

NEWS IN brief

Australian envoy meets Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Greg Wilcock met BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the capital yesterday.

BNP Vice Chairman Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury, party chief's advisers Osman Faruk and Reaz Rahman assisted Khaleda in the hour-long meeting beginning around 8:15pm. They discussed the bilateral issues, meeting sources said. Earlier, the visiting Joint Secretary of the India's Ministry of External Affairs Sripriya Ranganathan met Reaz Rahman and Sabihuddin Ahmed in the same venue around 5:30pm.

Bangladeshis in Canada protest communal violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshis, mostly students of the University of British Columbia, formed a human chain in Canada on Saturday protesting the communal violence against religious minorities in Bangladesh.

They held the human chain in front of Art Gallery in Downtown in Vancouver to draw the international community particularly the mainstream Canadians' attention to the atrocities taking place on the minority communities. They also urged the people and government of Bangladesh to create awareness about violence.

Man impersonating DGFI member held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion detained a man over cheating people impersonating a member of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) in the capital's Paltan early yesterday.

Sazzad Hossain, 28, was held before Polwel Super Market, said Rab-3 Operations Officer Anisuzzaman. Five passport size photos of Sazzad dressed in army uniform, three visa cards and four mobiles were seized from him, he said. Sazzad used to take money from people in the name of giving jobs, he added.

Floating body of youth recovered in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the floating body of an unidentified youth from a lake near officers' mess in the capital's Mirpur Cantonment yesterday.

Pallabi police sent the decomposed body, clad in a black shirt, a pair of pants and a sweater, to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Rajshahi indigenous people protest attacks on minorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Jatiya Adivasi Parishad formed a human chain in Rajshahi city yesterday morning protesting attacks on the minority communities across the country.

Hundreds of the plain-land indigenous people joined the programme at Shaheb Bazar Zero point for an hour. They demanded arrest of the perpetrators.

Shirin Sharmin buys nomination paper for Rangpur-6 by-election

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday bought nomination paper for Rangpur-6 by-election to be held on February 20.

Sayadat Hossain Bakul, vice-president of Awami League, Rangpur district unit bought the nomination paper on behalf of the Speaker.

Earlier, the ruling AL had considered making Shirin the Speaker for another term, but due to constitutional bar she could not be the Speaker as she is not an elected MP.

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop

Teaching and Learning Centre of Brac University will organise a workshop titled "Step to success at Brac University"; Venue: The university auditorium, Mohakhali; Time: 12:00 noon.

Exhibition

Shilpangan is holding a five-day art exhibition titled "Appointment"; Venue: House-7, Road-13 New Dhanmondi; Time: 12:00 noon.



A dejected Noorjahan sits at Mirpur 2 in the capital yesterday waiting in the cold for around three hours since 7:00am to buy rice at "fair prices" from the truck of the state-run Open Market Sale (OMS) programme. Inset, others waiting alongside Noorjahan. The photos were taken around 10:00am.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Beheaded body found in cop barracks

13-year-old boy found dead in Jurain residence on Monday; schoolmates, locals accuse father

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered a man's body, with the severed head missing, stab wounds in the abdomen and donning navy blue trousers and a black T-shirt, from the roof of a traffic police barrack in the capital.

Meanwhile, schoolmates of a 13-year-old boy whose body police recovered from his Muradpur residence in the capital's Jurain on Monday pelted bricks at the residence accusing the father of murdering him.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Motijheel division) Deputy Commissioner Ashrafuzzaman suspected it a murder taking place the night before.

Requesting anonymity, a traffic constable residing on the fourth floor of the five-storey building adjacent to Paltan Police Station and Central Police Hospital said the roof can be reached only by a ladder.

The opening leading to the roof is so small and the ladder is so close to the rooms that the murder must have taken place on the roof, he said.

Members of other law enforcing agencies, including Ansar and Special Branch, also reside in the building. Dhaka Medical College Hospital sources said the autopsy would be done today.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Abu Sayeed Mahmud's 10th death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 10th death anniversary of Abu Sayeed Mahmud, founding managing director of Mediaworld which owns The Daily Star and founder chairman of Ekushey TV.

Slipping into a coma for several days following a stroke on November 6, 2003, Sayeed passed away

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Child missing from SOS Children's Village for 49 days in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly two months have elapsed since a child went missing from an SOS Children's Village in Khulna with neither police nor the non-government organisation, which takes in orphaned and underprivileged children, able to trace his whereabouts.

Although Bayzid Khan, 11, went missing on December 3, his family was informed on January 12, claimed his aunt Mazeda at a press conference in the capital's Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh yesterday.

"As I kept on calling the institution on January 12, Md Selim Reza (the organisation's Khulna unit assistant programme officer) admitted that Bayzid was missing," she said.

"They (the organisation) know our address and my phone number...Even when I went to meet him on December 13, they came up with different excuses not to bring him out," she added.

Moreover, the organisation waited four days before filing a general diary (GD) with Khulna Police Station on

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Bayzid Khan



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ANURUP KANTI DAS

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UPAZILA PARISHAD POLLS EC to meet security agencies tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Considering the volatile political situation, the Election Commission (EC) will tomorrow hold a meeting with security agencies to chalk out tightened measures for maintaining law and order during elections to 101 upazilas, scheduled for February 19.

Meanwhile, the EC appointed 40 returning officers and 102 assistant returning officers for the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Start agitation, restore voting rights

B Chy urges people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikopodhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday urged people to restore their voting rights by starting an agitation against the present government.

"Only five percent of the population voted in the January 5 polls, but the rest 95 percent could not. The majority of the people lost their voting rights in that election," he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

SAYEED's APPEAL Proceedings adjourned till January 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday adjourned till January 28 the hearing on Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayeede's appeal against the verdict of ICT-1 which sentenced him to death for war crimes.

The court passed the adjournment order after defence counsel SM Shahjahan prayed to it to halt the hearing for the next four weeks.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Woman dies after being doped 'by tenants'

House robbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was killed and her husband is undergoing treatment at hospital after they were doped in their residence allegedly by their tenants in Alom Market area at the capital's Jurain yesterday.

The deceased was Samarta Begum, 56. Nurul Islam, 65, a scrap metal trader, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Samarta's niece Mousumy Akhter discovered the body when she went there around 11:00am. Nurul was unconscious and the locker was broken and empty, said Mousumy.

Two youths, who rented

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4