

NEWS IN *brief*

850 bottles of Phensidyl seized

UNB, Dhaka

Rab-10 arrested a man and seized 850 bottles of Phensidyl from a microbus from the garage of a house at Rupnagar residential area under Pallabi police station in the city early Wednesday.

The arrestee was identified as M Shamsul Haque, 35, son of late Moslemuddin of Sadar upazila in Rangpur. He was working as a gate-keeper at the house of Monwarul Islam of the area.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab members raided the garage on the ground floor of the five-storied building of Monwarul at about 2:00am and arrested Shamsul along with the contraband drugs.

Sensing the Rab presence, the driver and the owner of the microbus fled the scene.

Drug peddler arrested

UNB, Benapole

Elite force Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a drug peddler along with 7kgs of hemp from Kagajpukur Bazar area here yesterday morning.

The arrestee was identified as Anwarul Islam, son of Alam Khan of Dakkhin para village under Banapole port police.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-6 caught Anwar red handed when he was going to Dhaka carrying the contraband hemp.

A case was filed with Benapole port police in this connection.



An overhead view of Gulshan-2 traffic circle during hartal hours in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

BNP for resignation of home minister

AL urges BNP to shun politics of hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The opposition BNP yesterday said it would announce next agitation programme at the end of the 48-hour non-stop hartal to protect people's right to vote while the ruling Awami League urged the opposition to give up politics of confrontation and hartal for the sake of strengthening democracy.

BNP also termed the hartal a success and thanked people for observing it spontaneously while AL said people have rejected the hartal.

Briefing journalists at the party office, BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir demanded resignation of the home minister for attacks on the party leaders and activists and for the barbaric police assault on Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farroque.

He also demanded immediate release of the arrested leaders and workers.

AL Joint Secretary General Mahbubul Alam Hanif, however, blamed Farroque for misbehaving with police and said he [Farroque] might have suffered injury during a scuffle with law enforcers.

The AL leader said, "How Farroque behaved with the law enforcers being the opposition chief whip and a parliament member is too sad. He behaved with the law enforcers as if they were petty criminals".

He urged the opposition leaders to maintain "proper behaviour" in speeches.

Hanif, also special assistant to the prime minister, was speaking to the media at the party office.

Mirza Fakhru said, "The government has let loose repression to obstruct democratic movement. We are on hartal and the next programme will follow the ongoing hartal. The home minister must quit".

The BNP leader said they will seek legal measures against the police attack on Farroque.

Nearly 550 people were wounded at the first day of the non-stop hartal and more than 400 leaders and workers were arrested across the country, said Mirza Fakhru.

The party leaders Nazrul Islam Khan, Dhaka city Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Abdullah Al Noman, and Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, among others, were present at the briefing.

Hanif said, "BNP called the hartal only to save Tarique Rahman and Koko, and Jamaat called hartal to protect war criminals who have been arrested on charges of crimes against humanity".

AL leaders AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Ahmed Hossain, BM Mojammel Haque, Mrinal Kanti Das, Faridunnahar Laily, and Nazrul Islam Babu, among others, attended the briefing.

PRIVATE UNIVERSITY

Trustees barred from being VC, pro-VC, treasurer

WASIM BIN HABIB

From now on, any trustee board member of a private university will not be the vice chancellor (VC), pro-vice chancellor (pro-VC) and treasurer.

The government yesterday issued a circular in this regard stating that every university has to send a proposal of three names for appointing or re-appointing in the posts of VC, Pro-VC and treasurer to the education ministry.

The president who is the chancellor of all universities will nominate any one from the three.

Sources in the education ministry said there were directions of the ministry issued on 2003 and 2009 that asked the private universities to send a proposal of three persons with necessary

documents against each of the posts for their appointment or re-appointment.

But some of the universities did not follow the directions and sent only one name for appointing or re-appointing any of university high-ups, they said.

"It hampers work and takes too much time to execute the work," said yesterday's circular.

The ministry will send the copy of the circular to the University Grants Commission (UGC) and all the private universities.

UGC sources said that there are some private universities where the people holding these posts are also the members of the trustee board of that private universities.

But now the private universities

will have to propose three names for the appointment or re-appointment any of these posts as per the new private university act and the direction of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said an official of the ministry requesting anonymity.

Besides, the persons who are holding the posts and also the members of trustee board will have to leave either the membership of trustee board or the posts of VC, Pro-VC or treasurer after the issuance of the circular, he said.

He also said the prime minister directed that a panel of three names who are not the members of trustee board should be sent and the president would nominate one of the names.

On the other hand, the ministry yesterday sent a letter to the UGC asking them to send university-wise

report immediately with detail information about which universities have so far met the condition of the private university act.

As per the act, the government issued a warning against the private universities that the university will have to get certificate after meeting the conditions within summer semester of 2011.

Any university fail to meet the condition will not be allowed to admit students after fall semester, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid had announced at a press conference last December.

