

NEWS IN *brief*

Body of housemaid recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a female domestic help from a house at Kalyanpur in the city yesterday.

The deceased, Monowara Renu, 46, of Patharghata upazila of Barguna, worked at Khalilur Rahman's house at Shahid Minar road of the area.

The employer family claimed Renu died of profuse bleeding from mouth and nose around 10:00pm Sunday.

Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, quoted the family members as saying Renu fell sick while wiping floor of the house and died on the way to hospital.

Renu had been working there since last one and a half years.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

25kg of grapes destroyed, sellers fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday destroyed 25kg of grapes ripened with chemical and penalised the sellers Tk 2 lakh at a market in the city's Mohammadpur yesterday.

Dhaka District Executive Magistrate Al-Amin, who led the drive at Mohammadpur Prince Bazar Ltd, found the grapes mixed with chemical.

Prince Bazar authorities told the court that they did not mix chemical with the grapes; they just buy grapes from Sowarighat everyday.

Al-Amin said the mobile court fined the vendors for selling the grapes without examining those after purchase.

The mobile court also conducted a drive at Shantinagar fish market, but did not find any presence of formalin in the fish.

In another drive, the court sentenced the manager of Masum Restaurant at New Eskaton to 15 days in jail for preparing food items in unhygienic environment and preserving and selling those.

Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) took the initiative to conduct the drives with support from the Department of Environment (DoE) and Rab-2.

Malaysian killed in city road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Malaysian citizen was killed in a road accident at Kakoli in the city early yesterday.

The deceased identified as Palani Appan, 61, fell victim while he was going to hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel from the airport by a car around 12:00noon.

Police said Palani arrived at Shahjalal International Airport from Malaysia around 11:00pm.

The accident occurred when a truck suddenly hit Palani's car as its driver lost control over the steering, said Mohammad Shah Alam, officer-in-charge of Gulshan police station.

The passengers, including the driver suffered serious injuries and locals rushed them to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared Palani dead.

Two others were shifted to a city clinic from DMCH as their condition deteriorated.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue.

They seized the truck but its driver managed to escape, Shah Alam said.

Kamrul Ashraf new BFA chair

METRO DESK

Kamrul Ashraf Khan was elected the chairman of Bangladesh Fertilizer Association (BFA) for the period between 2011 and 2013, says a press release.

The election to the new committee of BFA, held on May 19, was conducted by BFA election board chairman MA Malek.

A 33-member board of directors of BFA also elected five vice-chairmen: Momen Sarkar, Saifuddin Mahmud, Shahjalal Hossain, Abul Kalam Azad, and Halim Shikdar.

Faizur Rahman Bokul was elected BFA's new finance director.

RANGAMATI KILLINGS
UPDF enforces road, river blockadeOUR CORRESPONDENT,
Rangamati

At least one person was bullet-hitted during yesterday's dawn-to-dusk road and waterway blockade in Rangamati called by United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) protesting the killing of its four members on Saturday.

Pervez Alam, a passenger in a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, was injured when unknown criminals opened fire from a roadside bush in Shalbagh area, some twenty-five km off Rangamati.

Alam, 20, of Chandanaish village in Chittagong, was hit in the leg and was admitted to Rangamati General Hospital.

An auto-rickshaw driver was wounded as pickets beat him at Moghachhara on the Chittagong-Rangamati road around 10:00am, Kawkhali police said.

All kinds of vehicular movement on the road and waterways were closed during the day-long blockade.

Baby Islam's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of noted cinematographer, director, and producer Baby Islam.

On the occasion, his family members and members of Shararitu, a cultural organisation, will place wreaths at his tomb at Banani Graveyard in the city at 4:00pm.

A milad mahfil and qurankhwani will be held at Lalmatia, Block-C mosque after Jumma prayers on Friday.

Shararitu will also hold a memorial meeting on Baby Islam at Gonoshangskritik Kendra at Shahbagh at 4:00pm Friday.

Baby Islam was born in 1931 in Murshidabad, West Bengal. He worked with noted Indian director Ajoy Kar as assistant director. In 1956, he joined as senior photographer at the information department in Dhaka. He also served as the general manager of FDC.

