

NEWS IN brief

Three mugged in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of teenage muggers stabbed two pedestrians and beat up a Daily Star staff and looted their valuables at West Shewrapara in the city early yesterday. Of the victims, one was identified as Sekander Ali, senior electrician of The Daily Star. Identity of others could not be known immediately. Sekander said the gang numbering eight to ten attacked him while he was returning to his house from office by a motorcycle at around 2:30am at Pirebagh road near his residence. He said the muggers also attacked two other pedestrians and looted a mobile phone, Tk 3,000 in cash and beat him up severely.

Nasrin murder: Case filed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lutfal Kabir, brother of Nasrin Akhter who was hacked to death on Monday night in a room inside her apartment at Banani Road No 27, filed a case with the Gulshan police yesterday. Kabir in the case mentioned that he suspects that Nasrin's domestic help Liza and her accomplices killed his sister and looted cash and gold ornaments. Gulshan police Monday night recovered Nasrin's body. Kabir told The Daily Star that his sister and Liza used to live in the apartment. Md Shah Alam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Gulshan police station, said Nasrin brought Liza from Mymensingh three months back. He said police were trying to arrest Liza to unearth the cause behind the alleged murder.

Mother's killer sent to prison

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court sent Habib Mughal, 28, the self-confessed killer of his mother, to Dhaka Central jail after Mirpur police produced him before it yesterday. Habib, with a brick, battered his sleeping mother to death on Monday evening and went to Mirpur Police Station and confessed the killing. Mujibur Rahman Ansari, maternal uncle of Habib, said Habib was suffering from mental illness for the last 12 years and was admitted to mental hospital several times. He also attempted to kill his parents twice in the past. Rokhsana Begum, 45, the victim, was wife of Ataur Rahman of West Shewrapara in Mirpur.

Judicial Service Commission launches website

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque yesterday launched the official website of Judicial Service Commission at the commission's office in the city. Important information including vacancy announcements will be found at the site www.jscbd.org.bd Among others, Justice Syed Refat Ahmed, Justice Md Emdadul Haque, Secretary of public administration ministry Iqbal Mahmud and Secretary to the law and justice division of law ministry Shahidul Karim were present at the launching ceremony, said a press release.

Shaving of woman's hair protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad has strongly condemned and protested the forced shaving of hair of a housewife by fatwa issuers at Binahali of Adamdighi upazila in Bogra on Monday. The organisation also demanded arrest of and exemplary punishment to the people responsible for the incident and urged the government to take effective measures to stop issuing of illegal fatwa, says a press release. Mahila Parishad said some bigots from a village arbitration issued a fatwa to shave off the head of a housewife at Binahali bringing false allegation of adultery against her.



The dilapidated portion of Mitford-Gabtoi Beribadh road in Sowari Ghat area in the city is frequently waterlogged, causing immense suffering to the commuters. PHOTO: STAR

30 passengers jump off train as locomotive catches fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Some 30 passengers received minor injuries when they jumped off a running train after its locomotive caught fire near Belpukur Railway Station in Rajshahi yesterday. The locomotive of Mahananda Express, the Khulna-bound train from Chapinawabganj, caught fire moments after it left Belpukur station around 12:00pm, said railway officials and passengers. Sensing the fire, Shahidul Islam, a railway staff onboard, jumped off the running train followed by several other passengers, they said. The driver stopped the train and managed to put off the fire by themselves. The train left for its destination an hour later.

7TH AMENDMENT SC hearing on HC verdict concludes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday concluded hearing on the appeal filed against a High Court verdict declaring illegal the seventh amendment to the constitution that legitimised the military rule of HM Ershad. The court will deliver its verdict any day. A six-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque yesterday kept the matter waiting for judgment after concluding the hearing on the appeal against the August 26 HC verdict. Following petition filed by one Siddique Ahmed of Chittagong seeking bail in during the regime of HM HC bench of Shamsuddin Manik and Md Zakir ered the judgment. In the judgment, the HC certificate so that an appeal can be filed automatically with the apex court against the HC verdict. Siddique Ahmed filed the writ petition with the HC in January last year, challenging the legality of the seventh amendment that had ratified the proclamation of martial law and other regulations, orders, and instructions by Ershad between March 24, 1982 and November 10, 1986. The petitioner also contested his murder conviction in 1987 by a martial law court, and sought an order for retrial. He was sentenced to life in prison in the case. He also prayed to the HC for retrial of the case against him and for his acquittal from the charge.

The Supreme Court will deliver its verdict any day

Huji leaders visited Hawa Bhaban several times

Top official of Islamic NGO Rashid tells court about Aug 21 grenade attack

KAILASH SARKAR

Top official of Al Markajul Islami, Mufti Abdur Rashid, who was picked up and later released by CID confessed before a Dhaka court on Monday that the Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) leaders visited Hawa Bhaban several times using their ambulances and the Islamic NGO funded the Huji activities. The CID men picked up Vice-chairman of the NGO Rashid on Sunday in August 21 grenade attack case. However, Al-Markajul Islam at a press conference at its Babor Road office in Mohammadpur in the city yesterday evening claimed that the CID personnel forcibly picked up their Rashid from their office and forced him to sign on papers for statement. But CID special SP Abdul Kahar Akand, also investigation officer of the case, denied the allegation and said, "Rashid is not an accused [in the grenade attack case]. He gave his statement positively as a witness." Mufti Rashid also gave statement before the CID officials on Monday regarding the grenade attack on a rally of Awami League at Bangabandhu Avenue in 2004 that left 24 people dead and 300 others injured. According to the sources, Rashid in the statement said before the attack, he accom-