Students admitted before fall semester in those universities, however, will be allowed to complete their ongoing courses while the failed students will get one more year to complete their courses, he added.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Khamdker Kamrul Islam Sarker, former senior teacher of Sadullapur Model Pilot High School, passed away at Rangpur Medical College Hospital early hours of yesterday at the age 95.

He was suffering from old-age complications.

Sarker left behind his wife, two sons, and five daughters. He was buried at his village home Noyansukh.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 4th death anniversary of Dr Ambia Kader, wife of Dr MA Kader, general secretary of Bangladesh Homeopathic Medical Association, says a press release.

On the occasion, a quankhwani and a milad mahfil will be held and special prayers will be offered at Biroi village in Gafargaon, Mymensingh after Zohr prayers.

Shahadat Hossen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 4th death anniversary of Sheikh Shahadat Hossen Abdul Hye, a retired senior officer of Sonali Bank.

On the occasion, doa mahfils will be held at his village home at Shimulia in Louhajang upazila, Munshiganj and at the Jame-Masjid near Malibagh intersection in the city.

His relatives, friends, and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

Abdus Salam laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Freedom fighter Moral Abdus Salam, who passed away on Tuesday, was laid to rest with full state honour at his family graveyard in Kanaidia village of Tala upazila yesterday.

He left behind his wife, a daughter, and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Abdus Salam, the central vice-president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), died at the age of 75 following a cardiac arrest on July 5.

ISPR oral test

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Job seekers for the post of Assistant Information Officer of Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) will be able to take part in oral test at 2:00pm on July 9 failing to join the test scheduled for 3:00pm today for any unavoidable reasons, said an ISPR release.



Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parents of Shamrin Aktar Shanta, a 17 year old girl suffering from brain cancer which developed from a brain tumor 10 years ago, sought financial assistance for the treatment of their only daughter.

Shanta was operated twice by the country's physicians from 2001 to 2006. She was taken to Christian Medical College, Vellore in India in 2006 where the doctors operated on the tumor. But she failed to fully recover, leading to brain cancer.

Her condition has now worsened as she has frequent convulsions during the day when she loses consciousness.

Doctors suggested her father Khandakar Md Matlubur Rahman Shamim, a small trader, to take Shanta to Singapore or Bangkok for better treatment which will cost Tk 14 to 15 lakh.

Matlubur makes a fervent appeal to the well-off people of society to come forward with financial assistance to save his daughter's life.

Those interested are requested to send monetary assistance at Khandakar Md Matlubur Rahman Shamim, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Savings Account #3205, TI Branch, Mirpur-13, Dhaka or contact at mobile phone # 01715416255.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits stalls at the three-day Digital Innovation Fair 2011 after inaugurating it at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novo Theatre in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: PMO

Removal of earth caused Ctg wall collapse, says probe report

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

Construction of the hill protection wall with no holes to discharge rainwater and illegal removal of earth supporting the wall by land grabbers caused the tragic wall collapse here in Batali Hill on July 1 that left 17 people dead.

The causes came up in the investigation report made by the five-member committee formed by the district administration after they inspected the spot and talked to the locals.

The committee Convener Md Ehsan E Elahi, also additional deputy commissioner (general) of Chittagong, submitted the three-page report to Deputy Commissioner Foyez Ahmad at the latter's office around 7:00pm yesterday.

Elahi said they recommended formation of an expert technical committee to find whether there was any fault in the wall's technical design, if proper construc-

tion materials were used and to check the report made by the concerned engineer.

The 450 feet long and 30 feet high structure, made in 2009-10, is composed of two parallel walls with a gap in the middle filled with earth. One wall was adjacent to the hill while the other was a few feet away, connected by smaller walls. Around 40 feet of the outer wall collapsed, said the report.

Land grabbers or beneficiaries removed a good portion of earth from the bottom of the wall. Moreover, rainwater collected in the gap and, along with the weight of the earth, caused the collapse, added the report.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recommended Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) to take exemplary steps against anyone found responsible by the committee's proposed expert committee.

The report recommended punishing the people who illegally set up slums and rent them out after grabbing hill slopes.

It requested CCC and Bangladesh Railway, Batali Hill owners, to shift the people living in the slopes and adjacent to the wall.

It directed all government organisations and individuals owning hills in the city to immediately evacuate people living in the slopes, encircle the hills with barbed wire fencing and to plant trees there.

They were also asked to make a list of the people living on the hill slopes to rehabilitate them with the help of district administration and to take steps in maintaining their respective protection walls.

It recommended taking immediate steps to evacuate people from 12 risky hills identified by a committee formed in 2007 with the then divisional commissioner as the convener.

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:17am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.1 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

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	32.1	26.3	71	70
Chittagong	32.5	25.4	69	81
Rajshahi	34.2	25.0	76	95
Rangpur	33.7	26.3	74	65
Khulna	32.0	25.6	80	75
Barisal	31.5	25.8	77	68
Sylhet	33.8	26.5	73	86