

NEWS IN *brief*

Man's tongue cut, eyes gouged out in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was viciously attacked in Bagan Bari area of the capital yesterday.
A group of miscreants attacked Mohammed Soheli, 22, an alleged police informant. They cut out Soheli's tongue and gouged out his eyes.
Soheli was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.
Soheli's neighbours claimed a drug-peddling ring attacked Soheli as he had previously given information about them to police.
However, Officer-in-Charge of Kadamtoli Police Station Shafiqul Islam said Soheli was not an infor-

3 held with firearm in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested three people with a small firearm from Bosila in the capital's Mohammadpur area on Wednesday night.
The arrestees are Sahidul Alam alias Sujon, 25, Md Kabir Hossain, 25, and Rehsan Ali, 40.
Saiful Islam, senior assistant commissioner of DB, said acting on a tip-off a team of DB challenged four to five people when they gathered for trading the gun at a tea stall around 11:00pm.
In a primary interrogation, the arrestees told that Sujon made a contract with Rehsan to buy the fire-

Dhaka condoles victims of fire in Pakistan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has expressed deep sorrow and shock at the twin tragic incidents of fire at a garment factory in Karachi and a shoe factory in Lahore on Tuesday, which resulted in loss of lives and property.
Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni sent a letter of condolence to her Pakistani counterpart Hina Rabbani Khar where Dipu, on behalf of the Bangladeshi people and government, conveyed deep sympathy for people affected by the incidents, which occurred almost simultaneously.
"We pray that the Almighty may grant the deceased eternal peace and their families the strength to bear the loss of their near and dear ones"

Education seminar begins at ULAB today

METRO DESK

A two-day international seminar on "Innovations in Education and ELT" will begin today at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) in the capital.
The Department of English of the ULAB, Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) and Teachers Helping Teachers (THT), an international teacher training group consisting of ELT experts from USA and Japan, will jointly organise the programme to provide hands-on training to English teachers at schools, colleges and universities.
Prof Rafiqul Islam, professor emeritus of ULAB, will attend the inaugural session as chief guest at 10:00am.

DHAKA TODAY

Citizens' rally
Nagorik Sanghati will arrange a citizens' rally; Venue: in front of National Museum; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion
Green Voice will hold a discussion; Venue: 9/12, Block No-D, Lalmatia; Time: 10:30am.

Human chain
Textile Garment Workers Federation will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Election
Dhaka University Political Science

Department Alumni Association will hold its executive committee election; Venue: Chattagram Bhaban, Topkhana Road; Time: 3:00pm.

Convention
Bangladesh Jatiyatobadi Front will organise a convention; Venue: Hotel Imperial, Bangabandhu Avenue; Time: 3:30pm.

Open discussion
Muktochinta Forum will hold an open discussion; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion
Shishir Bindu will hold a discussion;

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely
UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.
Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:03pm and rises tomorrow at 5:45am.
Country's highest temperature 33.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.0 degrees at Bogra.

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	31.8	26.6	73	79
Chittagong	29.2	25.3	92	88
Rajshahi	33.5	26.4	90	90
Rangpur	31.3	26.4	82	87
Khulna	32.5	26.2	84	92
Barisal	29.0	25.6	89	95
Sylhet	28.9	24.7	96	92



President Zillur Rahman administers oath to the new ministers, from left, Mujibul Haque, Mostafa Faruque Mohammad, Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Hasanul Haque Inu and Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir at Bangabhaban yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: PID



Punish grabbers of water bodies

Demand rights groups

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eleven rights bodies yesterday demanded punishment for the authorities of private housing companies who are filling up water bodies violating detailed area plan (DAP) in the capital.
They also demanded transparency in Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha's process of giving approval to the housing projects.
They made the demands in a letter sending to the secretary of the Housing and Public Works Ministry, says a press release of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).
Referring to a report headlined "Illegal Housing Projects, Government making those legal" published in The Daily Star on July 31, it says Rajuk started the process of giving private housing companies approval to some illegal projects.
The 11 rights bodies are Ain o Salish Kendra, Association for Land Reform and Development, Bangladesh Paribesh Ainbid Samity, Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Bangladesh Institute of Planners, Paribesh Bachao Andolan, Centre for Urban Studies, Institute of Architects of Bangladesh, Nijera Kori, and Transparency International Bangladesh.

