

NEWS IN *brief*

3 killed as trains run them over

METRO DESK

Two persons were killed and another was injured when a train hit the motorbike carrying them at Muzgunni Dighirpar level crossing in Khulna city on Monday night, our Khulna correspondent reported.

The dead are Zahirul Islam Jaaki, 26, and Nahid, 25, of the city. Injured Sumon was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Our Dinajpur correspondent adds, an unidentified man died as a train ran him over in Parbatipur upazila yesterday.

Witnesses said he was trying to climb up to the roof of the running train but fell down. The body was sent to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

Two held with cocaine in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two people with 580 grammes cocaine worth around Tk 60 lakh from a residential hotel in Kadamtali area of Chittagong city early yesterday.

The arrestees were Md Saifuddin, 45, manager of the hotel, and Md Goni Mia, 42, a truck driver.

Rab said they conducted a drive at Hotel Diamond, and arrested Saifuddin and Goni from there.

During primary interrogation, the duo confessed to their involvement in drug peddling, they said.

Reattachment of Companiganj to Sylhet-1 constituency sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An all-party committee for attaching Companiganj to Sylhet-1 constituency has demanded reattachment of Companiganj upazila to the constituency.

It announced a five-day programme at a press conference at Sylhet Press Club yesterday afternoon.

The programme starting from today include a human chain before Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar, a views exchange meeting with political and professional groups, and laying siege to roads and waterways on May 12.

Joint Convener Aftab Ali said Companiganj had been under Sylhet-1, but before the 2008 general elections, it was attached to Sylhet-4.

Man killed by lightning in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man died after being struck by lightning in Bhujpur upazila of Chittagong yesterday.

The deceased, Ahammed Hossain, 60, hailed from Azimpur village.

Md Kabir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bhujpur Police Station, said Hossain was reaping grass at a field near his house when a bolt of lightning struck him around 10:00am.

Kamrul re-elected BFA chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kamrul Ashraf Khan was re-elected on Monday as the chairman of the Bangladesh Fertilizer Association (BFA) for 2013-2015 tenure.

The other office bearers are vice chairmen Abdus Salam Khan, Momen Sarker, Shah Jalal Hossain, Abul Kalam Azad and Nasir Uddin; and director (finance) MA Masud Bhuiyan, said a press release yesterday.

Earlier on May 4, a 33-member board of directors was formed. The board members elected the top officer bearers from themselves.

Kamrul has been involved in fertiliser import and marketing for the last two decades.



WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thunderstorms accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions till 6:00pm today.

Mild heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and it may continue. Day and night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Khulna divisions and it may nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country, said Met Office.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:31pm and rises tomorrow at 5:19am.

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	30.0	21.8	75
Chittagong	29.8	20.8	91
Rajshahi	31.3	23.0	79
Rangpur	26.4	21.6	84
Khulna	36.5	24.0	72
Barisal	32.9	21.2	85
Sylhet	25.3	20.5	93
Cox's Bazar	31.5	21.5	82
			91



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over a cheque to the family members of a victim killed in a devastating fire at Tazreen Fashions in Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital on November 24 last year, at the premier's office yesterday.

PHOTO : BSS

SAYEDEE'S WAR CRIMES TRIAL SC asks for concise report on death sentence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday asked the defence to submit by May 16 a concise statement on the death penalty handed down to Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayeedee for his crimes against humanity in 1971.

The Appellate Division of SC passed the order after Sayeedee's counsel Abdur Razzaq prayed for time for submitting the concise statement.

Sayeedee on March 28 appealed to the SC against his sentence, while the government filed a separate appeal to the apex court, seeking the capital punishment for him on all the eight charges he was found guilty to.

On February 28, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced Sayeedee to death on two charges but found him guilty to eight of the 20 charges.

Yesterday, the apex court also asked Attorney General Mahbubey Alam to send a copy of the government appeal to Sayeedee by today.

Meanwhile, the Appellate Division yesterday continued hearing for the 10th day on the government appeal against the International Crimes Tribunal-2 verdict that sentenced another Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah to life for crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

The attorney general earlier told the apex court that the ICT-2 verdict was not correct, as it gave life term imprisonment to Mollah instead of the death penalty.

In response to the attorney general's comment, Mollah's counsel Abdur Razzaq said the tribunal could give any sentence to an accused.

The court fixed Wednesday (today) for resuming the hearing.

Land ministry, EU launch land reform project

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The land ministry and European Union have launched a land reform project with the objective to strengthen Bangladeshi's access to land and property rights.

At the national level, the project will support development of a land policy. Furthermore, the project aims at assisting the government in setting up a registration system that is able to produce an authoritative record of landownership.

Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira and European Union Ambassador to Bangladesh William Hanna addressed the inception workshop of the project held at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, said a EU press release.

