

NEWS IN *brief*

Body recovered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of an unidentified man from the city's Karwan Bazar area yesterday. Police said the man aged about 38, might have been killed in a road accident at any time of Friday night. The deceased was sick and his abdomen was heavily bandaged, police added. The body was sent to DMC morgue for autopsy.

Valuables stolen from two flats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Around 36 tolas of gold ornaments and Tk 4 lakh in cash were stolen from two locked flats of a five-storey building in front of Sheikh Baharullah Mosque at Panchlaish in the port city yesterday. Police said the theft took place around 3:00am when the thieves locked up the doors of all the flats from outside and took away the valuables from third and fourth floor.

30 hurt in pre-hartal violence in Rajshahi

STAR REPORT

At least 30 people including a police man were injured yesterday evening in a clash between law enforcers and BNP activists in Rajshahi city.

Khan Mohammad Shahrar, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Boalia Police Station, sustained a bullet injury to the chest during the clash that lasted for about 40 minutes, reported our staff correspondent, Rajshahi.

The clash began around 6:30pm when police obstructed a pre-hartal procession heading towards Zero Point of Shaheb Bazar after a half-an-hour's rally at Bhubanmahan Park.

The procession of some 100 BNP activists tried to cross the police barricade but police men charged batons and fired 40 tear-shells to disperse the crowd. The BNP activists pelted police men with brickbats and vandalised 15 shops, one car and five motorbikes.

Joint Secretary of the district BNP unit Mizanur Rahman Minu, Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul and Shafiqul Haq Milon were among the injured in the clash.

Nayek Khalilur Rahman with injuries to the head was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

HIGHEST POLICE PRESENCE IN DHAKA

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police authorities yesterday noon started deploying police at key points in the capital to avert any possible pre-hartal violence.

At a press briefing yesterday at DMP headquarters, DMP Commissioner Benazir Ahmed said a huge number of police members will be present on city streets today to resist all kinds of violation in the name of hartal.

The main opposition BNP and its ally Jamaat-e-Islami on Wednesday called a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal today in protest at what they claimed was the government's move to cancel the caretaker government system.

The DMP commissioner said law enforcers' duty is to uphold citizens' rights in any situation. The police will do anything for maintaining peace in the capital. The DMP commissioner requested city dwellers to keep them from all kind of destructive activities during the hartal. The police would not harass any political activists or people until they engage themselves in violence, he added.

About traffic movement during the hartal, the DMP commissioner said police will provide highest security for buses and other vehicles.

CALL FOR WITHDRAWING HARTAL

Several socio-political organisations yesterday urged the main opposition BNP to withdraw today's hartal considering the public suffering and economic loss of the state.

Bangladesh Awami Olama League organised an anti-hartal meeting at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday where speakers said BNP does not have any right to obstruct country's development in the name of hartal.

They urged BNP lawmakers to join parliament to discuss their demands and find a solution.

Bangladesh Christian Association also strongly demanded withdrawal of today's hartal.

Meanwhile, former BNP lawmaker Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman at a press conference at his city residence said today's hartal will be harmful to BNP.

He said leaders and activists of BNP will mostly remain out of the streets in the capital. Akhtaruzzaman requested BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to move around the capital herself during the strike.

A press release yesterday says the mini buses of Dhaka Sarak Paribahan Samity will be plying the city routes today during hartal.



Local residents find it hard to pass this road at Golapbagh in the city dug up by Dhaka City Corporation to work on sewer pipes. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Obituary

RU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Tahmina Alom, a teacher of History Department of Rajshahi University (RU), passed away at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital on Friday at the age of 49, says a press release.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held on Government Laboratory School premises after Juma prayers.

She was buried at the Kadirganj graveyard in the city.

RU Vice-chancellor Prof Abus Sobhan and Pro vice-chancellor Prof Muhammad Nurullah condoled her death.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 23rd death anniversary of Atiqur Rahman, an organizer of the

Liberation War and founder president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) city unit, says a press release.

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

Md Turab Ali

METRO DESK



Today is the 32nd death anniversary of Alhaj Maulvi Md Turab Ali, father of

martyred Engr Fazlur Rahman and martyred Md Rafiqul Islam Baset, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil and doa mahfil will be held at his village home at Kazir Kandi in Narsingdi after Zohr prayers today.

Lutfunnessa Ibrahim

METRO DESK



The 11th death anniversary of Begum Lutfunnessa Ibrahim, wife of

Justice Mohammed Ibrahim, will be held today.

On the occasion, milad mahfil will be held at her residence in the morning, food will be distributed among the destitute and wreaths will be placed at her grave in Banani in the city.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY TODAY

Call for collaborative global efforts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Environment Day 2011 will be observed in the country today as elsewhere across the world highlighting crucial environmental, economic and social roles played by forests.

