

NEWS IN *brief*

SQ Chy treatment order scrapped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld its Chamber Judge's order staying the High Court order that asked the government to take steps for treatment of BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

The seven-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque passed the order after disposing of a leave-to-petition filed by the government against the HC order.

The HC on January 3 directed government to take steps for treatment of the opposition lawmaker and also issued a rule upon the government to explain why it should not be directed to send him abroad for better treatment.

The Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division on January 4 stayed the HC order.

Tremor again

UNB, Dhaka

A mild tremor was felt in Bangladesh-India border region yesterday morning.

The quake, which measured 4.3 on the Richter Scale, took place at 11:36:42am, said a special bulletin of Met Office.

The distance of epicentre was 106 kilometres, east-southeast of Bangladesh Meteorological Department in the city's Agargaon.

However, there was no report of any casualty in the earthquake.

Victim injured by muggers dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The electrician who was beaten by muggers on Tuesday night, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital early yesterday.

Police said around 17 teenaged muggers beat Parvez, 15, of Koratoli in the city's Khilkhet mercilessly when he resisted them from mugging at Nanda in the city's Badda. Later, locals admitted him to the hospital. A case was filed against 17 persons.

Valuables worth Tk 1cr gutted in fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Valuables worth around Tk 1 crore were gutted in a fire at two factories in Chittagong city yesterday.

The two factories are Foams Industries Ltd and Star Packaging Ltd of Al Kabir group in Nasirabad Industrial Area.

The fire started from an electric short circuit from the foam factory around 7:00am, according to Md Jasim Uddin, deputy assistant director of Agrabad fire station.

Nine fire fighting units from three fire stations doused the blaze within one and half hour, he said.



WEATHER TODAY

Change in temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with 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 5:59pm and rises tomorrow at 6:24am.

Country's highest temperature 32.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 11.0 degrees at Chuadanga and 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	29.6	18.5	43	32
Chittagong	30.8	16.8	59	51
Rajshahi	29.0	11.2	60	43
Rangpur	28.0	13.7	71	50
Khulna	29.2	14.5	61	50
Barisal	30.5	13.5	58	53
Sylhet	32.1	15.9	54	38

Qulkhwani

METRO DESK



Qulkhwani of Prof Dr Habibur Rahman, dean of Pharmacy department

of Dhaka University and former director of Drug Administration, will be held at Kichack village in Shibganj upazila of Bogra after Juma prayers today.

Prof Habib passed away at a hospital in the city on February 18, says a press release. He left behind his wife, two daughters, seven brothers and two sisters.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Abul Kashem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Abul Kashem, a former additional chief engineer of Public Works Department (PWD), will be held at his Uttara residence in the city after Asr prayers today.

He died on Saturday night at a hospital and was buried at his family graveyard in Raypura of Narsingdi, says a press release.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Kohinoor Haque, wife of Kazi Ataul Haque, passed away at 12:30am yesterday,

says a press release.

Her qulkhwani will be held at House No-15, Road No-19 Sector No-7, Uttara in the city after maghrib prayers tomorrow.

Safaruddin Talukder

METRO DESK

Mohammad Safaruddin Talukder died at his Kalabagan residence in the city on Wednesday. He was over 100. He had been suffering from various complications.

Before the partition, he served as a food inspector in Kolkata. After 1947, he joined the industries directorate in the then East Pakistan and worked there till 1977. In his youth, he played for Mohun Bagan Club. His qulkhwani will be held at Talukder Lodge on 176 Green Road after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Ruby Maziruddin

METRO DESK



Ruby Maziruddin, wife of Kazi Maziruddin, former director of Agriculture

Marketing Department, passed away in the city on Wednesday, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, two daughters and one son. Her qulkhwani will be held at her residence at House No-18, Road No-11, PC Culture Housing Society, Mohammadpur after Asr prayers on Saturday.

Independent MP walks out of JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Independent lawmaker Fazlul Azim, who was alone in the opposition bench, walked out of parliament yesterday protesting against not being allowed to speak.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal legislator Mayeenuddin Khan Badal expressed resentment at the reluctance of ministers concerned to speak in parliament about the fate of Bangladeshi nationals in Libya.

