

NEWS IN *brief*

**One crushed under train**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jamalpur*

A man was crushed under the wheels of a train in Langajura area of the sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The victim Md Musa Ahmed, 50, of village Shitol Kursha in the upazila, was a member of Ansar. Jamalpur Railway Police sources said Musa died instantly when he was run over by Jamalpur-bound local train No-251 while crossing the railway track in the area at about 11:00am.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Jamalpur General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

**Pedestrian dies in road crash**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A pedestrian was crushed under the wheels of a bus at Bangshal in the capital yesterday.

The deceased was Giasuddin Sheikh, 50, hailed from Munshiganj and a resident of Old Dhaka.

Police said a recklessly driven bus of SA Paribahan knocked down Gias while he was crossing the road.

Police and locals rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead around 2:30pm.

**CCCI holds meeting with DIG**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) and its stakeholders held a meeting with the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of police, Md Nowsher Ali, of Chittagong range yesterday morning at the range office conference room.

CCCI Vice President Mahbulul Alam chaired the meeting.

Deputy Commissioner (Traffic) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Kushum Dewan, Additional Superintendent of Police (Highway, Chittagong range) Shah Mohammed Abdur Rauf, Inter-District Goods Transportation and Vehicles Owners' Association President Hazi Munir Ahmed and Chittagong Truck Owners' Association President Nurul Bahar were, among others, present on the occasion.

**Three shops fined**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three shops, found selling adulterated fruits, were fined Tk 1.55 lakh by mobile courts in separate drives in the capital yesterday.

The courts also seized around 400 kg adulterated fruits from the shops.

A mobile court, led by Executive Magistrate Rashelul Kader, detected calcium carbide in mangoes and formalin in grapes of the superstore Prince Bazar Limited in Mohammadpur and fined the shop Tk 1 lakh and destroyed 80 kg mangoes and 4 kg grapes of the shop.

The court also fined the superstore Agora in Dhanmondi Tk 50,000 and destroyed 160 kg mangoes of the shop after detecting calcium carbide in mangoes.

In another drive, a mobile court, led by Executive Magistrate Morazi Deshai Barman, fined the owner of Messers Billal Shasha Bhandar in Shewrapara Tk 5,000 after detecting calcium carbide in mangoes of the shop. The court also destroyed 100 kg mangoes there.

Dhaka district administration and Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution jointly conducted the drives.



The Daily Star organises a roundtable on 'Disability Inclusive National Budget 2012-2013' at the newspaper's office in the capital yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

**Woman allegedly strangled**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man allegedly strangled his wife in the capital's Dakkhin Khan yesterday but her husband claimed that she committed suicide after a quarrel with him.

The deceased is Shamima Akhter Khushi, 24, wife of Rawshan Hossain Babu.

At 2:30am, Babu took Shamima from their house at Kaola Ambagan to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors announced her death.

Police arrested Babu in this connection.

Shamima's maternal uncle SM Solaiman Hossain told The Daily Star Rawshan used to beat Shamima and their five-year-old daughter has been kept at Shamima's village home in Gaibandha district for this reason.

The victim was taken to DMCH to conceal the "killing," he added.

**PDB takes possession of 246.99 acres of land**

**CPA had leased out the land to two private companies**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

The Power Development Board (PDB) in Chittagong yesterday took possession of 246.99 acres of government land in Anwara upazila that was under the custody of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), who had leased it out to two private companies.

The land in Rangadia and Majher Char across the Karnaphuli river will be used to house a 1,320MW coal-fired power plant, said Ilias Rahman, executive engineer of PDB.

The government has allotted the PDB the land to set up the power plant.

Md Shamsuddin Khan, a senior deputy manager of AK Khan Co Ltd, said around 200 acres of land was taken from their possession. He claimed that the PDB did not serve any notice for taking possession of the land. "We will deal with the matter legally".

*The land in Rangadia and Majher Char across the Karnaphuli river will be used to house a 1,320MW coal-fired power plant*

Asked, the PDB executive engineer said the companies were served notices three times.

