

NEWS IN *brief*

President goes to Singapore for medical checkup

UNB, Dhaka
President Zillur Rahman left here by a regular flight of Singapore Airlines last night for a medical checkup at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore where he will stay for six days.
Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui, dean of the diplomatic corps, chiefs of the three services, secretaries and top officials concerned saw off the president at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.
Secretaries concerned to the president's office and his personal physician are accompanying him.

Road crash kills three

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore
Three people including a woman were killed and two others injured in a head-on collision between a bus and a battery-run auto-rickshaw at Dattapara Bazar area on Natore-Dhaka Highway yesterday.
Agitating locals blocked the highway for around one hour and vandalised the bus. Police later brought the situation under control.
The deceased Nawshad Ali, 22, Manoara Begum, 40, and Afsar Ali, all resident of Karota village of the area, were in the auto-rickshaw.

3-year-old girl abused physically

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A driver of a CNG-run three-wheeler was beaten up and handed over to police by a mob for physically abusing a three-year old girl at the city's Bashabo. The girl was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with severe injury.
Sabujbag OC Asaduzzaman said CNG driver Sharif, father of two children, called his the neighbour's daughter inside his room around 6:00pm and physically abused her.
Hearing cry, her mother along with neighbours rushed in and found the girl with bleeding. They beat up Sharif and handed him over to police, said the OC.
Sharif admitted the crime, said the police officer. The victim's father filed a case.

DMP thanks city dwellers for help to host World Cup Cricket

UNB, Dhaka
Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Benazir Ahmed yesterday expressed his gratitude to the city dwellers for extending cooperation in successful co-hosting of the ICC Cricket World Cup in Dhaka.
"All credit goes to the city dwellers for successful hosting of the World Cup cricket," he told reporters at his office.
Benazir said the city dwellers had to face lot of difficulties due to closing of roads at different points while transporting cricket players and officials from stadium to their hotels under special security.

Muggers stab man in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Muggers snatched Tk 8,000 and a cell phone by stabbing a man at North Badda and four alleged muggers were arrested from Gendaria in separate incidents in the city yesterday.
The injured Mostafa Sardar, 40, employee of a cement company, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.
Mostafa said a gang of four muggers stopped him near Mashjid Goli around 5:45am while he was going home at Puraton Thana Road, stabbed him on the left leg and snatched valuables.
Meanwhile, police arrested four alleged muggers, preparing to commit the crime at SK Das road, from the city's Gendaria early yesterday.
A knife was also recovered from the possession of Jasim, 21, Sharif, 18, Billal, 22 and Mamun, 35, arrested around 1:30am, said Assistant Sub-Inspector Jahidul Islam of Gendaria Police Station. Police filed a case in this connection.

AL man killed, 100 hurt in clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
An Awami League activist was killed and over 100 people were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers at Patharia in Baniachang upazila of Habiganj yesterday evening.
The deceased was identified as Sepai Miah, 60. Of the injured, 30 were admitted to the Habiganj sadar hospital.
Police lobbed 10 rounds of tear shells and fired gunshots to bring the situation under control.
Locals said there had been a long standing rivalry between the upazila AL organising secretary Abdul Ahad and union BNP general secretary Tara Miah and others over establishing supremacy in the area. Both the groups used locally made weapons during the clash.
As the news spread, the rivals vandalised over a hundred dwelling houses.



A patch of gladiolus in Chakaria, Chittagong. The flowers have recently been popular alongside roses and tuberoses, as they look beautiful, offer different colours, and keep fresh longer. Gladioluses are being cultivated in the lands once used for farming roses and other flowers.
PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

BAZLUR RAHMAN SMRITI PADAK Dig up untold stories of liberation war

Speakers urge journalists
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Speakers yesterday said the Liberation War of 1971 would remain alive in the Bangladeshi history as long as all the events and stories during the nine-month long war have been disclosed.
Speakers urged the journalists and media to disclose these untold stories while addressing the distribution ceremony of Bazlur Rahman Smriti Padak 2010 at the National Museum auditorium in the city.
Honouring the veteran journalist late Bazlur Rahman, Liberation War Museum provides the award every year for liberation war related journalism.
The museum gives the award with assistance from the family members and friends of Bazlur Rahman who passed away in February 2008.
Rita Bhowmik of Dainik Jai Jai Din won an award, in the

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Most stranded Bangladeshis to come home by March: IMO

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) expects that most of the stranded Bangladeshis will be brought back home from Libya by the end of this month, despite slow pace of repatriation.
IOM also reiterated that there is no shortage of fund to repatriate Bangladeshis, and inflow will not hinder the repatriation, said a release of the organisation yesterday.
The release said 27,254 Bangladesh nationals, who were employed in Libya, have been brought home.

