

NEWS IN *brief*

Korea to give \$2.7m for BRTA automation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Korea will give Bangladesh a grant assistance of US \$ 2.7 million for establishing a high-tech digital data centre and automatic vehicle inspection system at the head office of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

To this effect, Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) and the Economic Relations Division (ERD) signed an agreement on December 31 last year, said a press release yesterday.

Koica Resident Representative Kim Bok-Hee, ERD Joint Secretary Asif-uz-Zaman and BRTA Chairman Ayubur Rahman Khan inked the deal at

Worker dies at Ctg port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A lorry helper was killed after being sandwiched between two containers at Chittagong port yesterday. The deceased, Md Kabir, 25, hailed from Comilla and was living in Muslimabad area of Chittagong city.

He was standing between the two containers when one of those being moved to another place pressed him against the other.

Three more years sought to install high-tech in brick kilns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Brick Manufacturing Owners Association (BBMOA) yesterday urged the Department of Environment (DoE) to extend the deadline set for introducing high-tech systems in brick fields to prevent environment pollution.

They sought three more years to introduce new systems like Hybrid Hoffman Kilns (HHK), Zig-zag Kilns or VSBK (Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln). The DoE set March 31 this year as the deadline.

BBMOA president Mizanur Rahman Babul and other leaders made the demand at a press confer-

Baridhara Cosmopolitan Club

AGM held

METRO DESK

The first annual general meeting (AGM) of the Baridhara Cosmopolitan Club Ltd was held at its office at 93, Sarwardi Avenue, third floor, Baridhara, Dhaka on December 30 last year.

The meeting was presided over by the club president M Shamsul Alam where the president and the other members of its executive committee were re-elected until the next AGM, says a press release.

The meeting passed the audit report of 2011-12 where the club's future programmes were also



A group of Facebook users form a human chain on the south plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, demanding exemplarily punishment to rapists, including the four men who gang-raped a 15-year-old girl for four days in Tangail early December.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

PADMA GRAFT Two prime accused sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent ex-secretary of Bridges Division Mosharrif Hossain Bhuiyan and Superintending Engineer of Bangladesh Bridge Authority Kazi Mohammad Ferdous to jail in the Padma bridge corruption case.

Rejecting their bail petitions, the court passed the order when the two prime accused in the case were produced before it following their seven-day remand.

In the forwarding report, investigation officer said he extracted important information from the duo and seized their computers for more data, and until the probe completes the two should be imprisoned.

On December 17, 2012, the ACC sued seven people, including the two, for conspiring to commit bribery in the Padma bridge project.

Physician dies from 'wrong treatment'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A heart specialist died yesterday allegedly due to wrong treatment and negligence during his surgery at a private hospital in the capital nine days ago.

Dr AEM Mazharul Islam Emran, 44, associate professor of cardiology at Faridpur Medical College, had his haemorrhoids (piles) operated on at Gastro Liver Hospital on December 24 by Prof Dr SM Abu Zafar.

The deceased's brother Zahidul Islam said Emran had a cardiac arrest while he was left in the post operative room completely unattended. Nobody noticed that he had a heart attack until about 15 minutes later, and by then his brain cells were damaged, he added.

Emran was immediately moved to Lab Aid Specialised Hospital where he had been on life support since December 24.

Recalling the day of his operation, Emran's widow Dr Shamima Sultana said she feared that something might have gone wrong when the "simple operation" was taking an hour.

She said when it was discovered that Emran had a cardiac arrest, a doctor applied Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation

(CPR) on Emran to make him breathe again. His heartbeat returned but his consciousness did not, she added.

Dr Md Faruk, senior consultant, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of Lab Aid Hospital, said instead of using regional anaesthesia, the doctors applied general anaesthesia (GA) on Emran.

"Still the use of GA would not cause a serious problem if he had not been left unattended for such a long time."

He said GA sometimes might cause cardiac arrest but immediate action could save patients from major harms.

Both the surgeon, Prof SM Abu Zafar, and the anaesthetist, Dr Mahbubul Alam Munir, said GA was used as Emran asked for it.

Dr Zafar claimed that there were two nurses on duty in the post operative room but Dr Munir said as Emran's operation was a minor one, they did not constantly monitor his condition.

Dr Zafar also claimed that Emran's blood pressure was normal but his condition deteriorated when he was being taken to Lab Aid Hospital.

Lab Aid physician Dr Faruk, however, refuted the claim.

ACC brings back interest from Koko's siphoned off money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has received Tk 15 lakh as interest of 2.04 million Singaporean dollars siphoned off by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko.

About three days back, the money was sent to an ACC account with Sonali Bank in the capital, ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday.

The commission earlier opened the Stolen Asset Recovery Account with the bank to receive the laundered amount that is more than Tk 13 crore. Koko and Ismail Hossain Saimon, son of BNP former minister late Akbar Hossain, had deposited the money in a Singaporean bank.

The anti-graft watchdog brought back the money on November 22 last year.

