

NEWS IN *brief*

Ban on sale of toxic chemicals used in food demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a human chain yesterday demanded formulation of a stringent law and its proper implementation to ban the sale of formalin, calcium carbide and other toxic chemicals.

The human chain, organised by Khadde Bish Protirodh Andolon, stretched from Mohammadpur bus stand to Jhigatola in the capital, said a press release.

They said the chemicals cause serious diseases and damage vital human organs including kidney,

Two injured in acid attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

A man and a bystander sustained severe burn injuries after two unknown assailants on a motorcycle threw acid at the man in Ranibazar area of Rajshahi city on Sunday.

The injured -- Shafiul Alam, 35, of Ramchandrapur area, and the bystander Asmat Hossain, 40, a hotel employee, were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Shafiul's mother Shefali Rahman filed a case with Boalia Police Station against three persons, including her sister's husband Anwar Hossain, who threatened to kill her family members several times over a land dispute.

Body found in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

The body of an unidentified youth was found buried on the Padma river bank in Rajshahi city's Dianagar area yesterday.

Local people found a part of a hand of the youth and informed police of the matter. Police recovered the body around 11:00am.

No mark of injuries on the body was found, said Sub-Inspector Alamgir Jahan of Rajpara Police Station. But police suspect the incident as "murder".

An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with the

Nijaswa Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha elects new executive committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sitar player Firoz Khan and music producer AKM Mostafizur Rahman have been elected president and general secretary respectively of Nijaswa Sangeet Shilpi Sangstha, an organisation of Bangladesh Betar, for the next two years.

The organisation elected a 21-member executive committee at a general meeting at its own office yesterday with Abdun Nur Khan in the chair, says a



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addresses a rally organised by the BNP-led 18-party alliance at Bangabandhu Park in Barisal city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ISLAMI ARABIC UNIVERSITY, FILM AND TV INSTITUTE
Cabinet okays draft laws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved in principle two draft laws--the Islami Arabic University Act, 2012 and the Bangladesh Film and Television Institute Act, 2012--for improving quality of madrasa education and promoting film industry respectively.

The religious affairs ministry placed the draft of the university act to the cabinet to bring the 1,500 Kamil- and Fazil-level Alia madrasas under the proposed Islami Arabic University.

"Mainly, it (the university) will be an affiliating body of the madrasas," Cabinet Secretary Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told reporters after the cabinet meeting at the Cabinet Division of the Bangladesh Secretariat. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting.

He said, "The draft proposal (for establishing the university) was prepared in light with the national education policy."

The proposed Islami Arabic University will prepare curricula, conduct examina-

tions, confer degrees and administer academic activities and training of madrasa teachers, which are now being done by the Islamic University, Bangladesh in Kushtia.

The secretary said a film development institute will be set up under the proposed Bangladesh film and television institute act. "The institute will be an autonomous body and run by a governing body," he told the journalists.

Information secretary or one qualified person involved in film industry will be the chairman of the body. The institute will have an academic council to be headed by a joint secretary, said Mosharraf.

The cabinet also gave a nod in principle to the draft of the Hajj and Umrah Management Bill, 2012 to handle hajj management properly. Mosharraf said the cabinet, however, directed the religious affairs ministry to refine the law more by reviewing the related laws of other countries.

FAKE VISAS
20 held at Shahjalal airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Immigration police at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport arrested 20 youths while they were allegedly trying to go to Thailand and Malaysia with fake visas yesterday morning.

According to immigration authorities, of them five youths were trying to go to Thailand with fake visas around 5:00am by a flight of Thai Airways.

They were Nurul Alam, Jahangir Alam, Billal Hossain, Osman Gani and Mamun Hossain.

Besides, 15 others were arrested when they were on the way to Malaysia via Laos by a flight of Bangladesh Biman, said the immigration sources.

They were Selim Reza, Ashiqul Islam, Ali Ahmed, Saddam Hossain, Mizanur Rahman, Nur Mohammad, Arafat Ali, Iqramul Hossain, Abdus Salam, Mafizur Rahman, Shah Alam, Abdul Jalil, Selim Hossain, Mohobbat Ali and Taiyob Ali.

According to sources all the 20 youths had been trying to go abroad with the help of brokers. They were ultimately cheated by the brokers despite they paid Tk 2 to 3 lakh to them.

Immigration officials said all the detainees were sent to the office of the Special Branch of police to interrogate them and identify the brokers.



Sufia Kamal's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 13th death anniversary of poetess Sufia Kamal, one of the pioneers in establishing women's rights.

To mark the occasion, Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will place a wreath at her grave in the capital's Azimpur Graveyard.

Born in Shaistabad of Barisal in 1911, the poet dedicated her life to fight for the rights of women and the poor and against religious extremism.

Sufia Kamal's first poem was published in Saugat in 1962. Her works, translated into English and Russian, reflected the struggle to uphold Bangla language and culture and to resist machinations of the Pakistani rulers.