He received several prestigious awards for his outstanding contribution to the film industry.

Syed Kamrul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 28th death anniversary of parliamentarian Barrister Syed Kamrul Islam Mohammad Salehuddin, says a press release.



Nongor, a social organisation to save river, lights candles as part of a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding that May 23 be declared as "naval safety day".

PHOTO: STAR

TRADE, TEESTA WATER, BORDER ISSUES WITH INDIA

Dipu Moni sees progress

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said Bangladesh and India achieved substantial progress in important areas, including resolving sharing of Teesta water, border demarcation and trade imbalance.

She said both countries also made big progress in implementing Indo-Bangladesh Joint

Communiqué issued during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in January last year.

Dipu Moni said this while responding to questions at a regular press conference at the foreign ministry.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to New Delhi generated much expectation and many of the issues would be resolved through Indian prime minister's visit to Bangladesh," she added.

However, Dipu Moni could not mention when Indian Prime

Minister Manmohan Singh's visit would be but said it would be "soon".

Replying to a question about the service charge for providing transit to India, she said, "It is a very big issue involving many factors.

"Service charge would also depend on how much user countries like India, Bhutan and Nepal would benefit by using the transit offered by Bangladesh."

She said foreign ministry and National Board of Revenue are working on it to ensure a win-win situation for the countries concerned.

Journalists asked Dipu Moni whether it was a breach of diplomatic protocol when she and Sheikh Hasina felicitated Trinomul Congress leader Mamata Banerjee on her election victory in West Bengal assembly election.

In reply, she said it was quite natural as the prime minister has a very good personal relation with

Mamata Banerjee whose Trinomul Congress routed the communists, who had been in power since 1977.

Dipu Moni hoped that the Mamata government in West Bengal would extend all cooperation in resolving issues with Bangladesh and would not stand against Bangladesh's interest.

On BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's discussions on Bangladesh's internal political affairs with British and American leaders, Dipu Moni said people will judge whether they feel embarrassed if the opposition leader seeks help abroad and gains strength.

She said it was quite natural that the prime minister or leader of the opposition, being a public representative, discusses political matters of their countries while visiting a foreign country.

"But if it is an exclusively internal political matter and tantamount to

complaints, then people will judge it," she added.

She reiterated that Bangladesh's bilateral relations were not strained with any country over the affairs of Grameen Bank and Prof Yunus, which she said was a legal matter.

In reply to another question, Dipu Moni denied a report that Bangladesh was asked by the US to snap diplomatic ties with Libya.

She said Bangladesh still maintains diplomatic relations with Libya where more than 30,000 Bangladeshis are living. If any delegation from Libya comes to Bangladesh, the government will not oppose it, she added.

Acting Foreign Secretary Mustafa Kamal, Additional Foreign Secretary (UNCLOS) Rear Admiral (Retd) Md Khurshed Alam and foreign minister's Director Generals Muhammad A Muhi, Shameem Ahsan and Mashfee Binte Shams were present.



Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal brings out a procession in the city yesterday protesting recent hike of bus fare and demanding reform of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

PHOTO: STAR

Bus fare hike condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Mohanagar Shommonay committee of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) yesterday condemned the recent hike of bus fare in the capital.

The new fare, which has been charged by the bus owners pointing at fuel cost hike, is totally unreasonable and inhuman, said JSD leaders at a human chain, says a press release.

JSD standing committee member Shirin Akhtar, Nazmul Hoque Prodhan, and organising secretary Obaidur Rahman Chunnu also spoke at the human chain formed in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

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No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Sylhet division and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in 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 6:38pm today and rises at 5:13am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and lowest 21.5 degrees Celsius at Ishwardi.

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	30.6	24.7	83	83
Chittagong	31.2	22.0	71	77
Rajshahi	34.2	23.7	96	77
Rangpur	30.0	22.0	98	76
Khulna	36.2	27.8	84	70
Barisal	35.0	25.0	77	87
Sylhet	27.5	24.4	95	91

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