

NEWS IN *brief*

Kalam elected Uttara Club president

METRO DESK

Md Abul Kalam was elected president of Uttara Club Limited on December 25 for 2011-2012, says a press release.

The 20th annual general meeting was also held the same day.

The executive committee members are Piara Nergis, Nasir Hossain, S M Masud

Alam (Tapan), Capt (Retd) Md Mahubul Matin, Kazi Golam Mobin (Tapan), Kh Rashedul Ahsan, Jahangir Parvez, Ishtiyak Ahmed Chowdhury (Rommel) and M A Hassan and SA Muktader (Mithu).



Lotus, Bashir elected DCAB president, general secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rezaul Karim Lotus, special correspondent of The Daily Star, and Bashir Ahmed, senior reporter of the Amar Desh were elected president and general secretary of the Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) yesterday.

They were elected unopposed at the DCAB annual general meeting at the Jatiya Press Club.

Other office-bearers are Vice-president: Abdul Majid of the daily Somokal, Joint Secretary: Shahidul Islam Chowdhury of The New Age, Treasurer: Khurram Zaman of The Amader Arthoniti, and Office Secretary: Angur Nahar Monty of The Bhorer Kagoj.

Executive committee members are Mainul Alam of The Daily Ittefaq, Masud Karim of The Shokaler Khobor, Raheed Ejaz of The Prothom Alo, Shaheen Raja of The daily Inqilab and Zahirul Alam of NTV.

Farid Hossain, Bureau Chief of Associated Press, Shafiqul Karim, former president of Dhaka Reporters Unity and Nizamuddin Ahmed, special correspondent of The Financial Express conducted the election.

Trader robbed of Tk 7.85 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Muggers looted Tk 7.85 lakh from a trader in front of Bose Brothers in Nandan Kanan area under Kotwali Police Station in the port city on Monday.

Police said a gang of four muggers snatched the money Md Tipu, a proprietor of Marine Fish Enterprise, when he was going to his workplace after withdrawing the money from a bank around 4:00pm. The muggers fled the scene in a CNG-run

Winter clothes for poor students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brac Education Programme launched an winter cloths distribution programme for the underprivileged students in 14 districts from December 17.

The warm clothes worth around Tk 2 crore will be distributed among 1,08,750 students till the first week of January 2012, said a press release.

The districts include Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Netrakona, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Chuadanga,

Two sisters crushed under wheels of train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Two sisters were crushed under the wheels of a train at Baduarchar village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased were Shamsunnahar Khuki, 40, and her younger sister Saleha Khatun Shilpi, 20, daughters of late Sattar Miah of East Baduarchar village.

Witnesses said the duo went for a morning walk on the rail track and were crushed under by a Dhaka-bound Chittagong Mail train at about 7:00am.

Government railway police said the bodies were



National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Electricity and Ports stages a demonstration in front of the Jatiya Press Club to realise its seven-point demand to resolve the gas and power crises.

Duta election tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The candidates in the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) election have sped up campaigning ahead of the polls scheduled for tomorrow (December 29).

From both "blue panel" and "white panel", the contestants and their close associates were seen walking to and from the offices and lounges of teachers to pile up support for respective camps.

The pro-Awami League teachers belong to blue panel while the pro-BNP and pro-Jamaat teachers to white panel. As in previous years, left leaning teachers are contesting the polls under the banner of blue panel.

The two panels will vie the election for a 15-member executive committee to lead Duta for next one year. The posts include president, vice-president, general secretary, joint secretary, treasurer, and 10 executive members.

Election Commissioner Prof Makbulur Rahman has said some 1,750 teachers are expected to cast their votes in the polls to start at 10:00am and continue till 2:00pm without any break at the Dhaka University Club.

This year white panel candidates have made strong campaign efforts to offset their last year's defeat. The panel in the 2010 Duta election failed to win in the major posts including president and general secretary.

Incumbent Duta President and Blue panel leader Prof Anwar Hossain of biochemistry and molecular biology and Prof Wahiduzzaman of Institute of Education and Research (IER) will run for the posts of president and general secretary post respectively with blue panel's ticket while Prof Tasmeri SA Islam of chemistry and Prof Abul Hasnat of clinical pharmacy and pharmacology will fight for the two posts respectively from white panel.

