

NEWS IN *brief*

**Robbers abduct baby in capital**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of robbers abducted a seven-month-old baby girl and took away gold ornaments and money in cash from a house at Khilgaon in the capital last night.

The infant was identified as Maysa, daughter of one Shah Alam.

Police told this correspondent quoting Shah Alam that the robbers looted 20 tolas of gold ornaments and cash at gun point from his house at Block-C when it was raining.

**Air chief goes to US**

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman left Dhaka for the United States on Friday night at the invitation of United States government and Department of Defence.

During his visit, the air chief will attend a seminar on "Management of natural disasters in South Asia" to be organised jointly by John F Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Near East South Asia Strategic Studies and Asia Pacific Centre for Security Studies, said an ISPR release yesterday.

The release said the seminar will focus on cooperation in the management of natural disaster in South Asia, including planning, crisis action, decision making and building multi agency and regional capacity.

**AUB VC severely ill**

METRO DESK

Vice Chancellor of Asian University of Bangladesh, Prof Dr Abulhasan M Sadeq, has been seriously ill after he suffered a heart attack on April 4, says a press release.

Immediately after the attack, he was sent to United Hospital in the capital's Gulshan. Doctors advised him to fly to Singapore for restoring his health.

Family and AUB teachers, students and staff requested all to pray for his quick recovery.



**'Cultural activists play vital role'**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a get together of reciters yesterday said cultural activists always played vital role during any crucial period of the country.

They urged all activists involved in the art of recitation to come forward for creating a progressive society enriched in art and culture.

The programme was organised by 'Tarunnyer Uchhash,' an organisation working on recitation poetry, on Islamabadi Memorial Hall premises.

Famous reciter Shimul Mostafa was present as chief guest while reciter Ronjit Rokshit, Mir Borkat and other reciters of the organisation were also present on the occasion.

**Two Wasa officials suspended**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) yesterday suspended two engineers for allegedly taking bribes and their alleged involvement in corruption, says a Wasa press release.

The accused are Superintendent Engineer Md Saidul Islam and Executive Engineer Sheikh Md Ruhul Amin.

The suspension order came into effect yesterday.

The authority had received allegations against the officials while they were working in drainage department of the organisation.

**Moon sighting body meets today**

UNB, Dhaka

The National Moon Sighting Committee will meet today to ascertain the sighting of moon of holy Jamadiul Sani month in the Hijri year 1433.

State Minister for Religious Affairs and president of the committee Mohammad Shajahan Mia will chair the meeting to be held at Islamic Foundation Baitul Mukarram conference room at 7:00pm.

People have been requested to inform over the following phone and fax numbers if the moon is sighted anywhere in the country

Tel: 9559493, 9559643, 9555947, 9556407, 9558337. Fax: 9563397.

**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, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met office said.

Mild heat wave is sweeping over Khulna divisions and the regions of Rajshahi and Pabna divisions and it may continue.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 6:23pm today and rises at 5:31am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 38.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 20.4 degrees Celsius at Comilla.

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	33.4	22.6	67	72
Chittagong	30.1	22.5	32	83
Rajshahi	37.0	24.1	68	67
Rangpur	31.3	22.6	75	71
Khulna	36.5	26.5	74	70
Barisal	34.0	26.6	-	73
Sylhet	33.9	23.5	74	65



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina poses with global leaders and the award winners at the inaugural session of World Investment Forum in Doha of Qatar on April 20.

PHOTO: PID

**Missing of Ilias to cover up railwaygate scandal**

**Says Barrister Rafique-ul Huq**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist Barrister Rafique-ul Huq yesterday said the election to the bifurcated Dhaka City Corporation would not be held until victory was sure for the ruling party candidate.

"The way the High Court and the Appellate Division are moving (on the DCC poll stay), it seems to me that the DCC election won't be held in near future and until the government becomes sure its candidate will be elected", he said.

This is first time the High Court stayed an election and the Appellate Division upheld the postponement order, Haq said, maintaining that the views were of his own.

Addressing a meeting at Jatiya Press Club, the jurist also claimed that the disappear-

ance of BNP leader Ilias Ali was to cover up former railways minister's Tk 70 lakh scandal.

