

NEWS IN *brief*

\$ 10,000 for Anjuman Mufidul

METRO DESK
Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services Germany has signed an agreement with Anjuman Mufidul Islam, a social and charitable organisation, for helping in Anjuman's school projects in Bangladesh, says a press release.

Manish Kumar, country chief executive of Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services Bangladesh, handed over a cheque worth USD 10,000 to A B M G Kibria, president of Anjuman Mufidul Islam and former advisor to caretaker government of Bangladesh, at the office of Bureau Veritas in Banani in the city on Saturday.

Antaryami Nayak, South Asia financial controller of Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services, and Kazi Abul Khshem, executive director of Anjuman Mufidul Islam, were present among others.

Foreign wine recovered in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT
Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized 74 bottles of foreign wine worth about Tk 1.11 lakh from 17 No Jetty Ghat area under Patenga Police Station in the port city early yesterday.

On information, a team of Rab-7 conducted a drive on the embankment adjacent to 17 No Jetty Ghat at around 12:30am and recovered the wine, says a Rab press release.

Stone sculpture worth Tk 5cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
The chief judicial magistrate of Khulna handed over a stone sculpture of Shiva Linga, recovered in 2008, to Khulna regional office of the Archaeological department yesterday.

The sculpture weighing around 42 kilograms is made of black basalt (precious dark igneous rock) and worth about Tk 5 crore.

Since its discovery by a day labourer of Rupsha upazila, Khulna in the river Bhairab on April 17, 2008, the sculpture had been under the custody of the magistrate's court.

Shihabuddin Mohammad Akbar, director of the Archaeological department's Khulna office, said the precious stone figure was made during the Sen dynasty in the ninth century.

Akbar received the sculpture from Khulna Chief Judicial Magistrate Md Asaduzzaman.

JU, FSIB sign MoU of Tk 120 cr

JU CORRESPONDENT
Jahangirnagar University (JU) and Fellowship for Social Investment, Bergen (FSIB) yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) of Tk 120 crore with a view to establishing new departments and taking different development activities in the university.

JU Treasurer Prof Md Nasir Uddin and FSIB General Secretary Md Sadik Hasan signed the MoU on behalf of the respective organisation, said a press release.

Under the deal, FSIB, a non-profit social welfare organisation of Norway, will establish a nursing institute as well as other departments of medical science in the university.

A trauma centre will also be established to give medical treatment to the physically challenged and paralysed persons.

Besides, FSIB will give special assistance to the educational and infrastructural development of 'Anandashala', a school of special need children on the campus.

Boy killed in Gaibandha road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha
A minor boy was crushed under the wheels of a bus on Rangpur-Bogra Highway at Goshagani in Sadullapur upazila in the district yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Moshir Rahman, son of Ansar Ali of the upazila.

Police said the accident occurred while the boy was crossing the road.

The driver along with the bus managed to flee.



FINAL SALUTE TO A WAR HERO: Veteran Awami League leader Abdur Razzak being laid to rest with state honours at Banani Graveyard in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Extortionists shoot house owner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Extortionists shot an elderly house owner on the left leg at Rainkhola Bazar of Mirpur-1 in city's Shahali last night.

The victim, Ansarul Haque, 61, a retired assistant director of Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Ansarul said he saw two youths when he opened his door hearing a knock around 8:30pm, one of whom gave him a chat bearing a phone number of one Gazi Sumon while the other shot him.

Scientists urged to reach masses with inventions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The researchers and the scientists of the country should not engage themselves merely in the laboratories but should reach the common people with their inventions, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique said at an outreach programme yesterday.

He said the scientists must bring about a revolutionary change tapping the advantage of biotechnology in the fields of agriculture, medicine, economics, and many more.

The VC was addressing the inaugural session of the programme, "Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology: My Life, My Decision", in the university's Science Complex Building.

Speaking as the chief guest, he also urged the authorities concerned to take proper care of the young learners to enhance their interest in different branches of science.

Prof Dr Shahid Akhtar Hussain, dean, Faculty of Biological Science, also put emphasis on the necessity of enhancing the interest of the young students in the study of science and pointed out that the country's students are lagging behind the rest of the world.

He said, "Most of the students are running after corporate jobs, but future prospect of the science students is also excellent".

The daylong programme was organised by Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Club (GEBBC), an association of the students of the department, and was participated by students from different schools, colleges, and universities.

Prof Dr Aftab Uddin, chairman of the department, presided over the inaugural session while Prof Dr Anwar Hossain and Public Service Commission (PSC) member Prof Dr Imran Kabir Chowdhury spoke among others.

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Muggers snatch Tk 10 lakh in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six unidentified muggers snatched Tk 10 lakh from two men, spreading panic among pedestrians by shooting in broad daylight in the city's Kakrail area yesterday.

One of the victims Mohammad Tajul Islam manager of a clothing store told reporters that he and his colleague Md Iqbal Hossain were returning to their store with the money withdrawn from a bank.

