

NEWS IN *brief*

Newspaper holiday on July 17

UNB, Dhaka

Newspapers Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) members will observe July 17 (Sunday) as a holiday for Shab-e-Barat, says a press release.

In accordance with the decision of NOAB executive committee, no newspaper will be published on July 18 (Monday).

Elderly man killed by drunkard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An elderly person was stabbed to death allegedly by a drunken man in Sonargaon upazila of Narayanganj last night.

Deceased is Delwar Hossain, 65, of Gohatta village under Sonargaon upazila.

Md Younus Ali, officer-in-charge of Sonargaon Police Station, said Abdul Based and the victim's son Jakir Hossain, both drunken, were quarreling in front of his residence.

As Delwar tried to resist them, Based stabbed him indiscriminately.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where on-duty doctor declared him dead.

Fire breaks out in high-rise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire gutted a flat on the sixth floor of a high rise building at Bara Moghbazar in the city yesterday afternoon.

Fire brigade sources said the fire may have originated from faulty wiring of an air conditioner on the flat of the 15-storied Agrani Tower. Seven fire fighting units doused the fire around 8:00pm.

None was inside the flat at the time of the incident. Panicked residents of the adjoining flats rushed out into the streets, said Ramna police.

Decomposed body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the decomposed body of an unidentified man, aged around 30, from a sewer in the capital's South Jatrabari yesterday afternoon.

The body bore several stab marks in the upper torso and was covered with burns, police said.

AKM Abul Kashem, officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station, said they recovered the body around 5:00pm from Golapbagh in Dhalpur after locals spotted the body while clearing the waterlogged sewer, he said.

He suspected criminals may have killed the victim elsewhere and later dumped the body into the sewage, at least four days ago.

MRP for Kuwait expats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh mission in Kuwait has started issuing machine-readable passports (MRP) and visas on Sunday.

The mission can issue 150-200 MRPs each day, gradually replacing the handwritten travel documents, said a press release issued by the embassy.

Syed Shahed Reza, Bangladesh's ambassador to Kuwait, inaugurated a simple ceremony at the chancery building.

Dignitaries of Kuwait, community leaders and representatives of Bangladesh, local journalists, Bangladesh Military Contingent and embassy officials were also present on the occasion.

2 restaurant staffs sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two hotel employees arrested on Sunday for allegedly assaulting four Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University unit were sent to jail yesterday.

A Dhaka court sent Syed Hossainur Islam Talukder and Rakib Hasan, employees of Anurag restaurant on Mirpur road in the city, to jail after police produced them before it.

Some of the university students said the four were beaten after an altercation with the restaurant's employees over the bill. The locals said some of the university students used to pay less, which might have triggered the incident.

Contempt rule against 11 senior govt officers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against 11 senior government officers, including five secretaries, for not fully implementing its order on protecting the four rivers in and around the capital.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice M Moazzam Husain issued the rule asking the officials to explain within four weeks why they should not be punished for violating its directives on making the rivers free from encroachment and pollution.

The officials who faced the petition are secretaries to the ministries of planning, finance, shipping, commu-

nications and water resources; directors general of departments of land record and survey, and environment; chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority; and deputy commissioners of Dhaka, Narayanganj and Gazipur.

The bench issued the rule after hearing a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) on July 10.

Additional Attorney General MK Rahman told The Daily Star that the hearing of the contempt of court will be held today at the same bench, as he opposed the issuance of the rule since the names of the contemnors are not specifically mentioned in the petition.

Asked whether the HC bench recalled its order, he said there is no question of recalling the order as the judges did not sign it.

HRPB's counsel Manzill Murshid, however, said the rule against the 11 high officials still remain in force and that he was not informed about any decision of the bench for further hearing on the petition.

On June 25, 2009, in response to a writ petition filed by HRPB the HC ordered the government officials to take steps to remove all structures, piles of garbage and deposits of sand and soil from the rivers, setup boundary pillars, construct walkways on the bank of the rivers and dredge those by November 30, 2010.

POPULATION CONTROL 'Measures still inadequate'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Inadequate number of field staff for motivation and service delivery on family planning is a significant barrier to controlling the current rate of population growth in the country, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

Measures taken by the government to control population growth are inadequate, they said, adding that adolescents under 18 years of age should be provided necessary sex education to prevent early marriage.

The discussion was organised by Department of Population Science of Dhaka University (DU) at the conference room of Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, marking World Population Day.

The department Chairman Prof Mehedi Hasan Khan and DU Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique were present.



Ishtiaq's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the eighth anniversary of death of Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, an eminent lawyer.

Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Smriti Parishad is observing the day through different programmes including placing wreaths at his grave in Banani, offering prayers and holding milad mahfil at an orphanage.

