

NEWS IN *brief*

Mob torches bus as it hits journo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Angry mob torched a bus in the city's Moghbazar as it hit a passenger after the bus helper allegedly pushed him out while he was trying to board it. Critically injured Nazmul Islam Raju, 32, a video editor of private television channel Boishakhi, was rushed to Pongu Hospital. Boishakhi officials said his right leg was crushed. The helper escaped but the mob beat up the bus driver, whom police later rescued.

Taher case: US journo likely here within two weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US journalist and writer Lawrence Lifschultz may come to Bangladesh within two weeks to place statement before the High Court over the trial and execution of Col Abu Taher, Additional Attorney General MK Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday. "I have communicated Lawrence Lifschultz who had covered the trial of Col Abu Taher in 1976. He may come to Bangladesh to place statement before the High Court," said MK Rahman. On January 20, the HC bench requested Lifschultz, a former journalist of the Far Eastern Economic Review, to turn in a statement on the trial and execution of Taher. Col Abu Taher was a sector commander of the freedom fighters during Bangladesh's liberation war. He was tried, allegedly for sedition, by a secret military court during the country's first martial law regime and sentenced to death in 1976. He was executed the same year.

HC summons Motijheel SI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned a sub-inspector (SI) of Motijheel police station before it to explain why he refused to take a case against the gang that was allegedly involved in making forged notes of taka. In response to a writ petition, an HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain ordered SI Md Nasir, who allegedly refused to record the case, to appear before it on March 10 for explanation. Writ petitioner Sanwar Hossain, also a small trader in Dhaka, on February 17 went to Motijheel police station to file a case against the gang, but SI Nasir refused to take it. Sanwar on Sunday filed the writ petition with the HC for its direction on the government to take action against the SI. Advocate Manzill Mushtid appeared for the petitioner while Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain stood for the government.

Census countdown begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The countdown of the country's fifth Population and Housing Census began today to create awareness. The census will be held from March 15 to March 19. From midnight of March 14 to 6:00am on March 15, called the zero hour, floating people at rail stations, mosques, boats, launches or any other relevant places will be covered. Planning Minister AK Khandker and Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad launched the countdown at a ceremony held at Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

57 shanties gutted in fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire gutted 57 shanties in Gopipara of the city's Badda yesterday. No person was reported hurt in the fire. Ten fire fighting units doused the fire over one and a half hour later. According to fire brigade sources, the fire might have started from a kitchen in one of the shanties that were built on a bamboo-made platform over a water body in the area.



Fire fighters douse the flames on a bus, which hit a pedestrian and was set alight by agitating people, near Moghbazar level crossing in the city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

A symbolic reunion of Kazi Nazrul and his wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was seen as an end to the distance and a symbolic reunion of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam and his wife Pramila Devi, who were buried in two territories. And what emblematically reunited the revolutionary poet with his wife years after their death is some soil brought from Pramila's grave in Churulia of West Bengal and mixed with the soil of Nazrul's grave yesterday. Two Nazrul lovers, Debasis Bhattacharyya and Joynath Nandy, from the poet's birthplace in Churulia, in a friendship bicycle trip, brought the soil to Dhaka on February 20. Joynath, also editor of a magazine named Chiranjib, said the distance between the grave of Nazrul and his wife was great and

they tried to lessen it.

A brief programme was also arranged by Dhaka University (DU) at Nazrul's grave near the central mosque on DU campus. DU Vice Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique and Nazrul's granddaughter Khilkhil Kazi, among others, were present. Debasis and Joynath also took some soil from Nazrul's grave to mix in Pramila's grave. Debasis said, "We are immensely grateful to you for giving us the opportunity to materialise our dream. We are grateful to this country from the day it declared Nazrul as its National Poet." Khilkhil Kazi, with an emotion-choked voice, said, "On touching the soil, I felt like I was touching my grandmother. Now it seems that my grandfather and grandmother are lying together."



Soil from the grave of Pramila Devi, wife of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, being mixed with the soil of the poet's grave situated beside the central mosque of Dhaka University yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Ali Hossain, elderly member of Dhaka Sangbadpatra Hawkers' Bohumukhi Samabaya Samity Ltd, passed away in the city on Sunday evening. He was 68. He left behind his wife, three sons, one daughter, and a host of relatives to mourn his death, says a press release. The association expressed deep shock at his death.

Woman, housemaid found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police recovered the bodies of a woman and her housemaid from a house at the city's Khoradipara at Shibganj area yesterday night. The deceased are Shaheda Akhtar Mili, 28, and housemaid Momota Begum Honufa, 15, of Chinakandi village of Biswambharpur upazila in Sunamganj. Police said neighbours informed them when they did not get any response from the house recently. On breaking into the house, police found the bodies, murdered at least 5 days ago, they added. The bodies were sent to Osmani Medical College for post mortem. Unmarried Mili and Momota used to live in the one storied house while Mili's brothers reside in Moulvibazar and in the capital.



