

NEWS IN *brief*

Office hours during Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Office hours during the month of Ramadan will be from 9:00am to 3:30pm for government, semi-government, and autonomous and semi-autonomous organisations.

A proposal in this regard will be placed in the cabinet at its regular weekly meeting today at Bangladesh Secretariat. Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina will chair the meeting.

Normally the government office hour is from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Repeal of wall writing act protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former leaders of left leaning student organisations in a statement yesterday demanded repeal of the Wall Writing and Poster Setting (Control) Act, 2011 as it goes against the people's democratic rights.

They placed the demand in a joint statement signed by 57 former leaders of the alliance.

Wall writing and poster setting are parts of the country's political culture. These were used in different democratic movements in the past. But the new law will curb the people's rights to freedom of expression, they said.

Signatories of the statement include Dr Mostak Hossain, Ruhin Hossain Prince, Razekuzzaman Ratan and Manabendra Dev.

The cabinet approved the proposed law on July 11 in an effort to beautify the urban neighbourhoods of the country.

Photography assoc AGM held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 26th annual general meeting of Bangladesh Photographic Association (BPA) was held at a hotel in the city's Bijoy Nagar Saturday, says a press release.

At the meeting, FBCCI Director and election board chairman Abdur Razzak announced that Akkash Mahmood has been elected BPA president for 2011-2012 and 2012-2013.

A host of members received honorary awards at the meeting.

Take steps to form 8th wage board

PM asks ministry

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the information ministry to take steps for forming the 8th wage board for journalists soon after discussions with all stakeholders.

She gave the directives when a delegation of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) led by its President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan met her at the Prime Minister's Office.

During the meeting, the prime minister announced Tk 30 lakh of her government's grant to form a welfare fund for the journalists and assured them of preparing separate policies for print and electronic media under the Ministry of Information.

Regarding the long-standing demand of the journalists to reinstate the Newspaper Employees Services Conditions Act, 1974, she asked the ministry concerned to look into the matter.

During the meeting, the prime minister lauded the courageous role of journalists in the country's various democratic movements, especially after the political changeover of 1/11.

Earlier, the BFUJ president and secretary general handed over a memorandum with various demands of the journalist community. The demands include forming 8th wage board and solving residential problems of the journalists.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan and leaders of BFUJ affiliated unions also spoke on the occasion.



Local people look on a passenger bus, which fell into a roadside ditch in Askona area of the city's Uttara on Sunday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

28 killed in road crashes in 2 days

METRO DESK

Twenty-eight people, including a local BNP leader and two four-year-old boys, were killed and 101 others injured in road accidents in Dhaka city and 10 other districts yesterday and Sunday.

The districts are Natore, Comilla, Magura, Gaibandha, Tangail, Thakurgaon, Brahmanbaria, Faridpur, Kishoreganj, and Dinajpur.

Our staff correspondent reports: A motorcyclist was killed and another one wounded as another speeding motorbike hit them from behind in Bijoy Nagar of the city yesterday.

The deceased Samir Uddin, 59, was owner of a local restaurant. He was driving the bike with his employee Md Asad, 22, seated behind.

Samir was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Asad took primary treatment from the hospital.

Another staff correspondent adds: A helper and a passenger of an improvised vehicle died as a bus hit the vehicle from behind in Mirpur of the city yesterday.

The victims are helper Harmuj Miah aged around 20 and the unidentified passenger aged around 26, police said.

Harmuj died on the spot and the unidentified youth at a Mirpur clinic.

Our Natore correspondent reports: Five people were killed and 30 others wounded in separate road accidents in Gurudashpur and the sadar upazilas yesterday.

In Gurudashpur, a bus-truck collision in Nayabazar area left four persons dead and 30 others injured.

Deceased are Lokman Uddin, 25, son of Khodaboksh of Radhanagar

village under Islami University Police Station, Kushtia; Shamsul Sarker, 55, of Dilipnagar village under Doulatpur upazila, Kushtia; Palash Uddin, 30, son of Maniruzzaman of Khandakbaria village under Shailakupa upazila, Jhenidah; and Shariful Islam, son of late Khoer Khan of Mirzapur village under Khoksha upazila, Kushtia.

