

NEWS IN *brief*

Peacekeeper Ajgar Ali laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police constable and United Nations peacekeeping official Md Ajgar Ali who was killed in Sudan on August 12 was buried at his family graveyard with full state honour yesterday evening.

Earlier in the morning his body was taken to Rajarbagh Police Lines after it arrived from Sudan where Home Minister Shahara Khatun, her deputy Shamsul Hoque Tuku and Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker, among others, placed wreaths on his coffin, a Police Headquarters press release said.

Forty-year old Ali from Huikhali in Sathia upazila in Pabna was killed by rebels while on duty in Darfur.

Withdrawal of cases against Limon demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

False cases lodged against Limon, who was maimed by Rab, should be withdrawn immediately, current and former leaders of some youth and student organisations demanded yesterday.

"No action has been taken against the Rab personnel responsible for maiming Limon. Rather the so-called Rab sources are harassing Limon and his family by filing fabricated cases against them," they said in a statement.

The leaders were addressing a gathering, convened by former president of Bangladesh Student Union Asaduzzaman Masum, in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

Ragib Hasan Munna, former president of Bangladesh Chhatra Maitri, Kafi Ratan, president of Jubo Union, Kishor Roy, acting president of Jubo

26 more Rohingyas sent back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday sent 26 more Rohingyas back to Myanmar following detention for intruding into Bangladesh territory.

All of them hailed from Maungdaw.

Lt Col Zahid Hasan, commanding officer of BGB 42 Battalion at Teknaf, said the border guards had detained 18 Rohingyas at Jadi Mura Ghat of Teknaf, early yesterday, when they were intruding into Bangladesh on a fishing boat around 1:30am.

The BGB sent them back around 10:30am, he added.

Later, they sent eight more Rohingyas back around 5:00pm, half an hour after they were

Man dies in gas explosion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died yesterday evening from burn injuries caused by an explosion from accumulated gases at a house in the capital's Kalabagan area on Friday.

The deceased, Azmat Ullah, 25, who sustained 90 percent burns, died in the intensive care unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The accident took place on Friday afternoon when Azmat tried to light a cigarette in the toilet of his relative's house at Kalabagan, said Enamul Haque, officer-in-charge of Kalabagan Police Station.

The explosion caused partial collapse of a wall and shattered the toilet's door, he said.

Police suspected that the explosion occurred due



Namaz-e-janaza of police constable Md Ajgar Ali was held on Rajarbagh Police Lines field yesterday. He was shot dead by unidentified miscreants while serving in a UN peacekeeping mission in Sudan.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

ADMISSION TO COLLEGES Notre Dame, board at loggerheads

WASIM BIN HABIB

A dispute has brewed between Notre Dame College and Dhaka education board for the college's holding an admission test in defiance of government rules.

Over the row, the education board has refused to accept SSC transcripts and registration fees of the new students who have enrolled to the college this academic year.

The government admission policy issued in May requires colleges to admit students on the basis of their SSC exam scores and without running admission tests.

The Notre Dame College authorities, however, held a written and oral test in the last week of June and enrolled about 2,500 qualified students. The classes began early July.

The government and the education board said holding an admission test was no longer valid in the new admission policy. As per the new rules, the board will select candidates on the basis of their SSC exam marks for enrolment to colleges.

Father Benjamin Costa, principal of Notre Dame College, however, finds a lack of transparency in the system prescribed by the education board.

"The board said it will prepare the list of students for the college but it is reluctant to disclose the marks on which the students will be selected. A lack of a transparency lies here," he told The Daily Star.

Arguing for the college's admission policy, he said they had arranged an admission test to provide a chance to thousands of students who wanted to study in Notre Dame College.

"Otherwise, a huge commotion would have been created among the candidates."

When the education ministry and the board insisted the Notre Dame College authorities comply with new rules like other colleges in the country, a parent of a newly admitted student filed a lawsuit with the High Court (HC) in June.

On June 14, the HC stayed the process for admission on the basis of the government admission policy for six months, paving the way for enrolment of students to Notre Dame College under its existing admission system.

But an uncertainty has been hanging over the fate of the fresh students since then, as they will not be able to register for HSC exams if the board does not receive their transcripts and registration fees.

However, both the government and the board, say they will not do anything that would harm the students.

Father Benjamin Costa said two months ago, they sent a letter to the ministry and the board requesting them to endorse the college's existing admission system. "The board informed us that it will let us know about the next step after getting the court's directives."