KNOWLEDGE CORNER



HISTORY OF SCIENCE-MODERN ERA

The Scientific Revolution established science as a source for the growth of knowledge. During the 19th century, the practice of science became professionalized and institutionalized in ways that continued through the 20th century. The Scientific Revolution is a convenient boundary between ancient thought and classical physics. Nicolaus Copernicus revived the heliocentric model of the solar system described by Aristarchus of Samos. This was followed by the first known model of planetary motion given by Kepler in the early 17th century, which proposed that the planets follow elliptical orbits, with the Sun at one focus of the ellipse. Galileo ("Father of Modern Physics") also made use of experiments to validate physical theories, a key element of the scientific method. In 1687, Isaac Newton published the Principia Mathematica, detailing two comprehensive and successful physical theories: Newton's Laws of Motion, which led to classical mechanics; and Newton's Law of Gravitation, which describes the fundamental force of gravity. The behavior of electricity and magnetism was studied by Faraday, Ohm, and others during the early 19th century. These studies led to the unification of the two phenomena into a single theory of electromagnetism, by Maxwell (known as Maxwell's equations). Beginning in 1900, Max Planck, Albert Einstein, Niels Bohr and others developed quantum theories to explain various anomalous experimental results, by introducing discrete energy levels. The theory of general relativity, proposed by Einstein in 1915, showed that the fixed background of spacetime, on which both Newtonian mechanics and special relativity depended, could not exist. In 1925, Werner Heisenberg and Erwin Schrödinger formulated quantum mechanics, which explained the preceding quantum theories. The observation by Edwin Hubble in 1929 that the speed at which galaxies recede positively correlates with their distance, led to the understanding that the universe is expanding, and the formulation of the Big Bang theory by Georges Lemaitre. Important step was made by Antoine Lavoisier (Father of Modern Chemistry) through his recognition of oxygen and the law of conservation of mass, which refuted phlogiston theory. The synthesis of urea by Friedrich Wöhler opened a new research field, organic chemistry. Application of the techniques of organic chemistry to living organisms resulted in physiological chemistry, the precursor to biochemistry. The 20th century also saw the integration of physics and chemistry, with chemical properties explained as the result of the electronic structure of the atom. Linus Pauling's book on The Nature of the Chemical Bond used the principles of quantum mechanics to deduce bond angles in ever-more complicated Molecules.

SOLAR SYSTEM

The solar system consists of the Sun and the astronomical objects moving

around the Sun bound by its gravity: 8 planets (in order of distance from the Sun: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune) with their moons, dwarf planets and small solar bodies, eg. asteroids, comets, centaurs, orbiting interstellar dust and ice etc. The Sun, the centre of the system, is a class G-2 yellow star that alone consists about 99.86% of the total mass of the system. The rest of the mass is mostly distributed among the 8 planets. Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars are much smaller, mostly made of stone and metal, known as 'terrestrial planets' and make up the inner solar system. The outer solar system consists of the larger 4 planets- Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune which are mostly made of ice and gas, surrounded by planetary rings and known as 'gas giants'. Except Mercury and Venus (closest planet to Earth often called 'Earth's sister planet') all other 6 planets as well as some dwarf planets have their own orbiting natural satellites or moons. The Earth, only known 'living' planet of the Universe, has only one satellite- the Moon while the 'red planet' Mars has 2- Deimos and Phobos. Jupiter, the largest planet of the system, has 63 known moons so far among which the 4 'Galilean satellites' Io, Europa, Ganymede (the largest solar system moon) and Callisto are most notable. Saturn has 62 known moons and Neptune has 13 so far. Most interestingly, all of the 27 moons of Uranus are named after characters from Shakespear's several works and Alexander Pope's drama 'The Rape of the Lock'. The solar system originated around 4.6 billion years ago due to the collapse of a giant molecular cloud- the presolar nebula. The source of energy of the system is the ongoing thermonuclear fusion reaction of hydrogen to helium at the core of the Sun. As the Sun's hydrogen burn out, it gradually will become a red giant in about 5 billion years, to be followed by the few thousand year long planetary nebula stage until only the core of the star remains glowing as a white dwarf. As the white dwarf loses the last of its heat over a long time, it becomes a black dwarf and disappears from view. Sputnik-1, the first spacecraft to orbit the earth was only the beginning of a long history of expeditions to know the solar world better. Most remarkable of these missions have been the launching of Voyager 1 and 2 by the USA in 1977. These 2 unmanned spacecrafts continue their journey through the outer solar system till now, sending images of the planets and stellar objects they pass, which have been providing scientists with information otherwise unattainable to know the planetary system better. Currently Voyager 1 is the furthest man-made object from the Sun and hopefully both the Voyagers will pass through the heliosphere by the next decade. It's like we're starting to conceive what Neil Armstrong (Apollo-11) said upon stepping on the Moon, 'That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for the mankind'!

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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 and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:01pm and rises tomorrow at 6:20am. Country's highest temperature 31.8 degree Celsius was recorded today at Sitakunda and lowest 11.3 degrees 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	28.5	17.3	34	24
Chittagong	29.8	18.6	81	30
Rajshahi	30.5	11.6	43	36
Rangpur	28.5	13.2	58	45
Khulna	29.0	15.0	42	29
Barisal	29.5	15.0	44	34



Bangladesh Obhibashi Mahila Sramik Association forms a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding safety of all Bangladeshis stuck in Libya. Inset, a worried mother cries holding her son's photo. PHOTO: STAR



ACC CASE

Charges framed against Kader Siddiki

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against Bangabir Kader Siddiki for concealing information about wealth worth Tk 21 lakh and amassing wealth worth Tk 46.31 lakh beyond known sources of income. ACC Assistant commissioner in Tangail Salam Ali Molla submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court in Tangail. After investigation Salam Ali found that Kader Siddiki concealed information of Tk 20.11 lakh by showing false expenditure of construction of a two-storied building at Shakhipur in Tangail. Kader Siddiki submitted the wealth statement on May 21, 2007. The ACC filed a case against him on March 8, 2009.