

NEWS IN *brief*

**Five Jamaat-Shibir men held**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Five Jamaat-Shibir activists, including a leader, were arrested by police yesterday in connection with Monday's clashes between law enforcers and Jamaat-Shibir men in the city's Hatim Khan area which left one dead and 80 others injured.

The arrestees are Aminul Islam, ameer of Rajshahi's west regional unit Jamaat-e-Islami; Nuruzzaman, publicity secretary of Rajshahi University unit Islami Chhatra Shibir; Nahid Akhtar, general secretary of Institute of Health Technology unit Shibir; and Shibir activists Habibur Rahman and M Sanaullah, said police.

The arrestees were identified from photos, video footage and statements of seven Jamaat-Shibir activists arrested after Monday's clashes, said Sub-Inspector of Boalia Police Station Imaul Haque.

**1,120 litres of soybean oil seized**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized 1,120 litres of crude soybean oil from Laldiar Char under Patenga Police Station in the port city.

Rab men received information that some miscreants had stolen soybean oil from a ship of outer anchorage and brought that to Laldiar Char near Ghat No-12 of the Karnaphuli river to sell in the local market.

Later, the elite force seized the oil worth about Tk 1.12 lakh, said Rab sources. The miscreants fled the

**'Raise caretaker issue in parliament'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Gono Oikya Committee, a left-leaning political party, yesterday urged the main opposition BNP to place their demand on caretaker government issue in the parliament.

The leaders were speaking at a press conference on 'crisis situation for the country and people' at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Terming BNP's threat of toppling the government through a mass upsurge "undemocratic", they said the recent political movements of the party might create a situation that can hamper trial of war criminals in the country.

Gono Oikya Organizational Secretary Abdul Munayem Neheru, and Acting Member Secretary SMA Sabur also were present.

**Ahmadiyya convention begins today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 88th annual convention of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, Bangladesh will begin at its headquarters in the city's Bakshibazar today.

The convention will continue till Sunday, says a press release.

During the convention, renowned Muslim scholars from home and abroad will deliver speeches on various socio-religious aspects.

Representatives from civil society and different faiths and religions will also deliver speeches at a special session at 11:30am on Sunday.

The three-day programme will also be posted at

**Anniversary of Bose Cabin Mar 10**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Litterateurs, journalists and cultural personalities of Narayanjanj will celebrate the 92nd anniversary of Bose Cabin, a traditional restaurant in the town, on March 10.

A 27-member committee titled "Amra Addabaj" was formed to celebrate the day-long programme through enjoying special dishes with cultural events, said a press release.

All are requested to join the programme with paying Tk 50 for registrations and Tk 100 for a lunche, it said. Contact numbers are 01819599686

**Law to recognise farm workers on cards**

Says labour minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will recognise farm workers by amending Bangladesh Labour Act, 2006 in the next parliamentary session, said Labour and Employment Minister Engineer Khandker Mosharraf Hossain at a rally yesterday.

The government's aim to upgrade the country into a medium income one by 2021 would not be possible without the agricultural sector's development as it is a major contributor to the national economy, he added.

The rally was organised by Krishi Sramik Odhikar Mancha in the city's Suhrawardy Udyan.

Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies Assistant Executive Director Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed placed a 13-point demand.

It includes a law to ensure farm workers' rights, listing and providing agricultural workers identity cards, eliminating sex discrimination, establishing an agriculture based industry and ensuring fare price of farm produce.

The mancha Chairman Dr Qazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmad and member secretary Shirin Akhter, Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu and Parliamentary Standing Committee on the ministry Chairman Israfil Alam also spoke.

**Chehlum**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chehlum of Abdul Malek Khan, former circle officer of revenue, will be held today in Hizla upazila of Barisal.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held today after Juma prayers at his Maultala residence in the district, said a press release

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the function to pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Farm workers, including a significant number of female ones, chant slogans at a rally organised by Krishi Sramik Odhikar Mancha in the city's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

**'Big' allocation to repair roads in next budget**

Ashraful tells House

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will allocate a "very big" amount of money in the next budget for renovation of roads across the country rather than constructing new roads, bridges, and culverts, LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam said in parliament yesterday.

"We have done a study which shows repairing the roads is more necessary than constructing new roads, bridges, and culverts at present. That's why we have decided to allocate a very big amount in the budget for renovation purposes instead of allocating money for construction of new ones", he said.

Ashraful, also general secretary of the ruling Awami League, said the successive governments since 1996,

when he become a member of parliament, have not allocated any money in the budget for renovation, turning the roads and highways into bad shape.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, he acknowledged that money was misused in the name of repairing roads in many cases.

Responding to another query, Ashraful said his ministry has a huge amount of money but could not spend for the construction of new union parishad complexes for want of lands in respective areas.

"The LGRD ministry may have to send back the money this year again if the respective union parishad authorities fail to provide at least 25 decimals of land to construct the parishad complexes", he said.

On dependency of groundwater in the capital and the port city of Chittagong, Ashraful told the House that underground water level in the city has been depleting by about 2-3 metres every year and it is about five metres in the port city.

**SEWERAGE MASTER PLAN BY JULY**

The minister said a master plan on the Dhaka city sewerage management will be finalised by July this year, as the Denmark-based consultation firm M/S Grontmij has already completed the draft plan. The consultation firm has also identified priority basis works design regarding the master plan, he added.

He informed parliament that preparation of tender documents is underway to carry out the priority-based activities identified by the farm.

**Elderly man slaughtered**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An elderly man died after unknown persons slit his throat near his house in South Gohira of Raozan upazila early yesterday.

