

NEWS IN *brief*

Jamilur Reza, Abdul Malik receive Quazi Azher Ali memorial medal

METRO DESK
Former adviser to a caretaker government Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury and National Heart Foundation founder National Prof Brig (ret'd) Abdul Malik were awarded Quazi Azher Ali Memorial Gold Medal 2011 yesterday.

Bangladesh University and Quazi Azher Ali Foundation organised the awarding programme at the university campus marking the university's 10th founding anniversary and to award the medal for the second time.

Gold medals and certificates were also presented to the awardees, Dr Jamilur, for his contribution in education, and Malik, for his contribution in health. State Minister for LGRD Advocate Jahangir Kabir Chanak, Bangladesh University vice chancellor in-charge Prof Dr Md Golam Ali Fakir, Board of Trustees President Quazi Jamil Azher and National Prof Dr MR Khan were present.

Dr Kamal escapes unhurt from accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday escaped a possible accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway as a police van from the motorcade of Communications Minister Obaidul Quader drove recklessly and came face to face with his microbus.

The microbus carrying Dr Kamal was returning to Dhaka from Aricha in Manikganj. The police van from the rear of the minister's caravan suddenly tried to advance by overtaking other vehicles ahead, while the microbus from the opposite direction was crossing the place the same time, witnesses said.

This brought the van and the microbus face-to-face as there was no space for crossing on the two-lane road. At this stage, Dr Kamal sharply asked his microbus driver to stop and signaled and asked the protocol van to stop too. Everything happened in a few seconds.

Learning about Dr Kamal and the incident, Quader got down from his car, came forward and ordered stand release of the van's driver then and there.

During his visit, the communications minister ordered the roads and highways department (RHD) to put dividers at all the 22 risky turning points on Dhaka-Aricha highway to check road accidents, according to sources.

Two 'commit suicide' in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A garment worker and a housewife allegedly committed suicide in two separate incidents in the city's Ramna and Gulshan area yesterday.

The deceased were garment worker Shilpi Begum, 22, of Mirbagh in Ramna, and Shahinur Akhter Anju of Kalachandpur in Gulshan.

Sub-inspector (SI) Jamal Hossain of Ramna Police Station said police recovered the body of Shilpi from her residence at around 4:30pm.

The neighbours said Shilpi had a quarrel with her husband Shamsul, a sweeper. Following the quarrel, Shamsul went out of home around 3:30pm.

After returning home, he brought down the body, which was hanging from ceiling fan with a scarf, and fled the scene.

SI Siddiqur Rahman of Gulshan Police Station said police recovered the body of Shahinur from her residence early yesterday.

Shahinur's husband Mostafiz and local people said Shahinur had been suffering from mental disorder.

Fire breaks out at RMG factory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Several workers were injured in a fire incident at a ready-made garment factory in the city's Hazaribagh yesterday.

Fire Service and Civil Defence officials said four units of fire-fighters aided by the employees of the seven-storey Common Sense Garments Ltd doused the fire that had started at 3:20pm.

The workers were injured during their bid to put out the fire, the officials added.

Hazaribagh police told The Daily Star that the fire had originated from a generator on the ground floor and caught the Jhut (garment byproducts) dumped there.

Worker dies after pipe falls on him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A worker died after a heavy pipe fell on him at a drainage construction site at Moghbazar Balur Math in the city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Sohrab Ali, 22, son of Akbar Ali of Satkhira.

His co-worker Khalilur Rahman said, around 5:00pm, Sohrab and his co-workers were lifting some 40 feet-long cement pipes with the help of cranes.

Suddenly, a pipe slid and fell on Sohrab, causing him a severe head injury.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where duty doctors declared him dead.

Monajat's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Today is the 16th death anniversary of journalist Monajat Uddin.

Monajat died after falling from a ferry on the way to collect information for an investigative report outside of Dhaka when he worked for the daily Janakantha.

Monajat received more than half dozens awards including Shwadhinata Padak and Philips award.

A meeting and award giving ceremony titled "Charon Sangbadik Monajatuddin Smrity Puroshkar 2009 and 2010" will be held at the Dhaka Reporters Unity today, says a press release.



DAY OF ALL SMILES

(Clockwise from top) It is all V-signs from ecstatic students of Viqarunnisa Noon School, Khastagir Government Girls' High School of Chittagong, Ideal School and College Motijheel and Dhaka Residential Model College after the result of Junior School Certificate Examination-2011 was made public yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



BDR MUTINY

Mutineers were alerted to possible army attack: PW

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Mutineers at Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) headquarters on Feb 25, 2009 took up arms and returned to their positions soon after the home minister left Pilkhana quarters after talks with them.

They were asked by their leaders to remain alert against a probable attack on the BDR headquarters by the army.

Major Abdullah Al Mamun yesterday revealed these crucial moments during his deposition before a session judge's court set up at the Alia Madrasa ground in the city. He was the 22nd prosecution witness of the BDR carnage case.

"All lights were switched off and gates locked. We were asked not to make any noise," he said.

Confined inside a prison cell of the quarter guard, Mamun watched the events unfold through a hole in his cell door. Earlier he saw jawans surrendering their weapons to the home minister.

"But after she left, the jawans took up weapons again," he said.

Maj Mamun hid behind a steel wardrobe at a clerk's office inside Pilkhana when the mutiny broke out on February 25. He heard Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) Nasir giving orders over a loudspeaker asking soldiers to take up arms from a pick-up van and prepare for a fight.

Mamun managed to contact army officers over his cell phone and alert them about the situation inside Pilkhana. He also suggested suitable strategies to tackle the armed jawans. However, he was soon found out. Mamun said he heard someone announce over loudspeakers: "Major Mamun is in hiding inside Pilkhana and informing the cantonment about us. He suggested the army attack us with tanks. Find him and kill him."

