

NEWS IN *brief*

Recruiting agency official shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An abducted recruiting agency official was shot by assailants in Paltan area of the city last night. Mohammad Saifuddin, 35, manager of Al Faisal International, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, with four bullet wounds in both legs. Saifuddin told reporters that Abu Musa, a manpower broker, and six others took him to Paltan Balur Math and shot in the legs. Shahidul Haque, officer-in-charge of Paltan Police Station, said Abu Musa, about a year ago, gave Tk 1.8 lakh to Saifuddin who promised Musa's client to send abroad for jobs. But Saifuddin's agency neither sent Musa's client abroad nor gave him back the money, Haque said. "We have information that the incident happened on instructions of Musa," he said. Saifuddin's relatives filed a general diary in this connection yesterday.

One arrested with arms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One miscreant was arrested from Sheorapara Amtola in the city Wednesday night. SI of Kafurul Jalal Uddin said they arrested Billal and Delwar around 8:00pm on Wednesday. But Delwar managed to flee after hitting cops -- SI Jalal, ASI Asaduzzaman and an Ansar member. Following confessional statement of Billal, police also recovered two handmade bombs and one pistol with one bullet from near his house in Mirpur Pirebagh. Two cases were filed in this connection.

Jamaat blames govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami acting secretary general ATM Azharul Islam yesterday alleged that the government is trying to indict the party's detained Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami with the ten-truck arms haul case after failing to find his involvement in war crimes. At a press conference at its central office in Moghbazar in the city, Azharul alleged that Nizami and other detained leaders were being tortured during interrogation in a safe home. Five top Jamaat leaders are now behind bars facing war crimes charges during the country's War of Liberation in 1971. Jamaat leaders had taken a stand against the country's liberation and its leaders and activists were involved with Rajakaar, Al-Badr, Al-Shams and paramilitary forces, which aided the genocide conducted by the then Pakistani Army. The Jamaat leader demanded immediate release of their detained leaders. The party Assistant Secretary General Shafiqur Rahman, Publicity Secretary Prof Tasnim Alam and Dhaka city unit Ameer Rafiqul Islam Khan were present.

Ctg BNP protests share scam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong city unit BNP yesterday organised a rally protesting against the share scandal and demanding punishment to the people involved. Some time after the programme began at Nasiman Bhaban compound city's Kazir Dewry area, a sudden chaos emerged and people started fleeing the venue. About 50 activists including a significant number of women were hurt in the chaos, according to BNP sources. BNP leader and Jatiya Sangsad's ex-whip Syed Wahidul Alam said some chaos happened during the meeting, but it was nothing serious. He alleged that police hindered them to bring out a procession, triggering the disorder. Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said the BNP leaders did not take any permission from the administration to bring out the procession.

Man crushed under train's wheels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified man was crushed under the wheels of a Narayanganj-bound train on Dhaka-Narayanganj route at Jurain Baraitoli in the city yesterday. Quoting locals railway police said the accident took place when the man was walking on the rail line absent-mindedly.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the first death anniversary of Rowshan Ara Begum (Ruby), a retired assistant professor of Dhaka University Laboratory School and College, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at House No-56, Road No-7/A, Block-H, Banani in the city after Asr prayers. An orphan-feeding programme will also be held at the Korail Orphanage.

Relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Golapi Sarkar

BSS, Dhaka



Today is the third death anniversary of Golapi Sarkar, wife of late Mukundalal Sarkar, a leader of the anti-British movement, and mother of Ajit Sarker, city editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha.

On the occasion, a special prayer will be held in the city's Rayer Bazar residence of her third son Subash Chandra Sarkar.

All have been requested to pray for her departed soul.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of Alhaj Sharafat Hossain Chowdhury, a veteran politician and senior lawyer at the Supreme Court, will be held at Basundhara Residential Area Central Jame Mosque after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

His relatives, friends, and admirers are requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Alhaj Sharafat passed away at a city hospital on Monday. He was suffering from a brain disease.

He left behind his wife, three sons, three daughters, siblings, grandchildren, and a host of admirers to mourn the death.

Dr Nasreen Khundakar

METRO DESK



Qulkhwani of Dr Nasreen Khundakar, professor of economics of Dhaka University, will be held at her residence at 30F, Isha Kha Road, DU campus after Asr prayers today.

Her friends, family, associates, and admirers are requested to attend the qulkhwani, says a press release.

Prof Nasreen died at a city hospital on May 2 after prolonged suffering from acute renal failure. She was 55.

Dr Nasreen is survived by her husband, daughter, parents, and two siblings. She was laid to rest at Banani graveyard on May 3.



This road in Paikpara of Ahmednagar in the city's Mirpur dug up by Dhaka City Corporation around one week ago has not seen repairs yet. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

SCHOOL FUNDS

Make provision of tax rebate for donors: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked the officials concerned to make a provision so that a person who donates to the school funds get tax rebate.