The money recovered would now be spent on anti-graft activities, Ghulam said.

This is the first money laundering case in which the government could recover an amount.

ACC Deputy Director Abu Saeed in March, 2009 sued Koko and Saimon for laundering more than Tk 20 crore -- Singaporean \$28,84,603.15 and US \$9,32,672.81.

Koko had received the amount from two foreign companies -- China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd and Siemens -- and a Bangladeshi expatriate in Dubai, Habibur Rahman.

Trying them in absentia, a Dhaka court on June 23 last year sentenced Koko and Saimon to six years' rigorous imprisonment and fined them around Tk 39 crore.

It also directed the authority to recover the laundered money.

Intern doctor among 3 'kill themselves'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three women, including an intern doctor, allegedly committed suicide in separate incidents in the capital's Mitford Hospital, Ibrahimpur and Mohammadpur yesterday.

The dead were Moyetree Chowdhury, 24, Rima Sultana Jhumur, 19, and Saleha Akhter, 25.

Moyetree, 24, daughter of Shyamaprasad Chowdhury of Chittagong, found her vomiting in her room at the dormitory of adjacent the hospital at around 7:00pm where she died at around 9:00pm while undergoing treatment at the Intensive Care Unit, said police.

Kotwali police Officer-in-Charge AB Siddique suspect that Moyetree might have commit suicide by taking poisonous medicine.

At South Ibrahimpur, Rima, an SSC candidate, hanged herself from a ceiling fan with a scarf at her husband Mahmudul Hasan Rubel's residence after quarrelling with Rubel, said her sister Putul Begum.

At Mohammadpur, police recovered the body of Saleha from a house on Tajmahal Road, said Mohammadpur police Sub-inspector Kamaruzzaman.

The SI said Liton scolded his wife as she beat their baby. Later, she went to the bathroom and, after a long time, Saleha was found hanging from the pipe of the shower.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia visits the house Biswajit Das in Old Dhaka and talks to his parents last night. She gave the family Tk 2 lakh and assured them of all-out help. A tailor shop employee, Biswajit, was hacked to death by some Chhatra League men in the capital during the opposition's December 9 road blockade.

PHOTO: BNP

DHAKA TODAY

Sit-in
Nagorik Sanghati will stage a sit-in demanding protection of the dignity of Bangla language; Venue: In front of National Museum, Shahbagh; Time: 11:00am.

Mass procession
Bharatia Oikya Parishad will bring out a mass procession demanding a stop to unlawfully increase in house rent; Starting venue: Mirpur-10 square; Time: 3:00pm.

Roundtable
Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Prajanmo '71 will organise a roundtable discussion on human rights; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Rally
Bangladesh Chhatra League will stage a rally on the occasion of its founding anniversary; Venue:

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely
UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal divisions and the regions of Faridpur and Madaripur and weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged and day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:25pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43am.

Country's highest temperature 26.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sayedpur and lowest 08.9 degrees at Srimgangal.

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	25.2	14.9	81	70
Chittagong	25.0	13.8	83	86
Rajshahi	26.5	12.7	92	86
Rangpur	25.0	10.2	89	77
Khulna	23.6	15.8	94	92
Barisal	24.3	14.6	89	83
Sylhet	26.4	13.4	87	74

Border killing condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different rights organisations and political parties yesterday expressed concern over the killing of four Bangladeshis and torturing few others by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in the last couple of days.

The BSF killed two Bangladeshis in the border areas of Thakurgaon on Tuesday; and two other citizens in Chapainawabganj on Wednesday. It also picked up three Bangladeshis from the bordering areas of Joypurhat and Lalmonirhat, said a press release of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK).

Despite repeated assurances and promises by the Indian government, incidents of killing and torturing of Bangladeshi citizens are still going on, it said.

Repeated border killing put the weakness of the country's foreign policy at the forefront, the press release said.

Meanwhile, Gonotantrik Bam Morcha, Jatiya Mukti Council and National People's Party criticised the home minister for his remarks on the killing.

Save religious minorities at Munshiganj

HC orders govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to provide security and protection to the religious minority people at Gopalnagar under Mirkadim pourasava in Munshiganj till further order.

The court passed the order following a writ petition, filed by a local journalist Sunil Chandra Dey, which claimed that Mirkadim pourasava Mayor Shahidul Islam Shahin and his loyal people have evicted 18 families of the Hindu at Gopalnagar from their homes on December 1 last year.

The victims' properties and valuables were looted during the eviction, the petition said, adding that Munshiganj Sadar police refused to record any case in this regard.

The court also issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks why its failure to protect the minority group at Gopalnagar should not be declared illegal.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Kazi Khaled Parvez (Nowshad), son of late Dr Kazi Abul

Hasnat, passed away at Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital at 2:00am on last Tuesday (January 1).

His kulkhwani will be held at his residence at 12/1, Segun Bagicha, in the capital after Asr prayers today.

His relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programme.