Shamsul and Lokman died on the spot while Palash and Shariful at Bonpara Patwari General Hospital.

Six of the injured were admitted to Bonpara Amina Hospital.

In the sadar, a motorcyclist was killed on the spot and his father injured as a bus hit the motorbike in Chandpur area.

Deceased is Bhuttu Mia, 32, son of Azizul Islam of Koipukuria village under Bagatipara upazila, Natore.

UNB from Comilla reports: Six people were killed and 22 others hurt in two separate road accidents in Daudkandi and Choudhagram upazilas yesterday morning.

Police said a covered-van collided with a private car on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Barpara area under Daudkandi, leaving four people dead on the spot.

Deceased are private car driver Uzzal, 25, and its passengers Al-Amin, 22, and Polash, hailing from Gazipur district, and Sumon of Meghna upazila in Comilla.

In another crash, an elderly person was killed and 20 others injured as a cement-laden van hit a bus in Barpara area. Dead is one Mosharrif Hossain, 65.

In Choudhagram, an unidentified CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver was killed and two other persons injured as a truck hit the auto-rickshaw on Dhaka-Chittagong highway yester-

daynoon.

Our Magura correspondent says: Two youths were killed and another wounded as a truck hit their motorcycle on Magura-Jessore highway in Sitarampur area yesterday.

Deceased are Sumon Hossain Molla, 24, and Fazle Rabbi Topu, 23, of Mollapara area in Magura town.

The injured was admitted to Magura sadar hospital in critical condition.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reports: Four persons, including a BNP leader, were killed and 27 others injured in two separate road accidents Palashbari and Gobindaganj upazilas on Sunday.

In Palashbari, a bus-truck collision on Bogra-Rangpur highway in Gopinathpur left three bus passengers dead on the spot.

Deceased are Masud Khan, 60, joint convener of Rangpur Zila BNP; Md Abu Sayeed, 58, of Burirhat in Gangachara upazila, Rangpur; Sultana Afroza Munni, 30, of Babu Bazar in Rangpur.

Three of the injured were taken to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

In Gobindaganj, a tractor driver was killed and another man injured as the vehicle collided head-on with a truck on Gaibandha-Palashbari road at Dakghar.

Dead is Khairul Islam, 26, of Utter Harirampur village in Gobindaganj upazila.

Our Tangail correspondent adds: Three passengers and the driver of an improvised vehicle (locally known as Bhotbhoti) died on the spot as an intercity train from Dinajpur rammed the vehicle on Bhanuabaha level crossing in Mirzapur upazila on Sunday.

Deceased are driver Abdul Wahab

and passengers Sakhina Begum, Abdur Rahman, and Rajani Ghosh.

The level crossing on Sohagpur-Kalimjani road was unmanned at the time of the accident.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent reports: A four-year-old boy died on the spot after being hit by a tractor from behind on Baharampur-Pirerhat road in Baharampur Charvita village under Haripur upazila Sunday.

The victim is Md Raju, son of Nosibul Islam of the village.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent says: A youth was killed in a two-truck collision on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Shashay village under Bijoy Nagar upazila on Sunday.

The victim is Md Rajibul Islam Rajib, 30, of Debogran village under Akhaura upazila.

Rajib died en route to Brahmanbaria sadar hospital.

Our Faridpur correspondent reports: A four-year-old boy was crushed under a truck on Dhaka-Khulna highway near Kanaipur cinema hall of the sadar upazila Sunday evening.

Dead is Sabbir Hossain, son of Soleman Hossain of Raipur village under Modhukhali upazila.

Our Kishoreganj correspondent says: A trader died on the spot as an improvised vehicle (locally known as Tomtom) overturned on Kishoreganj-Pakundia highway in Charpara area Sunday. The victim is Abdul Ali, 37, of Maniarikanda village in Pakundia. Ali was riding the Tomtom.

Our Dinajpur correspondent says: At least 20 people were wounded in a bus-truck collision in Bijul village under Birampur upazila yesterday.

The injured were taken to Birampur Health Complex.