This way the philanthropists will encourage donating to schools, which will have a financial base and gradually be free from depending on the government to function independently, added the prime minister.

"I want to see the schools across the country are standing on their own base, they will never be depended on others," she said while addressing a representatives' conference of the Primary School Teachers' Association (PSTA) of the private MPO listed primary schools at her office yesterday.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Dr Mohammad Afsarul Ameen, PM's Adviser Dr Alauddin Ahmed, State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Motahar Hossain, PSTA President Aminul Islam Chowdhury and Secretary General Monsur Ali spoke at the conference.

The prime minister viewed that the 'tax rebate system' for raising the fund for the schools would make the education system better. If the fund comes from school committee, the parents and the rich people of the area it would be good as all people of the locality will have the stake in the school and they will be sincere for the welfare of their educational institution.

Hasina said the educational quality of the country, especially in private educational institutions, should be raised as the quality is still below the standard.

Regarding the demand from the PSTA she said she would talk to the finance minister regarding nationalisation of the all MPO listed private schools. She reaffirmed her government's commitment towards the development of the educational system as she said: "To build a poverty free Bangladesh, education is the main tool."

Talks on with Myanmar to import gas

UNB, Dhaka

Talks are going on with neighbouring Myanmar to import gas for meeting the growing demand, said Prime Minister's Adviser Dr Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury yesterday.

He also indicated that under the move, the much talked about proposal of tri-nation - Myanmar-Bangladesh-India - gas pipeline project might be revived.

"If the issue of the tri-nation gas pipeline comes up again, we should not have any problem so far as our gas import is concerned," he told reporters at meet-the-press at the National Press Club.

Pointing to huge power generation programme, he claimed that about 1500MW of electricity would be added to the national grid by the year end.

"We are hopeful of increasing the power generation to 7000MW by 2013."

"Similarly, gas production will be increased by 1000 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD) by the same time," he added.

India had proposed the tri-nation gas pipeline in 2004. New Delhi had offered to build a 1000km gas pipeline from Myanmar to India via Bangladesh to import gas from Myanmar. But the project was left out for different reasons including US economic sanction on Myanmar.

20 RMG workers hurt as cops charge baton in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

At least 20 persons were injured when police charged batons to disperse workers demonstrating against the closure of two ready-made garment units in Siddhirganj of Narayanganj yesterday.

The agitating workers blocked the Narayanganj-Adamjee-Demra road for half an hour and vandalised at least eight to ten vehicles.

Witnesses said the workers of Epic Garments Manufacturing Company Limited at Adamjee Export Processing Zone came to know about the factories' closure when they went to the office around 8:00am.

The authorities declared closed its two

units -- Epic-1 and Epic-2 -- on Wednesday night for an indefinite period fearing workers' unrest, Nasiruddin Ahmed, executive director of the company, said.

Later, the workers staged demonstrations in front of the factory demanding reopening of the units.

At one stage, they put barricade on the road and vandalised the vehicles.

Police and Rapid Action Battalion personnel rushed to the spot and used truncheons to disperse the demonstrators, leaving 20 persons injured, said the witnesses.

Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Siddhirganj Police Station, confirmed the incident and said the situation is now under control.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

BNP to remove changes if voted to power

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of main opposition BNP yesterday asked the government to refrain from amending the constitution saying it has no jurisdiction to amend the charter and BNP will declare the changes null and void if voted to power.

Blaming ruling party men for the recent manipulation in the share market, they also stated BNP will bring to book all those involved in the scam.

They were addressing a rally organised in front of the party's central office at Nayapaltan to protest the stockmarket scam.

"Quit the power and form a constitutional assembly through a fresh election to make necessary amendments to the constitution," party's acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir asked the government while addressing the rally.

People will not accept any change in the constitution without BNP's participation, he added.

Mirza Alamgir also demanded the government give compensation to small investors who lost their capital during the slide in the share market.

Party standing committee member Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain said the government showed absolute failure in all sectors.

"They should quit right now making way for a midterm election to be held under a neutral caretaker government. Otherwise people will force them to step down through mass movement," warned Mosharrar.

Referring to a probe report on the stockmarket scam, another standing committee member MK Anwar said 60 persons were involved in the incident. BNP will identify and bring to justice each of them who plundered money from the capital market.

Party leaders Osman Farruk, Abdullah Al Noman, Fazlur Rahman, Zainul Abdin Farroque, among others, addressed the rally.

Different district units of the party handed over memorandums to deputy commissioners demanding punishment of individuals involved in the scam.



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Glaxose WEATHER TODAY
100% GLUCOSE

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital at 6:29pm today and rises at 5:21am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 20.0 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	32.2	23.2	81	93
Chittagong	31.5	23.2	64	72
Rajshahi	32.4	21.6	79	73
Rangpur	31.6	21.5	75	61
Khulna	33.5	22.7	83	66
Barisal	32.8	23.0	83	75
Sylhet	34.5	23.0	69	51