

NEWS IN *brief*

Minor girl's body found in tank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yet another body of a five-year-old girl was found in an underground reservoir water tank of a building at Elephant Road in the city yesterday.

Sanjida Akhter, 5, daughter of Md Salauddin, a vegetable vendor at Jatrabari, was missing since last Wednesday, police said.

Family members of the child alleged that she was killed and later dumped into the tank.

Sanjida and her sister Mousumi, along with their mother Zayeda Begum came to visit their grandmother at the quarters of fourth class employees of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at Elephant Road early Wednesday. Sanjida's uncle Harun ur Rashid told The Daily Star.

Her grandmother Nurjahan Begum then took her daughter and sick granddaughter Mousumi to see a doctor at DMCH, where she was employed.

They saw Sanjida happily playing with other children on the adjacent road as they left for the hospital but found her missing after they returned home at around 2:00pm, Harun said.

"We looked for her everywhere and even shouted announcements over the loud speaker," he said.

Finally they discovered the bloated body of the child after they opened the tank around 3:30pm, yesterday and informed the police.

Teenage maid found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 15-year-old domestic help was found dead near her master's house at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

Taslima Akhter used to work in the house of Arif Ahmed Kakon who runs a hardware business at Nawabpur in Old Dhaka.

Md Shah Alam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Dhanmondi Police Station, claimed Taslima died after fall while climbing down with a rope from the roof of the six-storey building at Road No 6A, Dhanmondi.

Kakon's family sources do not know why Taslima, who was working there for the last three months, tried to flee the house.

Unidentified youth killed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified young man was stabbed to death by unknown criminals at Kajla in the city's Jatrabari last evening.

Jatrabari police said they found the body with injuries on the chest near Fatema Naz Filling Station around 8:00pm. They said the criminals thrown the body from a microbus in the area. The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College for an autopsy.

Foundation for trafficking survivors launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To rehabilitate and reintegrate women and adolescent girl survivors of trafficking, a organisation, "Traffic Survivors Foundation," was launched yesterday.

Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS) undertook the initiative at a ceremony at its office in New Eskaton Road in the city. State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury; ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director Farah Kabir; and CWCS President Prof Ishrat Shamim also spoke.

Awareness of kidney disease stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some doctors and medical experts yesterday stressed the need for building mass awareness towards preventing kidney diseases.

They told a press conference organised by Barakah Kidney Hospital and Research Institute at the Jatiya Press Club in the city marking the World Kidney Day.

National Professor MR Khan, Barakah Kidney Hospital Chairman Prof M Fakhru Islam, National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology Director Prof Firoj Khan attended it.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Begum Aarfaner Nessa, wife of late Abdur Rasheed Master, founder headmaster of GM Haat High School in Feni, passed away due to old-age complications at a city hospital yesterday. She was 90.

Chehlum

METRO DESK

Khurshida Haque, wife of former minister late MA Haque, died on February 3, says a press release.

Her chehlum will be held at her residence at Century Estate in Boro Moghbazar after Magrib prayers today.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of Commodore (ret) Fakhruddin Ahmed, former assistant chief of naval staff, will be held at Banani DOHS mosque after Asr prayers today. He died on Monday.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 20th death anniversary of Principal Abul Kashem, architect of the language movement and founder of the Tamuddin Majlish and the Bangla College in the city.

The Bangla College and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

Those affected comparatively little will be provided jobs as per their skills, said Azad.

He said they want to give a clear message to the Bangladeshis returning home from or still stranded in Libya, Egypt or Tunisia that the businesses of Bangladesh and the government are ready to extend help in the crisis.

Shamsun Nahar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 11th death anniversary of Shamsun Nahar Khan, wife of Ata Uddin Khan, a renowned chartered accountant, says a press release.



Employees of Grameen Bank form a human chain in front of Grameen Bank office in the city's Mirpur yesterday protesting removal of Prof Yunus from the post of managing director of the bank.

PHOTO: STAR

FBCCI to raise fund for Libya returnees

Businessmen assure jobs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's apex trade body, the FBCCI, yesterday announced that it will create a fund for the returnees affected most by the Libyan crisis, with the view to standing by the migrants who play crucial role in national economy.

"We will create a fund with contributions from different trade bodies and from the government to help rehabilitate our brothers," said AK Azad, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

Those affected comparatively little will be provided jobs as per their skills, said Azad.

