

NEWS IN

brief

Bodies of siblings recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the bodies of two siblings from their house in the capital's Joar Sahara area yesterday.

The deceased were Javed, 55, and his younger brother Jamsed, 50.

Ziuzzaman, officer-in-charge at Joar Sahara Police Station, said they recovered the bodies after breaking open the main gate of the tin-shed house around 5:00pm.

Police suspect that Javed strangled Jamshed to death, and latter he killed himself.

Quoting locals, Ziuzzaman said, "Javed was suffering from mental problems".

Police was investigation into the matter, he added.

A team of Criminal Investigation Department

MoU signed for medical college

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Shahid Khaleque and Major Saleque Beer Uttam Trust" will contribute Tk 15 crore for establishing a medical college with the co-operation of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB), says a press release.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Thursday between the trust and the DAB to build Malek-Ibrahim Medical College (proposed).

Prof Dr AK Azad Khan, president of the DAB, and A Matin Chowdhury, chairman of the trust, signed

Counterfeit dollars seized, 1 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Detective Branch (DB) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested a person with 3,700 counterfeit US dollars from Agrabad area in Chittagong city yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team from DB conducted a drive at a building in the area and arrested Mohammad Nasir, 38, hailing from Patuakhali, with the amount, said Tareq Ahmed, assistant deputy commissioner of DB of CMP.

A case was lodged.

Mazhar-Shakil parishad sweeps

Biman Officers' Association polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mazhrarul Islam and Shakil Meraj, two deputy general managers of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, were elected president and secretary general of Biman Officers' Association respectively.

The Mazhar-Shakil parishad won all the posts of the 17-member executive body of the association in the polls held on Thursday, said a press release.

The body includes M Habibur Rahman Khan (senior vice-president), Faridul Haque (vice-president), Sm Belal Hossain (assistant secretary general), and Muhammad Aminul Haque Bhuiyan (organising secretary).

The officials of three home and 18 overseas units (station) cast their votes.

City

Several thousand fans and admirers join the first janaza (funeral) of legendary writer Humayun Ahmed at Jamaica Muslim Centre in New York after Juma prayers on Friday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH



RAMPAL POWER PLANT FINANCING

Costly buyer's credit likely

UNB, Dhaka

The proposed 1,320MW coal-fired power plant project in Rampal of Khulna region might be implemented under costly "buyer's credit" financing.

The decision to go for this alternative financing was taken during the visit of a Bangladesh delegation to India last week, official sources said.

Rampal power plant is a joint venture project of Bangladesh's Power Development Board (PDB) and India's National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). They signed an agreement in this regard in January this year.

Sources said both the Bangladeshi and Indian sides had opted for buyer's credit financing after they sensed lack of interests of international donors like World Bank and Asian Development Bank to finance the project.

Under the buyer's credit financing system, the selected contractor would arrange the required finance for the project, but it is costlier than donor financing.

ASM Alamgir Kabir, chairman of state-owned PDB, led the Bangladesh delegation to India which included officials of the power ministry and Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB).

Official sources said different important issues like financing of the project, the modalities of the Implementation Agreement (IA) and the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for purchase of power from the proposed power plant dominated the talks with Indian side during the Bangladesh team's visit.

A top official, who was a member of the

Bangladesh delegation, claimed that they made substantial progress in the way to sign the IA and PPA.

Recently, a joint venture company named Bangladesh India Friendship Power Company has been formed to implement the project, but the registration process of the company has not yet been completed.

After setting up the power plant, Bangladesh will buy entire electricity from the project.

Though Bangladesh and India signed an agreement about two years ago to build the power plant in Rampal, only 15 kilometres off the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, its implementation has been facing serious hurdles from different sides. Environmentalists are opposing the establishment of the power plant, claiming that it would harm the diversity of the Sundarbans and local ecology.

The environmental groups have also launched campaign against the Rampal power plant, fearing that it will be a serious blow to the ecology and environment for the world heritage site, the Sundarbans, as the plant's site is very close to the mangrove forest.

The main opposition BNP has raised its voice against the joint venture power project, terming it an anti-state deal, which would harm the country's environment and ecology.

While the Indian and Bangladesh sides signed the agreement, initially the project was planned to be implemented within 2-3 years and put in operation by 2013-14. But now both the Bangladesh and India authorities have deferred its implementation by two years and set a timetable of the project implementation by 2016.



Nodi O Jolashoy Rokkha Andolon (movement to protect rivers and water bodies) form a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding eviction of encroachers on the country's water bodies.

PHOTO: STAR

Woman gives birth to quintuplets

UNB, Khulna

In a rare incident, a woman from Gopalganj district gave birth to five babies at a time at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) through a caesarean section yesterday.

The quintuplets include a boy and four girls. All of the five infants, each weighing around two kilograms on average, are in good health, doctors said.

Four of them were kept at the child ward while the other in an incubator as it was a

little underweight.

Shimu Begum, 23, the mother of the quintuplets, is wife of Gaffar Khan, a member of Kakpara UP under the sadar upazila of Gopalganj district.

She was first admitted to Gopalganj sadar hospital where it was known that there were five babies in her womb, Gaffar said.

Later, she was shifted to the KMCH on July 17 and was kept there under close observation for 72 hours. Finally, Shimu delivered the five babies yesterday.

