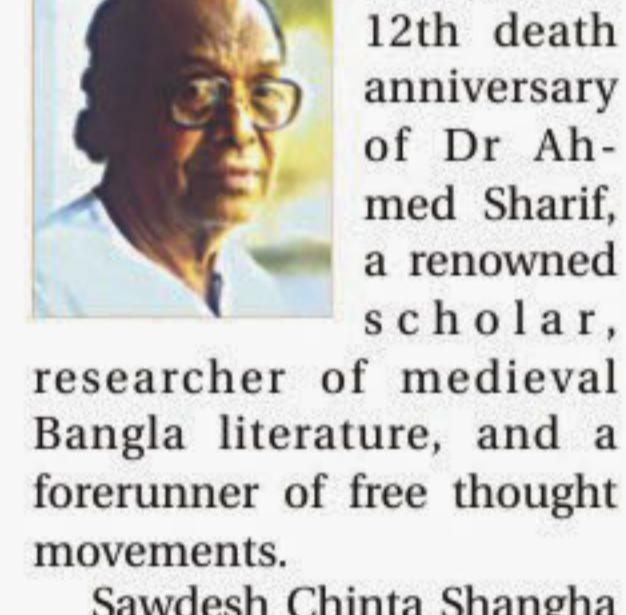
ASC students along with locals again chased the Ruet students and threw brickbats at them, leaving at least 10 Ruet students injured. The situation came under control around 4:50pm.



Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque administers oath to Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana at the Judges' Lounge of the Supreme Court yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

Dr Ahmed Sharif's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 12th death anniversary of Dr Ahmed Sharif, a renowned scholar, researcher of medieval Bangla literature, and a forerunner of free thought movements.

Sawdesh Chinta Shangha has arranged Dr Ahmed Sharif commemoration lecture at Dhaka University at 4:00pm today.

Name of BGB to be changed: Moudud

UNB, Dhaka

BNP front ranking leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed yesterday strongly criticised the government for changing the name of BDR to BGB and said it will be again changed in due time to restore the dignity of the paramilitary force.

The former law minister at a discussion on 'Pilkhana Massacre - Target Bangladesh', said Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) was a historic and dignified institution. It has been undermined by changing the name to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), he said. Jatiya Ganatantrik Party (JAGPA) organised the discussion at Jatiya Press Club.

Presided over by JAGPA president Shaiful Alam Prodhan, BNP Secretary General Shamim Al Mamun, IOJ Secretary General Abdul Latif Nezami, Jamaat-e-Islmia Dhaka city acting Ameer Hamidur Rahman Azad MP and former BDR chief Maj Gen (retd) ALM Fazlur Rahman took part in the discussion.

Another fair on low-priced 'pirated books'



Hawkers put their pirated books on display on the pavement of the road leading to the entrance of Amar Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday.



KNOWLEDGE CORNER



WONDERS OF THE WORLD :

Wonders of the World are lists compiled over the ages that catalogue remarkable and spectacular natural and man made constructions. The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World is the first known list of the most spectacular creations of classical antiquity, and was based on guide-books and it only includes works located around the Mediterranean rim. The number seven was chosen because it was believed by the Greeks to be the representation of perfection and plenty. The Greeks used the word "theamatata," which translates to "things to be seen" or "must-sees." (Efta thaumata tou kosmou=Seven miracles of the world)

The seven ancient wonders included the Great Pyramid of Giza, Hanging Gardens of Babylon, Statue of Zeus at Olympia, Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, Mausoleum of Maussollos at Halicarnassus, Colossus of Rhodes, Lighthouse of Alexandria. The earliest lists had the Ishtar Gate as the seventh wonder of the world instead of the Lighthouse of Alexandria. The list known today was listed in the Middle Ages by which time many of the sites were no longer in existence. The only ancient world wonder that still exists today is the Great Pyramid of Giza.

Other sites sometimes included on such lists, as in Seven Wonders of the Middle Ages, are Medieval Mind and Architectural Wonders of the Middle Ages like Taj Mahal, Cairo Citadel, Ely Cathedral, Cluny Abbey. Numerous authors and organisations have composed Lists of the Wonders of the World since then. Lists like American Society of Civil Engineers List of Wonders of the Modern World, USA Today's New Seven Wonders, Seven Natural Wonders of the World (compiled by CNN), Seven Wonders of the Underwater World (drawn up by CEDAM International), Seven Wonders of the Industrial World and many other lists (some of them are countrywise) have been made.

In 2001 an initiative was started by the Swiss corporation New7Wonders Foundation to choose the New Seven Wonders of the World from a selection of 200 existing monuments for profit. These sites, finally selected to be the new7wonders of the world from twenty-one finalists, are Great Wall of China, Petra, Christ the Redeemer, Machu Picchu, Chichen Itza, Colosseum, Taj Mahal, Great Pyramid of Giza (honorary candidate). The results were announced on July 7, 2007.

HISTORY OF SCIENCE ANCIENT ERA

Science (from the Latin scientia, meaning "knowledge") is an enterprise that builds and organizes knowledge in the form of testable explanations and predictions about the world. An older meaning still in use today is that of Aristotle, for whom scientific knowledge was a body of reliable knowledge that can be logically and rationally explained.

But how this structured process of

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Initiative of The Daily Star & teamcreative

Mahbub Hossain of Mirpur was trying to attract readers. He said that usually they sell books with narrow profit margin, as it is a competitive market.

Bahalul Haque Suza, a student of Rajshahi College who was browsing

Some 40 vendors have been selling books on the pavement of the road leading to the entrance of Amar Ekushey Boi Mela premises from TSC intersection since opening

books around the footpath, said, "I know the quality of the books available on footpath is not good, but I can get them at low price and it is helpful for a student like me."

The sellers said they run this footpath business every year during the biggest and month-long gala for authors, publishers, and booklovers when maximum number of readers swarm the fair ground and hardly face any trouble from any quarter.

authors are available on the street.

Though the quality of pages and printed letters of the books are not satisfactory enough, they draw attention of a good number of

buyers because of low prices.

Most of the sellers usually vend

books on the pavements of

Nilkhet, Farmgate, Mirpur, and

Banglabazar in the city round the

year.

But, they take to the footpaths near the book fair premises during this festival.

Displaying over 300 books,