

NEWS IN *brief*

DMCH doctor arrested for stalking

UNB, Dhaka

A physician of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) was arrested yesterday on charge of sexually harassing female doctors of DMCH. The arrested was identified as Dr Jahangir Nazim, 30, who joined the hospital as regular physician last year. DMCH sources said Jahangir used to sexually harass female doctors of DMCH and students of DMCH which annoyed the victims. As usual he made indecent comments about female physicians in their presence at a DMCH ward and also flashed vulgar sign to a lady doctor ostensibly with the aim of seducing them at 11:00am. Later, the victims lodged a written complain against Jahangir with DMCH authorities in the morning. DMCH Director Shahidul Haque Mallik called the accused to his room and cross examined him with the complainants at about 1:00pm. Police was called and the accused was handed over to the law-enforcers at 1:30pm.

CU Nazrul research centre reopens

CU CORRESPONDENT

The official activities of Nazrul Research Centre of Chittagong University (CU) resumed yesterday after remaining closed for around eight months. The CU authorities closed the centre in September last year for shortage of manpower. The centre has been established in 1998 to conduct researches on life and literary works of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Since the retirement of the incumbent director of the centre Prof Shamsul Alam, the centre remained closed, CU acting Vice-Chancellor Mohammad Alauddin said, adding that, now we have appointed Prof Dr Souren Biswas of the Bangla department as its director from April 23 to run the centre.

23 SUST female students, teachers awarded belts at martial arts

SUST CORRESPONDENT

Seventeen female students and teachers secured orange belt while six others got yellow belt at a martial art training programme in Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) of Sylhet yesterday. SUST Vice Chancellor Dr Saleh Uddin presented the awards at a function organised by First Ladies Hall. Hall provost Dr Nazia Chowdhury chaired the event while Dr Md Zafor Iqbal, Dr Yasmeen Haque, Trainer BM Ashraf, Md Nazrul Islam and Assistant Provost Silpi Rani Bashak were present.

RMG factory gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A garments factory was gutted in a fire at in Ketabpur area of Sadar upazila in Narayanganj yesterday. Witnesses said the fire originated after a huge blast of an electric transformer adjacent to Devine Text Ltd and soon engulfed the knitting section of the factory around 7:00am. Four units of fire fighters from Mandalpara and Haziganj Fire Stations rushed to the spot and doused the flame after an effort of two and half hours. Office-in-charge Jibon Kanti Sarker of Fatullah Model Police Station, said no casualty was reported. Mahmudul Hassan, managing director of Devine Text LTD, said the fire gutted huge quantity of knitwear, readymade garments, and other goods including eight knitting machines, three generators and furniture. He claimed the losses caused by the fire Tk 6 crore.

British HC, DFID closed Apr 28, May 1

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The British High Commission in Dhaka, its office in Sylhet, and DFID Bangladesh will be closed to the public on April 28 in lieu of the Royal wedding and on May 1 for May Day.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presides over a cabinet meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 3)

PHOTO: PID

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Begum Fawzia Samad, wife of MA Samad, founder chairman of

Bangladesh General Insurance Company, passed away at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore yesterday at the age of 83, says a press release. She left behind his one son, three daughters and grandchildren. Fawzia Samad was the president of Dhaka Ladies Club. She also served as the editor of Meena, a monthly children's magazine. On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Dhaka Ladies Club in the city at 3:00pm on May 3. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Saiful Islam Badal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Saiful Islam Badal, an organiser of Liberation War of Bangladesh and veteran politician, passed away at his house in Reserve Tank area of the district town on Sunday night. He was 60. He left behind his wife, a son and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death. Badal, the managing editor of the local weekly 'Karcha', was also a senior member of district Awami League. He was buried at Sewta graveyard after his namaz-e-ajanaza on Government Devendra College Mosque premises at 11:00am. District Awami League President Advocate Golam Mohiuddin, its general secretary Gazi Kamrul Huda Selim expressed deep shock at his death.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of Amin Ullah, a retired district and session judge, will

be held at 29, Agamasi Lane in the city after Maghrib prayers today, says a press release. Amin passed away on Saturday due to old age complications at the age of 93. He left behind his two sons and four daughters. He also served as law officer at Dhaka University. He was buried at Kalshi in Mirpur after namaz-e-ajanaza at Agamasi Lane.

Problems to arise if transit fees fixed as per WTO rules

Says Debapriya Bhattacharya

BSS, Dhaka

An eminent economist and expert of trade negotiation cautioned about potential hazards of fixing transit fees under the articles of World Trade Organization (WTO) as the approach would be counter-productive. A committee of Tariff Commission last week submitted a report to the government recommending equal transit fees for all countries in line with WTO rules. "The transit fees should not be considered under WTO rules as it would invite more problems than benefit," eminent economist Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya told the news agency yesterday. Referring to Article 5 of WTO regarding freedom of transit, Bhattacharya, who represented Bangladesh at WTO, said this article of the UN body is not related to this issue. According to the article, transit means transporting products originated from one place, passing to other

