

NEWS IN *brief*

Two found dead in Gazipur

UNB, Gazipur

Two young men, including a former ward commissioner, were found dead in Tongi and Kaliganj in Gazipur yesterday morning.

In an incident, Monir Hossain, 35, went missing since someone called him out of his house at East Arichpur in Tongi on Saturday night, said family sources.

The body of Monir, son of Moklesuddin Sarkar, former ward commissioner of Tongi Pourashava, was found lying near a railway track at East Arichpur.

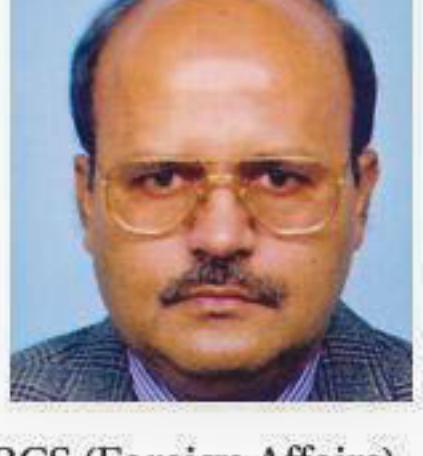
Being informed by locals, police recovered the body and sent it to a hospital morgue.

Police said the body bore several injury marks.

In another incident, local people found the body of an unidentified youth at a paddy field in Bhawal

Enamul Kabir new envoy

to South Korea



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed Md Enamul Kabir, now serving as Bangladesh Ambassador to France, as the new ambassador of Bangladesh to South Korea.

Enamul Kabir, a career diplomat, belongs to the 1981 batch of BCS (Foreign Affairs), said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

During his distinguished diplomatic career, Kabir served as Bangladesh Ambassador in Thimphu, Hanoi and Paris, it said.

He also served Bangladesh Missions in Manila, Paris, Karachi, Birmingham and Hanoi in different positions before taking up his ambassadorial appointments.

Boy murdered in Keraniganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A boy who sat for the SSC examinations this year was stabbed to death in Sonakanda village of Keraniganj yesterday.

The victim Shakil Ahmed, 16, was a student of Ispahani School and College in Keraniganj and son of Shahabuddin.

Shah Ali, a mason of the village, stabbed Shakil while he was at a playground with his friends, Shakil's cousin Mohammad Yusuf told The Daily Star.

He was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College

Housewife 'kills herself' in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling in her bedroom following a family feud in the capital's Dakkhin Khan area early yesterday.

The deceased was Jhumur Aktrar, 22, wife of Niaz Morshed of Faidabad of the area.

Niaz Morshed told journalists that he got married to Jhumur, who belonged to Hindu religion, six years back.

But Jhumur's family did not accept the marriage that made her frustrated, he said.

"We used to make quarrel regularly because of the frustration," he said adding, "We made quarrel over a silly matter on Saturday night".

"We went to bed around 12:00am after the incident. But I found her hanging from the ceiling with a scarf after getting up from the bed around 6:00am," Morshed said.

Two held with Yaba tablets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two youths were held allegedly with 550 pieces of Yaba tablet at Bakalia in Chittagong city on Saturday.

The arrestees were Mohammad Nur Alam, 35, son of Omer Miah, and Jane Osman, 18, son of Abdus Shukur, both hailed from Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar.

DB police conducted a drive at Bhera Market in Nutan Chakta area in Bakalia around 8:30pm on Saturday and arrested the duo and seized the yaba

WEATHER TODAY

Heat weave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met office said.

Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Faridpur, Madaripur and Tangail and it may continue.

Day and night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The highest maximum temperature is likely to be 38-39 degree Celsius and lowest minimum temperature may be 22-23 degree Celsius.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:46pm and rises tomorrow at 5:10am.

Country's highest temperature 39.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 23.5 degrees at Rangpur.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
Dhaka	36.0	65
Chittagong	31.8	88
Rajshahi	39.2	81
Rangpur	34.0	74
Khulna	38.4	71
Barisal	35.1	75
	29.4	79



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gives the Bangladesh-Saudi Arabia Friendship medal to Saudi Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud at Hotel Sonargaon in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

Call to defer hajj money depositing deadline

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To ease the devotees in their preparation for the holy hajj, extension of the deadline by a month from June 20 for depositing the pilgrimage money was demanded yesterday.

Leaders of Tahfij-e-Haramain Parishad Bangladesh, a non-political Islamic organisation which looks after the welfare of the Hajj pilgrims, made the demand at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

They said most of the pilgrims, who are going to perform the hajj for the first time this year, have not yet received their passports.

Moreover, withdrawing money from banks at this time is hectic since June is the month of yearly closing for the banks, they said.

Though the holy hajj is expected to be held in October this year, pilgrims have been instructed to deposit the total hajj amount by June 20.

In previous years, only the moallam fees (transportation fees) had to be deposited within the given date.

A total of 1,20,000 Bangladeshi nationals are expected to perform Hajj this year under different government and private managements, according to the bilateral hajj agreement between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL
Order on Quader Mollah's petition June 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday fixed June 14 to pass an order on the petition seeking review of the indictment order passed against war crimes accused Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah.

The tribunal, on May 28, indicted Mollah with six charges of committing murders and mass killings during the 1971 Liberation War.

The tribunal, comprising its Chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir, Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge M Shahinur Islam, fixed the date after the defence and prosecution completed their arguments over the petition.

Chief of the defence counsel, Abdur Razzaq, said the prosecution neither mentioned Mollah as a member of the auxiliary Al Badr force in the formal charges nor produced sufficient evidence

to prove the claim.

