

NEWS IN *brief*

JU student found dead

JU CORRESPONDENT

A first year student of Jahangirnagar University (JU) under 2011-12 academic session was found dead in room no 401 of Moulana Bhashani Hall of the university yesterday.

The victim, identified as Vannei Liyan Bom, 20, hailed from Lairun Pe village of Ruma thana in Bandarban and had been admitted in the Archaeology department under indigenous quota. His roommate Uhai Singh of Economics department said Liyan reached the university on Wednesday as his first class was supposed to be held yesterday. Liyan returned to his hall from Zahir Raihan Auditorium after watching a movie at around 4:00pm on Wednesday and showed no symptom of illness.

Hall sources said yesterday morning his friends were calling him to attend his class, and as there was no response they informed the authorities. Liyan was rushed to Savar Enam Medical College Hospital in an unconscious state at around 10:00am. Doctors declared him dead on arrival.

11 shops fined in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday fined 11 shops Tk 1.23 lakh for irregularities in different areas under Double Mooring Police Station in the port city, said a press release.

The court comprising Executive Magistrate Jubayer Ahmed and members of Rapid Action Battalion realised Tk 10,000 from a beef shop of Shafi Sawdagar, Tk 10,000 from M/s Food Festival, Tk 15,000 from Nur Hotel, Tk 10,000 from Hallmark Cards and Gifts, Tk 5,000 from Saam General Store, Tk 30,000 from M/s Zaman Hotel (Badamtoli), Tk 8,000 from Royal Pharmacy, Tk 15,000 from Hotel Raaj, Tk 5,000 from Mousumi Departmental Store, Tk 10,000 from Rupali Canteen and Tk 5,000 from Jyoti Departmental Store.

31st night concert in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

NTV, a private satellite TV channel in Bangladesh, and Abul Khair Steel will jointly organise an open-air concert on December 31 to welcome the new year of 2012 at MA Aziz Stadium of the port city.

James of Nagor Baul, Mamtaj, Haider Hussain, Hridoy Khan, and Close Up one celebrities Nishita Barua, Sabbir and Rinku will perform in the concert titled AKS Dhamaka Open Air Concert, said the organisers at a press conference in Chittagong Press Club yesterday.

Aman visits ailing Sultan Mansur

UNB, Dhaka

Former Ducusu vice-president Amanullah Aman yesterday visited ailing ex-Ducusu VP Sultan Mohammad Mansur at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) in the city.

Aman, also BNP joint secretary general, along with ex-Ducusu assistant general secretary and BNP International Affairs Secretary Nazimuddin Alam and ex-Ducusu general secretary and BNP Education Affairs Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon spent some time beside Sultan.

They enquired about his health condition and wished his early recovery. Sultan was admitted to the NICVD with heart complication.

257 students get SIBL scholarships

METRO DESK

Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd (SIBL) has organised Scholarship Awarding Ceremony for the poor and meritorious students at Marriott Convention Centre in the city recently, says a press release.

The 257 students of different colleges, medical colleges and universities received scholarships. Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad was present as the chief guest at the function.

Vice chairmen of the bank Md Harun Miah and Khandoker Sakib Ahmed, former chairmen Engr Md Towhidur Rahman and Mohammad Solaiman, directors Mohiuddin Ahmed, Syed Nurul Arefeen, Nazmul Islam Nuru, Additional Managing Director Mukhter Hossain and Deputy Managing Director Md Abdul Jabbar Chowdhury and former managing director M Kamaluddin Chowdhury were, among others, present.



Rezaul, Mohiul Ctg Samity president, secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rezaul Haq Chowdhury Mushtaq and Mohiul Islam Mohim were elected the president and general secretary of Chattagram Samity-Dhaka after its election at Chattagram Bhaban in the city on December 27.

Other office-bearers are: vice presidents Laila Siddique, Nurul Alam, Maruf Shah Chowdhury, Nazimuddin Chowdhury and Bakhtiar uddin Chowdhury; joint general secretaries Nasir Uddin and Giasuddin Khan; Treasurer Nasiruddin, Organising Secretary SM Arif, Press and Publication Secretary Ahmed Momtaz, Education, Library and Seminar Secretary Rahul Barua, Sports Secretary Md Abdul Mabud, Cultural Secretary Saiyuddin Ahmed, Office Secretary Shafiqur Rahman Shafiq, Health and Social Welfare Secretary Md Gaisuddin Chowdhury, International Relations Secretary Md Lokman Hakim, Human Resources Dev Secretary Mustafa Iqbal Chowdhury Mukul and Women and Children Affairs Secretary Yasmin Karim.

The executive committee members are Shahed Jalal Chowdhury, Mozammel Haq Chowdhury, Shahjada Mohiuddin, Md Shah Alam, Sultan Mahmud, Advocate M Masud Alam, Shahdat Hossain Chowdhury, Shahjan Montu, Salimuddin, Liakat Ali, Faridul Alam, Mahmood Saladdin Chowdhury and Shahidul Islam Shahid.



A row of trucks as far as the eye can see on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the city yesterday carrying activists of the ruling Awami League-led grand alliance to a rally in front of the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh to intensify the demand for immediate trial of war criminals. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

Prothom Alo editor gets bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman and Associate Editor Mizanur Rahman Khan for two months in a defamation case filed in Narayanganj.

In response to two separate petitions filed by the defendants, the court also stayed the proceedings of the case for three months.

Adv Ramzan Ali Sikder, a lawyer for the petitioners, said a leader of Narayanganj Bar filed the defamation case for publishing an article on December 10, stating that Narayanganj Bar Association President Anisur Rahman and General Secretary Khokon Saha are abusing the office of the bar as the cadres of Narayanganj local Awami League leader Shamim Osman.

