

NEWS IN *brief*

Rickshaw-puller sets example of honesty

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A rickshaw-puller has set a rare example of honesty by returning a bag containing Tk 1.30 lakh to its owner. Rickshaw-puller Khokon Mia's passenger Mokbul Prophan, a businessman, presented him Tk 5,000 after getting back his money yesterday. Khokon from Jamalpur pulls a rickshaw from a garage of Shahjahan Pandit at Chitasal in Bandar upazila. Khokon said Mokbul hired his rickshaw in front of Sonali Bank at Nabiganj, but after reaching his destination in Kadamasul Noorbagh area, Mokbul forgot to take his bag. Khokon also did not notice the matter. After taking another passenger from Bandar, the passenger noticed the bag. Later, in a bid to return the money Khokon arranged miking in the area to search the owner of the money. Hearing the announcement, Mokbul went to Khokon's rickshaw garage and after showing evidence he got back the money.

Dhaka, Delhi talks begin to control drug trafficking

UNB, Dhaka

A two-day long Director General level talks between drug control nodal agencies of Bangladesh and India began at Regency hotel in the city yesterday. Meeting sources said various issues including sharing information of latest routes and spots of drug trafficking across the border and inflow of new item of drugs into Bangladesh came up for discussion. Director General of Department of Narcotics Control Khandaker Mohammad Ali is leading a 15-member Bangladesh delegation while his counterpart Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau OPS Malik is leading an 11-member Indian delegation. The meeting will conclude today following a joint statement.

Koica-BRDB festival held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) and Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) at Pirganj celebrated the successful implementation of a project focused on computer literacy, health and sanitation as well as pure drinking water on Monday. The title of the event was "Koica-BRDB Goodwill Cooperation Festival". The Resident Representative of Koica Lee Jung Wook, Md Firozar Rahman, deputy director of BRDB, Rangpur, Firoz Ahmed, upazilla nirbahi officer of Pirganj, local dignitaries and the beneficiaries of the project took part in the festival spontaneously.

Events set to observe March 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the dark night of March 25 and Independence Day on March 26. Jagannath Hall Poribar of Dhaka University will organise cultural programmes including patriotic songs, stage drama at tomorrow evening and light procession (Alor Michhil) on the first hour of March 26 on the hall premises of Dhaka University. To Mark the day, Sommlito Sangskritik Jote, a cultural organisation, will arrange three-day long programmes titled 'Swadhinata Utshab' (independence festival) scheduled to start today at Shaheed Minar in the city.

Headmistress served notice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

The headmistress of Mollikpur Govt Primary School under Kaliganj upazila in Jhenidah district was served a show-cause notice yesterday for sending students to raise subscription from drivers and passersby. Kaliganj Upazila Education Officer Mostak Ahmed served the notice to Shipra Chowdhury as she engaged her students on Tuesday to collect money for celebrating March 26.

WEATHER TODAY

Slight rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today. Chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over the regions of Rangpur, Tangail, Mymensingh and Syleht, Met Office said. Day temperature may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:11pm and rises tomorrow at 5:58am. Country's highest temperature 36.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 17.2 degrees at Dinajpur. 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	33.6	25.0	71	56
Chittagong	30.0	21.8	83	79
Rajshahi	36.5	24.7	79	35
Rangpur	33.5	22.7	82	52
Khulna	33.6	24.0	79	59
Barisal	33.1	23.5	85	65



Shattered glass from a public bus, allegedly broken by students over an altercation with the bus helper, litters the road near Government Titumir College in Mohakhali of the city yesterday posing a threat to the passing vehicles.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQUE

92pc TB patients getting cured

Experts tell discussion
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has gained success a great deal in combating tuberculosis (TB), with 92 percent patients being cured now following detections, experts said yesterday. The detection rate has also increased to 75 percent from 16 percent, and Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS) coverage reached hundred percent in last 15 years, they said. The experts shared the data at a discussion titled "Tuberculosis control programme: Progress and way forward" organised by the daily Prothom Alo at its office, on the eve of World Tuberculosis Day today. Dr Ashek Hossain, programme manager of National Tuberculosis Control Programme NTCP; Dr K Zaman of ICDDR, B; and Muzaffar Hossain Poltu, senior vice president of National Anti Tuberculosis Association of Bangladesh (NATAB), spoke among others.

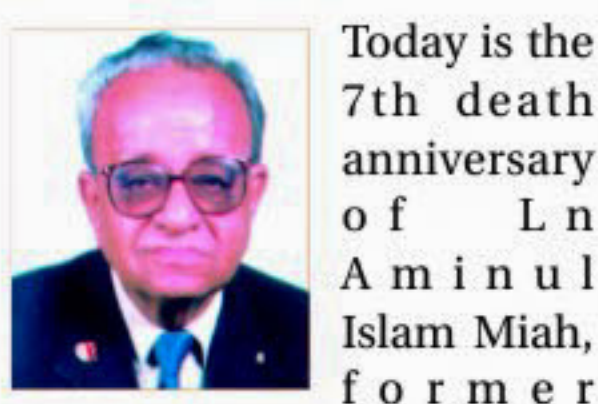
Achintya Sen critically ill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior journalist and columnist Achintya Sen is critically ill. He is on life support at Labaid Hospital in the city since Monday. Sen is suffering from kidney problems and other complications. His wife Dipa Sen has requested friends and well-wishers to pray for his recovery.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 7th death anniversary of L N Aminul Islam Miah, former Chairman of Bangladesh Lions Foundation and ex-AIG of Police, says a press release.