panied Huji leaders Abdus Salam, Mufti Hannan, Abu Taher, Sheikh Farid and Sabbir when they went to Hawa Bhaban at Banani by the ambulances of Al Markajul Islami for holding meetings. "The NGO funded often the Huji leaders for carrying out their activities. The masterminds of the attack also had a series of planning meetings at the NGO's office in the capital and the perpetrators fled the scene in one of its ambulances." Replying to a query at Al Markajul Islami office yesterday evening, Rashid told The Daily Star, "I was not allowed to see the copies of statement, but the CID official read out the speech to me." Asked, Rashid said he could not understand why did the Huji leaders mentioned his name to the CID and why did the CID personnel picked up him. Hailing from Gopalganj district, Rashid said he stayed at Karachi New Town Madrasa in Pakistan from 1985 to 1997, he did not know Huji chief Mufti Hannan, who also stayed there for a long time, as well as he did not know any of the Huji leaders earlier. Meanwhile, at the press conference, Al Markajul Islami Acting Chairman Mufti Sayeed Nur also said that they are not aware of the reason behind picking up Rashid.

City worker killed in fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A construction worker was killed allegedly by falling from the 5th floor of an under-construction building at Uttara in the city yesterday. The deceased, Rakib Hossain alias Jentu Miah, worked as a tiles-fitting worker at the apartment. Uttara Police Station Sub-Inspector Abu Bakar Siddique, quoting the victim's coworkers, said Rakib was feeling sick from the morning and he fell from the building around 9:00am while still at work. Rakib succumbed to his injuries around 1:00pm at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Police sent his body to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Medical student dies in road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A private medical college student died after being run over by a bus at Pirijpur in Sylhet city yesterday. Dead is Fahim Ahmed, 19, son of Mashuk Miah of Pathatola area in Sylhet city. He was studying at North East Medical College of South Surma. Fahim was crushed by a college he was getting off near his college at Pirijpur around 3:00pm. He died at the college hospital three and half-hour later.



Nitol, Sagor Duja president, general secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hasan Nitol of ATN Bangla and Asaduzzaman Sagor of the daily Amar Desh have been elected president and general secretary of Dhaka University Journalists' Association (Duja) for one year. The election was held at its office at TSC on DU campus yesterday. Other office bearers are: Vice President: Biplob Chandra Sarker of the daily Janakantha; Joint Secretary: Tariqul Islam of the Dainik Destiny; Treasurer: Masum Khan of Radio Today; Office Secretary Farukh Hossain of the daily Inqilab; Executive Members: Rafiqul Islam of the Daily Sun, Mahub Roni of the daily Ittefaq, and Mohammad Yusuf of the daily Independent. Duja's former general secretary Ilias Khan, former president Abul Kalam Azad, and former general secretary Hasan Jahid Tusher were the election commissioners.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calls on her Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan at Kutfi Kirdar Convention Centre, Istanbul on Monday. PHOTO: PID

5TH AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION SC verdict on govt's review petition today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court will deliver the verdict today on the government's review petition against its judgment on the fifth amendment to the constitution. On February 2 last year, the SC judgement upheld the 2005 High Court verdict declaring the fifth amendment illegal, with some observations and modifications. The amendment had ratified all those actions that made the charter subordinate to martial law proclamations, orders, and regulations during around four years after August 15, 1975. On March 14, the government filed

the review petition against some of the SC observations on transitional and temporary provisions. The five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Md Muzammel Hossain on April 7 fixed today the date for passing the judgement after concluding hearing on the petition. The government in the petition prayed to the apex court to cancel its observations, which condoned provisions regarding transitional and temporary periods in Article 150 of the constitution. If the SC observations remain in force, there would be provision for considering the transitional and temporary

period, meaning the state before framing of the constitution, it said. The government also prayed for upholding the HC Division observations, which did not condone those provisions. The High Court has nullified the provision in the fourth schedule of the constitution that deals with Article-150. It said, "Article-150 of the constitution should be sealed off forever..." since the transitional period is between April 10, 1971 and December 16, 1972. The door of Article-150 of the constitution should be closed forever so that no new "adventurist" can inject unlawful and extra-constitutional materials, the High Court said.



- Debate: Multi Media Production Co. Ltd will organise a debate competition. Time: 3:00pm, Venue: Bashundhara city.
- Roundtable: Doctors Association of Bangladesh (Dab) will hold a roundtable on constitution. Time: 3:00pm, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.
- Conference: Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) will organise an anniversary conference. Time: 11:00am, Venue: Biam auditorium.
- Seminar: Care Bangladesh will hold a seminar. Time: 7:00pm, Venue: Sonargaon Hotel.
- Meeting: Journalism Training & Research Initiative (Jatri) will hold a meeting. Time: 12:30pm, Venue: Jatri premises.
- Rally: Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) will hold a protest rally. Time: 10:00am, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.
- Seminar

Glaxose WEATHER TODAY 100% GLUCOSE  
Rain likely  
UNB, Dhaka  
Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Comilla in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Weather may remain dry with temporarily partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Mild heat wave is sweeping over Khulna and it may continue, Met Office said. Day temperature may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital at 6:32pm today and rises at 5:18am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 37.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 20.3 degrees Celsius at Bogra. 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	34.3	23.3	62	68
Chittagong	32.0	25.8	79	80
Rajshahi	33.0	23.5	88	83
Rangpur	32.1	23.0	74	65
Khulna	36.5	26.4	80	68
Barisal	34.7	24.8	77	73

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