

NEWS IN *brief*

PM meets president

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid a call on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban yesterday evening.

During the meeting, the prime minister apprised the president of her recent visit to Turkey, Switzerland and France.

Welcoming Hasina at Bangabhaban, Zillur said Bangladesh's relations with other countries of the world have improved more through her visits.

Nazrul, Jafrul new Sramik Dal president, general secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nazrul Islam Khan and Muhammad Jafrul Hasan were made president and general secretary respectively of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal.

A 35-member central committee for 2011-2013 was formed at its national council on June 6.

Other office-bearers are Executive President Abul Kashem Chowdhury, Senior Vice President Mozibur Rahman Saroar and vice presidents Muhammad Mohiuddin, Rofiqul Islam Dulal, AM Nazimuddin, Farazi Motiur Rahman, Firoz Mia and Abdus Sobhan Mia.

Pintu's bail stay extended

UNB, Dhaka

The Appellate Division yesterday extended its stay for a week on the operation of a High Court (HC) order that granted bail to former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu in connection with the BDR mutiny case.

It also asked the government to file regular leave petition in the meantime.

A bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice M Muzammel Hossain passed the order after a brief hearing on a government petition.

On June 9, the chamber court upon a government plea stayed the June 7 High Court order that had granted bail for six months to Pintu in the case.

Two held with fake passport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of police and Armed Police Battalion arrested a member of a fake passport-making band and a passenger at Shahjalal International Airport in the city Wednesday.

Police said they detained Mohammad Miraz Hossain, 25, and passenger Mohammad Zakaria, 22, near second bridge while the two were trying to board on an aircraft avoiding immigration checking.

Miraz made the fake passport for Zakaria of Chittagong replacing the real passport holder's photograph, added police and claimed that Miraz attempted to traffic Zakaria to Saudi Arabia.

Punish Rumana's husband

Demand human rights activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights activists yesterday demanded exemplary punishment to DU teacher Rumana Manzur's husband Hasan Sayeed Sumon who tortured and damaged her eyes.

They also urged the prime minister and home minister in a joint statement to ensure Rumana's safety and good treatment.

Signatories to the statement were human rights activist Dr Hamida Hossain, Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kori, Shirin Haque of Naripokkho, Dr Iftekharuzzaman of Transparency International Bangladesh, Shaheen Anam of Manusher Jonno Foundation, human rights activist barrister Sara Hossain, Farah Kabir of ActionAid and Shamsul Huda of Association for Land Reform and Development.

They called upon the women who are being repressed in homes silently to raise their voice against all the repression.

Rumana Manzur, assistant professor of International Relations Department of Dhaka University, was brutally tortured by Hasan Sayeed on June 5.



The pond was purposefully excavated at the top of a hillock, locally known as "Moloy tila", in Khadimpara, a suburb of Sylhet city, to evade law against illegal hill cutting.

PHOTO: IQBAL SIDDIQUI

Domestic help found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

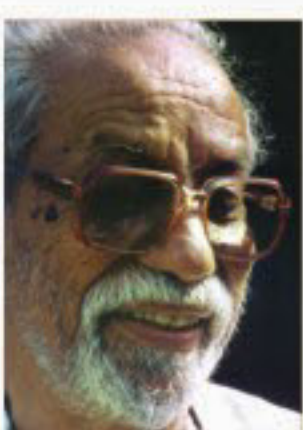
A domestic help was found dead in a house at Mohakhali DOHS in the city on Wednesday.

Police recovered the body of Rubina Akhter, 25, daughter of Nayeab Ali of Brahmanbaria, from the house of Chemon Ara Begum, mother of former army chief Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim, Bir Bikram. She was working as domestic help at the house of Chemon Ara.

Abdul Latif, officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station, said Rubina was found hanging from the shower of a bathroom with a scarf.

Gaziul Haque's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the second anniversary of language movement veteran ANM Gaziul Haque.

On the occasion, a discussion and a doa mahfil will be held at his residence on Gaziul Haque road in Bogra.

With a leading role in the language movement, Haque was the man to announce the decision to violate section 144 following the historic Amtala meeting on February 21, 1952.

He was the justice of Gonoadalot and sentenced the collaborators of 1971 to be hanged.

Nurul Karim laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Mohammad Nurul Karim, father of Elita Karim, a singer and the editor of

Star Campus Magazine of The Daily Star, was laid to rest at his village home in Hathazari of Chittagong after Asr prayers yesterday.

He was buried following his second namaj-e-janaza while the first namaj-e-janaza was held at Baridhara DOHS in the city.

