

NEWS IN

brief

Muggers shoot car driver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot and injured a car driver before hijacking the vehicle from the capital's Elephant Road area early yesterday.

The injured chauffeur, Abbas Miyan, 45, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Police said a group of around four muggers in another car waylaid the vehicle near Bata Signal and asked Abbas to hand over the keys. When Abbas refused to do so, they dragged him out of the car, shot him in the chest and hijacked it.

Drowned Cuet student's body recovered from Kaptai Lake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The body of the Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) student, who drowned on Friday, was recovered from Kaptai Lake in Rangamati yesterday morning.

The deceased, Ahmed Al Jubair, was a first year student of mechanical engineering department.

According to witnesses, Jubair along with other students went on a cruise on Friday. When the engine-boat reached near Mastar Para area, he fell into the Kaptai Lake and drowned.

The body was handed over to his family in Gaibandha.

DUIJ BSS unit reconstituted

METRO DESK

Bangladesh Sangbad Sanstha (BSS) unit of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) was reconstituted at its special general meeting yesterday.

Enamul Haq Babul and Wahiduzzaman Miah were unanimously elected as unit chief and deputy unit chief respectively, said a press release.

Senior News Consultant Nizamuddin Ahmed conducted the election while senior member of the unit and Chief News Editor of BSS Bangla Service Amirul Momenin was in the chair.

The newly elected unit members later made a courtesy call on BSS Managing Director and Chief

2 held with heroin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police arrested two men and seized 2.25kgs of heroin worth around Tk 2.25 crore from their possession in Shishutola area of Charghat upazila in Rajshahi early yesterday.

The arrested are Monirul Islam, 37, and Tutul, 18, of Godagari upazila.

Charghat Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdur Razzak said police halted a microbus carrying Monirul in the area on Charghat-Baneswar road at around 1:00am and, later, they found the heroin after searching the vehicle.

Monirul was taking the heroin to Sirajanj for

Debate workshop held in Bandarban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With an aim to spread the importance of debate among students of indigenous communities and Bangalee students of Bandarban district, Cantonment Public School and College recently held a daylong workshop on debate.

In the presence of over 500 students of schools and colleges of Bandarban, 40 debaters from all over the country participated in the programme styled "1st NDF BD Bandarban Debate Workshop and Leadership Training Programme, 2013" organised by the school with supervision from National Debate Federation Bangladesh.

The programme included a colourful procession, debate demonstration and multimedia pre-



Women's rights activists bring out a procession from Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday protesting Hefajat-e Islam's attack on women journalists and the Islamist group's derogatory remarks about women.

PHOTO: STAR

RMG workers block road in Ctg

*Demand arrears, salary hike*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Vehicular movement in Chittagong city's Sadarghat area halted for around two hours yesterday as garment workers staged demonstrations demanding increase of their salary and payment of their due wages.

Around 400 workers of Global Specialised Garments Limited, owned by Azim Group, put barricade at Kali Bari Intersection of Sadarghat road before the factory since 9:00am, locals said.

Workers said they have been demanding the increase of their salary for the last few days as the prices of essentials has shot up significantly.

They demanded salary of Tk 400 for 8:00am to 4:30pm working hours and Tk 500 for 8:00am to 8:00pm working hours instead of the current salary of Tk 270 a

day. They also demanded Tk 30 instead of Tk 10 for their daily refreshment.

The factory authorities, however, closed the factory for an indefinite period since April 4 without giving any prior notice, workers said.

They said they did not get their salary for March when they went to receive it yesterday.

The workers withdrew the barricade around 11:00am when authorities of the factory called a meeting with workers' representatives in the presence of local ward councillor Didarur Rahman Labu.

The factory' Manager Abdur Rahim, who was present at the meeting, said factory authorities will pay off March's salary to workers today (Monday).

Decision regarding other demands of workers will be taken after discussion with workers' representatives, he said.

Govt inaction to free bloggers slammed

DU CORRESPONDENT

Aggrieved citizens yesterday strongly criticised the government's inaction to release the bloggers arrested on allegation of demeaning Islam, urging the ruling party not to sacrifice democratic and pro-liberation war values to appease "dark forces".

At a solidarity rally at Raju memorial, Dhaka University students and teachers, academics, and cultural activists also demanded that the government uphold the citizens' constitutional right to freedom of speech.

They threatened to hold tougher programmes if the bloggers are not released immediately.

