

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
Shahor Banu, mother of Abdus Sobhan Sikder, senior secretary to Ministry of Public Administration, died of old age complications at her second son's Barisal residence on Bhatikhana Road on Thursday night. She was 100.
She left behind her four sons, two daughters, a host of relatives and well-wishers.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Today is the 10th death anniversary of M Mansur Ali, former textile minister. Mansur, also an elected president and general secretary of Khulna Bar Association, died on this day in 2003 at the age of 75.
M Mansur Ali Smriti Sangsad will organise a discussion and do mahfil at Satkhira Jana Samity office at 44-F/7 Panthapath, Dhaka this evening, said a press release.

Ziaur Rahman Rubu
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Today is the fourth death anniversary of Ziaur Rahman Rubu, a noted cricketer of Bogra.
He died on this day in 2009 at the age of 67.
His Qurankhwani will be held today at House No-8, Block-A, Pallabi-Extension, Mirpur, said a release.
Rubu's relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programme.

Commerce Minister Ghulam Muhammed Quader addresses a seminar in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday. The seminar was jointly organised by International Medical College and Kean University, New Jersey, USA with The Daily Star as the media partner. (Story on Page 20)



PHOTO: STAR

Ameerah meets PM

UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday appreciated the UN peacekeepers for their efforts in building peace in different countries and stressed the need for establishing as well as maintaining peace.
She said this during a meeting with UN Under-Secretary General for the Department of Field Support, Ameerah Haq, at her official residence Gono Bhaban, said the meeting sources.
Mentioning Hatirjheel Project and some others, Hasina said the Bangladesh Armed Forces have been playing an important role in the country's development as well.
While praising Bangladesh's role in the UN peacekeeping missions, Ameerah assured of further UN support to this end.

Road crashes kill 4

METRO DESK
Four people were killed and 14 others injured in road accidents in Pabna and Naogaon yesterday.
Our Pabna correspondent reports, two workers of Ishwardi EPZ were killed and nine others injured as their three-wheeler hit a standing truck on Ishwardi-Kushtia highway at Baghoil in Ishwardi upazila yesterday morning.
The deceased are Shathi Khatun, 28, and Rupa Begum, 25, of village Foridpur in the upazila.
Police said the three-wheeler hit the truck as the driver could not see it properly due to dense fog.
Our Chapainawabganj correspondent reports, two brothers were killed and five other people injured when a bus hit a microbus on Naogaon-Rajshahi road in Manda upazila of Naogaon yesterday morning.
The deceased Biswanath Murmu, 35, and Rabi Das Murmu, 32, are sons of Baidyanath Murmu of Pashchim Chakbharani village in Dhamurhat upazila of Naogaon.
The injured are German Hembram, Maklu Hembram, Parvin Hembram, Md Rubel and Gulzar Hossain.

BNP slams PM's speech

Plans huge gathering on Tuesday human chain
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The main opposition BNP plans to gather huge number of people in the Tuesday's human chain programmes in the capital to press home its demand for restoring caretaker government system.
BNP standing committee member Tariqul Islam yesterday informed the party leaders of this and instructed them to take all out preparations to this end.
He was addressing the leaders at a joint meeting of BNP Dhaka city unit at its Naya Paltan head office yesterday.
The programmes will be held at Mohakhali to Tejgaon, Saatrasta intersection, FDC intersection, Moghbazar, Baily road, Kakrail mosque intersection, Matsya Bhaban intersection, High Court, Shikha Bhaban, Curzon Hall, Nagar Bhaban, Golap Shah Mazar, North South Road, Bangsal Road, English Road, Dholai Khal intersection and Bahadurshah Park.
Slamming Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her Friday address to the nation, Tariqul said, the prime minister has made people confused through delivering false information about country's progress in the last four years.
Blasting a section of business leaders for their advice not to enforce hartal, Tariqul said, "Instead of giving us advice, you [business leaders] put pressure on the prime minister to resolve the crisis [caretaker government issue] which she has created herself."

MICROBUS DRIVER MURDER
3 hijackers held
Two arrested for looting eggs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday arrested three suspected members of a gang, who allegedly killed a microbus driver at Soagazi in Comilla.
Police recovered the hijacked microbus in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar as the gang hired it from Feni on January 9.
The police held Omar Faruk, 21, Kabir Hossain, and Mehedi Hossain, 20, with the microbus in their possession in front of the Directorate of Archeological at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.
Mashiur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner of DB (west), said four youths hired the microbus at Tk 5,000 from Star Line Group at Feni Sadar upazila for travelling to Comilla Cantonment.
When they reached near Soagazi in Comilla, they killed the driver Abul Kalam, 52, by slitting his throat, said ADC Mashiur.
Meanwhile, Tejgaon police yesterday arrested two members of another gang that looted eggs worth Tk 3 lakh at the capital's Farmgate on January 10 and seized the looted eggs from Chawkbazar area.
Mohammad Harun, 35, and Kawsar Ahmed, 32, were arrested at the capital's Islamabad Market in Chawkbazar.
The police said six members of the gang barred a pickup carrying the eggs and tied up its driver and helper at Farmgate around 1:15am on Thursday.
Later, the criminals drove it to Ashulia where they uploaded the eggs to another vehicle and fled away leaving the pickup and its driver and helper.

