

NEWS IN *brief*

20 youths on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday took 20 youths on a five-day remand who were arrested on Friday from Retina coaching centre at Farmgate on the charge of allegedly plotting subversive activities.

A Dhaka court granted the remand after Detective Branch (DB) of police placed the detainees before the court in the morning.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of DB Mollah Nazrul Islam told The Daily Star that the youths were arrested under Section 54 of CrPC. Nazrul said a regular case against the youths will be filed if the police find them engaged in subversive activities after verification.

On information that some Islami Chhatra Shibir activists had gathered at the coaching centre to plot a subversive act, the police raided the coaching centre and arrested 30 youths. Later, 10 of the arrestees were released after primary interrogation.

Fake NSI man held in Keraniganj

UNB, Keraniganj

A fake National Security Intelligence (NSI) officer was arrested in Keraniganj yesterday.

The arrestee is Mirza Shahadat Hossain, alias Harun, alias Kobbat, 45.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mainuddin Khan of Keraniganj Model Thana said Shahadat, introducing himself as an NSI officer, telephoned him at 1:00am and told him that he (Shahadat) was on duty in the upazila and he needed a police force from the station immediately.

Being suspicious, the OC asked Shahadat to physically appear in the police station and give an undertaking for taking the force.

Telephoning NSI headquarters, the OC also found that Shahadat was not an employee of NSI.

Shahadat was arrested and will be produced before the court, said police.

Journo killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

A journalist was killed in a road accident at Kotalipara upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased was Monez Das, 65, Kotalipara upazila correspondent of The New Nation.

Witnesses said Monez was run over by a speeding truck near Mary Cinema at about 12:00 noon while he was going to Sadar upazila from Ghagar Bazar riding his motor cycle. He died on the spot.

Razzak not shown due respect in his last days  
Say former BCL leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of former leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday expressed resentment saying that late veteran Awami League (AL) leader Abdur Razzak was not accorded "due respect and recognition" by the party in the last days of his life.

Although Razzak's contributions to the War of Liberation in 1971 and in AL politics will be written in 'golden words' in the country's history, he did not get due respect in the final days of his political career, they said.

They were speaking at a commemorative meeting for Razzak, who died on December 24, ending a 50 year-long illustrious career in politics.

Several leaders at the meeting, organised by the Praktan Chhatra League Foundation, criticised the government for not offering Razzak a position in the cabinet.

"Razzak died with sorrow in his mind. And his sorrow is now spreading among us," said former BCL leader Mahmudur Rahman Manna, also a former organising secretary of AL.

Abdul Jalil, former AL general secretary, said Razzak was on the front line of all progressive movements in Bangladesh.

Amir Hossain Amu, an AL advisory council member, said the late politician had played a significant role in strengthening the AL after Bangabandhu's death in 1975.

Convener of the foundation Nure Alam Siddiqui, former BCL leaders Khaled Mohammad Ali, Rafia Akhter Dolly, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu and Nurul Fazal Bulbul also spoke.



Guests at a discussion, "Challenges of Cancer Treatment in Bangladesh: Ensuring better diagnosis and service to patients", organised by The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

Depoliticisation of army a must for democracy  
Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Depoliticisation of the armed forces is an imperative to sustain and strengthen the country's democracy and development, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

All successive governments had used the armed forces for political ends since the country's independence, and none of them, including the present one, has encouraged professionalism in the defence services, they said.

"Civil bureaucracy had been politicised long ago. The armed forces was politicised later leading to demoralisation of their members," Akbar Ali Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government, said at the seminar.

Centre for Sustainable Development organised the seminar "civil military relationship and democratic governance in Bangladesh" in a hotel in the capital.

Akbar said the armed forces cannot interfere in the country's politics if good governance remains in place.

Military intervention or martial law cannot be prevented by mere enactment of law if democracy does not flourish in the country, he said.

"Political problems should be resolved politically. Likewise, military problems should also be solved militarily. The balance of power between the civil administration and the armed forces is absent in our country for lack of good governance," said the former adviser.

Abul Hasan Chowdhury, former state minister for foreign affairs, said professionalism could not be established in the armed forces for political intervention of two major political parties -- Awami League and BNP.

Mahbub Ullah, professor at Dhaka University, said people of India or even Pakistan take pride in their armed forces but Bangladeshis do not really take any pride in their military forces.

Maj Gen (ret'd) Fazle Elahi Akbar, BNP chairperson's chief coordinator on defence and security issues, Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury, vice chairman of BNP, and AG Mahmud, ex-chief of the air force, also spoke.

Bangladesh Kalyan Party Chief Maj Gen (ret'd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim presented the keynote paper.

No self-respecting country can accept caretaker system  
Says Justice Habibur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday said no self-respecting country can accept a caretaker government system.

"We've destroyed the Supreme Court by introducing the caretaker government system. It is not acceptable," said Rahman, who himself was the chief adviser of a caretaker administration.

"Perhaps there will be no incident of boycotting elections in our country, even if the caretaker system is gone."

He was talking to reporters after an award-giving ceremony and reception organised by Ethics Club Bangladesh at Dhaka University Senate Bhaban.

Justice Rahman suggested looking for a new formula to hold free and fair elections. "There are so many persons who are wiser and more talented than I. They sure will find a new method."