Nurul Karim passed away at National Heart Foundation in the city Wednesday night at the age of 60.

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

Nurul Karim, who served as a teacher of English for 35 years at home and abroad, is survived by his wife, two daughters, and two sons.

Indiscriminate hill cutting in Sylhet: Two sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Department of Environment (DoE) here yesterday filed a case against two persons on charge of cutting a hillock locally known as "Bolder Hajir tila" in Khadimpara, suburb of Sylhet city, without permission of the department and violating environmental law.

DoE Inspector Mohammad Faruque Hossain, following a spot visit, lodged the case accusing Haji Mohammad Bolder of Shah Sundar Majar road area and Ahad Chowdhury of Chowdhurypara of Khadimpara.

The DoE officials said that on information, they arrived at the hillock but could arrest none, as some 20 labourers working there managed to flee. The

involved people will be arrested, they added.

Zillur Rahman, DoE deputy director (technical) of Sylhet, who led a team to the hillock site, said some unscrupulous people are engaged in cutting hillocks around the metropolitan city to develop some housing plots.

Meanwhile, the DoE will press charges against some people for massive cutting of the much-talked "Moloy tila" (hillock), on top of which the landowners had already dug a big pond, causing high risk of landslide in the area during rainy season.

DoE Deputy Director Zillur yesterday told The Daily Star that the charge sheet is likely to be filed next week. About 8-10 people may be charge-sheeted, he indicated.

On February 8, DoE Inspector Faruque filed a case with the environment court against Abdur Rab of the metropolitan city's Modhushohid area, Khairul Islam of Nipban residential area, and 4-5 others for illegally cutting Moloy tila in Khadimpara area.

In another development, the DoE deputy director yesterday sought permission from the DoE for filing separate cases against one Oliur Rahman of Khadimpara on charge of unauthorised hill cutting.

Oliur's men were cutting a hillock illegally, although he was given permission by the DoE six months ago, on his request for preparing the hillock for tree plantation, said Zillur. The DoE is also considering cancellation of the permission, he added.



Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha, a women's rights organisation, forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding trial of Hasan Sayeed Sumon, who tortured and damaged the eyes of his wife Rumana Manzur, an assistant professor of Dhaka University.

PHOTO: STAR

MARTIN'S MURDER

Wife, two daughters arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested the wife and two daughters of Martin Sarkar, a civil security officer of Bangladesh Army, on charge of premeditatedly killing Martin in his house at government staff quarters in Paikpara, Mirpur on June 9.

Shah Ali police detained Martin's wife Ranu Sarkar aged around 35 on Monday and placed her on a three-day remand the next day.

Upon Ranu's confession to the killing during interrogation, police made the arrests of Martin's two daughters -- Jaya Sarkar, 18, and Audita Sarkar, 16, -- from their house.

Audita Sarkar, a school student, told police that her house tutor Mamun on her mother's request hired two criminals for Tk 20,000 to "teach Martin a lesson".

On June 9, the hired criminals and Mamun beat up Martin inside the house and took him off saying that he needed to be taken to Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Dhaka.

Audita said her parents were not on good terms, as her father spent most of the nights outside the house.

Shah Ali police yesterday produced Jaya, a college student, and Audita before Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court with two days' remand prayer for each.

The court did not grant remand but gave permission to interrogate them at Dhaka Central Jail gate, said Anisur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Shah Ali Police Station.

On June 10, Shah Ali police recovered the body of Martin Sarkar from Nawabar Bagh beribadh. Dhaka Medical College morgue sources said Martin was strangled to death and his sex organ was found cut off.



Discussion

Bangladesh Nagorik Samaj will organise a discussion; Venue: its Pallabi office; Time: 10:00am.

Human chain

Zia Brigade will hold a human chain; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Chittagong Division Journalists Somity will organise a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Memorial meeting

Uttar Kafrul High School will organise a memorial meeting; Venue: the high school premises; Time: 4:00pm.

Blood donation

Quantum Foundation will hold a blood donation programme; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Human chain

Bangladesh Diploma Medical Association will hold a human chain; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.



Heavy falls likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

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

Day temperature may fall by 2-3 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:48pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.0 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	29.9	26.3	76	81
Chittagong	28.6	25.5	80	90
Rajshahi	32.7	26.6	80	75
Rangpur	33.2	25.5	82	83
Khulna	30.0	26.2	92	83
Barisal	31.0	26.5	92	83
Sylhet	34.5	26.0	88	87
Cox's Bazar	28.8	25.3	83	91

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