

NEWS IN *brief*

Ghulam Azam taken for MRI scan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prison guards aided by police and Rapid Action Battalion yesterday took former Jamaat-e-Islami ameer Ghulam Azam to Dhaka Medical College Hospital from his prison cell at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) for an MRI scan.

Witnesses said Ghulam Azam was taken away from BSMMU on a prison van around 5:30pm and brought back around 6:30pm.

BSMMU's MRI scanner does not work, said BSMMU Director Brig Gen Abdul Majid Bhuiyan, adding that the jail authorities are bearing the scanning cost as Ghulam Azam is under jail custody.

Ghulam Azam was shifted to the prison cell nearly four hours after he was sent to jail on January 11 by the International Crimes Tribunal in connection with crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

3 cops closed at Savar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three police constables of Aminbazar outpost under Savar Police Station were closed yesterday on charges of beating up some garment workers as the workers allegedly had obstructed traffic movement on Aminbazar road in the morning.

The closed constables are Abu Sayeed, Nuruzzaman and Miraj Hossain.

Sources said the policemen beat the garment workers of AKH Group when they locked into a quarrel with the labourers in a truck at Aminbazar as the truck hit the bus carrying the workers from Saver sluice gate to Hemayetpur at around 10:00am.

The altercation disrupted traffic movement on the road.

Punitive measures against the constables were taken as the garment authorities complained senior police officials about the incident of beating their workers.

Timor's president lauds Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

President of Timor-Leste Jose Ramos Horta lauded Bangladesh's significant role in the United Nations (UN) and other international fora to ensure global peace, security and development.

Bangladesh had been supporting the nation-rebuilding process of Timor-Leste since her independence and had contributed a significant number of peacekeepers for peace, security and development in Timor-Leste under the auspices of the UN, the president said.

He said this when Bangladesh Ambassador to Timor Golam Mohammad presented his credentials in Dali, the capital of Timor-Leste, on January 12, said a foreign ministry press release.

Man commits suicide in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A young man allegedly committed suicide by taking poison in Hathazari upazila of Chittagong yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Manik, 26, son of Dula Miyan of Mirzapur union in the upazila.

He took poison around 3:30am and was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital immediately where doctors declared him dead.

Quoting family members police said Manik had a dispute with his wife, which might be the reason behind the suicide.

No case was filed in this connection.



Guests at the announcement programme of "Odommo Chattagram," an initiative of The Daily Star, at the Party Centre of Chittagong Club yesterday. From left, first row, Ehsan Elahi, ADC of Chittagong, Abul Bashar Chowdhury, chairman of BSM Group, Mahbul Alam, senior vice president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abdus Salam, chairman of Chittagong Development Authority, M Monjur Alam, mayor of Chittagong City Corporation, Sakawat Hossain, managing director of Western Marine Ltd., M Firoze, head of marketing of BSRM, Ameer Alihussain, managing director of BSRM Steels Ltd and Nobab Sirajuddawla, executive director of KSRM. In second row, Raisul Huq Bahar, Chittagong bureau chief of The Daily Star, M Nowshad, Brand Manager of Abul Khair Group, Abul Momen, resident editor of Prothom Alo, Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star and Shamsul Hussain, ex-curator of Chittagong University and researcher. (Story on Page 1) PHOTO: STAR

Daily Star-Drishy brainstorming contest starts in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An eleven-day "Brainstorming Business Ideation Competition 2012" kicked off at Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC) yesterday.

The Daily Star, a leading English newspaper, and Drishy, an organisation working on education-related issues, are jointly arranging the competition.

A total of 33 teams from different universities and schools are taking part in it. The participants are to solve business cases and answer business-related questions.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, who inaugurated the contest as the chief guest, said every student should utilise his time as it is the most valuable wealth of life.

Describing students as the future leaders of the nation, he said youths can change the country by their creativity. The Daily Star editor also laid emphasis on positive thinking, which he said, was very much mandatory in every stages of life.

Present at the inaugural ceremony were Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) former President Farid Ahmed Chowdhury, Premier University Dean Prof Iftekar Uddin Chowdhury, and The Daily Star Chittagong Bureau Chief Raisul Huq Bahar. Drishy President Masud Bakul chaired the programme.

The participating universities are Chittagong University (CU), Premier University, East Delta University, International Islamic University, Chittagong (IIUC), Asian University for Women (AUW), University of Sciences and Technology, Chittagong (USTC), Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet), Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), Chittagong, Southern University, and BGC Trust University.

The schools are Sunshine Grammar School, Presidency School and College, Silver Bells Girls' High School, Agrabad Girls' High School, Collegiate School, BAWA School, Cider International School, Master Mind International School, Radiant School and College, Chittagong Grammar School, Cantonment English School, Ideal School, and Bangladesh Elementary School.

'Spelling Bee' takes off in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The first-ever English spelling competition "Spelling Bee" was launched by Champs21, an initiative of The Daily Star, at a hotel in the port city yesterday to help school students enhance their English language skills.

Titled "The Daily Star Spelling Bee - Powered by Horlicks", the contest will kick off on February 1. Students of class VI to class X from both English and Bangla medium schools are eligible to take part in it.

Speaking as the chief guest at the launching ceremony, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam urged all to learn English considering it not only a language but also a part of developing skills. He also urged all to learn English through entertainment.

This competition will bring an opportunity for the students to be recognised nationwide, he said, adding that The Daily Star will take the initiative to recognise the

best teachers throughout the country in future.

"The teachers are extremely unrecognised despite the fact that they work hard," Mahfuz Anam said.

Students will look forward to this spelling competition after two to three years as it is expected to be one of the most popular programmes throughout the country, he said.

As the competition proceeds, more students will be involved with this programme and the students would be able to overcome their "fear of English" through practice, he said.