The theme of the day "Forests: Nature at Your Service" calls for collaborative global efforts for increased investment in forest management and forest resources to increase employment, reduce deforestation and help tackle climate change.

Marking the day, speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the government to enact a new forest act as the old law ceased to be relevant.

"The old act, promulgated for India in 1927, is not applicable anymore," said environmentalist Barrister Abu Raihan Khalid at the seminar organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city.

"An entirely new act is needed keeping in mind the needs and challenges of urbanisation and global warming," he said.

The speakers said many forest officers have to cut down trees and sell the timber to pay for boats hired for official duties and cellphone bills, as there are no government allowances for these expenses.

This plays an important role in

deforestation in the country, they said.

Earlier, in his keynote presentation, environment researcher Pavel Partha said some forest officials use the right to shoot anyone for saving forest resources to their own advantage.

In fact, many people from indigenous communities were shot dead in the past under false accusations, he said.

The speakers called for more budgetary allocation for forest preservation, more employment opportunities for people residing in forest areas and more facilities for forest officials.

At a human chain in front of city's Jatiya Press Club, Coalition of Local

NGOs, Bangladesh demanded Tk 3,00,000 crore from developed countries over the next 20 years to help protect the country's farmlands, wetlands, forest and wildlife.

Save The Environment Movement organised discussions rallies and human chains in 64 districts across the country.

Centre for Disaster and Vulnerability Studies of social science department in Dhaka University organised a seminar at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban observing the day.

UN General Assembly established World Environment Day in 1972 to mark the opening of Stockholm Conference on Human Environment.



Department of Environment and Ministry of Environment and Forest jointly bring out a procession of floats from in front of National Museum in the city yesterday marking the World Environment Day 2011 today.

PHOTO: STAR

Neglect raises adolescent health risk

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of attention to adolescents' healthcare in general and their reproductive health in particular increases the vulnerability of around 33 million adolescents (aged between 10 and 19) in the country, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

As the adolescents pass through a transition period of physical and mental change, they encounter an array of health and social vulnerabilities that often lead them to engage in risky sexual behaviour even.

So it is important to address their vulnerabilities through increasing their knowledge on reproductive health and

creating a supporting environment so that they can share their problems with their parents and seek medical services if necessary, said the speakers.

Speakers at the dissemination seminar of mid-term review of Strengthening Adolescent Reproductive Health Project also said that increased knowledge on reproductive health and support from the parents and community people can play an important role.

Plan Bangladesh organised the seminar on mid-term review conducted by Nielsen at the city's Spectra convention centre where the achievement of the project was highlighted.

The mid-term review revealed that knowledge on risky behaviours has

increased among the adolescents at Plan's Intervention area in Dhaka City Corporation, Sreepur, Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat, Chittagong City Corporation, and Shitakunda.

The project covering 2 lakh adolescents in these areas offered awareness-building programme among the teenagers through peer educators, community leaders, and schoolteachers.

Health Secretary Humayun Kabir was the chief guest while Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services Khondhaker Shefeyet Ullah, Director General of the Directorate General of Family Planning MM Neazuddin, and representatives of Plan Bangladesh were present among others.

BNP has no respect for law: Sajeda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury here yesterday said BNP's hartal is anti-people and against the Supreme Court verdict that declared caretaker government system illegal and unconstitutional.

"The government is respectful to the law and the apex court and it is executing the decision. But in the name of democracy, BNP and its leaders are showing disrespect to the law," she said.

Terming hartal illegal the AL leader urged BNP and its chairperson to come the parliament to discuss the verdict and highlight the importance of caretaker government if it is necessary.

Sajeda was addressing the inauguration ceremony of Chittagong City Corporation Kaiser- Nilufer College as the chief guest with CCC Mayor Mohammad Manjur Alam in the chair at Korbaniganj in the port city.

Sajeda at another discussion said the Supreme Court gave the verdict against the caretaker government and now change of the decision depends on public opinion and the parliament.

"Majority of the parliamentarians, who are directly elected by people, want the constitution of 1972 that does not contain any concept of caretaker government. So we have no alternative to change the constitution."

She was addressing as the chief guest the discussion at Chittagong Circuit House arranged by National Human Rights Commission, Chittagong Metropolitan City.

Glaxose WEATHER TODAY
100% GLUCOSE

Thundershowers likely
UNB, Dhaka

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

Mild heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna and Bogra and it may continue.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:43pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 37.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.0 degrees Celsius 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	36.0	25.5	77	69
Chittagong	32.4	27.0	79	80
Rajshahi	37.5	27.0	79	91
Rangpur	33.3	24.0	84	77
Khulna	37.4	26.6	74	67
Barisal	35.1	26.6	77	74
Sylhet	33.0	26.5	84	69

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