The deceased is Milon Chowdhury, 60.

Police said they were yet to suspect anybody as the killer.

Milon was found injured near his house around 6:00am yesterday and was declared dead in Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Uttam Chowdhury, son of the victim, said his cousins, with whom Milon had a longstanding feud, might be involved in the killing.

He said they [cousins] assaulted his father and mother on January 9 and had been threatening his family since then. He filed a general diary (GD) with Raozan Police Station at that time, he added.



Gonosanghati Andolon stages a demonstration before the Jatiya Press Club yesterday in protest against the killings of Bangladeshi nationals at the border by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF). PHOTO: STAR

**Stop border killings**

Demand DU teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The pro-BNP-Jamaat teachers of Dhaka University yesterday demanded a stop to the killing and torture of Bangladesh citizens by Indian Border Security Force (BSF).

They also urged the government to stop killing and torturing opposition leaders and activists of the country by the law enforcement agencies.

The white panel teachers placed the demands at a human chain at the base of Aparajeya Bangla on the university campus yesterday, with around 100 teachers participating in the programme.

Terming the activities of the government "undemocratic", white panel convener Prof Sadrul Amin said democracy and independence of the country are facing a big challenge.

The teachers also said it is painful that the home minister expressed shock three days after the killing of five people in the clashes with law enforcement agencies during the agitation of the opposition.

DU syndicate member Prof Tasmer SA Islam, Prof Lutfor Rahman, and Prof Shahid Akhtar Hossain addressed the programme, among others.

**Ashik denied bail**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected a bail petition of Khandaker Ashikul Islam alias Ashik in a case filed against him for killing Zubair Ahmed, a fourth year English department student of Jahangirnagar University (JU).

Judge (in charge) Mohammad Helal Uddin of the District and Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after Ashik's lawyer submitted a criminal appeal against the lower court's rejection order.

Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court on January 14 rejected Ashik's bail petition as there was no ground to grant him bail in the case.

On January 9, police arrested Ashik, a final year student of Zoology department at JU, for his alleged involvement in the killing. He was later remanded for several days.

**ZUBAIR MURDER**  
**Make probe report public**

Demand JU teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some agitating Jahangirnagar University teachers formed a human chain beside Dhaka-Aricha Highway yesterday demanding realisation of their seven-point demand, including making the probe report of Zubair murder public.

Zubair Ahmed, a fourth-year student of the English department, succumbed to the wounds he suffered in an attack by a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists on January 9.

The teachers, on the second day of their five-day protest programme, also boycotted classes and brought out a procession holding black flags on the campus.

They denied the university administration's allegation that the fifth convocation, scheduled to be held on February 7, was suspended on Wednesday for the protest programme.

The administration is yet to fix a date for the convocation. The other demands include removal of the proctorial body and ensuring punishment of Zubair's killers and the former proctor for his alleged attack on Prof AA Mamun, president of JU teachers association.

"We never planned to foil the convocation. Rather we were protesting the irregularities and failure of the administration in maintaining a congenial atmosphere in the campus," said Prof Nasim Akhter Hossain, spokesperson of the teachers.

Meanwhile, Kabirul Bashar, an assistant proctor, resigned yesterday showing personal causes.

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Moderate to thick fog likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

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

Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the regions of Jessore, Chuadanga, Tangail, Mymensingh, Faridpur and Srimangal and it may continue.

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:46 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:38 am. Country's highest temperature 28.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 06.6 degrees at Srimangal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	24.0	12.3	38	41
Chittagong	26.0	14.7	46	29
Rajshahi	24.1	07.0	89	56
Rangpur	23.6	08.5	84	67
Khulna	24.5	11.6	71	60
Barisal	25.5	10.4	58	66
Sylhet	26.7	10.9	83	58

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Chapai festival**  
Chapainawabganj Zila Samity, Dhaka will organise Chapai festival; Venue: Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh; Time: 8:00am.

**Get-together**  
Dhaka University (DU) Philosophy Department Alumni Association will arrange a get-together; Venue: Teacher-Student Centre (TSC), DU; Time: 9:30am.

**Discussion**  
Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will hold a discussion; Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity; Time: 11:30am.

**Protest**  
Jatiya Charneta Smrity Rakkha Parishad will organise a protest meeting; Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity; Time: 11:00am.

**Human chain**  
Knit Dying Garments Sramik Employee Federation will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 12:00

**Formulate wetlands policy**

Speakers tell discussion

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for the formulation of wetlands conservation policy and guidelines for ecotourism so that natural resources degradation and depletion could be halted urgently in the country.

They were addressing a discussion marking World Wetlands Day at the Jatiya Press Club organised by FEJB, IUCN Bangladesh and Bangladesh Poush.

The speakers also called for the formulation of land management policies for both urban and rural areas so that no encroachment of ecologically critical wetlands could take place.

They said only then the celebration of world wetlands day would be fruitful and the theme of this year's day "Wetlands and Tourism" could help conserve the water-bodies and related natural resources from the onslaught of degradation and depletion across the country.

Chaired by FEJB Chairman Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, the event was also addressed by IUCN Country Director Ishtiaquddin Ahmed, UNDP's Dilruba Haider, environment ministry's Manjurul Hannan Khan, former DoE director Mohammed Reazuddin, former chairman of FEJB Chinmoy Mutsuddi, FEJB general secretary Hasan Hafiz, joint secretary Saiful Huda, members Elahi Newaz Khan, Shamima Chowdhury, Kader Gani Chowdhury, Mahmud Al Faisal, Kazi Shahnaz and Mrinal K Roy.