

NEWS IN *brief*

2 bodies found in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the decomposed bodies of two youths from Badda and Sabujbagh in the capital yesterday.

In Badda, on information, Badda police recovered the bullet-hit body of a youth from a ditch at Rampura project around 10:30am yesterday.

Dhaka Medical College (DMC) morgue sources said an autopsy was conducted on the body and a bullet was found in its chest.

In Sabujbagh, police recovered the floating body of an unidentified youth from a pond at Rajarbagh Kali Mandir at about 7:45am yesterday.

Police suspect that miscreants might have killed him a few days back and dumped the body there.

Man dies as his bike crashes into city road island

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed and another injured as their motorbike crashed into a road island at the city's Katabon yesterday.

Witnesses said the accident took place around 2:00pm when the victim tried to overtake a passing car.

They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared Ruzel Ahmed Palash, 32, dead.

One Ibrahim who took the victims to DMCH with the help of a passerby said the unidentified injured

Body recovered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of an unidentified teenage girl was recovered from a ditch at Damalkot in the city's Kafrul on Wednesday.

The girl was wearing salwar kameez, said Kafrul police.

Local people found the body floating in the ditch around 11:30am on Wednesday and informed the police.

Police said the body was decomposed beyond recognition and they could not ascertain whether there was any mark of injury on the body.

Police suspect that the girl died probably by drowning a few days ago.

Court summons Birdem physician

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court summoned a physician of Birdem Hospital to appear before it on April 15 in connection with a case filed against him for his negligence in treating a female patient that led to her death.

Metropolitan Magistrate Utpal Chowdhury on Wednesday passed the order after Dr Ali Zahir Al Amin, son of the deceased patient Hasna Hena Ali, filed a case against Dr Rony Sujjan Clod Sarkar on September 29 last year for his alleged negligence.

Earlier on the day, the court rejected the probe report submitted by Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) authorities saying that the allegation of negligence in treating the female patient brought against the physician was not proved.

JU teachers announce fresh protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The agitating teachers of Jahangirnagar University (JU), who are opposing the university administration, announced fresh 10-day long protest programmes, including to lay siege the university vice-chancellor's office as he did not meet their demands including stopping teachers' recruitment.

Prof Nasim Akhter Hossain, spokesperson of the teachers, yesterday made the announcement at a press conference at JU Journalist Association office.

The programmes include mass campaign on March 18, view-exchange meeting with the professionals and students on March 19, general meeting of the agitating teachers on March 20 and general

ODOMMO CHATTAGRAM 2-day history conference begins today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A two-day "The Daily Star-Chatigram History Conference" will begin at Theatre Institute Auditorium in Chittagong today.

The conference, part of "The Daily Star Odommo Chattagram" festival scheduled to be held from March 30 to April 6, aims at disseminating the port city's history.

The conference will begin at 3:30pm today with a welcome speech by Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star.

It will be followed by "The Daily Star-Abdul Karim Sahityavisharad Lecture" by Prof Ranabir Chakravarti of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.

He will also present a keynote paper on Chittagong and the Bay of Bengal.

Dr Shamsul Hossain, moderating the day's session, will present a PowerPoint presentation on Andarkilla area at 5:15pm.

A cultural programme will be staged by "Raktakarabi" at 6:00pm as The Daily Star's tribute to Rabindranath Tagore on his 150th birth anniversary.

The second day of the conference, titled "Pre-historic and pre-mediaeval Chittagong" and beginning at 10:00am, comprises three sessions where noted academics will provide presentations on research papers.

A cultural programme will follow through paying tributes to National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.



(From left) Eminent writer Hasnat Abdul Hye, Commonwealth Society Bangladesh (CSB) President Enam A Chaudhury, Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert W Gibson and CSB Secretary General AJM Enamul Islam at a seminar, "Connecting Cultures", organised by CSB at Dhaka Club yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

COMMONWEALTH NATIONS Cultural links can forge commonality: Speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cultural connections could forge a commonality among the commonwealth nations, said speakers at a seminar yesterday marking Commonwealth Day, observed on March 12 this year.

Commonwealth Society Bangladesh (CSB) organised the seminar, "Connecting Cultures", at Dhaka Club. The CSB, founded in 1993, advocates for democracy and poverty alleviation in Bangladesh.

Commonwealth Day is observed on the second Monday of March.

An eminent writer, Hasnat Abdul Hye, while presenting a keynote, said culture encompasses an entire way of life of a people and it is as old as and has profoundly benefited evolution of the human civilisation.

Cultural dissemination takes place through people to people contact. Traveling throughout the ages was the earliest mode of cultural connectivity and different religions too played a vital role in connecting cultures, he added.

Farooq Sobhan, president of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute and a former foreign secretary, said the 54-member Commonwealth

makes it a family of around two billion people, two-thirds of which are youths.

The process of connecting cultures should be inclusive and democratic, he said.

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert W Gibson said the Commonwealth constitutes one-third of the world population with 500 million Muslims and one-fourth of the governments.

A prime goal of spending the UK aid in Commonwealth member countries is to alleviate poverty, he said.

CSB Vice-President Taleya Rehman read out a message of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, head of the Commonwealth, on the occasion of 63rd anniversary of Commonwealth Day.

"Our circumstances and surroundings may vary enormously, for example in the food we eat and the clothes we wear, but we share one humanity and this draws us all together," read the message.

Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Abul Kalam Azad and a former high commissioner, Prof Selina Mohsin, spoke at the seminar, presided over by CSB President Enam A Chaudhury.



An organisation, Aamra Bangladeshi, forms a human chain before Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday protesting the severing of transmission of private channels Ekushey Television, BanglaVision and Islamic TV while BNP was holding its rally in the city on March 12.