Term us Adivasi in constitution

Indigenous leaders urge govt
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Commission has urged the government to use the term "Adivasi" instead of "small and ethnic groups" in recognising the indigenous people. The appeal followed the decision of the parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment that it will recommend for recognition of indigenous people. In an application addressed to Syeda Sazedra Chowdhury, the chairperson of the National Committee for Implementation of the CHT Peace Accord and the deputy leader of the House, the commission said Adivasi is the correct Bangla term for indigenous people. Mentioning the recognition of indigenous people as a progressive outlook, the application said India and Nepal have termed the indigenous people "Janajatiya" and "Adivasi Janajati" respectively, which in real sense are synonyms of "Adivasi" in Bangla. In the application, they also expressed concerns that Suranjit Sengupta MP, the co-chair of the special committee on constitutional amendment, told the media that the term "indigenous peoples" will be replaced by "small and ethnic groups". Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina herself mentioned indigenous people as Adivasi in her different speeches and her party

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AUG 21 CASE

CID gets 30 more days for probe

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday got one more month to submit the probe report of one of the two cases filed for the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally on August 21, 2004. With this, the CID has been given 19 months' time in eight phases to complete the investigation into the case filed for killing 23 people, including AL leader Ivy Rahman, and injuring scores in the attack. Judge Fozila Begum of Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court allocated the time following a time petition submitted by CID's Special Superintendent of Police Abdul Kahar Akand, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case. The IO submitted the petition on Tuesday before the court seeking 45 more days to complete investigation into the murder case. On March 7, the same court warned the CID for delaying the investigation and asked it to submit the probe report by yesterday. The court on the day said the time would not be extended further.



Akhteruddin Mahmood, human resources director of Nestle Bangladesh Ltd, on Tuesday opens the clean drinking water facility centre built by Nestle at Rover Polly High School in Gazipur.

PHOTO: COURTESY

WAR CRIMES TRIAL Permission sought to arrest BNP MP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators yesterday sought permission of the International Crimes Tribunal to arrest former BNP lawmaker from Joypurhat, Abdul Alim, in connection with crimes against humanity in 1971. The investigators said they have found Alim's involvement in the crimes during primary investigation. They also prayed to the tribunal for permission to interrogate Jamaat-e-Islami Chief Matiur Rahman Nizami and BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, now detained on the same charges. The war crimes investigation agency placed their prayers in three separate petitions filed with the tribunal by prosecutors through the tribunal registrar office yesterday afternoon. Tribunal Registrar Md Shahinur Islam yesterday told The Daily Star the tribunal was yet to fix any date for hearing the petitions. After submitting the petitions, Zead Al Malum, one of the prosecutors, told reporters at their office at the Old High Court Building that the investigators have found involvement of "notorious Razakar" Abdul Alim in killing, arson, looting, raping, and other offences during the War of Liberation. Abdul Alim should be arrested for the sake of further investigation against him, he said.

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Bangladeshi workers' passports gutted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire destroyed passports and other belongings of 20 Bangladeshi and six Indian workers in Bahrain on Monday. "Four rooms of the labour camp at Diaj, 30 kilometers off Bahrain's capital Manama, were totally burnt. The workers were in the workplace when the fire broke out," Bangladesh High Commission First Secretary (Labour) Muhammad Ibrahim told The Daily Star over phone.

Tk 185cr credit fraud

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Five traders of Khatunganj in Chittagong, who are also brothers, allegedly fled without paying due money worth around Tk 185 crore after purchasing wheat from several traders. Agitating creditors locked the two offices owned by the defaulting traders -- M/s Chowdhury Enterprise and M/s Chowdhury and Brothers -- located at Nurul Absar Chowdhury Market. A case was lodged with Kotwali Police Station on Tuesday night accusing Md Saiful Islam Chowdhury alias Junu, Md Saiful Azam Chowdhury alias Khokan, Md Saifuddin Chowdhury, Md Saifullah Chowdhury, and Saiful Alam Chowdhury on charge of fraudulence. According to the victim traders, the accused five purchased DO (delivery order) letters on credit of over one lakh tonnes of wheat worth around Tk 185 crore from some 60 traders. But the cheques provided by the five were bounced by the bank, and the defaulters could not be contacted since then on, alleged the victims.



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over cheques to the families of the police personnel who were killed in the Narsingdi road accident on January 15.

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