

NEWS IN *brief*

Reshuffle in civil administration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior Secretary to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Md Humayun Kabir was made chairman of the Land Appeal Board, states a public administration ministry circular yesterday. Secretary to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education Md Niaz Uddin Miah was transferred as the health secretary while the Land Appeal Board Chairman Kazi Akhter Hossain will take Niaz's place. Secretary to the Ministry of Religious Affairs Kazi Habibul Awal was transferred to the office of the president while President's Secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam was made the religious

US task force to help CMP stop drug peddling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

American Joint Interagency Task Force (West) yesterday assured Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) of providing necessary measures to stop drug smuggling in the port city. A six-member representative team of the task force said this in a views-exchange meeting with CMP

Ratification of Hague convention on int'l child abduction urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh government should ratify the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction to resolve disputes over guardianship of children who have parents from separate countries, said Susan S Jacobs, US State Department special adviser for Children's Issues. The convention, a multilateral treaty, was developed in 1980 to ensure the prompt return of children who have been abducted from their country of habitual residence or wrongfully retained in a member state but not their habitual residence. Currently 89 countries are the members of the convention. Jacobs was addressing a programme, "meet the press", at the American Center in the capital yesterday, the concluding day of her three-day visit to

Journos to rally today demanding death penalty for war criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will hold rallies across the country, including the capital, today demanding death penalty for the war criminals. The rallies will be held also to protest attacks on journalists, burning of the national flag in different parts of the country and damaging several Shaheed Minars last Friday. In the capital, the rally will be held in front of



Traders encroach upon and block off a substantial portion of Aati canal with bamboos, preventing vessels from plying the route. The photo was taken from Basila on the capital's outskirts, Keraniganj, recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

RUMOUR OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH
RMG workers block highway for 2 hours

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Workers of a garment factory in Kaliakoir upazila blocked the Dhaka-Tangail highway for over two hours following the rumour of a fellow's death in a road accident yesterday. At least 10 workers were injured as police fired blank shots and teargas to break up the agitated workers who vandalised some vehicles on the highway. Police and factory workers said a Leguna (an improvised passenger vehicle) hit Jahura Aktar, 30, a female worker of ATS Apparels in Telirchala area on her way to the workplace around 7:45am. Jahura sustained minor injuries in the foot. Locals took her to Matriseba clinic in Konabari area, but a rumour was soon in the air that the female garment worker

died in the road crash. Driven by the rumour, several hundred workers of the garment factory took to the street and put up the barricade at Telirchala and vandalised 10-12 vehicles. On information, Kaliakoir, Gazipur Industrial police and Konabari highway police rushed to the spot to control the situation. But as the workers were getting furious, police resorted to batons and teargas, leaving some of the agitators injured. Police and workers also chased each other. Mir Rakibul Haq, officer-in-charge of Kaliakoir Police Station, confirmed the incident and said traffic situation became normal after the workers withdrew the blockade at 10:30am.

Resign if law, order does not improve
SCBA president calls upon MKA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court Bar Association President Zainul Abedin yesterday demanded that Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir resign if he failed to improve the law and order situation in seven days. Police, following Muhiuddin's instructions and in violation of human rights, and "some men of the government" shot dead four people "like birds" in Manikganj during a hartal called by eight Islamist parties on Sunday, he said. Zainul, addressing a press briefing at his office, said various write-ups were being published on statements, which were hurting the religious sentiments of Muslims, being made from the Shabbagh movement. But the government, without holding any investigation into those statements, attacked and fired on Muslims in Baitul Mukarram Mosque, he said. How can Muhiuddin tell journalists that the pending writ petition filed with the High Court challenging Jamaat-e-Islami's registration will be disposed of within a week or two, he asked.

Ruet students boycott classes demanding dormitory seats

RU CORRESPONDENT

The students of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) yesterday boycotted classes and examinations demanding seats in the university's residential halls. Over two hundred students of the university's 10th batch also staged a sit-in on the university campus. At the sit-in, the students demanded allocation of dormitory seats saying they feel insecure in the students' messes they are currently staying at. The students claimed police would raid their messes to nab activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir and harass them in the process. They also alleged the university authorities are not allocating seats although many seats are vacant. Prof Sirajul Karim Chowdhury, vice chancellor of Ruet, told The Daily Star that he will take necessary measures to allocate dormitory seats to the students. Contacted, SM Abdus Sobhan, officer-in-charge of Motihar Police Station, said they cannot identify Shibir activists in the beginning thus take students in for questioning and if those students have no affiliations with the Jamaat-e-Islami-backed student organisation then they are released. Earlier on February 19, the students formed a human chain with the same demand.



BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir appears before a Dhaka court yesterday in connection with a case filed with Tejgaon Police Station over the torching of a bus near Prime Minister's Office during hartal hours of April 29 last year.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

DHAKA TODAY

Views-exchange meeting
MLE Forum, Campaign for Popular Education, Save the Children, Caritas and RDC will jointly organise a views-exchange meeting "Analysis of the situation of mother tongue-based primary education in public and private sector and determining what needs to be done"; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 9:30am.

Rally
Bangladesh Trade Union Centre will hold a rally protesting the country-wide violence perpetrated by Jamaat-Shibir; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Cultural programme
Sammilito Sangskritik Jote will organise a cultural programme protesting the countrywide violence

Seminar
Bangladesh Enterprise Institute will organise a seminar, "Sharing the



A child unknowingly puts hazardous tannery waste into her mouth while her mother dries those out in the sun with no protective gear. Traders producing poultry feed take waste leather from tanneries and burn those out in the open to make the feed. The photo was taken from Beribadh area of the capital's Hazaribagh recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Madrasa student's body found in Padma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Locals recovered the body of a madrasa student from the river Padma in Panchoboti area of Rajshahi city yesterday morning. The deceased Rashedul Islam, 21, son on Anwarul Haque of Jinnanagar in the city, was a student of Kashemia Islamia Madrasa, said police. Following the incident, the madrasa students blocked Dhaka-Rajshahi highway on Kedu intersection for half-an-hour. The demonstrators snatched the body from police and claimed Rashedul drowned in the river as police chased him during the countrywide violence on Friday. Rashedul's father Anwarul alleged that the police chased him forcing him to jump into the river. He filed a general diary with Boalia police after his son went missing, he added. Talking to The Daily Star, Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner SM Moniruzzaman denied the allegation. "I am confident that none was forced to jump into the river during police raids following the violence." Some Jamaat activists in the area were spreading "propaganda" against the police and instigating the madrasah students, he added. Meanwhile, Jamaat-Shibir activists and some other Islamist groups vandalised Gonojagoron Moncho and clashed with police, injuring some 50 people in Rajshahi city on Friday.

WEATHER TODAY

Change in temperature unlikely
UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:59pm and rises tomorrow at 6:22am. Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 13.8 degree Celsius at Sreemangal. Highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.4	19.0	51	38
Chittagong	32.2	18.7	64	53
Rajshahi	30.2	16.3	71	60
Rangpur	30.0	17.5	69	45
Khulna	32.0	17.6	59	52
Barisal	32.3	16.6	75	53
Sylhet	34.5	17.6	59	53
Cox's Bazar	33.5	19.0	58	57