The education-based programme has three phases—online round, divisional round, and TV round. A contestant must undergo the rounds to reach the top. Channel-i will telecast the TV round. British Council is the knowledge partner of the contest.

Detailed information about the competition format and rules of participation is available on www.champs21.com

Employees oppose DMCH upgrade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred employees of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), including nurses and third and fourth class employees, yesterday protested the government's plan to turn the institution into a full-fledged medical university.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made the announcement on Tuesday while inaugurating the new Academic Bhaban of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College.

Protesting this, the nurses and employees under the banner of Sammilito Sangram Parishad brought out a procession on the college and hospital premises from 12 noon.

Abdul Khaleque, president of the fourth class employees union, told The Daily Star that they held a discussion on the matter at the DMCH conference room and formed the Parishad with nursing supervisor Sabina Sharmin as its convener and him as the member secretary.

The meeting decided that they will continue their movement against the government plan. Also, fresh agitation programmes will be announced later, he added.

Poor patients now get service at DMCH but, if the institution is turned into a university, they will be deprived of service at a nominal cost as the institution "will become a business concern", Khaleque said.

JS body suggests separate battalion to secure MP hostels, residences

RASHIDUL HASAN

A separate battalion has to be constituted to ensure security of lawmakers' residential buildings, their offices, and the premises of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, a parliamentary committee recommended yesterday.

The committee members said illegal staying of "unwanted" people, mostly followers of respective MPs and the party activists in the MP hostels and buildings, are causing unwanted occurrences and frequent thefts there.

The recommendation came following the lawmakers' repeated outcry both inside and outside parliament on hazards

they have been facing due to lack of security.

The committee in its meeting at the JS building proposed that more than a 100 members from different law enforcement agencies will be brought on deputation to man the battalion while a deputy commissioner will be at the helm of it.

On July 14, 2010, Speaker Abdul Hamid and Chief Whip Abdus Shahid said in parliament that some ministers and lawmakers illegally allow their aides to spend nights in the MP hostel, hampering security and causing embarrassing situations for the lawmakers who live at the hostel with families.

Addressing the Speaker, a Jatiya

Party MP Hafizuddin Ahmed on that day had said, "I am seeking your protection for our security. I am suffering from insecurity".

There are five high-rises at Manik Mia Avenue and at Nakhalpara each for MPs to reside. Besides, MPs have separate offices at the MP hostels and at parliament members club.

Last year the JS committee identified over 55 flats in different buildings at Manik Mia Avenue and Nakhalpara where outsiders were living instead of the respective MPs.

Letters were issued to them asking not to allow outsiders for living in buildings and hostels for MPs. But no one has so far paid any heed to it.

Talking to The Daily Star, ABM Ashraf Uddin Nizan, a member of the committee, yesterday said, "Lawmakers irrespective of their party affiliation have been raising the issue for the last one year. But the situation has not changed. Outsiders still are living in MP hostel and their residences causing different unwanted incidents".

Family members living with the lawmaker in the parliament residences often face "embarrassing situation" due to the outsiders who are either distant relatives or party activists of the respective MPs, some members of the committee told the meeting.

BDR CARNAGE Maj Asad shot dead on DAD Towhid's order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A witness to the Pilkhana carnage, testifying before a Dhaka court yesterday, narrated how some rebels shot dead Sadar Battalion officer Maj Asad upon order from the then BDR deputy assistant director (DAD) Towhidul Islam.

"The jawans did not spare him although he repeatedly begged for his life", sepoy Anwar Hossain told the make-shift Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, which is holding trial into the carnage case. The jawans also severely beat Maj Asad up before shooting him dead.

Meanwhile, the court passed an order directing the police station concerned to deposit two licensed firearms and ammunition of a detained key accused and former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu after examining those.

The directive came on hearing of a petition filed by Pintu's counsel on January 16 seeking the court's order asking the police station to deposit the firearms--a shotgun and a pistol--and some ammunition.

The witness, sepoy Anwar, said he saw havilder Tariqul and two to three jawans of sadar battalion beating up Maj Asad around 9:30am on the first day of the February 25-26, 2009 bloody mutiny that left 57 top and mid-ranking army officers and 17 others dead in BDR headquarters of Pilkhana.

"Later DAD Towhid came to the scene and angrily ordered to collect firearms and ammunition, breaking open arsenals and finish off the army officers", he said.

He said some jawans took Maj Asad to the first floor office room of the commander of Sadar Battalion. Then the jawans opened fire indiscriminately at Asad and another Lt Col Jahanara prompting both the officers to enter bathroom for cover.

"Around 10-15 minutes later, DAD Towhid, havilder Belayet, nayek Asad, sepoy Aminar, and several others, all with firearms, entered there and brought the two officers out of the bathrooms breaking open the doors", the witness said.

Some jawans then took away Lt Col Jahanara while havilder Belayet, nayek Asad, and sepoy Aminar shot Maj Asad dead following the order of DAD Towhid.

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WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Comilla in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 5:35pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 29.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Patuakhali 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	24.2	15.8	92	72
Chittagong	25.8	12.8	83	78
Rajshahi	25.4	13.1	92	68
Rangpur	24.2	12.2	86	69
Khulna	26.2	16.2	97	72
Barisal	27.6	12.4	96	76
Sylhet	22.4	14.1	85	77
Cox's Bazar	28.0	14.5	68	64

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MV "Patliputra", Bulk Carrier, built 1987, NRT 15763, LDT 10253.54 is available for sale for further trading or for scrapping on "as is where is" basis at LIANYUNGANG (CHINA). For purchase of the vessel, interested parties may kindly visit www.shipindia.com and www.tenders.gov.in from 19/01/2012 onwards for details/tender documents.

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