Ishtiaq, former attorney general and adviser to a caretaker government during 1996 and 2001, made remarkable contributions to the country's democratic movements and profession of law practice.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of his departed soul, says a press release.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Kalpona Chakraborty, mother of Bhanu Ranjan Chakraborty, chief

news editor of ATN Bangla, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Sunday at the age of 80, says a press release.

She left behind her four sons, one daughter and many grandchildren to mourn her death.

She was cremated in Postogola crematorium yesterday noon.

Kalpona's shradhha will be held at Dhakeswari Mandir in the city on July 20.

Khalilur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Khalilur Rahman, former chairman of Laksham upazila of Comilla,

passed away at a city hospital yesterday due to old age complications at the age of 62, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two daughters and a son.

He will be buried at his family graveyard at Baopur village under Monoharganj upazila of Comilla tomorrow.

Qulkhwani of artist Aminul Islam today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of eminent artist Aminul Islam will be held at his Gulshan residence in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

He passed away in the city on July 8.

Students, colleagues, relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Children and women defy the rains to buy rice from an open market sale (OMS) truck at Taitala Colony field in the city's Agargaon yesterday as price of rice continued to rise. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Bangladeshi extradited to London to face murder charge

BSS, Dhaka

The government yesterday handed over a British citizen of Bangladeshi origin to Britain as he was wanted by London on murder charges, officials said.

"Mohiuddin Bablu has been handed over to the British authorities under the 1974 Extradition Act to face trial for murder and other charges" as a British court earlier issued a warrant seeking him to be brought to justice, joint secretary Kamaluddin Ahmed told the reporters.

He said the government decided to hand him over to British authorities after confirming the allegations and related legal issues but added that the Bangladesh High Commission in London would offer him consular service and other required assistance in facing the trial, as he is a Bangladeshi.

A representative of British High Commission and an official of London Metropolitan Police received Bablu at the main entrance of Dhaka Central Jail. He was freed earlier to be extradited to London.

Ahmed and another home ministry official handed Bablu in handcuffs to the British officials at the jail gate and instantly after the brief formality he was taken to an unidentified destination.

Bahamas keen to help fight climate impacts

Serbia to expand trade, commercial activities

UNB, Dhaka

Bahamas, a Caribbean Island nation, has expressed keen interest to cooperate with Bangladesh in facing the adverse impacts of climate change and also help expand the country's tourism sector.

This was conveyed when the newly appointed High Commissioner of Bahamas Elma Elaine Campbell presented her credentials to President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban yesterday.

During the meeting, the High Commissioner highly appreciated the role of Bangladesh in dealing with the climate change issues in the international forums.

"Bahamas is interested in working with Bangladesh that faces the adverse impacts of climate change," she said, adding that

Bahamas, a country rich for tourists, is keen to help expand the tourism sector in Bangladesh.

High Commissioner Elma Campbell also lauded the strategies of disaster management in Bangladesh.

Welcoming the new High Commissioner of Bahamas, Zillur emphasised cooperation with the beautiful island nation to expand the country's tourism sector.

Earlier, newly appointed Ambassador of Serbia Jovan Mirilovic also presented his credentials to the president yesterday.

The ambassador told the president that Serbia is keen to strengthen bilateral relations and expand the trade and commercial activities with Bangladesh.

Zillur stressed the need for further expanding the trade relations with the European country.



Police bring out Mohiuddin Bablu, a Bangladesh national wanted by London on murder charges, from Dhaka Central Jail to hand over to a representative of British High Commission and an official of London Metropolitan Police. PHOTO: STAR

Hartal victim Mosharrif's family gets Tk 1 lakh

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for Youth and Sports M Ahad Ali Sarker visited the residence of hartal victim Mosharrif Hossain and handed over Tk 1 lakh to his parents in Hazaribagh yesterday.

Mosharrif, 22, suffered serious burns as hatral supporters torched a truck carrying him in Natore on July 6. He succumbed to his injuries in Dhaka Medical College Hospital on July 10.

Mosharrif along with a number of mango traders were returning to Dhaka by a mango-laden truck from Chapainawabganj.

He talked to the victim's parents and assured them of bringing the culprits and finding them to book.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:19am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 24.4 degrees Celsius at Sayedpur.

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	35.4	27.8	70	65
Chittagong	33.0	26.4	77	84
Rajshahi	35.2	27.6	84	84
Rangpur	33.8	24.5	79	61
Khulna	35.2	28.0	81	65
Barisal	34.2	27.0	95	70
Sylhet	34.8	26.1	75	70
Cox's Bazar	32.7	25.8	78	