PHOTO: STAR

No headway in journalist couple murder

Says IGP, but happy with investigators work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The inspector general of police yesterday expressed satisfaction over sincerity of investigators probing the journalist couple's murder, although no headway has been reported since the incident occurred on February 11.

His comment apparently appears a step back from his earlier stance when he told a press briefing at the police headquarters on February 13 that there was "substantial progress" in the investigation.

"The investigators are carrying out their tasks and we like to assure you that we are working best within our capability. I have personally never felt any neglect by the investigators," IGP Hassan Mahmood Khandker said when reporters asked him about progress in the case.

Meherun Runi, a senior reporter of private television channel ATN Bangla, and Sagar Sarowar, a news editor of another private TV channel Maasranga, were killed in their West Rajabazar flat in the capital.

The IGP answered in the same tone about investigation into Saudi embassy official Khalaf Al Ali killing, claiming that police are working best within their capability.

"The case has been transferred to the Detective Branch on Wednesday considering its significance and they are working hard to unfold the mystery," he commented.

The official of the Saudi embassy in Dhaka was gunned down about 30 yards off his house in Gulshan on March 6.

The IGP once again claimed the law and order is satisfactory except some "stray incidents".

Earlier, the IGP addressed a seminar titled "Challenges of Implementation of Anti-Human Trafficking Law: Children's Perspective" arranged by Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) at BIAM Foundation auditorium in the city.

Bangladeshi youth shot dead in S Africa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Bangladeshi youth, shot by two miscreants, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital in the South Africa on Monday night.

The deceased was identified as Wahiduzzaman Khosru, 28, of village Batoial in Kanaighat upazila of the district.

Family sources said Khosru lived in South Africa for two and half years and was running a small business at Delaridyl town. Two black men attacked his shop in the midnight on March 9 and fired several shots at him. Injured Khosru was immediately admitted to a hospital, where he died on Monday night.

The body would reach Sylhet tomorrow, informed the deceased's maternal uncle Abul Khoyer.

Man held for misinformation on BDR mutiny

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was arrested yesterday from the capital's Jatrabari and placed on a 10-day remand on charge of circulating misleading text messages that the prime minister had been involved in the 2009 BDR mutiny.

After detaining Abdul Alim, 45, a former banker of North Jatrabari, Rab-10 men handed him over to Jatrabari police who produced him before a Dhaka court with a 10-day remand prayer.

Alim sent SMSs (short message service) to the personal secretary to the president, the BGB DG and other officials, said police.

"In the messages, Alim mentioned that PM Hasina was involved in the killing of army men in Pilkhana carnage on February 25-26 (in 2009), and the carnage was carried out by the Indian army. Alim also asked the officials to remain alert", the inspector said.

BDR CARNAGE CASE

PW narrates killing of army officer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday described how mutineers killed an army officer after beating him up mercilessly at the Pilkhana headquarters of erstwhile Bangladesh Rifles (BDR).

Sepoy Hasibul Hasan dragged the officer, grabbing the collar of his uniform, to the back of the kitchen house, said Rajibul Islam, who was in-charge of a canteen during the mutiny.

Nayek Shahjahan along with other soldiers tied the hands of the officer to two coconut trees there, he said. Rajibul watched the incident through the window of the canteen.

The army officer, whom Rajibul could not recognise, begged for his life to the armed soldiers as they kicked and beat him up with helmets indiscriminately. After a few minutes, he heard shots being fired.

Defence lawyers later cross-examined him at the Metropolitan Session Judges' Court, set up at the playground of capital's Bakshibazar, to try those accused in BDR carnage case.

Yesterday, Maj Tariquzzaman also gave his deposition.

Three other witnesses also gave deposition yesterday before the court while the defence lawyers completed cross-examining two of them.

The court will resume on March 19.

A total of 74 people, including 57 army officers, were killed by the mutinous soldiers of defunct BDR (now Border Guard Bangladesh) in the mutiny on February 25-26, 2009.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Advocate Md Aminul Islam, a member of the then East Pakistan Civil Service (Judicial). Aminul worked at Sherpur Bar Council for about 50 years, said a press release.



**Discussion**  
National Cultural Society will hold a discussion; Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium; Time: 5:00pm.

**Seminar**  
Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society will arrange a seminar; Venue: Teacher-Student Centre (TSC), Dhaka University; Time: 10:00am.

**Discussion**  
Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will organise a discussion; Venue: Awami

CYCLONE FORECASTING

Now more communicative messages

Says Met dept

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Met office, from now on, will present cyclone forecasts in graphs and maps instead of only plain texts so that common people can easily understand the severity of approaching cyclonic events and locate the areas that the catastrophes are likely to strike.

These easily communicable graphical precautionary messages will be disseminated through print and electronic media, officials said, and provide people with the latest developments of cyclones and tidal surges to help them take steps to save their lives and properties.

The new forecasting system will be helpful as it is difficult for common people to make out the traditional precautionary signals in plain texts and numbers, Md Rasheduzzaman, a meteorologist of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), said at the launch of "Cyclone Information Tools for Broadcasting" at the department office yesterday.

Taslima Iman, another BMD meteorologist, said, "Colours and pictures will accompany texts to make the messages more communicative. We are going to use the new tools from the next cyclone forecasting".

Experts from Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) and the BMD prepared the tools under a project on weather analysis and forecasting.



Dry weather 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.

Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:08pm and rises tomorrow at 6:06am.

Country's highest temperature 33.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 15.0 degrees at Rajshahi.

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	29.6	20.5	60	36
Chittagong	31.5	20.8	74	57
Rajshahi	30.6	15.0	72	45
Rangpur	28.0	15.5	78	46
Khulna	31.0	19.2	64	54
Barisal	31.2	20.0	67	57
Sylhet	29.8	18.7	69	47