During the War of Liberation, the poet came to the aid of freedom fighters and afterwards she worked with Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee to bring the war criminals to justice.

Sufia Kamal won numerous national and international awards, including Ekushey Padak, Bangla Academy Award and Lenin Prize.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her message recalled the contributions of Sufia Kamal to the country's culture, tradition, Liberation War and Language Movement.

She said Sufia Kamal's contribution to literature still inspires readers as well as the mass movement for social progress, non-communalism, democracy and women's rights.

HALL-MARK SCAM
ACC grills 7 more Janata Bank officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday quizzed seven more Janata Bank officials in connection with Hall-Mark loan scam.

The ACC also made AKM Azizur Rahman, suspended manager of Sonali Bank's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel Branch, to meet the seven officials face-to-face at the ACC office in the capital.

"We asked Azizur Rahman to appear at ACC office today (yesterday) for verifying the information we gleaned from the Janata Bank officials," ACC Deputy Director Mir Mohammad Zainul Abedin Shibly told The Daily Star yesterday.

He added Azizur, during his tenure in Ruposhi Bangla Hotel Branch (2008 to May this year), gave acceptance letter of Tk 200 crore to Janata Bank for Hall-Mark Group.

The officials are GM Abdus Salam of Janata Bank's Bhaban Corporate Branch; DGMs SM Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal of the same branch, Mizanur Rahman of Ramna Corporate Branch, and Sheikh Haider Hossain of Foreign Trade Corporate Branch; AGMs Mostak Ahmed Khan of Elephant Road Branch, Kazi Rois Uddin Ahmed of Ramna Corporate Branch and Mizanur Rahman of Foreign Trade Corporate Branch.



Occupied by logs of timber traders and full of muddy puddles, Shyampur Road in Purba Dania of the capital has little resemblance to a road. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

ROW OVER SLAIN TEACHER'S RELIGIOUS IDENTITY
Use body for research

Dhaka court tells DMCH

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked Dhaka Medical College Hospital authorities to use the body of a schoolteacher for research as his two wives failed to prove whether he was a Hindu or a Muslim.

Chandan Chakrabarty alias Sajjad Hossain, 45, teacher of Khilgaon Ideal School and College, was knifed to death by a gang of miscreants on December 25, 2009 while returning to his Khilgaon residence in the capital.

Another Dhaka court had passed the same order on January 26, 2010 but the wives filed petitions with yesterday's court for handing over the body for funeral as per their own religious rituals.

One wife, Tithi Chakrabarty, wanted a cremation as per Hindu rites while the

other, Aklima Akhter Polly, wanted a burial as per Islamic rituals, stating that Chandan had converted to Islam before marrying her.

Yesterday, Second Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shahidul Islam scrutinised documents placed by the two.

The magistrate, in his order, said a question of religious sentiment has arisen over the handover of the body to the two wives. Moreover, the two wives had failed to prove whether the man converted to Islam from Hinduism.

So, neither Tithi nor Aklima would get the body, he said.

The two wives said they would go to the higher courts challenging the order's legality.

Maritime ports asked to hoist signal 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Meteorological Department asked the maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla to hoist local cautionary signal number three from early yesterday as a depression loomed over east- and west-central Bay.

The depression may cause light rain in the country over the next 24 hours, said a Met Office official.

A deep depression was centered about 955 kilometres south-southwest of Chittagong port, 895km south-southwest of Cox's Bazar port and 835km south-southwest of Mongla port at 3:00am yesterday, said the department's special bulletin.

It then moved west-southwestwards in the evening and weakened into a depression. It is likely to move westwards, it said.

A maximum wind speed of 40 kmph is expected within 44 kms of the depression centre. Fishing boats and trawlers over North Bay were advised to proceed with caution till further notice, it added.

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable
Weekly Kagoj will hold a roundtable on the rise of communal forces and national security; Venue: Bilia auditorium; Time: 10:00am.

Procession
Dhaka College will hold a procession marking its 171st founding anniversary; Venue: from the college; Time: 11:00am.

Rally
Save the Environment Movement will organise a rally demanding adequate playgrounds in the city; Venue: Shah Makdum Avenue, Sector 12, Uttara; Time: 9:30am.

Seminar
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University will hold a seminar on ways to prevent health complications from arsenic contamination; Venue: its Basic Science Building; Time: 9:00am.

Seminar
Designated Reference Institute for Chemical Measurements will organise a seminar, "Chemical Metrological Traceability: Role of DRICM"; Venue:

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, 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 5:12pm and rises tomorrow at 6:18am.

Country's highest temperature 34.9 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 15.5 degrees at Dinajpur.

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

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.4	20.6	55	57
Chittagong	32.0	23.2	86	72
Rajshahi	29.5	20.4	72	81
Rangpur	28.8	16.2	62	71
Khulna	32.5	21.0	75	68
Barisal	32.5	21.0	85	87
Sylhet	32.0	19.4	57	67
Cox's Bazar	33.3	25.0	83	80