The gang of muggers on two motorbikes appeared as they got off the rickshaw. Four of the criminals approached him and his colleague and shot at their legs.

They grabbed the two bags of money and fired another shot to stop pedestrians who tried to help. They fled the scene on their bikes.

A case was filed in this connection with Ramna Police Station. Ramna police said they were investigating the matter.

Two arrested for robbing people after offering lifts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An organised gang of criminals were robbing people in Rajshahi, Naogaon and Bogra, sometimes killing them, after offering lifts in trucks at night, says a Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) investigation.

Rab officials, in a press conference at Rab-5 headquarters yesterday, said Mohammad Rasel, 20, son of Aju Majhi of Noakhali, and Kazi Riadunnabi, 20, of Naogaon, were arrested in this connection recently.

The duo, shown accused in the murder case of one Nitai Chandra Mohonto, a vendor of Naogaon, confessed that they committed the murder on December 6.

On the fateful night, Nitai and another unknown man took a lift from the gang from Shantahar Railway Station while returning to Naogaon from Dinajpur. On the way, the gang robbed the unknown man and left him on a road.

But when Nitai resisted, the gang tied him up, robbed him and threw him under the wheels of the truck. Later, Nitai's family found the body at Durgapur Chairman Mor on Rajshahi-Naogaon road, said Rab officials.

BDR CARNAGE TRIAL
Jawans threatened to shoot officer's wife if she locked doors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The jawans, during the carnage at the erstwhile Bangladesh Rifles headquarters on February 25-26, 2009, broke open into an army officer's house and threatened to shoot his pregnant wife if she kept the doors locked.

During this time, the intelligence officer Major Kamrul Hasan of the then 13 rifle battalion was hiding in a foxhole inside a room.

The details came during the cross-examination of Kamrul by the defense lawyers yesterday after he gave his deposition on the last day of proceedings at Metropolitan Sessions Judge's court, temporarily set up in the city's Alia Madrasa at Bakshibazar.

Around 3:00am on February 26, the then home minister arrived and asked Kamrul's wife to come out. But Kamrul's wife did not come out or disclose his location.

When defense lawyers yesterday questioned this action, Kamrul replied that the jawans were with the minister all the time. "My wife did not disclose my location over fears that the jawans might kill me once the minister went away."

Kamrul showed a heavy machine-gun, a light machine-gun, a short machine-gun and a pistol as samples of those used during the carnage. He, however, did not implicate anyone out of the 824 accused for using the weapons.

The court was adjourned till today.

Seventy-four people, including 57 army officers, were killed during the carnage.



Two youths hold banners showing messages and caricatures protesting the construction of Tipaimukh Dam during a rally called by Communist Party of Bangladesh in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

Govt using AL cadres to foil BNP programmes

Says Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition in parliament BNP yesterday alleged that the government deliberately foiled its recent demonstration programmes across the country using "party cadres" and police.

"Awami League cadres and law enforcers blatantly attacked our party men who were observing the programmes," said BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi at a press conference in BNP's Naya Paltan office in the city.

The programmes were being held in Joypurhat, Chittagong, Khulna, Gaibandha, Sunamganj, Sirajganj, Sherpur, Mymensingh, Netrokona, Magura and Sylhet, said Rizvi.

From Sunday night to yesterday evening, around 214 party men were arrested and some 250 men injured in the attacks, he claimed.

He demanded withdrawal of all cases filed against the party men and immediate release of those arrested.

BNP already sent letters to the home ministry, Inspector General of Police and others seeking security and cooperation for the party's road march towards Chittagong on January 8 and 9, Rizvi said.

Yesterday, BNP held demonstration rallies in the district towns protesting obstruction of a BNP mass rally, the barricades surrounding BNP headquarters and arrest and harassment of party men on December 21 and price hike of electricity.

In the morning, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said the government is intentionally foiling BNP's "democratic programmes" to divert people's attention from BNP's "core demand" to restore the caretaker government system.

Fakhru was talking to reporters while visiting Labour Party Chairman Mustafizur Rahman Iran at a city hospital.

Meanwhile, at another press conference yesterday, Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, BNP's youth wing, announced a two-day country-wide programme on January 2 and 4 protesting the arrest and harassment of party men.

WEATHER TODAY

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka
Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during midnight till morning, Met office said.

Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Dinajpur, Srimongal, Jessore and Chuadanga and it may continue.

Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:19pm today and rises at 6:40am tomorrow.
Country's highest temperature 30.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 08.6 degrees Celsius at Chuadanga.

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	26.0	12.2	76	66
Chittagong	27.0	13.3	77	77
Rajshahi	26.0	10.8	84	76
Rangpur	26.2	12.4	71	72
Khulna	26.0	11.0	94	61
Barisal	27.0	10.1	89	79
Sylhet	30.5	13.2	85	68

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