The mutineers dragged him out and beat him with the butt of rifles.

"When they prepared to shoot me, I begged for my life for the sake of my children," he recalls.

Mamun was then confined in the prison cell from where he was rescued on February 26.

Following his deposition, defence lawyers cross-examined him.

Counsel Aminul Islam told him that an officer like a DAD did not have the authority to make announcements under BDR laws. They asked him how he could be sure that he heard DAD Nasir make these announcements.

Mamun said that DAD Nasir did indeed make the announcements and that he (Major Mamun) recognised the man because of his familiarity with Nasir's voice.

The court will resume today with further cross-examination of the witness.

74 people, including 57 army officers, were killed during the two-day mutiny.

AL govt must reply for secret killing: Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka
BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night said the Awami League (AL) government will have to reply to the international court for carrying out secret killings.

Accusing the government for secret killings, she said people will not spare them (AL) time and again. Post-independence Awami League government had killed 40,000 people, including freedom fighters, she added.

They (AL) will have to answer to people for the killing, said Khaleda.

She told a function marking exchange of greetings with the Christian Community at her Gulshan office at 9:00pm on the occasion of Christmas Day and New Year 2012.

Col Qadir's son visits his grave first time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

"My father's memory was like a dream. But now, sitting beside his grave, I can feel his presence," said Naveed Qadir, son of the War of Liberation martyr Lt Col Mohammad Abdul Qadir yesterday.

Col Qadir's wife Hasna Hena Qadir was pregnant with her third child, Naveed, when the Pakistani army "arrested" the martyr from his Chittagong residence on April 17, 1971 and killed him for his role in the War of Liberation.

Since then the body and the grave were traceless. But the eldest son, Nadeem Qadir, in his relentless search since 1990, discovered the site in Panchlaish of Chittagong in 2007 where the Pakistani army had killed and buried Col Qadir.

This was for the first time that Naveed, an IT expert working in New Zealand, visited his father's grave, accompanied by Nadeem, his sister Rubina Qadir Hussain and the army garrison Chief Brig Gen Shams Khan.



Prof Razia Khan passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Razia Khan Amin, an eminent litterateur and English professor at Dhaka University, passed away in a city hospital last night at the age of 75.

She had been ill for quite some time.

Prof Razia Khan Amin, daughter of distinguished politician and social activist Moulvi Tamizuddin Khan, is survived by her husband, a son, and a daughter.

Born in 1936, Razia Khan started writing short stories and novels at the age of 8. Her first novel was Bot Tolar Upannyash (1958). She authored a number of novels, poems, and plays in both Bangla and English.

Her literary works include the novels Chitrokabpa, Bot Tolar Upannyash, Anukalpa, Padobik, and Draupadi, the last one being translated into English. Argus Under Anaesthesia (1976) and Cruel April (1977) are two of her collections of poems.

For her contribution in Bangla literature, Dr Razia Khan won the Bangla Academy award, the most prestigious literary award in the country, in 1975. She also won the Ekushey Padak (1997), Ananya Award (1998), and Shilpakala Academy Award for her contribution to theatre in Bangladesh.

The namaz-e-janaza of Dr Razia Khan will be held at DU Central Mosque after Zohr prayers today. She will be buried in Banani Graveyard afterwards.

Aasha Mehreen Amin, magazine editor of The Star, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, is the daughter of Prof Razia Khan Amin.

Sajeda Haque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sajeda Haque, mother of Monjurul Haque, sports editor of The Daily Independent, passed away at the city's Square Hospital yesterday morning due to kidney ailments at the age of 80.

She was the wife of former Member of British Empire late Sheikh Mazharul Haque.

She left behind her six sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

She was laid to rest at the Azimpur Graveyard after namaz-e-janaza was held at the Dhanmondi Eidgah Mosque after Esha prayers.

Her qualkhwani will be held at her Dhanmondi residence at Flat No- 2/B, House No- 28, Road No- 9/A, after Asr prayers tomorrow.

WEATHER TODAY

Light to moderate fog likely

UNB, Dhaka
Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere 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.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:21pm today and rises at 6:40am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 31.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 10.0 degrees Celsius at Dinajpur.

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	28.8	15.6	62	63
Chittagong	25.0	20.0	89	88
Rajshahi	27.2	12.0	87	77
Rangpur	27.8	11.4	77	72
Khulna	26.6	17.0	61	71
Barisal	27.8	18.4	63	80



Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, along with her party leaders, distributes winter clothes among the poor in Naya Bazar area of Old Dhaka Tuesday night.

PHOTO: BNP

SHOPKEEPER MURDER
Bangshal traders keep shutters down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traders in the capital's Bangshal and its adjacent areas kept their shutters down till 2:00pm yesterday, protesting the killing of a shopkeeper by muggers.

They also expressed frustration over police reluctance to arrest the killer and recover the looted money worth Tk 10 lakh.

A band of muggers looted the amount after shooting Rubel Chowkider, 25, dead and injuring his co-worker Nasir Gazi, 33, Tuesday afternoon.

Rubel and Nasir, employees of Iqbal Enterprise at Nazira Bazar, were returning to their business establishment after drawing the amount from a bank at Bangshal, locals said.

All the shops and business establishments at Bangshal and its adjacent areas including English Road, Nazira Bazar and North South Road remained closed from morning to 2:00pm yesterday, witnesses said.

Iqbal Hossain, owner of Iqbal Enterprise, told The Daily Star that the traders could not bring out processions in protest at the killing due to interference by law enforcers. He also alleged that police are yet to take any step to nab the culprits.

Zamir Uddin, officer-in-charge of Bangshal Police Station, however, denied the allegation, saying that they are trying their best to arrest the killers and recover the money.