Fazlul Azim took the floor on a point of order but before he could say anything, Deputy Speaker Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali said he hoped the government would inform the House about the latest situation in Libya.

Azim then started speaking and backed the JSD lawmaker's statement. At the beginning he pointed out wholesale absence of ministers in the House. He said even the foreign minister was absent.

At that time, treasury bench Chief Whip Abdus Shahid stood up and sought the floor. The deputy speaker switched off Azim's microphone and allowed the chief whip to speak.

The chief whip opposed the discussion on Libya on point of order and suggested that the deputy speaker runs the House as per the scheduled business of the House to "save time".

After the chief whip's speech, the deputy speaker took up the next item on the agenda without giving floor to Azim.

The independent lawmaker was seen speaking loudly without microphone. Azim staged the walk out at 7:14pm and did not return yesterday.

BNP demo tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will stage demonstration tomorrow across the country except Dhaka and Chittagong to protest the government decision to increase price of electricity.

"The power tariff hike will increase the essentials prices and the living cost of fixed income group which will deepen the social instability," said party standing committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain while announcing the protest programme at a press briefing at party's central office in Nayapalton.

Mosharraf, also a former energy and mineral resources minister, said they kept Dhaka and Chittagong cities free from the agitation considering the World Cup Cricket 2011.

Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku and former secretary ANH Akhter Hossain, among others, were present.

JS sitting adjourned for quorum crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament sitting was adjourned as it fell short of a quorum last night, first since the ninth parliament began journey on January 25, 2009.

"Honourable MPs, now I have to adjourn the sitting of parliament for lack of a quorum," Deputy Speaker Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali said at 9:08pm.

Presence of lawmakers was thin at the beginning of the session at 4:45pm, 15 minutes behind schedule. Around 9:00pm, it came down to 48, falling short by 12 to run session.

Jatiya Party lawmaker Mujib-ul-Haque drew the chair's attention to the quorum shortage.

The deputy speaker adjourned the sitting till 4:30pm today.

Before calling it a day, he asked treasury bench whips Mujibul Haque and Shaikh Abdul Wohab whether there was any possibility of a quorum to appear.

In response, Abdul Wohab said there is no scope to form the quorum and it will not be right to run the House amid such situation.

However, four MPs, who were in the lobbies, entered the chamber increasing the number to 52.

Awami League-led grand alliance has 302 of total 345 MPs in the Jatiya Sangsad. The AL alone has 268, Jatiya Party 29, JSD three and Workers Party two MPs. The BNP-led opposition, which has been boycotting the House, has only 39 MPs.



Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and Sofia Kabir attended as the chief guest and the guest of honour respectively at ISO Meet 2010 of Inner Wheel District 328 held recently at a city hotel with the theme "Friendship Brings New Hope". Also seen in the picture are District President Tahera Muzaffar and eminent Nazrul artiste Lina Taposhi Khan.

Rejoinder

UNB, Dhaka

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed has refuted part of the UNB report on his statement at the workshop on Implementation of CEDAW for reducing violence against women (ICRVAW) project, which was carried by certain dailies on February 23.

Clarifying his extempore statement, the minister said his actual statement was "the Muslim Family Ordinance, 1961 was passed on the recommendations of a commission set up for the purpose showing the juristic basis as the holy Quran. Experts can examine the laws which are discriminatory without hurting religious feelings of any community."

Over 400 Ruet students sued

RU CORRESPONDENT

Over 400 students of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) have been sued on charges of vandalism and arson attack on Agrani School and College (ASC) during Wednesday's clash on Ruet campus.

Police said ASC Principal Tohura Akter Khatun filed the case with Motihar Police Station on Wednesday night.

Ruet VC Prof Shirajul Karim said they formed a committee to investigate into the incident.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Shahed Noman, chairman of FinExcel and former managing director of Dhaka Bank Ltd, died of cardiac arrest at his Dhanmondi residence in the city yesterday evening. He was 60.

Noman is survived by wife and two sons. His namaj-e-janaza will be held at Baitul Aman mosque, Dhanmondi Road-7, after juma prayers today.



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The Daily Star
Dhaka English Medium Schools
CULTURAL PROGRAMME 2011
 will be held tomorrow (26 February, 2011)
 at Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Dhaka
 organised in association with **UCB**

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