More int'l orgs rally around Prof Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Supports continue being channeled to Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus from around the world after a number of Italian and European parliamentarians, civil society, and microfinance institutions from Pakistan, Peru, and the Philippines urged the government to find a solution to the current crisis.
In a statement, Mario Baccini, president of Italian Committee for Microcredit; Sam Daley-Harris, director of the Microcredit Summit Campaign; Mario Baccini MP; Prof Luisa Brunori of Bologna University; and European Member of Parliament Sylvia Costa; said, "Prof Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank have made an important contribution to social development in Bangladesh through microfinance."
"Prof Yunus and Grameen Bank are leading actors in the fight against poverty. This is why we express deep solidarity with Prof Yunus with the wish that there can be a solution to the situation."
Their calls came at a workshop on microfinance in Rome,

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Cop kills himself under wheels of train

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
A policeman committed suicide by falling under the wheels of a train here yesterday.
Deceased Md Nurunnabi, 22, hailing from Joypurhat district was a constable of the Range Reserve Force (RRF), Sylhet.
The incident took place minutes after the Chittagong-bound intercity-Paharika Express departed Sylhet station at Parairchak at 10:30am.
Commandant of the RRF Md Shahadat Hossain (SP) confirmed the incident and said Nurunnabi had been facing some family trouble for long. He joined the service about two and a half years ago and married off a month ago.

16 tonnes of toxic poultry feed seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday seized 265 sacks of poultry feed made from tannery waste and various chemicals, weighing 16 metric tonnes, from a house at Adabar in the city and arrested one person in this connection.
On information, DoE enforcement team with members of Rapid Action Battalion found workers producing the poisonous feed in the house, being used as an illegal factory.

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Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Today is the 7th death anniversary of Syed Ahmed, former cabinet secretary and alternative executive director of World Bank.

Principal Ibrahim Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Today is the 32nd death anniversary of Principal Ibrahim Khan, a renowned litterateur, educationist and a social reformer, says a press release yesterday.
On the occasion, recitation from Holy Quran and doa mahfil will be held in Dhaka and Tangail today.

Robiul Hossain Kochi

METRO DESK
Today is the second death anniversary of Robiul Hossain Kochi, freedom fighter and former chairman of Noakhali Municipality.

Farah Amena Rashid

METRO DESK
Today is the 11th death anniversary of Farah Amena Rashid (Faria), daughter of Engineer Mamun Rashid, says a press release.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION Suranjit urges BNP to cooperate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Suranjit Sengupta, co-chair of the parliamentary special committee on the constitutional amendment, yesterday urged the main opposition BNP to cooperate with the process for amending the constitution.
"We co-operated with the process for passing the constitution's 11th and 12th amendment act during the then BNP government's tenure in 1991. So, we hope this time they will also cooperate us by joining the special committee," said Suranjit.
Suranjit, also chief of the parliamentary standing committee on the law ministry, made the urge while briefing journalists at the parliament's media centre.
He also responded to a remark of BNP lawmaker Moudud Ahmed who said BNP, if able to get two-third majority, will scrap the constitutional provision through which the current government is going to declare Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as the father of the nation.
Suranjit said they will make the clause "unchangeable", which declares Bangabandhu as the father of the nation.
The multi-party parliamentary body, formed in July last year and devoid of representation from the main opposition BNP, will start today holding marathon meeting, which will continue for the next three days.
The meeting will begin in the morning everyday and continue till evening with interval during lunchtime to complete the task as soon as possible, so that a bill to amend the constitution can be placed in the parliament's next session at the end of April and early of May.

Nine Jica volunteers arrive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) sent eight Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and one Senior Volunteer (SV) to Bangladesh on Saturday.
They will work in public organisations for the next two years, aiding in different sectors such as rural community development, infection control, computer technology, education, construction and car servicing.

Bhutanese king leaves for Thimphu



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina accompanies Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck during his departure at Shahjalal International Airport in the city yesterday.
BSS, Dhaka
Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck was given a hearty send-off yesterday when he left for home after ending a five-day state visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of President Zillur Rahman.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina saw the Bhutanese King off at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport here at 11:20am.
Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and Food Minister Abdur Razzak, among others, were present at the airport.
A 17-member delegation, including Works and Human Settlement Minister Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba accompanied Wangchuck during his visit to Bangladesh.
During his stay here, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on the Bhutanese King, while Speaker Abdul Hamid Advocate, Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, Commerce Minister Muhammad Faruk Khan and Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr Gowher Rizvi met with him.

Change in temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka
Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.
Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.
The sun sets in the capital today at 6:13pm and rises tomorrow at 5:54am.
Country's highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chandpur and lowest 18.0 degrees at Ishwardi and Chuadanga.
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	32.3	22.0	70	54
Chittagong	29.8	22.2	84	67
Rajshahi	29.8	18.4	67	72
Rangpur	25.3	20.4	73	94
Khulna	32.6	20.6	59	75
Barisal	32.6	21.0	60	91
Sylhet	32.0	19.5	75	60



PHOTO: COURTESY

The freedom fighters, who were honoured by Inner Wheel District 328, are seen with guests and others at a ceremony at Raowa Club, Mohakhali in the city on Friday.

Mother of labour minister dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur
Syeda Hasina Alam Taj, mother of Labour Minister Engineer Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, passed away at Faridpur Diabetic Hospital due to age old complications yesterday at the age of 88.
She left behind five sons and six daughters to mourn her death.

Death Anniversary

SAMIUR RAHMAN KHAN
27th February, 1950-29th March, 2010
On the occasion of his first death anniversary, we request all friends, relatives and well-wishers to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.