"It is hurtful that though Hefajat rally made 'derogatory' remarks on the prime minister, attacked journalists, attempted to damage Gonojagoron Mancha, the home minister still thanked them by branding it as a 'peaceful' rally," said Kaberi Gayen, associate professor of Mass Communication and Journalism Department.

Cultural activist Rokeya Prachi, addressing the chief of both of the major parties, said, "With what pledge will you seek votes from the female voters in the upcoming elections?"

"Will you make separate arrangements for the male and female lawmakers in the parliament if you meet the 13-point demand articulated by the Hefajat-e Islam?"

PAHELA BAISHAKH Celebrate for resisting religious bigotry

*Urge eminent personalities*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some eminent personalities yesterday urged all to spread the vow, in all Pahela Baishakh celebrations, to establish a society based on communal harmony and democratic tolerance.

Greater national unity, inspired by the Liberation War's spirit and secular democracy, is required so that the celebrations can rekindle the nation's long traditions and take the country forward, they said.

After four decades of independence, hatred and violence are being unleashed under different excuses using religion, like the Pakistani regime, to foil the war crimes trial. Against this backdrop, an outstanding outburst of youths to establish truth and justice was seen in Shahbagh, they said in a joint statement.

The signatories include Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Sardar Fazlul Karim, Prof Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman, Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury, Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam, Dr Ajoy Roy, Syed Shamsul Haq, Hasan Azizul Haque, Dr Anupam Sen, Qayyum Chowdhury, Dr Shamsuzzaman Khan, Ramendu Majumdar, poet Abul Hossen, Dr Sanjida Khatun and Rafiqul Islam.



PHOTO: BSS

Norwegian Ambassador Trond Giske calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the capital yesterday.

68 shops gutted in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixty eight shops at a kitchen market were gutted in the capital's Mohammadpur early yesterday.

Abdul Aleem, senior station officer of Mohammadpur Fire Station, said the fire might have originated from an electric short circuit around 2:15am. All the grocery shops, fish and vegetable shops burnt out as the fire engulfed the whole tin-shed wooden market at Teen Rastar Mor.

Eight units from different fire stations doused the blaze after about two hours of frantic effort and managed to save the adjoining shops and houses with the help of locals.

Suranjit gets death threat SMS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An SMS from an anonymous number sent to minister without portfolio Suranjit Sengupta on Saturday stated that he would be killed within April 13.

Suranjit, also a member of the advisory council of the ruling Awami League, filed a general diary last night with Hazaribagh Police Station in the capital.

Kamrul Haque, personal secretary of the minister, filed the GD with the police station on behalf of Suranjit.

Ashiqur Rahman, operation officer of the police station, told The Daily Star that they filed the GD and have already started investigations.

Police could not identify anyone in connection with the threat being issued till filing of this report around 12:20am today.

Jubo League leader shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jubo League leader was shot by unidentified miscreants in the capital's Badda area last night.

Kaiser Mahmud, 35, convener of Badda Thana Jubo League, was admitted to Apollo Hospitals with wounds.

Iqbal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Badda Police Station, told The Daily Star that Kaiser got a bullet in his abdomen and one in the mouth at around 8:45pm at Moddhya Badda while he was riding his motorcycle.



The manhole without its lid on the road in front of Rapa Plaza in the capital's Dhanmondi is a danger to vehicles and pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

HELD BLOGGERS BEFORE MEDIA Writ challenging legality filed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday challenging the legality of law enforcers' action in producing three detained suspected bloggers before the media last week.

The law enforcers nabbed Subrata Adhikari Shuvo, Russel Parvez and Mashiur Rahman Biplob on charge of posting "derogatory comments about Islam and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)" on the internet and produced them before the media on April 2.

Human rights activist Sultana Kamal, four Dhaka University teachers and a Jahangirnagar University teacher filed the writ petition saying that exposing the three detained in front of the media and stating that they are responsible for the offence is illegal and a violation of their constitutional rights to fair trial.

The petitioners also prayed to the HC to direct the government to give compensations to the arrestees and ensure their security in custody and after their release.

In December last year, the HC had directed the director general of Rapid Action Battalion and commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police not to present any accused who is under investigation or under trial before the media, they mentioned.



WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Tangail, Faridpur, Rangamati and Patuakhali and it may continue. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:17pm and rises tomorrow at 5:43am.

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	35.0	23.2	65	50
Chittagong	31.8	24.0	74	77
Rajshahi	38.1	20.0	29	26
Rangpur	34.2	19.0	60	37
Khulna	37.0	21.0	80	40
Barisal	35.3	22.8	76	54