country and terminating at another country, he said. He, however, said there is a "creative ambiguity" in this article, as it does not clearly say that there should be a third country. The ambiguity gives the flexibility to interpret the article, considering different aspects at different places. "So there can be two definitions of the article -- inclusive and exclusive. The exclusive definition is country A to country B to country C and inclusive definition is country A to country B to country A again. If we go to WTO, they will most possibly consider inclusive definition." Citing the trade liberalisation process, Bhattacharya said if transit is provided to any country under WTO rules, all countries should be provided with similar facilities as WTO rules also refer to MFN (most favoured nations) status. He said whether transit facility would be provided to all countries should be considered, otherwise pro-

voicing WTO would bring problems. Bhattacharya, a senior distinguished fellow of the country's leading think-tank Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), also suggested for bilateral approach to the issue instead of making a multilateral document for transit fees. "The document for fees (for transit) should be bilateral as it is based on the communique, between India and Bangladesh, signed at a meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian premier Manmohan Singh in New Delhi last year." He advised for comprehensive study before fixing transit fees for using Bangladesh roads and infrastructure by India. "It will not be wise to fix the fees on the basis of other's study instead of doing our own homework on it." He said all the issues like congestion charges, cost of lands and its impact on food production, environment and biodiversity should also be considered to fix the fees.

One dies as boat capsizes in Padma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A day labourer drowned and another went missing as a boat capsized in the Padma river near Sahapur Ghat under Motihar Police Station in the city yesterday. The boat sank around 6:30am, said police. Divers of Rajshahi Fire Service and Civil Defense rushed in and recovered the body of Mansur Rahman, 28, of Shyampur in the city. The divers could not trace the missing person till filing of this report in the afternoon. The victims, day labourers, were crossing the river to search work in crop fields in a neighbouring char.

World Bank MD due today

UNB, Dhaka

Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, managing director of World Bank Group, arrives in Dhaka today for high level meetings on development priorities of Bangladesh. Officials said during her three-day visit, Dr Ngozi will hold high-level meetings with the government on development priorities for transformative and inclusive growth. She will also call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and hold meeting with the finance minister, agriculture minister, senior officials, civil society leaders and private sector representatives. This will be Dr Ngozi's second visit to Bangladesh since assuming office, the first one being in March 2008. Dr Ngozi received numerous awards and was named as one of the 100 most powerful women in the world by Forbes Magazine. She has been a powerful voice worldwide on behalf of girls' education and women's economic empowerment. Dr Ngozi will leave Dhaka on April 29.

Skeleton found in septic tank

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Police yesterday recovered a human skeleton from an abandoned septic tank of a primary school in Panchrukhi area under Arahazar upazila of the district. Sources said some students of Panchrukhi 38 Number Government Primary School first noticed the skeleton in the open tank yesterday and informed the school's teachers. Police sent the skeleton for autopsy. Hearing the news, one Shafiqur Rahman and his wife, residents of Paschimpara area, rushed to the spot and claimed the remains were of their son Abdul Hamid, who went missing two days before last Eid-ul-Fitr.



Recent rise in temperatures led to a rise in diarrhoea patients at International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) in the city.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

No proof of influence on police: Sahara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no proof of any move of the present government of favouring any of its party men as well as imposing of any influence on the police said Home Minister Sahara Khatun. She said this yesterday while she was briefing journalists after a quarterly meeting on law and order held at Police Headquarters in the city. The home minister said existing list of criminals has been updated ahead of second phase of union parishad polls to avert any unpleasant incidents. Referring to the outcome of the meeting, Sahara appreciated performance of the police during the first phase of UP polls. Sahara reminded the police to be alerted about trouble mongers, who will try to create anarchy centering the next phase of UP polls.

Basudev Dhar acting general secy of BBSP

BSS, Dhaka

Basudev Dhar, a renowned journalist, yesterday took over as the acting general secretary of Bangladesh-Bharat Sampriti Parishad (BBSP), says a press release. Dhar took up the responsibility at the advice of BBSP executive president and valiant freedom fighter MA Bari and chief adviser National Professor Kabir Chowdhury. The decision was taken as BBSP general secretary Prof Nimchandra Bhowmik had gone Nepal as ambassador of Bangladesh.

DOUBLE MURDER Three more arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested three accused persons from Sudharam of Noakhali on Sunday on charge of double murder in Hamidchar area under Chandgaon Police Station in Chittagong. The arrested are Yusuf Sarkar, 27, son of Ahmedur Rahman, Md Salauddin, 32, son of Siddique Ahmed and Md Alamgir, 25, son of Siddique Ahmed, all residents of the area. Mentionable, on April 17, a group of Hamidchar's residents locked in a clash with a group from Bolihata area over occupying a piece of land at Hamidchar to breed fish fries. Two people died and 15 others were injured in the half hour-long clash, said police. Sub-Inspector Abul Kalam Azad of Chandgaon Police Station said the arrestees confessed to the murder and informed police of two firearms and two machetes kept at Hamidchar area, which were recovered yesterday.

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Change in temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Khulna Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka 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 6:24pm and rises tomorrow at 5:28am.** Country's highest temperature 34.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 18.2 degrees at Rangpur.

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	21.8	66	75
Chittagong	30.1	25.2	68	69
Rajshahi	32.4	21.0	71	67
Rangpur	27.4	18.2	91	71
Khulna	32.0	23.5	69	91
Barisal	30.8	22.5	76	96

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