Replying to a question, he said the main purpose of a government is to maintain law and order, which deteriorated in 2011.

Professor Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman, Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury, economist Prof Anu Muhammad, among others, were honoured at the programme.

Parliament in June 2011 abolished the non-party caretaker system allowing general elections under an elected partisan government, sparking off protests from the opposition.

'Fake doctor' jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Suspicion over a prescription revealed yesterday that a physiotherapist was impersonating a doctor at Modern Diagnostic Centre in the city's Fakirapool.

The revelation came as a police constable of Rajarbagh Police Lines went to Debesh Sarkar, who was claiming to be an orthopaedic doctor, at the centre seeking treatment for arthritis.

Finding no effect from the drugs prescribed by Debesh, the constable consulted another physician who raised the alarm, stating that the prescribed drugs were not meant for arthritic patients.

This is when the constable informed Magistrate Anwar Pasha of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) who raided the diagnostic centre yesterday and discovered Debesh's true identity.

Debesh was awarded a two-year jail sentence and fined Tk 3 lakh while the centre Manager Mujibul Haq was fined Tk 1 lakh for aiding Debesh.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia places a wreath on the coffin of veteran freedom fighter M Hamidullah Khan Bir Pratik, one of the sector commanders of the Liberation War, in front of BNP's Naya Paltan office in the city yesterday.

Call to follow ideals of Prof Kabir Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cultural personalities and educationists yesterday recalled eminent educationist and litterateur Prof Kabir Chowdhury by garlanding his photograph at Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) organised the citizen's condolence meeting.

Kabir Chowdhury's death is an irreparable loss for the nation, said AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice-chancellor of Dhaka University.

"We have lost the actual guide," he said adding, a proper tribute would be paid to him if people could follow his path.

Kabir Chowdhury died of cardiac arrest at the age of 89 at his city residence in Naya Paltan on December 13.

SSJ Vice-President Golam Kuddus said Kabir Chowdhury was always vocal against terrorism, communalism and fundamentalist forces.

The eminent educationist gave direction to lead the movement for trial of the war criminals, said Kuddus adding, "Kabir never stepped back under any trepidation till the last of his breath."

"During 1/11 when the country's situation was volatile, he (Kabir Chowdhury) encouraged us to face the situation", said Dr Muhammad Samad, vice-president of Jatiya Kabita Parishad.

President of International Theatre Institute worldwide Ramendu Majumdar; Secretary General of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation Jhuna Chowdhury and President of Gano Sangeet Samannay Parishad Fakir Alamgir also spoke among others.

DHAKA TODAY

- Rally**  
Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad will hold a rally. Venue: Bangabandhu memorial museum, Dhanmondi, Time: 11:00am.
- Memorial meeting**  
Bangabandhu Academy will hold a memorial meeting. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Time: 11:00am.
- Anniversary**  
Jatiya Party will celebrate its anniversary. Venue: Central office of the party, Paltan, Time: 11:00am.
- Photography exhibition**  
Luminous Art will organise a photography exhibition. Venue: Drik Gallery, Dhanmondi, Time: 4:30pm.
- Discussion**  
Jatiya Party-JP will hold a discussion. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 3:00pm.
- Procession**  
Communist Party of Bangladesh will hold a procession. Venue: Before Mukti Bhaban, Time: 4:00pm.
- Rally**  
Bangladesh Chhatra Union will hold a rally. Venue: Dhaka University campus, Time: 11:00am.

First online school starts operation

METRO DESK

The country's first online school supported by Alliance Holdings Ltd has come into operation in Tongi, the outskirts of the capital, in the month of December.

Jaago Foundation, an organisation providing free education to under-privileged children, runs the school. Jaago presently teaches over 300 students in different branches.

The online school's official inauguration held recently was attended by distinguished guests including teachers and managements of Jaago Foundation and Alliance Holdings Ltd.

The ceremony was also marked by a milad, doa mahfil and songs, rhymes performed by the students before the first classes began on the occasion of the Victory Day.

The school presently caters to 82 children and is expected to enrol another 40 children this year. The classes are run in the physical presence of two teachers and another teacher online through WEBEX system from Jaago's main office in Rayerbazar coordinates the lessons. The students are able to enjoy fully interactive classes because of the online facilities.

Jaago Foundation hopes that this technology would enable them to open similar schools throughout Bangladesh in more remote areas.

Alliance Holdings Ltd, a conglomerate of companies, has funded the school building and decided to support Jaago's activities. Together, they aim to better the lives of under-privileged and poor children.

Jaago Foundation founder Korvi Rakshand and executive director (Corporate Affairs) M Anwarul Haq and Alliance Holdings manager (CSR) Mahmuda Hussain were present on the occasion among others.

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Dry weather likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky having chance of light rain or thunder showers at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions and regions of Tangail and Mymensingh 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 temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:23pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow.**

Country's highest temperature 30.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 07.7 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	28.7	13.6	54	36
Chittagong	28.1	17.6	68	48
Rajshahi	27.0	11.2	74	72
Rangpur	26.6	11.4	71	71
Khulna	26.5	15.4	72	88
Barisal	28.8	14.0	61	79
Sylhet	30.7	14.6	65	52
Cox's Bazar	30.8	19.0	54	58