Zahirul Hoque, manager (accounts) of East West Property Development Ltd, the other lessee, said about 46 acres of land was taken from its possession.

He claimed that the company took lease of 246 acres of land from the CPA in 2006 for 50 years to establish

an oil refinery. It has already invested about Tk 500 crore to develop the Char land to set up the factory, he added.

He alleged that the PDB did not issue any notice about taking possession of the land.

Enamul Gofran Chowdhury, a project director of East West Property Development Ltd, however, said the firm was not sure how much land was taken back from it.

He said the company was not informed of the drive, and by measuring the land, it would confirm if the PDB actually took possession of its land.

During the drive with the assistance of the Chittagong District Administration (CDA) and police, the staffers of a one-storey office of AK Khan Co Ltd in the land were evicted yesterday.

**Govt to be ousted thru' mass upsurge**  
*Say BNP leaders*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Accusing the government of influencing the court, BNP leaders yesterday said the government will be defeated through mass upsurge and its policy to weaken the opposition through arresting their leaders will be boomerangsoon.

"The policy to arrest opposition leaders will not bring any good for the government as the people did not take it easily. All the leaders will come out of jail soon through legal battle. But it is nothing else but the street, which will define final results," said Moudud Ahmed, a senior member of BNP standing committee.

He made the remarks at a human chain programme before the Jatiya Press Club organised by Daudkandi Jatiyatabadi Forum, a pro-BNP body, demanding release of the opposition leaders.

Moudud, also a senior lawyer, said no one among the opposition leaders was present when a bus was torched during the hartal hours though all of them are in jail in the arson case.

Tariqul Islam, another member of the standing committee, said the judiciary cannot work independently due to the government interference and urged all to be united against the government's "torture and repression" on the opposition men.

"The government has turned into an autocrat. They want to establish one party rule. But we won't accept it. They have to quit power through mass upsurge," he said while addressing a protest rally in front of the BNP central office organised by Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal.



The Central Shaheed Minar boundary wall, which crumbled after a tree branch fell onto it, fails to grab the attention of the authorities even a week into the incident. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**Road block, vandalism after death in road crash**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Narayanganj*

Agitated garment workers yesterday torched and vandalised at least five buses and barricaded the Dhaka-Sylhet Highway for over an hour after a coworker was killed by a speeding bus.

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between the workers of the apparel factory and the police which ensued as police tried to bring the situation under control.

Sonia, 22, a worker of Sinha Garments was run over by a bus in front of the factory at Sonargaon in Narayanganj around 9:30am. She died on the spot.

Moments after her death, angry workers took to the streets and placed barricades on the highway and set fire to a number of buses.

Police charged batons on the workers who hurled bricks at the law enforcers, leaving 10 people injured.

The police even fired a couple of shots in the air to bring the situation under control around 10:30am, said Mahbulul Alam, director of Industrial Police-4 of Adamji.

Additional police personnel have been posted in the area to avoid further agitation.

Meanwhile, following an earlier clash between police and factory workers on Monday, the authorities of Sinha Garments had declared the factory closed for an indefinite period.

At least 20 people, including five law enforcers were injured in the clash which ensued as the workers were protesting the termination of a coworker.

Sonia was crushed under the wheels of the bus when the workers started to gather in front of the factory gate yesterday morning to protest the closure.

**Unite against 'sick politics': Dr Kamal**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday urged all to forge unity against the prevailing "sick politics", as, he said, the country had fallen into a deep crisis due to ineffective parliament, hartal, forced disappearances and murders.

Addressing party presidents' panel at its office in the capital's Motijheel, he said the judiciary, administration and education system had collapsed due to widespread politicisation.

People are frustrated as the law and order situation has deteriorated, prices of essentials have been hiked, and power and gas have become scarce, he added.

Against this backdrop, he urged the government and the opposition to settle their controversies through dialogue to get the country rid of prevailing deadlock.

