

NEWS IN *brief*

Youth's body found in Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The decomposed body of an unidentified youth was found in the Buriganga river near Jhauchar ghat yesterday.

Locals noticed the body around 4:30pm and informed police of the matter.

Hazaribagh police said the youth was wearing a shirt, sweater, vest and a jeans pant and both his hands were tied together with a rope.

Police suspect that the youth was killed a few days ago and his body was dumped into the river.

Police sent the body to Sir Salimullah Medical

BIWTA conducts eviction drive in Shitalakkhya river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Complying with a High Court order, a joint team of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and Narayanganj district administration yesterday conducted an eviction drive from the foreshore of the Shitalakkhya river near Kanchpur Bridge.

Earlier on Tuesday, the BIWTA filed 17 cases with Sonargaon Police Station on charge of filling-up the river and lifting sand illegally.

During the drive led by Executive Magistrate Mohammad Mofizur, around 15,000 square feet of sand were removed from the river's both sides.

Alamgir Kabir, acting senior deputy-director of Narayanganj river port, said the drive will con-

Microsoft to provide free Windows software to Cuet teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Microsoft Corporation, the world's leading software company, yesterday signed an agreement with Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) to provide free lifetime supply of Windows software and tools to the university's teachers.

Cuet Registrar Engr Md Shafiqul Islam and Microsoft Corporation, Bangladesh Technical Evangelist Tanzim Sakib signed the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on behalf of their respective organisations, said a press release.

Cuet Vice Chancellor Prof Jahangir Alam was

Two killed in road accidents in Ctg, Dinajpur

METRO DESK

A man was killed and another injured when a covered van hit their motorbike on the flyover at Saltgola Crossing in Chittagong city around 1:10pm yesterday.

The dead is Nasir, 22, of Cox's Bazar.

Meanwhile, a bus ticket seller was killed when a truck hit his bicycle near an intersection at Patuapara village in Dinajpur around 8:10pm on Tuesday, says our Dinajpur correspondent.

The dead is Raju Mia, 55, of the village.

Locals vandalised the truck and handed over

ACC sues Ctg customs official's wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), Chittagong, yesterday sued the wife of a Chittagong Customs House official for hiding wealth information.

Masuma Akhter, wife of Abul Kalam Azad, an appraiser of Chittagong Customs House, was sued for concealing the volume of her assets in her wealth statement and possessing assets beyond her known sources of income, said ACC sources.



Hatirjheel road in the capital being inaugurated and opened to public by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, inset top, at Hatirjheel yesterday in the presence of ministers and high civil and military officials, inset bottom.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON, BSS

Compensate people adversely affected by Hatirjheel project

Prime minister directs housing ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday instructed the housing ministry to compensate with plots and apartments the people who have been adversely affected by the Hatirjheel-Begunbari development scheme.

She gave the instruction while inaugurating the much-hyped scheme to public amid a festive atmosphere.

The scheme comprises of east-west road connectivity and peripheral service roads, an integrated drainage management, a sewer network and an aesthetically designed waterfront recreational site.

"It is a New Year gift for Dhaka dwellers," said Hasina. "It will not only offer a breathing space but also help uninterrupted east-west road connectivity and reduce traffic gridlock in the adjoining areas."

Successful completion of the 302-acre scheme stretching between Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue and Rampura demonstrates Bangladesh's ability to perform, the PM said.

She said the devastating 1998 flood that submerged most of the capital city for more than two months had prompted her to conserve Begunbari canal and Hatirjheel (wetland)

as drainage and storm water retention facilities.

A major objective of the scheme is to have a storm drainage system to prevent flooding of the capital alongside urban beautification and environment conservation.

However, completion of recreational and landscaping components, including celebration point, water court, floating walkway, viewing deck, child play equipment, water taxi terminal, lakeside landing steps, and amphitheatre is expected by June this year.

The project cost Tk 1,971 crore, with Tk 1,048 crore spent for land acquisition and the rest for construction of various structures.

Soon after the PM declared the site open to public, half a dozen colourfully decorated boats presented a welcome race in the Hatirjheel water. Moreover around a hundred ducks were released in the water while colourful balloons were released into the sky.

Two elephants were employed to welcome the PM, symbolising the royal way of welcoming and corresponding with the name, Hatirjheel, meaning wetland of elephants.

The public facilities in the project site include a 9-km east-west express road, 8-km service roads, 477-metre bridges, 9-km foot-path, 10-km lakeside walkway, 260-metre via-

duct, and 400-metre overpass.

The commuter facilities along with six bridges and four overpasses are expected to reduce traffic congestion in the adjoining Tejgaon, Gulshan, Modhubagh, Moghbazar, Badda and Ulan.

The seven-metre wide two-way service road is to connect Moghbazar with Rampura bypassing perennial traffic congestions in Moghbazar, Mouchak and Malibagh.

The one-way express road from Tongi diversion to Rampura on the north side and Rampura to Moghbazar rail gate on the south will have uninterrupted traffic movement.

It will be a continuous water ride between Tongi diversion road (FDC intersection) and Baridhara, once Hatirjheel is connected to Gulshan Lake, by making a passage through Gulshan-Badda link road.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), Dhaka Wasa, and the local government engineering department along with army engineers implemented different components of the scheme. A total of 500 army soldiers executed the construction works under the command of 15 officers.

