

NEWS IN *brief*

Two stabbed to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were killed in separate incidents at Jatrabari and Demra in the city yesterday. Afsanur Khatun, 47, a housewife, was stabbed to death by unidentified criminals at her residence at Kazirgaon village of Matuail in Jatrabari. Police recovered the body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy. The body bore marks of four stab injuries in the neck and chest, said police. Meanwhile, a gang of three to four criminals stabbed Monjurul Haq Monju, 30, in front of Noor Masjid in Demra, leaving him spot dead. Police said Monju was accused in five cases with Demra Police Station.

Online registration for BAF aspirants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aspirants willing to join the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) can now submit their applications through the internet as an online recruitment registration system for the force was launched yesterday. A memorandum of understanding was signed with Gononet Online Solution Ltd in this regard. Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman, chief of Air Staff, inaugurated the online system as the chief guest, says a press release of Inter Services Public Relations.

Housewife held for torturing child

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested a housewife on charge of torturing a 10-year-old girl, who had been working as a domestic help at her house in the city's Gulshan for the last several days. The rescued victim, Shaheenur, daughter of Kashu Miah of Kadamtoli village under Muradnagar upazila in Comilla, suffered injuries on all over his body. She was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital by the personnel of the Victim Support Centre, said Sub-inspector Mukul Miah of Gulshan Police Station. Kashu Miah, the victim's father, filed a case in this connection, he added. Nahar Begum, 40, the detainee, is wife of Mohammad Shahnevas, an official of Road and Highways Department. They hail from Comilla. Police rescued Shaheenur and arrested Nahar from Flat-105, House-29, Road-43 in Gulshan-2 on information.

Ambulance catches fire in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An ambulance caught fire when it was refuelling at a CNG filling station in the city's Moghbazar yesterday. The ambulance of Anjumam Mofidul Islam, a voluntary organisation, came to Anudip CNG filling station for refuelling. After refuelling, as soon as the driver started the engine, it caught fire, said driver Rafiqul Islam. Fire fighters rushed to the spot and managed to douse the fire after around half an hour. Fire Brigade's Senior Station Officer Mostafizur Rahman said somehow gas leaked from a pipe of the car and caused the incident.

Journalists' rally today

UNB, Dhaka

Journalists will observe a three-hour token strike and hold a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club today demanding formation of the 8th wage board. Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Press Sramik Federation, Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Karmachari Federation and journalists' union leaders took the decision at a meeting at the press club auditorium on March 22.

The token strike will be observed from 10:00am to 1:00pm while the rally will be held before the press club at 10:00am.

The prime minister on July 18 last asked the information ministry to take steps for forming the 8th wage board for journalists after discussions with all stakeholders.

She gave the directive when a delegation of BFUJ led by its President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuyian met her at the Prime Minister's Office.

RU Arabic students boycott classes

RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Arabic Department of Rajshahi University yesterday boycotted classes and staged a sit-in before the department protesting session jam in the department.



The Daily Star organises a roundtable on "How to prevent launch disaster" at its office yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

Rab did nothing wrong: Sahara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday said the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) did not do anything which could be treated as a violation of human rights during the last three years of the Awami League regime.

She made the remarks while talking to journalists after a programme marking the eighth founding anniversary of Rab at its headquarters in the city.

Rab Director General (DG) Mokhlesur Rahman chaired the event. Sahara, however, said, "Action is taken immediately whenever allegations are made against any Rab member."

Earlier on Monday, the Rab DG claimed that the force was among the best which safeguarded human rights.

Citing the success stories of the elite force, Sahara said the Rab had already achieved people's faith and love through improving the law and order situation.

Special medals and trophies were awarded to 10 Rab members and different battalions for their outstanding performances at the programme.

AL refutes BNP chief obstruction allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League yesterday refuted the allegation that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was obstructed on her way to the National Memorial in Savar Monday.

"It is not true that the opposition leader was barred from placing wreaths at the National Memorial", AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif said.

"Everybody knows that the president first places wreaths and then the prime minister followed by the speaker and the opposition leader".

"Being Knowledgeable about the state practice, why did the opposition leader want to go first? Did she forget the rules?" he asked.

The opposition leader was to leave for the memorial at 6:00am but she started at midnight around 3:30am on Monday, he added.

The BNP chief wanted to "create a scene", Hanif said. BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir claimed Monday that law enforcers had cordoned off Khaleda's Gulshan house from midnight till morning apparently to stop her from paying homage to the Liberation War martyrs.

