

NEWS IN *brief*

Woman's head found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the head of a woman from under the Alipur Bridge in Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital last evening.
Mainuddin Khan, officer-in-charge of Keraniganj Police Station, told this correspondent that at around 5:30pm, they recovered the head kept in a polythene shopping bag.
He said they searched for the body in the area but did not get it. Later, they sent the head to the Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy.
The morgue sources said the victim might have been killed within 24 hours before the recovery of the head. Her age would be above 30.

JOCV to assist in maternity health

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two members of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers arrived in Bangladesh yesterday to assist in health and sports under Japan International Cooperation Agency's technical cooperation programme.
One member will lead Save Motherhood Promotion Project in Narsingdi, Satkhira and Jessore districts as programme officer while the other will impart training to tennis players at Bangladesh Krira Shiksha Protishtan, says a press release.

Santosh Gupta's 87th birth anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 87th birth anniversary of the late Santosh Gupta, former senior assistant editor of the Daily Sangbad, says a press release.

On the occasion, Santosh Gupta Memorial Committee will pay tribute to the veteran journalist and freedom fighter placing wreath at his monument in Posotogola cremation site in the early morning.

He was born on January 9, 1925 in Runsi village of Jhalokathi.

His post editorial under the pen name of "Aniruddha" made him popular at home and abroad.

He was honoured with many awards including Ekushey Padak (1997), Bangabandhu Award (1985), and Sher-e-Bangla Award.



Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addresses a public meeting at Patua Bazar on Comilla highway during the road march to Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Fake APS to president arrested

BSS, Dhaka

A man introducing himself as an assistant private secretary (APS) to President Zillur Rahman was arrested at Uttara in the city last night.

Uttara police with the assistance of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested the impostor identified as Gholam Sarwar, a Bangabhaban press release said yesterday.

Recently, Bangabhaban received a complaint that someone took Tk 3 lakh from Nurul Absar, a resident of Patenga in Chittagong, claiming that he is an APS to the president and assuring him that he would admit Absar's niece to a medical college.

Absar filed a case with the Uttara Police Station yesterday. As per information of the case, police arrested Sarwar, son of Abdul Khaleq Sarkar from Kashimpur village under Motlab upazila in Chandpur.

Terming the incident as unfortunate, the release of the president's office said there is no link of the president and his relatives with the impostor.

Minister finds BRTA office in disarray

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, in a surprise visit yesterday, detected various anomalies in issuance of driving license, fitness certificate and tax token in the Mirpur office of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) in the city.

During the visit, he found dozens of dalals (lobbyists) in the office, serving the people there in lieu of money. He also found some BRTA officials not discharging their duties properly.

Quader caught two lobbyists red-handed when they were serving two persons in exchange of money at the fitness counter. The two were handed over to an on-duty magistrate, though many others fled the office sensing the minister's presence.

Many people there complained

to the minister about widespread irregularities and dominance of lobbyists in the office. They said they didn't get any service without paying money.

been visiting the BRTA office for months to get his driving license.

Entering the room of motor vehicles inspector Abul Hasan, the minister found no one there while cus-

tomers crowded outside the room.

Many customers also complained that two employees, Nazrul and Alam, of BRTA chairman's office

in Alenbari frequently visit the Mirpur office and give service to the people without following any rules.

Quader immediately asked BRTA Chairman Ayubur Rahman Khan, who was accompanying him, to take action against the two employees. He also visited most of the office rooms and expressed dissatisfaction over the overall service standard and cleanliness.

Warning of similar surprise visits to the office in future, he asked the BRTA officials to refrain from engaging in irregularities and to render services to people without any harassment.

"I will not tolerate any irregularities anymore. Stern action will be taken if I find any officials involved in irregularities and harassment of people," he warned.

Many people there complained to the minister about widespread irregularities and dominance of lobbyists in the BRTA office. They said they didn't get any service without paying money

"If you pay, your job will be done quickly, otherwise you will be coming here day after day," one of them told the minister adding that, he had

tomers crowded outside the room. Many customers also complained that two employees, Nazrul and Alam, of BRTA chairman's office

Fire scare at DMCH burn unit
10 patients injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire scare led to the evacuation of over 200 patients of burn unit of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) yesterday evening.

Ten patients were injured in their attempt to come out of the DMCH burn unit after a smoke and flames were seen in the unit, sparking off the fears.

The patients took shelter in a nearby field inside the DMCH compound and stayed there for five to six minutes until they learnt that the fire had been put out. The rest of the 335 patients stayed inside the hospital as they could not move and did not get help from others.

Patients on the 3rd floor of the six-storey building first noticed the fire at the DMCH burn unit at 5:30pm.

"Soon after noticing the smoke and fire, my wife wasted no time in requesting an unknown man to help her take me out of the hospital," said Abdul Karim, 60, a patient on the 3rd floor of the burn unit.

"Bleeding had started from the burnt parts of my legs and waist as soon as we went out of the hospital," said Karim.

Experts feared that the wounds of the patients who had been evacuated would worsen soon as they were pulled out of the hospital in desperation.

Burn Specialist Dr Samanta Lal Sen said the patients would suffer in the long run as their burnt wounds have been affected once again during the rush.

A Fire Brigade and Civil Defence official said five units had been sent to extinguish the fire but the hospital staff had doused the flame instantly.

The official suspected that the fire broke out from the wastage piled on the rooftop of an overpass connecting the burn unit with the emergency building.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate for may occur over the river basins of 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 5:28pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 29.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 11.5 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	26.3	17.8	64	67
Chittagong	26.2	17.8	90	66
Rajshahi	25.4	15.8	82	71
Rangpur	23.5	12.8	71	74
Khulna	22.0	16.6	97	90
Barisal	22.5	15.5	98	98
Sylhet	26.9	14.8	59	64
Cox's Bazar	29.4	19.0	69	70

Bangladesh Agro-Processors' Association (BAPA) expresses deep sorrow

Bangladesh Agro-Processors' Association (BAPA) is deeply saddened and aggrieved at the demise of one of the greatest industrialists of Bangladesh, the Honorable **Samson H. Chowdhury**, who passed away on January 5th at a hospital in Singapore. He was the Chairman of Square Group and Square Consumer Products Limited, a member of BAPA.

We share the grief experienced by his family members and all the members of Square Group, and we convey our deepest condolences.

May his soul rest in peace.



Executive Committee of Bangladesh Agro-Processors' Association (BAPA) & All general members

Participants of CAPSTONE course visit defence ministry

UNB, Dhaka

Participants of CAPSTONE Course-2012 of National Defence College (NDC) visited defence ministry at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city yesterday.

Defence Secretary Khandaker Asaduzzaman replied to different queries of the visitors during their visit.

A total of 23 lawmakers, secretaries, military officials, judges, NGO representatives, businessmen, engineers, senior police officers and media men are taking part in the course, said an ISPR release.

The two-week long course began at NDC in Mirpur Cantonment on January 1.

WITH ETERNAL GRACE OF A LIFE DEVOTED SAMSON H CHOWDHURY
Visionary, philanthropist

We extend our deepest condolences to his family and loved ones.