**More time needed to trace Ilias: Shahara**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over a month into his disappearance, Home Minister Shahara Khatun yesterday sought more time to trace missing BNP leader M Ilias Ali.

The home minister said an investigation into the disappearance is underway and law enforcement agencies are trying hard to locate him. The government is still hopeful of finding him but more time is needed.

She was replying to queries from journalists after inaugurating a three-day workshop at a hotel in the capital.

Former BNP lawmaker Ilias Ali and his driver Ansar Ali went missing in the wee hours of April 18.

Shahara also urged the opposition party to shun politics of destruction. "People do not like destructive activities," she said.

The International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) organised the workshop on disaster management in Saarc nations at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

Earlier at the inaugural programme Shahara said, "At present Bangladesh is putting together a regional plan of action to fight natural hazards, particularly earthquake."

An agreement on rapid response to natural

disaster has been signed in the Saarc 17th Summit to ensure that no member state is overwhelmed by a natural calamity, she added.

The home minister said through Comprehensive Disaster Management Programmes, the government has conducted safety and evacuation drills in more than 100 schools and plans to insert such drills in the school curriculum so that children can learn to respond quickly during an earthquake.

She also said that the government is in the process of preparing 62,000 volunteers for conducting rescue operation in urban areas after an earthquake. So far 25 percent people of the target number is trained.

Disaster Management and Relief Division Secretary Dr M Aslam Alam said Dhaka is in high risk of earthquakes and he hopes that Saarc Disaster Management Centre will help to fight such disasters should they arise.

Dr Satendra IFS, executive director of Saarc Disaster Management Centre, Neal Walker, UN resident coordinator, were present among others at the ceremony, which was presided over by Brig Gen (Retd) Abu Nayeem Md Shahidullah, director general of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

**BEGUNBARI-HATIRJHEEL PLOTS HC asks ACC to probe allotment process**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to immediately launch a thorough investigation to find out whether there was any corruption in the process of allotting plots in the capital's Begunbari-Hatirjheel area.

Calling the people involved in allotting and purchasing lands ignoring the due process as "thieves", an HC bench ordered the ACC director general to submit the probe report to it by July 15.

Hearing a rule, it ordered the cabinet secretary to form a high profile committee to find out which processes were followed during the distribution of plots in the area.

The committee will comprise LGRD Secretary Abu Alam Shahid Khan, Law Secretary Ashish Ranjan Das, Economic Relations Division Secretary Iqbal Mahmud and Nazimuddin Chowdhury, joint secretary to the ministry of home affairs.

It will submit the report to the court by July 15.

An HC bench ordered the secretary to the

ministry of housing and public affairs to submit a list of the people, who have been allotted plots, and to inform it by July 15 if his ministry had taken the opinion from the ministry of environment and forest during the allotments.

Journalist Shafiq Rehman, former BNP state ministers Ziaul Haque Zia and Kamrul Islam, and Ziaul Haque's son Joy, who had received plots near Begunbari-Hatirjheel area, were present in court during the hearing as per its earlier summons orders.

The bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim ordered Ziaul Haque Zia, Kamrul Islam and Shafiq Rehman to submit separate reports before it by July 15, mentioning the total number of plots that they and their family members have in Dhaka and the manner of receiving those plots.

Following a report published in the daily Samakal on March 24, 2010, the HC bench on May 9 issued a rule upon the authorities concerned to explain why the allocation of the plots should not be cancelled.



WEATHER TODAY

**Rain likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Kushtia and Comilla in 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 to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal divisions and the regions of Tangail, Madaripur, Chandpur and Majdee Court and it may continue.

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

The sunsets in the capital at 6:38pm today and rises at 5:12am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 40.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.7 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

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	36.2	28.2	72	57
Chittagong	33.0	26.5	78	77
Rajshahi	40.0	27.8	73	46
Rangpur	34.2	26.0	78	74
Khulna	38.4	28.2	81	65
Barisal	36.0	27.3	73	67
Sylhet	31.4	24.7	81	76
Cox's Bazar	34.7	27.0	73	75