Vivekananda Shikha O Sangskriti Parishad Bangladesh brings out a procession in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, one of the most famous and influential spiritual leaders of the philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga and chief disciple of Ramakrishna.



PHOTO: STAR

Traffic on Dhaka-Ctg road returns to normalcy

STAR REPORT
Vehicular movement on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway returned to normalcy yesterday evening after a 36-hour congestion caused by a road crash.
Thousands of passengers suffered severely as they remained stuck on the road till 6:30pm, reports our Daudkandi correspondent.
The tailback which stretched from Daudkandi toll plaza to Comilla Cantonment area was a consequence of Friday's road accident in Chandina upazila of Comilla.
On Friday, the tailback began as a Dhaka-bound goods-laden truck from Chittagong turned turtle at Madhaiya in the upazila around 7:00am.
Communications Minister Obaidul Quader visited the traffic congestion on the highway on his trip to Chittagong from Dhaka Saturday noon.
On the way, he asked the people concerned around 12:30pm to solve the problem soon.

DHAKA TODAY

Conference
The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will organise National Public Health Conference 2013; Venue: Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel; Time: 6:30pm.

Solidarity rally
Transparency International Bangladesh will stage a solidarity rally demanding a stop to violence against women including rape; Venue: Central Shaheed Minar; Time: 5:30pm.

Human chain
Bangladesh Unmukto Ganotantrik Parishad will form a human chain in protest against scrapping the biography of Maulana Bhasani from

Where every

FROM PAGE 20
buildings that make up Tiebele, Burkina Faso, have been decorated with elaborate frescoes and geometric patterns, turning each of the circular structures into a striking work of art.
The isolated village is home to the royal court of the Kassena people, one of the oldest ethnic groups in Burkina Faso, who first settled the region in the 15th Century.
Tiebele's Cour Royale is a complex of earthen huts covering roughly 1.2 hectares and lying within circular, walled confines at the base of a hill overlooking the surrounding West African savannah.
It serves as the official residence of the community leader of the Kassena tribe.
The clay walls of the buildings are covered with patterns to differentiate them from the homes of the common people, with the chief's heavily decorated residence the Tiebele equivalent of a royal palace.
But not all of the striking structures are lived in. Some

of the most elaborately patterned buildings are actually mausoleums for the dead, who are laid to rest in the same compound.
Despite its unique architecture Tiebele's Cour Royale is not among Africa's well-trodden tourist destinations, with the villagers preferring to keep it isolated to ensure the conservation and integrity of their structures.
But this looks set to change in the future, with plans afoot to develop the site as a cultural tourism destination as a means of generating cash to fund conservation.
Tiebele, which is also at risk from flooding and subsequent erosion, has been placed on a watch list by the World Monuments Fund, an organisation that works to preserve the world's most treasured places.
It works in partnership with local communities and governments to protect important architectural and cultural heritage sites around the globe.

A refreshing

FROM PAGE 20
Initially, a database of 35,000 overseas jobseekers will be prepared through the registration process. Of them, 11,500 will be selected for this phase of recruitment in Malaysia.
Expatriates' Welfare Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain hopes that they will be able to start sending workers from late in February or early March.
Although the government has decided to export manpower under state arrangements with a view to cutting off middlemen as per a memorandum signed in Malaysia between Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur on November 26 last year, experts concerned have doubts about the success.
They said there was a

strong possibility of a new class of middlemen emerging. The experts, however, welcomed the government initiative.
"I hope the move will bring a new beginning in the sector as the government has taken the matter of reducing migration cost as a challenge," said Prof CR Abrar, executive director of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU).
But it must be more careful to avoid any influence in the process, as their initiative will be observed from different corners, he added.
Secretary General of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) Ali Haider Chowdhury said the

government must succeed in cutting off the middlemen; otherwise it may turn harmful for the country in future.
"It should be done jointly by the government and private sectors since it is necessary to encourage the private sector in any progress," he said, adding that the government arrangements were not enough, as there were still a kind of middlemen in the rural areas who would be in the process.
Expatriates' Welfare Secretary Zafar Ahmed Khan said, "The workers can now go to Malaysia spending only Tk 40,000 and there is no scope for criticising the government initiative so soon, as the whole process will be done via Internet."

Brigadier General (Rtd) T.U.M. Iftekharul Bashar
(3rd September 1944- 13th January 2006)

Remembrance is a golden chain, Death tries to break, but all in vain.
To have, to love, and then to part is the greatest sorrow of one's heart.
The years may wipe out many things, But some they wipe out never.

Rezwana, Rahib, Ambrina and Azham

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