Besides, an earlier application by the prosecution to identify Mollah as an Al-Badr leader was rejected by the tribunal on May 28, said Razzaq.

"But the tribunal described the accused (in the indictment order) as an Al-Badr member, which is tantamount to accepting the prosecution's application," he added.

Justice Fazle Kabir drew Razzaq's attention on a part of the formal charge.

It read, "Quader Mollah was the president of Islami Chhatra Sangha (ICS) of Shahidullah Hall of Dhaka University in 1970 and afterwards he organised the Al Badr Bahini, comprising the ICS members."

Razzaq replied, "It was said perfunctorily and the prosecution failed to provide any documentary evidence (in this regard)."

Justice Fazle Kabir said, "We framed the

charges on the basis of the formal charges and statements of witnesses. The profile of Quader Mollah, in the formal charges, mentions him as an Al-Badr member."

Besides, some of the witnesses stated that Mollah was an Al-Badr member, he added.

Afterwards, Prosecutor Mohammad Ali said, "It is our responsibility to prove it (that Mollah was an Al-Badr leader) and we have sufficient evidence to do so."

Razzaq said the tribunal charged Mollah with "participating", "facilitating" and "substantially contributing" to war crimes. At the same time, he was also charged for his "complicity" in the crimes.

"This type of cumulative charging is not permissible in the act (International Crimes (Tribunals) Act-1973)," he said.

Railway to buy 16 Indian locomotives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway (BR) yesterday inked a Tk 609-crore deal with Indian company RITES Ltd to purchase 16 broad-gauge locomotives.

As per the agreement, the company will start supplying the locomotives after 18 months from now.

Md Shamsuzzaman, joint director general of BR, and Sumit Sinha, director of RITES Ltd, signed the deal at the Railway Bhaban in the capital.

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, also in-charge of the railway ministry, witnessed the signing ceremony.

The minister told the function that the government has taken various

initiatives to improve services in the railway sector, and the deal to procure 16 locomotives is a part of that initiative.

In reply to a question, he said the government is contemplating to raise the train fares as there had been no increase in fare in the last 20 years.

About irregularities in recruitment in the railway sector, Quader said his ministry will take action as per recommendations of the probe body.

The BR will observe 'Safety and Cleanliness Week' from June 24 to June 30, aiming to improve services in the rail sector, he said.

The minister told the function that the government has taken various

billion credit to Bangladesh.

Of the Tk 609-crore deal, India will provide Tk 428 crore, while the rest will be borne by the Bangladesh government.

BR is facing acute shortage of locomotives as the successive governments have not purchased any rail engines in the last four decades.

Earlier on January 31, BR sealed a Tk 349-crore deal with the same company to procure 10 broad-gauge locomotives.

Railway Secretary Fazle Kabir, BR Director General Abu Taher, among others, were present during yesterday's signing ceremony.



With the lid missing for more than 15 days, an open manhole sits on the road opposite to Water Development Board at Motijheel in the capital posing threat to vehicles on the road. The risk of accidents gets even higher during the load shedding hours at night. The photo was taken on Saturday.

ILIAS ALI DISAPPEARANCE
Hearing of rule on govt deferred again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday for the fourth time deferred for a week the hearing on a rule issued earlier upon the government to produce BNP leader M Ilias Ali before it.

Earlier, the HC postponed hearing on this rule three times following separate time prayers from the petitioner's counsels, Deputy Attorney General Rashed S Jahangir said, adding that the hearing would now be held on June 17.

He said the government is prepared for hearing on this issue but it is not being held as the petitioner's counsels are asking for time from the court in this regard.

Following a writ petition filed by Ilias's wife Tahsina Rushdir Luna, the HC on April 19 issued the rule upon the government authorities concerned to explain in 10 days why they should not be directed to produce Ilias before it or prove that he was not illegally detained by them.

The HC bench of Justice Abdul Awal and Justice M Ashraful Kamal was set to hold hearing on the rule yesterday.

But the bench postponed the hearing after Mahbubul Haque Pipul, a lawyer for the petitioner, sought time saying the Mahbub Uddin Khokon, who will place arguments on behalf of the petitioner, has some personal difficulties this week.

Mahbub Uddin Khokon, however, told The Daily Star that they are seeking time from the HC to give a reply to the reports submitted by different law enforcement agencies.

Ilias Ali, former lawmaker and BNP organising secretary (Sylhet Division), along with his driver has been missing since the night of April 17 this year.

UZZAL MURDER
Arrested 3 confess to involvement

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three arrested in Uzzal Saha murder case confessed to their involvement in the killing before a court of chief metropolitan magistrate (CMM) in Khulna yesterday.

Shrimp trader Uzzal, 38, was beaten to death by criminals at Shamsur Rahman Road in Khulna city on Thursday morning.

Uzzal's younger brother Sumon Saha filed the case with Khulna Sadar Police Station on the same night accusing some unidentified people in this connection.

Sohel Rana, sub-inspector at the police station, also investigation officer for the case, said they arrested Mehedi Hasan Starling, 30, managing director of Modern Sea Foods Ltd, Md Ariful Haque Sazal, 25, and Nahid Reza alias Rana, 31 from different areas of Khulna city on Saturday.

The arrestees were produced before the court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Zakaria Hossain.

Quoting their confession before the court, the police officer said Uzzal Saha was an employee at the modern sea food owned by Mehedi Hasan. Uzzal started a shrimp business by his own leaving the job recently.

Mehedi Hasan planned to kill Uzzal as he disclosed the extramarital affairs of Mehedi, said Sohel Rana adding that the arrestees hired some goons for the killing with Tk 30,000, he said.