He said they want to give a clear message to the Bangladeshis returning home from or still stranded in Libya, Egypt or Tunisia that the businesses of Bangladesh and the government are ready to extend help in the crisis.

Azad said this at a discussion organised by the FBCCI on the situation of North Africa and Middle East at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

Appreciating the FBCCI move, Centre for Policy Dialogue's (CPD) distinguished fellow Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya said the returnees should be provided with some cash immediately, so they can recover from a trauma-like situation.

At the airport, they should be given warm welcome with some water, food, or even a mobile phone SIM, he said.

Dr Bhattacharya said a strong registration

system is imperative to keep track of the returned workers, so they can be provided jobs or compensation anytime.

He said the NGOs running microcredit programmes can also come forward, and the Expatriates' Welfare Bank, which is soon to start operation, can come to their aid.

He said Bangladesh could face troubles in foreign reserve, as the growth of remittance sent by the expatriate Bangladeshis started declining from the middle of 2010 apparently due to economic recession. Instability in the Middle East could add to the blow, he said.

Debapriya said the FBCCI could prepare recommendations detailing what it can do and what the government should do at this stage.

At the discussion, a number of businessmen pledged that they would provide jobs for those returning from trouble-torn Libya.

For quick repatriation, the government could use Sylhet or even Kolkata Airport, said CPD Executive Director Dr Mustafizur Rahman, referring to IOM's assessment that it wants to fly home now 4,000 Bangladeshis a day, but Hazrat Shahjalal Airport has the capacity to handle 2,000-3,000 people.

Abul Bashar, president of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies, said the government should utilise part of the Tk 1,000 crore wage earners' fund to help the returnees.

Jatiya Party lawmaker Anisul Islam Mahmud, Fazlul Azim MP, BGMEA President Abdus Salam Murshedy, IOM official Asif Munier, and other business leaders also spoke.

POSSIBLE RETURN TO JS BNP MPs asked to stay in capital

First advisory council meet tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP high command has instructed the party lawmakers to be present in the capital by Sunday, indicating their possible return to parliament.

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farroque has already conveyed the message to most of the lawmakers and the rest will be informed by tomorrow, said party insiders.

The chairperson's advisory council formed during the party council in December 2009 will sit tomorrow for the first time to discuss different issues including the opposition's return to parliament.

Party standing committee member Lt Gen (ret) Mahbubur Rahman said they did not hold any formal discussion about their return to the House but they will surely join parliament.

Some lawmakers, however, told The Daily Star that they do not know whether they have been called to join the House by Monday or to attend a meeting of BNP's parliamentary committee.

A senior leader of the party said before joining the House, Chairperson Khaleida Zia will give necessary directives on their role in parliament.

She will also receive opinions from her advisers on the matter at the tomorrow's meeting, sources said.

The BNP-led alliance legislators will risk losing their parliamentary membership if they continue to boycott the House till the end of the current session.

The eighth session of the ninth parliament is going on and as per the previous decision it will continue until April 15.



Around 103 students from Japan collect rubbish from Suhrawardy Udyan in the city yesterday under Japan International Cooperation Agency's programme "Mission Clean Dhaka".

PHOTO: STAR

13TH AMENDMENT VERDICT Hearing adjourned till March 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court (SC) yesterday adjourned till March 21 the hearing on the appeal filed against a High Court (HC) verdict declaring valid the thirteenth amendment to the constitution that allowed the election under caretaker government.

The seven-member bench of Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque, passed the order after hearing the second day of appeal.

Barrister MI Farooqui, counsel for the appellant, verbally prayed to the court to take the caretaker government's two-year activities, led by Fakhruddin Ahmed, into its judicial note, stating system of that government illegal and unconstitutional.

He said elected representatives of the people should govern the state as per its constitution but the people in caretaker government are not elected, which goes against the constitution. The SC started hearing the appeal on March 1.

Following a writ petition, the HC on August 4 of 2004, declared the thirteenth amendment legal and observed that the changes did not distort the constitution's basic structure.



Inauguration

Dhaka Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries (DWCCI) will be inaugurated. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel, Time: 11:00am.