UN official Wahlstrom due today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, Margareta Wahlstrom, comes to Bangladesh on a four-day visit today.

She will meet the prime minister and high officials of the disaster management ministry, development partners, and civil society members to discuss how Bangladesh can cut disaster risks and risks of expected climate change impacts.

Her discussion will also include Bangladesh's disaster management programmes and its leadership in the international arena.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 47th death anniversary of former range inspector

of school and educationist Khorshed Alam Khan, father of renowned political analyst Sirajul Alam Khan, says a press release.

On the occasion, doa mahfil will be held at the Jame mosque of his village Alipur in Begumganj of Noakhali and Party House mosque of the city's Azimpur after Asr prayers.

DEFAMATION SUIT Mahmudur Rahman, three others indicted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against the acting editor, publisher, chief reporter and a reporter of the daily Amar Desh in a defamation case.

The accused are acting editor Mahmudur Rahman, publisher Alhaj Md Hasmat Ali, chief reporter Syed Abdal Ahmed and reporter Oliullah Noman.

The court fixed May 21 to start trial of the case.

On October 28, 2009, BTRC Deputy Director Tarek Hassan Siddiqui filed the defamation case against the accused with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka for running "defamatory reports and cartoon" in the newspaper on October 2, 3 and 8 of 2009.



Asaduzzaman Noor, managing director of Desh TV, and Neal Lavon, global marketing manager for the International Broadcasting Bureau, support arm for the Voice of America (VOA), sign an agreement at a city hotel yesterday to enable Desh TV to broadcast a one-minute weekly bulletin on US presidential election to be produced by VOA's Bangla Service in Washington.

PHOTO: COURTESY

IN DHAKA TODAY

- Workshop**
Practical Action, Bangladesh will organise a workshop; Venue: BIAM Foundation, Time: 9:30am.
- Painting exhibition**
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) will arrange a painting exhibition; Venue: IUB Bashundhara campus; Time: 3:00pm.
- Seminar**
Public Health Foundation of Bangladesh will organise a seminar; Venue: Sasakawa Auditorium, icddr; Time: 11:00am.
- Roundtable**
Shujan will hold a roundtable; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.
- Discussion**
Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will hold a discussion; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 11:00am.
- Reception**
Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) will accord a reception to freedom fighter reporters; Venue: DRU auditorium; Time: 2:00pm.
- Rally**
Citizens Rights Movement will organise a rally; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.
- Conference**
Bangladesh Council for Social Work Education will arrange a conference and seminar; Venue: Institute of Social Work and Research, University of Dhaka; Time: 10:30am.



The Lancet honours Dr Azad Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

UK-based world's leading medical journal, The Lancet, has honoured Bangladeshi physician Prof Dr AK Azad Khan by publishing his profile in its February 25 issue.

The journal accords such honour to leading physicians across the world, who have dedication in the field of medical care.

Dr Azad is now president of Bangladesh Diabetic Society.

His 901-word profile entitled "Azad Khan: prime mover behind NCD programmes in Bangladesh" describes his life and works.

Dr Azad has recently been elected honorary fellow of University College London and a member of International Diabetics Federation.

The University of Basel, Switzerland, conferred an honorary doctorate degree on him in 2009. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) degree from the University of Oxford in 1977. Dr Azad was born in 1941 in Barisal.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind 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 next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. Mild to moderate heatwave is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna and Faridpur and it may continue.

Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital at 6:13pm today and rises at 05:53am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 38.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 19.7 degrees Celsius 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	34.8	24.6	72	43
Chittagong	29.8	22.8	81	78
Rajshahi	38.0	19.7	63	30
Rangpur	32.4	22.5	74	61
Khulna	37.0	24.0	77	46
Barisal	35.8	24.5	81	67
Sylhet	33.9	23.8	81	63
Cox's Bazar	31.5	21.0	76	75

কোটি মানুষের জ্বলে ওঠার
প্রেরণায় আছি, থাকবো

এবার হবেই!

রবি 'র ২ বছর পূর্তিতে আমাদের সকল গ্রাহক ও শুভাবুধ্যায়ীকে প্রাণঢালা অভিনন্দন। কোটি প্রাণের মিলিত শক্তিতে এক আলোকিত ভবিষ্যতের দিকে এগিয়ে যাবার স্বপ্নে, প্রতিটি মুহূর্ত সাথে থাকতে পেরে আমরা গর্বিত। আপনাদের আগামী দিনগুলো রবি 'র সাথে হবে আরো আনন্দময়।

জ্বলে উঠুন আপন শক্তিতে

রবি

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