Mentioning that two cases were filed against Ilias on the basis of 10-year-old allegations on the night of his disappearance, Haq said, "It sufficiently indicates that somebody is behind the disappearance. Otherwise, how police record FIR on allegations, which emerged 10 years ago".

Haq also said, "Tk 70 lakh is not a big amount for politicians. But no one questions, from where the directors will get Tk 400 crore for the new six banks, which were recently approved by the Bangladesh Bank".

Awami League leader and DCC mayoral aspirant Mahmudur Rahman Manna presided over the programme.



Common people form a human chain before Jatiya Press Club in the capital demanding safe roads yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**EDN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION Political will needed Say educationists**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Educationists yesterday laid emphasis on specific budgetary allocation, dedicated manpower, and political will for the proper implementation of the national education policy.

"There are two main problems in implementing the education policy--administrative and economic", said noted economist Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad.

"The policy's implementation would not advance much unless dedicated people are appointed for it", he said, speaking at a views exchange meeting.

"The government has to give specific budgetary allocation to implement the policy," said Kholiqzaman, also co-chairman of National Education Policy Formulation Committee.

Kazi Farruque Ahmed, member of the Education Policy Formulation Committee, said political will was a necessity to implement the policy.

"If we can not keep education away from politics, it would not bring any good for education", he said. "Concerted efforts of the government, NGOs, teachers, guardians and media are needed to implement the policy", he added.

The government's will apart, sufficient allocation and proper enforcement of related laws is imperative, said Ekramul Kabir, member secretary of the committee.

While a number of speakers expressed fear that the policy might be changed with the change of government, Kholiqzaman disagreed.

"I hope the education policy would not be changed with the new government, as it is the first one accepted by all but a small section of people, irrespective of their political identities".

He also said work was underway for the enactment of an education law and permanent education commission. But it will take time for the full implementation of the policy, he added.

The Jatiya Sangsad unanimously adopted the National Education Policy-2010 in December 2010 for the betterment of the country's overall education sector.

Government employees, teachers' association leaders, and NGO activists spoke at the programme, while Sabbir Bin Shams, an education researcher, presented the concept paper.

Amar Odhikar Campaign, a network of some organisations working on education, organised the meeting on "Translating National Education Policy 2010 into Realities: Anticipation and Challenges" at the capital's Cirdap with its Chairperson Nilufar Banu in the chair.

**Worker dies in fall**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A construction worker died after falling from an under-construction building at Taltola in Patiya upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Saiful Islam, 18, son of Monir Ahmed of Rashidabad village in the upazila.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Salauddin of Patiya Police Station said Saiful suddenly fell down from the third floor of the four-storey building while he was fitting grill around a balcony on the floor and was injured critically.

He was rushed to Patiya Upazila Health Complex where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

**Six eminent citizens get Nawab Ali Chy award**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six renowned personalities and two organisations were awarded Nawab Ali Chowdhury National Award 2012 yesterday for outstanding contributions in their respective fields.

The fields are freedom struggle, banking and finance, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), women empowerment, sports, journalism, education and poverty alleviation.

The awardees are Lutful Hai Sacchu (post-humously in the freedom struggle), Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman (banking and finance), Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Service President Mahboob Zaman (ICT), ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director Farah Kabir (women empowerment), Bangladesh cricket team member Shakib Al Hasan (sports) and The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam (journalism).

The organisations are Notre Dame College (education) and Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (poverty alleviation).

Nawab Ali Hasan Ali Srmiti Sangsad organised the awarding programme at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University.

The programme marked the 83rd death anniversary of Nabab Bahadur Syed Nawab Ali Chowdhury, a member of Nathan Commission through which Dhaka University was established.

Addressing the programme, Prof Dr Anisuzzaman of philosophy department of Dhaka University said Nawab Ali Chowdhury was a non-communal person whose contributions to promoting women in society and developing the Muslim society were immense.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique addressed as the chief guest at the programme, chaired by the sangsad Chairman Prof Akbar Uddin Ahmed.



(From left) Shitangshu Kumar Sur Chowdhury, Prof Akbar Uddin Ahmed, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Dr Anisuzzaman and Abrar Uddin Ahmed pose for a photo at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University yesterday at the presentation programme of Nawab Ali Chowdhury National Award 2012, organised by Nawab Ali Hasan Ali Srmiti Sangsad.

PHOTO: STAR