

NEWS IN brief

Unidentified youth found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of an unidentified man aged about 34 from the city's central road area yesterday.

The youth in shirt and pants was found lying on a road in front of a house in the area.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy. The morgue sources said there was a mark of slight injury on his chin but that is not

Housewife killed in wall collapse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-month pregnant housewife was killed as portion of a kitchen's wall collapsed on her in the city's Kamrangirchar yesterday.

Deceased is Kohinur Rahman, 24, wife of Abdul Gani. The couple lived in a rented flat at Rasulpur.

Some bricks of the kitchen wall broke loose and fell on Kohinur's head while she was cooking. She

20 foreign journos arrive on visit

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Twenty journalists and analysts from nine countries arrived on a weeklong visit to Bangladesh yesterday at the invitation of the foreign ministry.

The programme styled "Visit Bangladesh Programme" aims to familiarise media men with positive developments in Bangladesh.

The senior and influential media delegates would represent Australia, China, India, Iran, Oman, Malaysia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and the US, says a press release.

They would meet the foreign minister, informa-



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

This manhole lid in the middle of Shyamoli Ring Road in the city recently broke posing a threat to traffic. The photo was taken Friday.

DEATH IN DB CUSTODY Victim's family calls it a murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of a former Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute scientific officer who died while in custody of the Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday claimed that the DB police had killed him 'intentionally'.

Abdullah Al Mamun was brought dead to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) on Thursday night by the DB police as an unidentified body. His family identified him on Friday.

Family members of the victim alleged yesterday that the family of Mamun's ex-wife has conspired with the DB police to have him 'killed' in custody. The ex-wife's family has a long going dispute with Mamun.

Assistant Commissioner of DB Rounok Jahan told the Daily Star that Mamun had been arrested for possession of drugs following information gathered by the DB branch. He died after he swallowed a large quantity of heroin when arrested.

Mamun's brother-in-law Zahirul Islam from Bogram however claimed that Mamun had no drug related problems. In fact he had been a nonsmoker all his life, he said. He refuted the DB police's statement and said he had seen injury marks on Mamun's dead body at the DMCH morgue.

The victim, Abdullah Al Mamun, a former scientific officer of Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute at Savar, was arrested with his driver from Taher Automobiles near Film Development Corporation gate on Thursday night.

Boy dies in rooftop fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A madrasa student named Mahmudul Islam, 13, died after falling from the rooftop of a five-storey building at Nurpur of the city's Kadamtoli last evening.

Mahmudul, a class VIII student at Talmul Millat Cadet Madrasa, fell as he was running to the railing to catch a ball while playing cricket on the roof.

He was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Mahmudul's father Shahidul Islam Fakir works at Islami Bank Central Hospital.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Nasima Begum, a gynaecologist of Bridgend hospital at Cardiff in England, passed away on Friday due to cancer at the age of 65, says a press release.

She left behind her husband and one daughter.

She will be buried in London.

Dhaka Medical College K 22 batch condoled her death.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tomorrow is the first death anniversary of Shamsun Nahar, mother of Abu Kawsar, a senior reporter of Dainik Samakal and general secretary of Economic Reporters' Forum, says a press release.

On the occasion, qurankhwani and doa mahfil will be held at her village home at Palishara village of Hajiganj thana in Chandpur.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the programmes.

Sohel Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the seventh death anniversary of theater activist Sohel Chowdhury, says a press release.

On the occasion, doa mahfil will be held at his village home in Habiganj and at his residence in Dhaka.

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

Peacekeepers hailed

President, PM praise Bangladeshi in UN missions

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed their felicitations to the UN peacekeepers on the occasion of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers to be observed today.

The president in a message said, "I would like to convey my heartiest greetings to all the members of Bangladesh Armed Forces and Bangladesh Police serving in different UN Peacekeeping Missions."

Zillur Rahman said Bangladesh is a peace-loving country and working at

international forum with a view to upholding global peace and amity.

He said it is a matter of pride that Bangladeshi peacekeepers have been making a resplendent contribution towards establishing global peace and tranquility since their deployment in UN Peacekeeping Mission in 1988.

Bangladesh, indeed, has obtained a dignified position in the international arena for its peacekeepers' displaying the highest standard of professionalism, courage and dedication, he added.

"I pay my tribute to the memory of the peacekeepers who made the supreme sacrifices during their duties

in UN Peacekeeping Operations," the president said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a separate message, said, "I pay my homage to all UN Peacekeeping heroes who sacrificed their lives for promoting global peace. I extend my best wishes to all the peacekeepers, including the Bangladeshi ones."

She said Bangladesh is currently the topmost troops contributing country to the UN Peacekeeping mission. Nearly 10,600 personnel of our armed and police forces have been working in 10 peacekeeping missions in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

Indian foreign secy due June 6

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao will be in Dhaka on June 6 in the run up to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's proposed official visit to Bangladesh later this year.

Rao is expected to be in Dhaka for a couple of days, followed by Indian Foreign Minister SM Krishna and Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram possibly in June-July. Dates for Krishna's and Chidambaram's visits are yet to be confirmed.



PHOTO: PID

Change in temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowsers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions in 24 hours till 6pm tomorrow (Sunday).

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital tomorrow at 6:40pm and rises on Monday at 5:11am.

Country's highest temperature 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded today at Sylhet and lowest 22.1 degrees at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns today were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage		
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.7	25.0	77	86
Chittagong	32.0	26.2	82	92
Rajshahi	34.5	25.8	82	72
Rangpur	33.5	24.7	67	70
Khulna	34.0	26.3	74	71
Barisal	33.0	26.0	73	83
Sylhet	35.5	23.1	78	61

Instant energy, instant recharge



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2,500-ACRE LAND GRABBING

Railway beefs up eviction drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway has strengthened its eviction drive to recover about 2,500 acres of its land illegally occupied by influential people in the country.

The railway authorities recently wrote to its four divisional estate offices in Rajshahi, Pabna, Lalmonirhat and Chittagong to launch the drives simultaneously.

"To start with we will recover the land that has no legal complications," Railway Director General TA Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the railway authority would

take legal steps to repossess the remaining land which face court injunction or other legal complications.

Meanwhile Chief Estate Officer Kamal Uddin of the West Zone said they are expediting the drive on receiving the instruction from higher authorities.

"The main difficulty estate offices face in doing it is the shortage of magistrates and police force," he added.

Bangladesh Railway authority owns about 63,312 acres of land, a large part of which has been lost to encroachers. The authority has been carrying out drives against land grabbers but most of the efforts remain futile largely because of

pressure and interception from influential quarters backed by politicians including ruling party leaders.

Some of the land recovered in the past was lost again to these influential people.

The encroachers run unauthorised businesses on the grabbed land by constructing markets or slums there.

Some have even built religious structures like mosques and shrines.

Various government bodies also occupy around about 804 acres of railway land without railway approval. They do not pay the railway for the use of land either, sources in the railway said.

ADVENTURE FEST
Mini marathon marks 6th day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mini marathon, walkathon and skating competition took place yesterday on the sixth day of the adventure fest organised marking the first anniversary of Everest conquest by Musa Ibrahim.

Besides a memorial book on the conquest titled "Jamon Dekhne Bangladesh" was also launched.

North Alpine Club of Bangladesh is observing the anniversary with a weeklong Adventure Fest with assistance from Shah Cement.