Mohammad Mohsin Mia, secretary for social service and entertainment, Narayanganj Bar Association, filed the case against Matiuur Rahman and Mizanur Rahman on December 14.

Yesterday, the petitioners appeared before a vacation HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Anwarul Haque seeking bail in the case. After hearing the petitions, the bench passed the orders.

The bench also issued a rule upon the government of complainant of the case now pending before the chief judicial magistrate, "Ka" region, Narayanganj should not be transferred to another criminal court of equal jurisdiction.

It further allowed the petitioners to surrender before the court of the metropolitan magistrate, Dhaka and furnish requisite bail bond. Dr Kamal Hossain appeared for the petitioners.

Govt wants to keep BNP away from next polls

Alleges Mirza Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the government is plotting to keep BNP away from the next general elections.

"The government wants to hold the polls under its rule to run the next parliament in a controlled manner with an obliged opposition.... But the people won't accept it," he told newsmen after placing floral wreaths at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area.

He led the leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal, a front body of BNP, pay respects to Zia on the occasion of its 33rd founding anniversary.

Fakhrul also complained that the International Crimes Tribunal has failed to meet international standards in trying the war crimes suspects and the trial process is not transparent.

"We also want trial of war criminals but the government is conducting the trial with a political motive. War criminals will have to be tried in a transparent process," he insisted.

Earlier on December 3, the main opposition asked the government to immediately stop the activities of the tribunal.

Two BNP leaders -- Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Abdul Alim -- are standing trial on charges of committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

Meanwhile, Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Faroque yesterday said BNP will return to the House in the next session if a bill is placed to reinstate the caretaker government system in the constitution.

"You [the president] have called parliament into session on January 25 and we want to join. But you will have to create a congenial atmosphere," Faroque said while addressing a human chain programme in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

Zia Parishad organised the programme protesting filing of "false" cases against BNP leaders including its Senior Vice-chairman Tarique Rahman.

Call to free politics of revenge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country will not reach its desired goal until the politics here gets rid of the culture of revenge, said leaders of the ruling party and opposition yesterday.

They made the remarks at a debate competition for university students on 'Whether our desired victory is achieved' jointly organised by ATN Bangla and Debate for Democracy in the city's Bashundhara City Complex auditorium, says a press release.

"We have to work for the mass people, coming out of the politics of revenge. Otherwise, the new generation will not get

the right direction," said Awami League leader Tofail Ahmed.

He also said, although the desired victory is yet to be achieved, a process in that direction has been started.

BNP leader Dr Khandakar Mosharaf Hossain said, "We have to come out of the culture of ill politics, which has been in practice in the country."

North South University, which took part in the debate representing the opposition party, became the champion, defeating Ahsan Ullah Science and Technology University, which represented the ruling party, says the release.



Rabab Fatima, regional representative of South Asia of International Organisation for Migration, Dhaka, speaks to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during a courtesy call at the Prime Minister's Office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

VIOLENCE CASE Charges against 91 pressed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday pressed charges against 91 leaders and activists of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami in cases filed for creating anarchy and violence on December 18 in the city's Paltan, Motijheel and Shahbagh areas.

The accused include Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal President Moazzem Hossain Alal, its General Secretary Saiful Alam Nirob, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) President Sultan Salauddin Tuku, JCD General Secretary Amirul Islam Alim, Jatiyatabadi Swetchhasebak Dal President Habib-un-Nabi Khan Sohel and its General Secretary Sarafat Ali Safu.

Of the accused, 58 were named in the case filed with Paltan Police Station, 27 in the case filed with Shahbagh Police Station while six were named in the case filed with Motijheel Police Station for damaging vehicles, halting traffic, causing anarchy and preventing police from discharging their duties.

Muktar Hossain, sub-inspector of Paltan Police Station and investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet against 58.

It showed 14 people including Alal, Tuku and Sohel as fugitives, even though several of them got ad-interim bail from the High Court. The remaining 44 who were arrested earlier are now in jail custody.

Shahbagh and Motijheel police also submitted their charge sheets. All cases were filed under the Speedy Trial Act. Earlier on December 18, several homemade bombs went off in the capital's downtown as hundreds of BNP-Jamaat activists clashed with police and vandalised and torched around a dozen vehicles.

A 24-year-old man, Arifuzzaman Arif, was killed when a bomb exploded in Motijheel area.

Following the incidents, police filed 18 cases against around 7,000 leaders and activists of the opposition parties for going on the rampage.

Police also detained 289 BNP-Jamaat activists from the capital and interrogated 120 of them for six days in connection with the cases.

Prof Razia Khan laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted litterateur and Dhaka University (DU) professor Dr Razia Khan Amin was buried at the city's Banani graveyard at around 4:00pm yesterday.

Earlier after zohr prayers, her namaz-e-janaza was held at the DU central mosque where deputy leader of the parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and Finance Minister AMA Muhiith, among others, were present.

A doa mahfil will be held at Gulshan Azad mosque after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Prof Razia Khan, daughter of distinguished politician and social activist Moulvi Tamizuddin Khan, passed away on Wednesday night at the age of 75.

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

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

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather 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.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 5:22pm today and rises at 6:41am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 30.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 09.7 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	15.0	58	62
Chittagong	26.4	20.0	91	78
Rajshahi	27.7	12.4	61	75
Rangpur	26.8	13.0	71	76
Khulna	28.0	16.2	70	62
Barisal	28.2	17.0	85	77
Sylhet	30.8	16.4	58	55



Sector Commanders' Forum brings out a procession from the National Museum in the city yesterday demanding formation of more tribunals for the trial of war criminals.

PHOTO: STAR