Viqarunnisa student gives statement to court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Viqarunnisa student, who was allegedly molested by her teacher, gave a statement to a Dhaka court on Sunday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Shamima Parvin recorded it under section 22 of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000.

Details of her statement could not be known immediately.

The court gave the victim to her grandfather's custody. She returned home on Thursday after receiving treatment abroad.

Porimol Joydhor, a Bangla teacher of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College's Bashundhara branch, allegedly molested her at his coaching centre on May 28.

Porimol confessed to violating her twice, IO Shahadat Hossain said. He, however, denied taking any picture of the girl.

The school authorities sacked him on July 5 following protests by students and guardians.

The teacher was arrested on July 6 from Keraniganj just outside the capital, a day after the victim's father sued him with Badda Police Station for violating the girl.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses the newly elected office-bearers of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) at her office in the city on Sunday. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: PID

Cabinet approval on awarding Indira likely today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet today is likely to approve a proposal of finalising the award to be given to former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi posthumously for her "tremendous support" to the liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971.

Official sources said the foreign ministry and liberation war affairs ministry, which have jointly prepared summary of the words of citation and design of medal, will place a proposal in the cabinet for approval today.

In the meantime, the government has prepared a list of 450 foreign friends for the award for their outstanding contribution in the liberation war.

Indian Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi, who will visit here to attend an international conference on autism, will receive the Foreign Friends Award on behalf of her mother-in-law at a simple ceremony at Bangabhaban on July 25.

President Zillur Rahman would handover the award to Sonia Gandhi at the event to be attended by renowned

freedom fighters, ministers, diplomats and elite of the city.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sonia Gandhi are expected to address the one-hour programme from 5:30pm at Bangabhaban while Foreign Minister Dipu Moni is expected to deliver welcome address, said official sources.

"We will start the process of awarding our foreign friends by giving the award to Indira Gandhi first," Dipu Moni said and added that work on preparing the list of foreign friends is going on.

Prof Kabir passes away

CU CORRESPONDENT

Dr AKM Shahajahan Kabir, a chemistry professor of Chittagong University, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Metropolitan Hospital of Chittagong city around 6:30am Sunday. He was 56.

Prof Shahajahan left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter, and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Choudhagram, Comilla the same day.

Faizul Haque's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 4th death anniversary of A K Faizul Haque, former state minister for

jute and textiles and son of Sher-E-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque, says a press release.

On the occasion, doa and milad mahfil will be held at House No # 32, Block-C, Road No# 6, Banani in the city after Maghrib prayers.

Mizanur Rahman

BSS, Gazipur

Today is the 8th death anniversary of Language Movement veteran and former commercial manager of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Mizanur Rahman.

Mizanur Rahman Smriti Parishad (MRSP) has chalked out an elaborate programmes including fateha at his grave, milad and doa mahfil at his village home in Tongi.

Milad and doa will also be held at the Jatiya Press Club after Asr prayers.

Memorial meeting and milad mahfil will also be held at Tongi and Gazipur press clubs today.

Fazlul Karim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 17th death anniversary of Fazlul Karim, former chief arboriculturist

of the department of Roads and Highways, says a press release.

Dr Md Zahir Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is 12th death anniversary of Dr Md Zahir Khan, former chairman

and director of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad and doa mahfil will be held at his son's residence at Banani in the city.

Md Ashraf Ali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the third death anniversary of Md Ashraf Ali, senior health

education officer of Tangail, says a press release.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of Jahan Ara Khan, daughter of politician A Z Syed Ahmed

Chowdhury Feni, will be held at her village home Alipur in Noakhali tomorrow, says a press release.

Jahan Ara, wife of late civil surgeon Dr Shafiqul Alam Khan, passed away at the city's Central Hospital on Saturday night due to cancer at the age of 63.

She left behind her two sons and two daughters.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, said Met Office. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:48pm today and rises at 5:22am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 25.0 degrees Celsius at Feni.

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	31.7	26.0	77	92
Chittagong	30.5	26.0	80	86
Rajshahi	34.5	27.0	86	79
Rangpur	33.2	27.4	88	75
Khulna	31.2	27.5	84	84
Barisal	29.0	26.9	92	88