

NEWS IN *brief*

Housewife takes her life in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife allegedly committed suicide in the city's Khilgaon area yesterday over family feud. The deceased was identified as Rahima Begum, 35, second wife of Harun Biswas, an auto-rickshaw driver, of Sipahibagh in Khilgaon. Quoting Rahima's neighbours, Khilgaon police said Rahima took poison around 3:30am following an altercation with her husband. She was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead. Alamgir Hossain, brother-in-law of Rahima, said the couple used to quarrel over family maintenance expenditure as Harun didn't give sufficient money for Rahima's living.

Arrest warrant against Mongla OC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An arrest warrant issued by the chief judicial magistrate of Khulna against the officer-in-charge (OC) of Mongla Police Station on Tuesday was received by the latter on Saturday, said the recipient. The warrant was in connection with a case filed by Sheikh Ikram Ali, of Bamandanga village under Rupsha upazila of Khulna district, with the magistrate's court on June 27, 2011 accusing OC Md Rabiul Islam of taking a Tk 10,000 bribe. The warrant was issued after Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Shawakt Ali, assigned by the Chief Judicial Magistrate Md Asaduzzaman, conducted a judicial inquiry into the allegation and submitted a report on July 28.

Nine alleged robbers held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested nine persons while allegedly preparing to commit robbery at Mirpur in the city yesterday. Two firearms and two sharp weapons were seized from their possession, said Rab-4 officials. The arrestees were identified as Faiaz Ahmed, 42, of Dhaka, Zamal Hossain, 35, of Shariatpur, Ratan Hawlader, 37, Nasir Mollah, 40, of Chandpur, Mohammad Shahabuddin, 35, of Bhola, Majibar Hawlader, 42, of Patuakhali, Sobhan Fakir, 42, of Tangail, Ashkar Ali, 49, of Gopalganj, and Yiadul Fakir of Barisal. Rab-4 officials said they arrested the suspected robbers from an under-construction building on road-5 of Mirpur Section-2 around 1:00am when they were preparing to commit robbery in the area. They were handed over to Mirpur police, they added.

Tk 3 lakh, 50 tolas gold looted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed robbers looted Tk three lakh and around 50 tolas of gold ornaments after breaking into a house at Malibagh in the city yesterday. The house owner Mohammad Sanaullah said around 10 masked men carrying firearms and lethal weapons entered by cutting the veranda grill on the ground floor of the duplex house at Chowdhurypara around 4:00am. They tied up and gagged Sanaullah, his wife and two visiting relatives and looted the valuables by breaking open a steel cupboard, he added. No case was filed till filing of this report in the evening, said police.

Choose subject by Dec 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first 1,125 successful candidates on the merit list of the Ga unit (Business Studies Faculty) admission test of Dhaka University (DU) for the academic sessions 2011-2012 have been asked to choose their desired subject within December 30. They have to choose their subject serially by filling-up Students Information Forms (SIF) through the website at <http://gaunit.univdhaka.edu>, says a university press release. Further information regarding the admission process is also available on the website. The result of Ga unit admission test was published on December 22, where 3,396 aspirants passed.



Wasfia Nazreen, the first Bangladeshi attempting to climb the seven highest mountains of the world's seven continents, atop of Mount Aconcagua in Argentina. PHOTO: COURTESY

Wasfia conquers Argentine peak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wasfia Nazreen, the first Bangladeshi attempting to climb the seven highest mountains of the world's seven continents, reached the peak of Mount Aconcagua in Argentina on December 16, Bangladesh's Victory Day. According to Aconcagua Park rangers, this is for the first time that a Bangladeshi climbed the mountain, the highest in the Andes mountain range having a height of 6962 metres and coming in second among the seven summits. Experienced mountaineers term the Aconcagua a greater physical challenge than the Himalayas or those of the Central Andes Mountain range due to the lack of vegetation and thinner atmosphere, says a press release received here yesterday. Wasfia, in a BBC Bangla interview on December 19, said the False Polish