Four buses set on fire after road crashes

STAR REPORT

Mobs set four buses ablaze after a garment worker was killed and a minor girl injured in separate road accidents in Gazipur and Chittagong yesterday.
In Gazipur, garment workers blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway for an hour after their co-worker Md Hazrat Ali, 20, was run over by a bus at Chhoydana in Sadar upazila around 8:15am.
Hazrat, son of Babar Ali of Karimganj upazila in Kishoreganj, died on his way to a local hospital, said Abdul Baten, superintendent of police (SP) of Gazipur.
Hearing the death news, workers from Eva Sweater Factory vandalised vehicles and blocked the highway, he said.
They also set fire to three buses--one of Cholachol Paribahan and two of Balaka

Service--around 9:00am, the SP added.
On information, Firefighters rushed to the spot and doused the flames.
Our Chittagong correspondent reports, a mob blocked the Dhaka-Chittagong highway for two hours after a minor girl was hit by a bus at Ponthichila near Sitakunda upazila headquarters.
Umme Habiba, 6, a class-I student of Ponthichila Islamia Dakhil Madrasa, sustained severe injuries in the head and legs.
Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Baro Aulia Highway Police Station, said a Chittagong-bound bus of Choice Service hit Habiba while she was on her way to the madrasa around 11:00am.
Agitating locals vandalised the bus and set fire to it immediately after the accident.
Habiba was taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Two killed by trains in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two unidentified men were crushed to death by trains in Karwan Bazar and Gendaria of the capital yesterday morning.
Witnesses of the incident in Karwan Bazar said the victim was walking on the rail tracks when a Kamalapur-bound train hit him from behind at about 9:30am.
In Gendaria, a train bound for Narayanganj hit a man on Doyaganj Railway Bridge at about 9:30am.
Both bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsies.

One Billion Rising campaign launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One Billion Rising, a global campaign to end violence against women, was launched in the country yesterday.
Eminent feminists and rights activists representing different organisations took part in the launching ceremony at Goethe Institut, Dhaka.
Rights activist Khushi Kabir said 160 countries, including the ones in South Asia, had already started numerous activities leading up to the 15th anniversary of V-Day, an international movement to stop violence against women.
The anniversary will be observed on February 14, 2013. Numerous awareness programmes will be organised across the country on the occasion.
"On February 14, 2013, One Billion Rising will shake the Earth. The launch is a call on all stakeholders to join the initiative," said Khushi Kabir.
One in three women on the planet is or has been beaten up or raped during her lifetime, she said. According to this calculation, she said, one billion women would be subjected to violence in their lifetime. "One Billion Rising is a global revolution to stop that."
The launch featured poetry recitals, reading out stories, gonosangeet (movement songs), and dance.
Eminent citizens and cultural personalities like Hamida Hossain, Shaheen Anam, Salma Khan, Sara Zaker, and Rokeya Rafique Baby, among others, attended the event.
Wasfia Nazreen, climber of Mount Everest, and Salma Khatun, the country's only woman locomotive driver, were also present. All of them participated in a choral rendition of the gonosangeet, "Ano Mukti".
The organisations joining the initiative include ActionAid, Adcom, Ain o Salish Kendra, Brac, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Nijera Kori, and Oxfam.



Representatives of civil society and human rights organisations sing a movement song in Goethe-Institut Dhaka yesterday marking their joining to One Billion Rising campaign initiated by V-Day, an international movement to end violence against women.

PHOTO: STAR

Reduce constituency numbers of Dhaka

Civil society personalities urge EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some civil society personalities and non-government organisation representatives yesterday proposed to reduce the capital's parliamentary constituency numbers to protect the interests of rural areas.
Redrawing the parliamentary constituencies on population basis would cause the capital's constituency numbers to rise, depriving the rural areas, they said.
Holding talks with Bangladesh Election Commission in the conference room of National Economic Council of the planning ministry, the discussants asked the EC to consult political parties on their opinion on redrawing the boundaries.
Some cited a proposal by the past ATM Shamsul Huda-led EC to reduce the capital's constituencies from 15 to 10 to prevent rural

areas from losing parliamentary seats.
Before the last delimitation of boundaries in 2008, the capital's parliamentary constituency numbers was eight. It stood at 15 in 2008 and the EC had to reduce the seats in rural areas to meet the capital's demand.
Addressing the discussion, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad said redrawing the constituencies on population basis may cause the capital's constituency numbers to rise to 25.
Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam demanded that the EC holds talks to know the opinions at grassroots level.
Barrister Rafiqul Haque, former Dhaka University vice-chancellor Prof Maniruzzaman Mia and former adviser to a caretaker government Rasheda K Chowdhury also participated in the talks.

MOMIN KILLING CASE Verdict yet to be implemented

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although more than one year has passed, verdict in the Kamrul Islam Momin murder case is yet to be implemented as two convicts with death penalty and four others with life term imprisonment in the case are still on the run.
Momin, 22, a student of Dhaka Commerce College, was shot dead in front of his residence in the capital's Ibrahimpur area on September 13, 2005.
Momin's elder brother Shamsul Islam said, "We urge the government to implement the verdict immediately and arrest the absconding killers."
On July 20, 2011, the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 of Dhaka sentenced former officer-in-charge of Motijheel Police Station AKM Rafiqul Islam and two others to death for their involvement in the murder.
The tribunal also sentenced six people to life term imprisonment in the case.