Seminar on patient care held

METRO DESK

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka organised a scientific seminar on "Updates on Advanced Patient Care Management" at Narayanganj Club in Narayanganj city recently.

Narayanganj City Corporation Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy attended the seminar where about 350 doctors of the city and surrounding areas were present, says a press release.

Dr Shagufa Anwar, general manager of Business Development, gave welcome speech and also briefed the audience about the hospital infrastructure, patient safety measures, infection control procedure, and waste management system.

Dr Tamzeed Ahmed, and Dr Prashant Agrawal also spoke.

BDR CARNAGE

I just evaded a near death

Maj Monir tells court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Smearing the blood of an unfortunate officer on his face and playing dead, Maj Syed Monir Alam evaded a near death when the BDR jawans were on a killing spree in Darbar Hall of Pilkhana during the 2009 mutiny, the survivor told a court yesterday.

Maj Monir said that after the mutiny broke out, he and Maj Maksumul Hakim entered the washroom at the Hall and hid in a narrow corner under a basin.

But a group of BDR jawans including sepoy Zia and Razibul entered the washroom, spotted a portion of Maj Maksumul's legs, and fired bullets at him.

"At one stage, Maj Maksumul collapsed and frequently asked the jawans to take him to hospital, but they again fired and he died", Maj Monir, the 21st witness to the carnage, said in his deposition before the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka.

The February 26-27 mutiny and carnage in the headquarters of BDR

(now Border Guard Bangladesh) in Pilkhana killed 74 people including 57 senior and mid-ranking army officers.

"I was behind Maksul sir. I took the blood gushing out of his [Maksul] body in my hand and stained my face with it and pretended to be dead", he continued.

Around 20 minutes later another group of armed jawans entered and spotted the Rajshahi sector commander inside a locked toilet and shot him dead though they assured him that they had come to rescue him, Monir said.

Monir said realising that the place was no longer safe, he came out of the washroom through the window. At that point he saw five to six armed jawans including sepoy Sazzad, Rubel Miah, and Shahadat entered the Darbar Hall kitchen. He then hid himself inside a three feet deep drain around Darbar Hall and covered himself with a floor mat.

"I watched helplessly, discharge caused due to washing of already killed officers' blood following through it".

After staying there till 12:30am on February 27, 2009, Monir hid inside the false ceiling of Darbar hall where he stayed till a lawmaker rescued him in the afternoon.

"From the hideout I heard a jawan named Sepoy Shahid boasting that he alone had killed 17 officers", the major told the makeshift court at Bakshi Bazar where all detained accused were produced.

After his deposition, defence counsels cross-examined him when he said he had seen several officers inside the kitchen whose bodies were recovered later.

Maj Monir, who came to Pilkhana from Rangamati to participate in the parade, is one of the few lucky officers who get back to their families. He is now serving in Savar cantonment as a major.

After Maj Monir's cross-examination was completed around 4:15pm, the court adjourned the proceedings till 9:30am today. Earlier in the day, defence lawyers completed cross-examination of Maj Kamrul Hasan.

14-party mass rally tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League-led 14-party will hold a mass rally tomorrow in the city demanding immediate trial of the war criminals and resist what it called the opposition BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami's "move to protect the war criminals by creating anarchy in the country".

The decision to hold the rally was taken at a meeting of the city unit of the alliance recently.

The mass rally will be held before Shikha Chiranton at Suhrawardy Udyan.

The ruling alliance will declare its next course of programmes from the rally where senior leaders of the combine will speak. The rally will begin at 3:30pm. Prior to the rally, 14-party leaders and workers from different thana and wards of the city will bring out processions and march to the venue.

Earlier on December 20, the 14-party alliance decided to launch simultaneous political programmes across the country together with other like-minded parties, including the Communist Party of Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, AL will sit today at 7:00pm with the Jatiya Party (Ershad), the key ally of the alliance, to discuss finalising the programmes. The meeting will be held at Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's official residence Gono Bhaban with her in the chair.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khandakar Abdul Hamid, father of well-known sports journalist Dilu Khandakar, passed away at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday due to old age complications at the age of 84.

Hamid left behind his four sons, one daughter and a host of well-wishers.

He was laid to rest at the Shahjahanpur graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Eskaton Garden Mosque after Asr prayers.

Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association President Syed Mohammad Mamun and General Secretary Saidur Rahman Shamim expressed their condolences to the bereaved family.