Hawkers demand to be on street till Eid

UNB, Dhaka

Jatiya Hawker Jote yesterday called upon the authorities concerned to allow hawkers to carry out their business on the capital's footpaths till Eid-ul-Fitr.

The jote came up with the demand at a human chain, organised by the hawkers of Kotwali and Sutrapur areas, in front of Jatiya Press Club.

Speakers at the programme said hawkers from Gulistan to Sadarghat Launch Terminal were evicted four months back following a recent High Court order to ease traffic.

Engaged in the business in the areas for over 50 years, the hawkers are now passing their days in great hardship, said the speakers.

They called for halting the eviction until the hawkers are rehabilitated and staying the operation of the HC order on humanitarian grounds, said a release.



Students and teachers of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology observe a token mass hunger strike on the campus yesterday demanding removal of the vice chancellor and pro-vice chancellor. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladeshi workers preferred in Malaysia

UNB, Dhaka

Private sector employers in Malaysia, a fast-growing middle-income Muslim country, these days prefer Bangladeshi workers in their restaurants, posh malls and shops because of their hard work, sincerity and honesty.

During a recent visit to Kuala Lumpur, the news agency found many restaurants, superstores and malls posted advertisements on their front doors seeking staff, preferably Bangladeshis.

"I prefer Bangladeshis as they're very honest, hardworking, conscious and very good listeners, too," Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hyderabad Recipes Samir Syed told the news agency at his Kuala Lumpur outlet.

Impressed by the performance of Bangladeshis, Samir said he has been hiring Bangladeshis for his global outlets in Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Canada and Kuala Lumpur over the last 20 years.

"In my past 20 years of career, I didn't find anything wrong with any Bangladeshi... I have more Bangladeshi workers than Pakistanis," he said.

Farhad, a Bangladeshi who has become a manager of Hyderabad Recipes' PWTC outlet, said, "We always play a sincere role and try to put in our best efforts to satisfy both the owner and clients."

Asked how Bangladeshis get senior posts, Samir said, "Look, Farhad is now a manager... he's managing the whole restaurant... people who joined as dish washers are now working in very senior positions."

Samir said he will soon open a big branch, the fourth one in Malaysia, where he will also recruit Bangladeshis.

"We pay air ticket, arrange visa and accom-

modation. We don't want to see any Bangladeshi being cheated by any agent at the very beginning of his/her career," he said.

Expressing frustration over the activities of some Bangladeshi agents, he said agents give big hopes of jobs with handsome salary, take away money from the innocent Bangladeshis and ultimately run away putting them in trouble here.

"Even I know many Bangladeshis were sent back right from the airport because the Malaysian government doesn't know the purpose of their visit," he added.

He advised the Bangladeshi workers to come to Malaysia through proper channel. "Prospective candidates can easily apply online."

Hanifa, a multistoried superstore in Kuala Lumpur, has also posted advertisement seeking staff for the store and giving priority to Bangladeshis.

Azad, a sales executive at an IT outlet at Plaza Lowyat, Malaysia's largest IT Lifestyle Mall, said, "Bangladeshis are doing excellent here. Here, many Bangladeshis are working. We've made our position stronger through honesty, hard work and sincerity."

Azad, who hailed from Chittagong, also said Bangladeshis get special preference here in recruitment.

M Didar, who has been living in Malaysia for nearly two decades, said Bangladeshi workers do not have any bad records as they do their jobs sincerely.

"If you ask any recruiter here, all will praise Bangladeshi workers," he added.

President of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) M Shahjalal Mazumder said they give tips to the workers while sending abroad on various aspects so that they can earn reputation.

Humayun Ahmed's death mourned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-cultural and political organisations yesterday expressed sorrow at the death of illustrious writer and filmmaker Humayun Ahmed.

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote President and film hero Faruk, in a statement, said Humayun Ahmed's death represents an irreplaceable loss of a versatile talent for the nation.

Meanwhile, Gonotontri Party President Mohammad Afzal and its General Secretary Nurur Rahman, in a joint statement, said Humayun Ahmed's talent has significantly enriched the Bangla literature, which would be enriched further if he would have survived.

The legendary litterateur died at a hospital in New York on Thursday at the age of 64 after suffering from colon cancer.

Phensedyl seized, one held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested a person and seized 60 bottles of phensedyl from his possession from Railway Canteen area in Chittagong city yesterday.

The arrestee was identified as Titu Alam, 30, from DC Road area under Bakalia Police Station in the city, said police.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Khulshi police conducted a drive in Railway Canteen area and arrested Titu with the bottles.



Discussion

Jatiya Gonotantik League will organise a discussion; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 11:00am.

10:30am.

Seminar

Microcredit Regulatory Authority will organise a seminar; Venue: Cirdap auditorium; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Bangladesh Unmukto Gonotantik Parishad will hold a discussion; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time:

Seminar

Indigenous Peoples Development Services will hold a seminar; Venue: Catholic Bishop's Conference of



WEATHER  
TODAY

Slight rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dhaka divisions till 6:00pm today.

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

Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:46pm and rises tomorrow at 5:24am.

Country's highest temperature 33.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 25 degrees at Rangamati and Teknaf.

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	31.7	27.4	75	73
Chittagong	30.6	25.9	81	80
Rajshahi	33.5	26.0	83	80
Rangpur	32.5	27.2	79	70
Khulna	32.8	26.4	84	86
Barisal	30.8	26.4	89	83