Glacier route via Plaza Argentina (Vacas Valley) was used instead of the normal route without any fixed ropes or supplemental oxygen. She dedicated her achievement to the struggle of the martyrs of the War of Liberation in 1971, calling for greater recognition of the contributions of the war heroines. "There were many logistical and financial hurdles, aside from the actual climbing, and we passed all of them and this proves that anything is possible with the power of positive thinking," she said. This leg of the campaign was financed by personal loans. Wasfia, who began her seven summit campaign on July 3 this year, conquered Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa on October 2 but came back 300 metres away from the peak of Mount Elbrus in Russia on July 12.

Sack ad-hoc doctors skipping rural postings: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the health ministry to sack the ad-hoc basis appointed doctors who are not willing to stay in their rural postings. The prime minister gave the directive when the leaders of Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (SCP) met her at the 18th founding anniversary of their organisation at Gono Bhaban in the city. Hasina asked Health Minister A F

She said the health ministry should stop the salaries and other allowances as well as promotions of the doctors if they are not interested in staying at their rural postings. "Some doctors who are posted in rural areas come to the city showing lame reasons. They return to the post once a month to draw their salary and allowances. It must be stopped," she said. The PM said the SCP leaders have to make their organisation stronger

M Ruhul Haque, who was present on the occasion, to check negligence on the part of the doctors and take necessary effective action immediately. She mentioned that doctors who were appointed on ad-hoc basis should be posted at their respective upazilas or areas to confirm their presence in the workplace. The PM said the SCP leaders have to make their organisation stronger

so they can reach the services to people's doorsteps. She held out the assurance that the Dhaka Medical College (DMC) will be made a full-fledged medical university in order to give better medical services to the people. The PM further said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) will be the centre of excellence of the medical arena in the country.



Obituary

METRO DESK

Ismat Ara Mokaddem, wife of MA Mokaddem, passed away in New York on December 24 due to cancer, says a press release. She left behind her husband, two sons and three grandchildren. She will be buried at Maryland National Memorial Park Cemetery, USA after her namaz-e-janaza at Muslim Community Centre (MCC) Mosque of Maryland at 10:30am today (December 26). Ismat Ara worked for 15 years at Sunbeams School in Dhaka as Bengali teacher and office manager. She lived abroad with her husband MA Mokaddem, who was managing director of British American Tobacco in Cambodia and other countries. She also did voluntary social work for the education of women and underprivileged children.

Shawkat Ali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Shawkat Ali, headmaster of Benapole High School, passed away at his residence at Gatipara village in Benapole port yesterday morning due to old age complications at the age of 80. He left behind his wife, two sons, seven daughters, a host of relatives and students to mourn his death. He was buried at his family graveyard yesterday.

Momtazur Rahman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Momtazur Rahman Sarder, former teacher of Mohimaganj High School, passed away in Dhaka on Saturday night due to old age complications at the age of 68. He left behind his one son, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death. He was buried at his village home at Shahpur in Gobindagnaj upazila yesterday after namaz-e-janaza at the school ground.

Amena Begum

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Amena Begum, mother of MA Awal Sarker, a joint district and session judge of Lalmonirhat, passed away yesterday due to old age complications at the age of 86. She left behind her five sons, seven daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death. She was buried at their family graveyard at Moniram village in Sunderganj upazila after namaz-e-janaza at a local mosque.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during mid night till morning, Met office said. Mild cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the regions of Jessore and Kushtia and it may continue. Day temperature may rise slightly over the country and night temperature may fall slightly over northwestern part of the country and it may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country. The sun sets in the capital at 5:19pm today and rises at 6:39am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 28.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 07.6 degrees Celsius at Ishwardi. 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	24.0	12.4	96	75
Chittagong	22.5	12.7	92	79
Rajshahi	24.1	09.3	86	80
Rangpur	25.0	09.5	99	73
Khulna	24.8	12.5	94	79
Barisal	22.6	11.2	100	91

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