Prof Fahima Khatun, chairman, Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka, said they had already sent letters to the education ministry and the college authorities for their legal opinions to solve the dispute.

"We will soon sit with the college authorities for working out a solution. I hope they would come forward considering the future of the students," she told The Daily Star.

Post-Eid tailback clogs Dhaka-Tangail highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Vehicular movement came to an around 16-hour halt over a 30 kilometre stretch of Dhaka-Tangail Highway till yesterday morning due to heavy traffic, a large number of speed breakers and some vehicles breaking down on the highway.

People who had celebrated Eid in the northern districts and were returning to Dhaka and Highway Police said hundreds of vehicles were stuck in the traffic jam, from Chandra of Gazipur to Karatia of Tangail sadar upazila.

Gorai Highway Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sanowar Hossain said a large number of buses left the northern districts all at once and the

traffic jam started around 6:00pm on Friday.

But traffic started moving very slowly around 10:00am yesterday, he added.

Talking to The Daily Star around 2:00pm yesterday, Tangail Superintendent of Police AKM Hafiz Akter said traffic movement had become normal.

He said the traffic jam was created due to a number of vehicles breaking down on the highway.

He feared that there would be severe traffic congestion on the highway at night and so were preparing to deploy additional traffic police to aid vehicular movement.

Highway Police said the traffic jam

might have been aided by the presence of a level crossing at Dherua in Mirzapur, 40 km from Karatia.

Moreover there are at least 22 speed breakers from Karatia to Mirzapur upazila of Tangail, a distance of 30 km, they said.

One bus passenger, Jisan Ahmed, returning to Dhaka from Puthia upazila of Rajshahi, said he boarded the bus around 10:30pm on Friday and was supposed to reach Dhaka by 4:30am yesterday.

"Our bus is still stuck at Dherua in Mirzapur," he told the reporters around 7:00am yesterday, adding that the bus was stranded at Natiapara, Pakulla, Dhalla, Mirzapur and Dherua on the highway.



Shabby repair work after Wasa installed a pipe has left Darussalam Road in the capital's Mirpur in a sorry state. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

DHAKA TODAY

Regional meeting
South Asian Infant Feeding Research Network will organise its 7th Regional Meeting; Venue: ICCDR, B; Time: 9:00am.

Discussion
Bangabandhu Academy will organise a discussion; Venue: Dhaka Reporters unity; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University will hold a discussion; Venue: its premises; Time: 11:00am.

Human chain
Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha

Medical college admission seekers will form a human chain; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 2:00pm.



Elephant keepers frighten people into giving them money in Gabtoli of the capital. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Dhaka, Ctg to get improved gas supply

BSS, Dhaka

Gas supply to Dhaka and Chittagong will improve significantly by the middle of next year as the installation of compressors and construction of some major transmission pipelines are expected to be completed soon.

"We are trying our level best to complete the works as per schedule," Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL) Managing Director Aminur Rahman told the news agency.

In October, 2011, GTCL, a company of Petrobangla, signed eight contracts with two foreign and six local companies for the installation of compressor stations and transmission pipelines.

The projects, financially supported by World Bank and Asian Development Bank, will cost Tk 1414.61 crore.

Once the projects are completed, the compressor stations will help improve gas pressure while the transmission lines will feed more gas to the national gas grid, he added.

Hyundai Engineering Company Limited of South Korea is scheduled to install compressor stations, costing Tk 854.09 crore, at Ashuganj and Elenga by July 2013.

FERNAS Construction Company, Inc of Turkey is scheduled to construct a 60-kilometre and 30-inch-diameter gas transmission pipeline, costing Tk 460.52 crore, from Bakhrabad to Siddirganj by June 2013.

The six local companies are scheduled to construct a 163-kilometre long and 20-inch-diameter gas transmission pipeline, costing Tk 100 crore, from Bheramara to Khulna by July 2013.

WEATHER TODAY

Change in temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:22pm and rises tomorrow at 5:39am.

Country's highest temperature 35.9 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.5 degrees at Rangamati.

The highest maximum temperature is likely to be 34-35 degrees Celsius and the lowest minimum temperature may be 25-26 degrees Celsius.

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	26.8	80	93
Chittagong	32.5	26.4	87	90
Rajshahi	34.5	27.0	86	96
Rangpur	34.3	25.2	77	70
Khulna	34.2	27.6	92	84
Barisal	32.5	26.8	92	82