Khandaker Abu Ali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Khandaker Abu Ali, a language movement veteran, an organiser of the War of Liberation and former president of the district unit of National Awami Party (NAP), passed away on Monday night at his house in the town due to old age complications at the age of 82.

He was given state honour at Natore Central Eidgah premises in the town on Tuesday morning.

Ali's body was donated to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Meer Abdul Matin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Meer Abdul Matin, a freedom fighter and social worker, passed away yesterday at his Sreerampur village residence at Kachua upazila in Chandpur due to old age complications at the age of 93.

He left behind his wife, one son and five daughters to mourn his death, said a press release.

Abdul Mannan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Abdul Mannan, a freedom fighter and former chairman of Hatkhola union parishad at Sadar upazila and vice-president of the upazila Awami League, passed away due to old age complications at his village home at Dighirpar in the sadar upazila on Sunday night at the age of 85.

He was buried at his family graveyard with state honour on Monday night.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran conduced his death.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia distributes winter clothes among the destitute at Banani in the city yesterday.

Road accidents kill 7

METRO DESK

Seven people were killed and 14 others injured in separate road accidents in Chittagong, Meherpur, Sirajganj, Narsingdi, Naogaon and Jamalpur yesterday.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: A truck driver was killed when the truck overturned after the driver lost his control over the steering on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Bara Aulia area of Shitakunda upazila in the port city yesterday.

The deceased was Zakir Hossain, 22, son of Abdur Rashid of Debidwar in Comilla.

Our Kushtia correspondent adds: Two labourers were killed on the spot and eight injured when a shallow engine-rum humber hauler (Nosimon) fell into a roadside ditch after colliding head-on with a sand-laden truck on Monohordia-Meherpur road at Teroghoria intersection of Monohorpur village in Meherpur Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased were Liton Hossain, 40, of Monohorpur, and Sarjul Islam, 38, of Teroghoria of Sadar upazila in Meherpur. The injured were admitted to Meherpur General Hospital and Kushtia General Hospital.

The deceased were Safi Uddin, 70, and rickshaw van puller Ashik Ali, 15, son of Enamul Haque, of Nisshitpur village of Sapahar upazila in Naogaon yesterday.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent adds: At least two people were killed on the spot when a truck hit a rickshaw van at Nisshitpur village of Sapahar upazila in Naogaon yesterday.

The deceased were Safi Uddin, 70, and rickshaw van puller Ashik Ali, 15, son of Enamul Haque, of Nisshitpur village of Sapahar upazila in Naogaon.

Police seized the truck and its driver Golam Morshed Saddam.

Our Jamalpur correspondent says: One man was killed and four others injured when a Tangail-bound goods-laden truck collided head-on with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on the Jamalpur-Tangail highway in Jamtoli area of Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased is Genda Miah, 32, son of Jafor Ali, of village Kumarpara of Sadar upazila.

The injured were admitted to Jamalpur General Hospital and Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

850 yaba tablets seized

CU CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a drive arrested two drug peddlers along with 850 pieces of yaba tablet worth about Tk 3.4 lakh from Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong on Monday.

The arrestees are Md Ibrahim, 34, son of late Shafi Sawdagar and Md Rezaul Karim, 32, son of Md Islam.

On information, a team of Rab-7 conducted the drive in Bata Foam Industries area of Dakkhin (south) Inamnagar in the upazila at around 6:45pm and nabbed the two along with the yaba, says a press release.

Meanwhile, the Rab personnel arrested Aman Ullah, 28, son of Abul Bashar, along with 135.27 cubic feet of stolen timber worth about Tk 2 lakh from C and B intersection under Chandgaon Police Station in the port city at around 10:45pm.

Rab men also seized the timber carrying three-wheeler.

WEATHER TODAY

Light to moderate fog 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 mid night till morning. Mt office said.

Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Tangail, Mymensingh, Pabna, Rangpur, Jessore and Kushtia and it may abate.

Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:20pm today and rises at 6:40am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 30.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 08.4 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	27.8	13.0	69	54
Chittagong	28.6	15.5	68	71
Rajshahi	26.0	10.2	84	75
Rangpur	25.7	09.6	72	69
Khulna	27.7	13.5	78	67
Barisal	29.0	13.8	70	80