At upazila level, the project will contribute to a land administration that should, in future, be easily accessible to the clients of the respective offices. Support will also be provided to the ministry in its ongoing work on modernising the land surveying techniques and digitalisation of land records.

Speaking on the occasion, the EU Ambassador identified land problem as one of the root causes of underdevelopment in Bangladesh.

Kaikobad buried with state honour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rana Plaza collapse rescue worker Mohammad Ezazuddin Chowdhury Kaikobad was buried in the capital's Banani graveyard with state honour yesterday.

His last namaz-e-janaza was held at Dhaka Cantonment Military Central Mosque after Zohr prayers.

After burial, wreaths were placed at the grave on behalf of the president and prime minister.

Later, military forces gave a guard of honour. A doa was also offered seeking blessings of the departed soul.

Kaikobad died at a Singapore hospital on Saturday after suffering burns during a rescue operation inside the rubble of Rana Plaza while trying to rescue Shaheena Akhtar, a garment worker who could not be saved in the end.

TORCHING HOLY QURAN HC order on Ahmad Shafi May 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will pass an order on May 13 on a writ petition seeking legal action against Hefajat-e Islam Ameer Shah Ahmad Shafi in connection with setting fire to the Holy Quran during his group's Dhaka blockade on Sunday.

Aminur Rashid Raju, a Supreme Court lawyer, on Monday filed the writ petition with the HC saying that Hefajat activists had kept the capital inactive on Sunday at Shafi's direction.

They also attacked different structures and set fires to the books, including the Holy Quran which hurt all the Muslims' religious sentiments across the world, the petitioner said.

He prayed to the court to summon Ahmad Shafi before it for giving explanation over the incident.

Home secretary, inspector general of police, and Ahmad Shafi have been made respondents to the petition.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Zafar Ahmed fixed May 13 for passing an order on the petition after concluding hearing on the matter.

Advocate Obaidur Rahman Setu and Khabir Uddin appeared for the petitioner, while Deputy Attorney General Mokhlesur Rahman represented the government.



Winners and judges of an art competition, organised by Meena Bazar celebrating the Independence Day, are at a prize giving ceremony in the capital's Drik Gallery. Thirty winners were awarded with certificates and prizes at the event where artists Hashem Khan, Abul Barok Alvi and Tarun Ghosh were present along with Dr Kazi Anis Ahmed, CEO of Meena Bazar, on Saturday.

PHOTO : COURTESY

2 held for selling fake painting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were arrested yesterday in the capital's Tejgaon on charge of selling a fake oil painting saying it was a painting by Murtaja Baseer, a renowned painter of the country.

The two arrested are Mohammad Zulhash, 32, and Mouzurul Islam Monu, 22.

Sources said a man, who collects paintings and sells them, came to Murtaja with the painting to verify it. However, Murtaja became confused seeing the painting with his signature and urged the man to bring the persons from whom he bought the painting.

The man returned to Murtaja's residence yesterday with the two and police arrested them from there.

"My paintings contain caption, my signature and the date and place they were painted in," Murtaja told The Daily Star.

"I changed my signature after the Liberation War. The painting is not mine because it contains a date in 1969 but a signature similar to my new one," he said.

The written tests ended on March 5.

FORENSIC REPORTS 2 Sylhet doctors to face HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned two doctors of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College before it on May 20 over post mortem reports of one Hazi Shawkat Ali who was murdered in Sylhet on May 1 last year.

Forensic department head Md Abul Mansur and its lecturer Shamsul Islam have to explain the reports before it.

Assistant Attorney General Gazi Mamun Rashid said the forensic department gave two post mortem reports saying "accidental in nature" and "homicidal in nature" respectively for the cause of the death.

GONOJAGORON MANCHA Activists vow to continue movement

DU CORRESPONDENT

Although police dismantled the stage of Gonojagoron Mancha, the demonstrators yesterday vowed to continue their protest until their 6-point demand, including capital punishment for the war criminals, is met.

With a new-found vigour, the Gonojagoron Mancha activists brought out a procession against Jamaat-e-Islami and Jamaat-backed Islami Chhatra Shibir for instigating Sunday's violence in the capital which led to the burning of Islamic books, including the Holy Quran.

Beginning from Shahbagh, the procession marched to the Central Shaheed Minar and then back to the starting point.

Following the procession, Imaran H Sarker, the spokesperson of the mancha, talked about their scheduled rally in Gazipur on May 10 and the grand rally at Shahbagh on May 31.

Furthermore, he deferred the May 18 Mymensingh rally to May 20.

Sarker said, "We are not against any religion. A secular Bangladesh can only be built after banning Jamaat-Shibir and those who set the Quran on fire cannot protect Islam."