The ground work of Hatirjheel scheme started in December 2007.

CTG MUSICIAN MURDER

Human chain demands arrest of killers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Metropolitan Band Association (CMBA) yesterday formed a human chain in Chittagong city demanding immediate arrest of the killers of musician Saidul Islam.

On early Monday, Saidul, 25, a student of electrical engineering department of Chittagong Polytechnic Institute and also the lead guitarist of a local band "Chhuti", was killed allegedly by muggers in Mehediabagh area of the port city.

Saidul's father lodged a murder case with Kotwali Police Station on that day.

Members of some 10 to 15 local band groups participated in the human chain at Cheragi Pahar Intersection around 4:30pm.

Speakers at the programme alleged that police were showing negligence in taking steps to arrest the people involved in the killing.

Police were wasting time in the name of investigation, they said.

Kotwali Police Station Sub-Inspector Kamruzzaman, however, said they were trying to arrest the persons involved in the murder.

They were yet to find out any clue to the incident, he said.

Meanwhile, residents of CDA Colony and students of the polytechnic institute jointly brought out a procession from Mehediabagh to Cheragi Pahar to press home the same demand around 2:00pm.

BNP Standing Committee Member Tariqul Islam addresses a rally organised by Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal in front of BNP's Naya Paltan office in the capital yesterday demanding, among others, withdrawal of cases filed against the party's leaders and release of the party's acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA



Women not safe until men change attitude

Say rights activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Safety of women cannot be ensured until men change their attitude, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

Women will be victims of sexual, psychological and physical violence until the patriarchal attitude of our society gives the way to a more tolerant outlook, they said.

They were speaking at the 27th founding anniversary of Rokeya Sadan, a sub-committee of the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP).

Mohammad Ashraf Hossain, director general of the Directorate of Women Affairs, said, "Our society will remain stagnant if we continue with our patriarchal mindset. If we want economic, financial and social growth, we need to form a more equal society which provides the same safety and opportunities for women as it does for men."

"The first thing that any victim of violence seek is safe refuge. Apart from providing shelter, victimised women need to be provided with counselling to help them get over the trauma of being abused," said Ayesha Khanam, chairperson of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

Rowshan Jahan Parvin, deputy director of Ain O Salish Kendra, among others, spoke at the programme.

Country suffers shortage of paramedics

Meeting told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to an absence of government cadre paramedics, the country has been suffering an acute shortage of human resource to provide maternal, child and other reproductive healthcare services, said speakers at a meeting yesterday.

Although non-government organisations and the private sector are trying to fulfil this gap, most of the health care services in rural areas are provided by unskilled or semi-skilled workforce, they said.

TARSAN, an European Union funded healthcare project, organised the meeting titled "Critical Need of Skilled Health Workforce: Community Paramedic - A New Initiative to Accessible and Quality Health Care Delivery for Rural Bangladesh" at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Dr Jafar Ahmed Hakim, project manager of TARSAN, said the project provides scholarship to deserving trainees from the country's disaster prone areas to develop them into skilled paramedics.

Ahmed Al-Kabir, chairman of Rupali Bank and president of Research Training and Management (RTM), said training of community paramedics has been going on in different areas of the country for the last two years.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Brigadier General (ret'd) Dr Mirujuddin Ahmed

Chowdhury passed away at Combined Military Hospital in the capital on Tuesday. He had been undergoing treatment at the CMH after having cardiac problem. He was 82.

He left behind his wife, five daughters, grandchildren and a lot of well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest in the capital's Azimpur Graveyard.

During his service in the military, he was the adviser specialist in anesthesiology for Bangladesh Army Medical Corps.

Alhaz Abdul Haque

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra



Noted teacher and former headmaster of Mahastangarh High School,

Alhaz Abdul Haque died of a heart attack at his house in Bogra on Tuesday. He was 70.

He left behind his wife and five daughters. He was also a leader of Awami League Rai Nagar union unit.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Masterpara in Garh Mahastan village of Bogra at 10:00am yesterday.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 8th death anniversary of Suja ud Daula, former lawmaker, pharmacist and industrialist.

On the occasion, milad mahfil and Qurankhwani will be held after Magrib prayers at his residence and the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Mirpur. Food will be distributed among the poor at the graveyard.

Suja was also the chairman of Eastern Mercantile Bank (now Pubali Bank). His relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the programmes.

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at one or two places over Khulna, Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the region of Faridpur. Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may rise and day temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:24pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.

Country's highest temperature 27.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 07.0 degrees Celsius.

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	26.7	11.5	63	59
Chittagong	24.0	12.2	78	69
Rajshahi	26.5	09.0	95	79
Rangpur	26.4	10.0	89	79
Khulna	26.5	11.8	95	80
Barisal	26.0	09.8	93	74

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar

The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies will organise a seminar "Towards a sustainable social model: Implications for the post-2015 Agenda"; Venue: its conference room; Time: 11:00am.

Lecture

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will hold its "Foundation Day Lecture"; Venue: its premises; Time: