

NEWS IN *brief*

Youth stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was killed and another suffered injuries as unidentified criminals stabbed them yesterday in the capital's Hazaribagh area.

The victims were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Shafiqul Islam, 22, succumbed to his injuries around 3:00am while Razon, 20, was undergoing treatment there.

Police said, Shafiq, son of Tamijuddin, and Razon resided at a mess at Rayerbazar. They were returning to their mess around 12:30am while unknown five to six youths stopped them at Hazaribagh and stabbed both of them indiscriminately.

Shafiq suffered injury to abdomen and Razon to some parts of body including hands, cheek and back, police said.

Meanwhile, police recovered an unidentified body of a male of around 30 at sector-10 of the city's Uttara yesterday.

Police said they recovered the body from a field adjacent to Dhaka-Ashulia highway around 6:00am.

The man was wearing black shorts and his mouth and hands were tied up with ropes.

Police suspected that he was killed elsewhere that night and was dumped there.

Two women hacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth hacked his wife and mother-in-law with a local machete following a family feud yesterday in the city's Sutrapur area.

Police said the youth identified as Ashiqur Rahman hacked his wife Sima Akhter, 22, and mother-in-law Farida Begum, 50, following a feud over his unemployment.

Sub-Inspector Mohammad Shaheen of Sutrapur Police Station said Ashiq could not pay his house rent and bear family expenses as he is unemployed for the last few months. The family members often used to rebuke him over the issues, Shaheen added.

The feud erupted in the morning as Ashiq didn't heed his wife's request to look for a job, he said.

At one stage of quarrel, Ashiq began to hack his wife Sima with a machete and mother-in-law Farida fell victim to the incident as she was trying to save her daughter, the SI said quoting Farida.

The injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

'Death threat' to film actor Sakib

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Film actor Sakib Khan yesterday filed a case against five people including Assistant Director Shish Monowar and one Abdul Aziz for allegedly threatening to kill him.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Omar Faruq of Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station, quoting Sakib, told The Daily Star that the five alleged entered a makeup room of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation yesterday and threatened to kill Sakib.

The OC said police raided FDC but could not arrest any of the accused.

Seven pirates arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Coast Guard yesterday arrested seven pirates in the Bay of Bengal while they were fleeing after looting valuables from sunken Korean ship MV Hyang Ro Bong.

The arrestees are Sabur Khan, 43, Mohammad Mohidul Islam, 25, Shohag Byapari, 22, Md Suman, 15, Md Khokhan, 23, Shohag Sheikh, 16 and Anawar Molla, 22.

Acting on a tip-off coast guard patrol ship, CGS Taufique, led by Coast Guard Petty Officer Sergeant Emarod Hossain intercepted the boat carrying the gang of pirates at outer anchorage in the Bay of Bengal around 10:00am.



A BNP rally at Muktangan in the city yesterday created severe traffic congestion in the surrounding areas. The photo was taken from Purana Paltan intersection.

PHOTO: STAR

REMOVAL OF PROF YUNUS

Govt still has time to reach respectable solution

Speakers tell meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government still has time to correct the steps it took against Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and reach a respectable solution, observed speakers at a meeting yesterday.

They were speaking at a discussion styled "Dr Yunus and image crisis of Bangladesh" at Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Group 2009 (G9), a support group for Prof Yunus, organised the event.

Former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hassan Chowdhury termed the issue on Yunus undesirable and unnecessary. "I wonder whether a group of selfish people

enveloped the prime minister."

He said Bangladesh could have utilised the expertise of the Grameen Bank founder in solving many existing problems of the country and reach out to developed nations to expand the domestic market. "The time to do this is however not over."

He hoped that the government would be able to leave behind the issue and take correct steps.

Asif Nazrul, professor of law at Dhaka University, said nobody gained out of the Yunus crisis. "Rather, it dented the country's image."

He said a vested quarter is trying to isolate the prime minister. "They are trying to establish negative ideas on the international community

against her."

Nazrul said there is still scope to mitigate the damage and urged the prime minister to make decisions rationally.

Public health activist Zafar Ullah Chowdhury said, "I have never thought that we would have to set up a committee and organise meetings to protect the honour of Prof Yunus."

"About 83 lakh borrowers benefited from Grameen Bank in some way or another. It will not be wise to destroy the bank."

Zafar said the government could have waited until its probe committee filed a report on Grameen Bank and its management before taking any action, which caused global uproar.

"Nobody will benefit from dishonouring the Nobel laureate," he said.

Senior Journalist Shafiq Rehman said the country lost a role model for its young generation by disrespecting Prof Yunus. "But we can still make things right."

Sayeeful Islam, president of G9, and M Asaduzzaman, secretary general of G9, also spoke. Shakhawat Hossain Sayantha presented a keynote paper on Prof Yunus, his achievements and the current crisis.

Yunus was unceremoniously relieved of his duties as managing director of Grameen Bank on claims the "Banker to the Poor" flouted rules that govern the microfinance bank while being reappointed a decade ago.

Qadir's 40th death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 40th death anniversary of Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Abdul

Qadir martyred in 1971.

Qadirabad Cantonment in Natore was named after him in recognition of his role in the War of Liberation. The government also issued a postal stamp honouring him as one of the Martyred Intellectuals, says a press release.

His elder son found his grave in 2007 in Chittagong, 36 years after his death but despite efforts so far the grave has not been protected or moved elsewhere, the release added.

His family members requested all to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Shabnam Huq

METRO DESK

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Shabnam Huq, wife of Arham Masudul Huq, a senior executive vice president and company secretary of Dhaka Bank Limited, says a press release.



Roundtable

Swadhinata Forum will hold a roundtable. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Coalition of Local NGOs, Bangladesh will organise a discussion. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

Meeting

International Organisation for Migration will arrange a meeting. Venue: Sonargaon hotel, Time: 2:00pm.

Human chain

Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity will form a human chain. Venue: In front of High



Namaz-e-janaza of two Bangladeshi peacekeepers, who were killed in a plane crash at Kinshasa Airport in Congo on April 5, was held at Army Central Mosque in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

PHOTO: ISPR

Obituary

METRO DESK



Md Shahjahan Ali Mollah, assistant vice president of Islami Bank

Bangladesh Limited, passed away at BSMMU on Friday due to cancer at the age of 57, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, four daughters and three sons. The bank's Chairman Prof Abu Nasser Muhammad Abdus Zaher and Mohammad Abdul Mannan, managing director, condoled his death.

Two peacekeepers laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladeshi peacekeepers, who, along with 24 others, were killed in a plane crash at Kinshasa Airport in Congo on April 5, were laid to rest yesterday with due military honour.

The bodies of Maj KM Ziaul Haque and Corporal Clerk Md Yunus Mian were brought to Dhaka on Friday on an Emirates flight from Congo.

Ziaul was buried at Banani Military Graveyard in the city and Yunus at his village home in Satkania upazila in Chittagong district.

Beforehand, a namaz-e-janaza was held at Army Central Mosque in Dhaka Cantonment. It was attended by Army Chief Gen Md Abdul Mubeen, Navy Chief Vice Admiral ZU Ahmed, Air Force Chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman, top officials of

different forces and relatives of the deceased.

Afterwards, Military Secretary of the president Maj Gen Abul Kalam Md Humayun Kabir and Military Secretary of the prime minister (PM) Brig Gen Md Salauddin Miaji placed wreaths on behalf of the president and PM respectively.

They were followed by the chiefs of the three forces.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Abdus Salam, an official of an infantry unit of Bangladesh Army, passed away due to cardiac arrest while serving at a UN Peace Keeping Mission in Abidjan of Ivory Coast on April 10.

His body will be brought home after necessary formalities of UN in Ghana's capital Accra soon and laid to rest in Savar following formalities of Bangladesh Army, says a press release.

Amini's son kidnapped on govt's nod

Alleges BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhruul Islam Alamgir yesterday blamed the government for 'kidnapping' a son of Fazlul Haque Amini, chairman of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ).

"Law enforcers kidnapped Hasanat (Abul Hasanat) on instructions of the government," Fakhruul said at a press briefing at BNP's central office at Naya Paltan in the capital.

Demanding his immediate release, the BNP leader alleged that the law enforcers are now threatening Amini's family.

Mirza Fakhruul said law enforcers abducted Hasanat the same way they earlier abducted Dhaka City Corporation ward councillor and BNP central leader Chowdhury Alam.

He said, "The government is doing these only to hide their failure in different areas and cracking down on the opposition leaders whenever they are forging movement against its failure."

Amini, also chief of Islamic Law Implementation Committee, earlier claimed that law enforcers in plain clothes picked up his son on April 10 from Sutrapur in the capital.

But police denied the claim.

BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed, Jubadal President Moazzem Hossain Alal among others were present at the conference.



UNFPA regional director due today

STAFF REPORTER

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Regional Director Nobuko Horibe is due to arrive in the city today on a four-day official visit to observe progress of population programme in Bangladesh, says a press release.

She will discuss issues related to the next five-year programme beginning next year and on UNFPA's assistance.

She is expected to meet the health minister, state minister for women and children affairs, members of parliament, high government officials, development partners and non-government organisation representatives.

Horibe, who holds Asia and the Pacific Regional Office of UNFPA in Bangkok, will visit some UNFPA project sites.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Guests at a cultural programme to celebrate Pahela Baishakh, the bangla new year, organised by Primeasia University in front of the university's Banani campus in the city on Thursday.

WEATHER TODAY

100% GLUCOSE

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Comilla in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

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

Mild heat wave sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Jessore, Kushtia, Khulna and Patuakhali may continue.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:21pm today and rises at 5:36am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and Mongla and lowest 21.4 degrees Celsius at Sayedpur.

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	34.8	25.5	79	54
Chittagong	31.8	24.7	77	76
Rajshahi	36.4	22.8	80	60
Rangpur	32.1	21.6	70	62
Khulna	36.2	25.1	75	56
Barisal	34.5	24.0	78	60

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