Painting competition

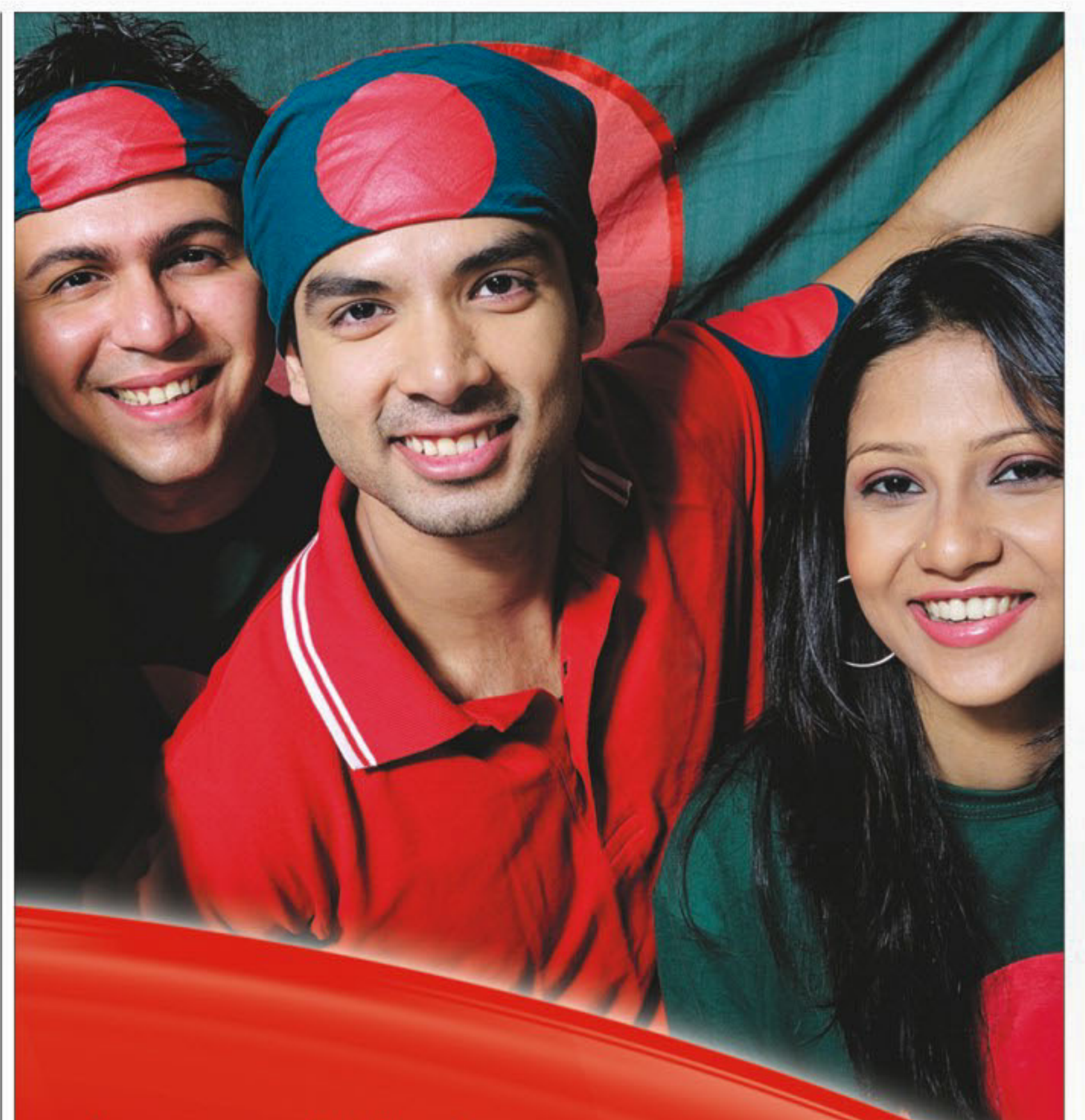
High Commission of India, Dhaka will organise a children's painting competition. Venue: House No-24, Road No-2, Dhanmondi, Time: 10:00am.

Citizen rally

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon will hold a citizen rally. Venue: In front of National Press Club, Time: 10:00am.

Annual conference

Palli Shishu Foundation of Bangladesh will arrange its 33rd annual



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WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain may occur at one or two places over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore and Kushtia in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise slightly over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions and it may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:06pm and rises tomorrow at 6:11am.

Country's highest temperature 36.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Patuakhali and lowest 15.4 degrees at Sitakundu.

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	32.1	21.6	47	47
Chittagong	32.7	18.5	47	43
Rajshahi	32.6	19.7	65	48
Rangpur	32.8	18.6	71	49
Khulna	35.5	19.8	74	49
Barisal	35.5	18.7	63	33