

NEWSIN brief

275 get NCC Bank scholarship

CITY DESK

NCC Bank awarded scholarships to 275 poor and meritorious students as part of their corporate social responsibility in Dhaka on Thursday.

Dr Atiur Rahman, governor of Bangladesh Bank inaugurated the programme as the chief guest.

Chairman of NCC Bank and NCC Bank Foundation Nurun Newaz Salim, Vice Chairman ASM Mainuddin Monem, and Managing Director and CEO Golam Hafiz Ahmed among others were present at the event.

Bengal Foundation to honour Khaled Khan today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A collection of poetry named "Megh Balika" recited by late actor Khaled Khan, popularly known as Juboraj and Shyama Hai, will be unveiled today at 7:00pm at Bengal Cafe in the capital's Dhanmondi, says a press release.

The noted actor died at the age of 55 last year on this day.

Bengal Foundation is bringing the CD to the market. Eminent theater personality Aly Zaker will unveil the CD cover at the event where Hasan Arif will recite some poems and singer Mita Haque will also perform.

DU bids farewell to 35 senior teachers

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University yesterday bid a farewell to 35 senior teachers who will go into retirement soon.

The farewell ceremony organised by the DU Teachers Association took place in the TSC auditorium on the campus.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique handed over crests to the outgoing teachers.

Duta president Prof Farid Uddin Ahmad, and general secretary Prof Maksud Kamal, were, among others, present on the occasion.

Man killed after abduction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police on Thursday recovered the body of a man from Murasunai River in Borolekha area of Borolekha upazila in Moulvibazar, five days after his abduction.

Amir Ali, 55, of Kazirbon village was abducted on December 13 from the village. Later his body was found in the river, said police.

The reason behind the murder could not be known immediately, said police adding, the body bore several injury marks.

Unite against militancy

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He also demanded expediting war crimes trials and execution of verdicts.

Demanding the removal of Islam as state religion from the constitution, Prof Syed Anwar Hossain said religious groups in Bangladesh have no connection with Islam while the militant ones were not only enemies of humanity but also of Islam.

Prof Azizur Rahman of Dhaka University said no religion supports terrorism, killings or repression on humans, including women and children.

Amjad Hossain passes away

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secretary of BAKSAL in 1975 under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Involved with Bangladesh Chhatra League for a long time, Amjad was first elected an MP from AL in 1970.

While studying at Rajshahi University, he was elected general secretary of Rucsu from BCL in 1965-66.

Amjad was born at Hamirkutsa in Bagmara on January 1, 1940.

Seminar

Bangladesh Society for Social and Cultural Studies will organise a seminar on Culture and Tradition of Bangladesh, Venue: CIRDP Auditorium, Time: 10:00am.

Workshop

Bangladesh Visually Impaired People's Society will organise a workshop on "Inclusive: barrier free inclusive society for persons with disabilities." Venue: The Daily Star Centre, Time: 10:00am.



Without keeping any space for pedestrians and leaving rubbish on the road, the Dhaka city corporation has been rebuilding the footpath and repairing the drainage system for over a month now, near Shat Masjid in Dhanmondi. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Sylhet city-suburbs bus service about to close

Old vehicles, fear of losses main reasons

IQBAL SIDDIQUE, Sylhet

The bus operation between Sylhet city and its suburbs is on the brink of closure with 19 minibuses plying only two routes where there were 35 vehicles on 10 routes six years ago, causing sufferings to the commuters.

The buses shuttled to Hetimganj, Hajiganj, Jalalpur, Tukerbazar, Airport, Lalabazar, Kamalabazar, Bagha, Bateswar and Medical Road areas. Now they run only to Hetimganj and Hajiganj.

On March 26, 2008, a group of bus owners under Sylhet Town Bus Owners' Association launched the service, which became popular, particularly among students and low-income people. But within only six years, it started losing passengers because of frequent schedule collapses and deterioration of services.

Commuters alleged that the drivers and staff were not sincere.

Abdul Hasib, a trader, said he wanted to travel to Mohajonpatti from Hetimganj by bus. Due to unavailability of the vehicles in time, "I take a rickshaw or an easy bike and then an auto-rickshaw to reach there."

"I am forced to pay Tk 30 for the trip

instead of the Tk 15 bus fare to save time."

Md Anwar Hossain changes vehicles thrice to reach his workplace near the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology from his Alampur residence.

"If I catch a direct bus I can get to my office timely without stopping at Kodomtoli, Keane Bridge and City Point," he said.

The same happens to Marzan, a twelfth grader, who has to change vehicles at four places to reach Sylhet Government College at Tilagar from Hetimganj.

The owners said they were reducing the number of buses due to losses day after day, inadequate parking spaces, absence of passenger sheds, and traffic jam.

They also reported that the number of bus passengers was declining with an increase of battery- and CNG-run auto-rickshaws and human haulers.

In the meantime, "most of our buses need repairs for being too old," said Shah Ziaul Kabir, president of the association. But the owners are reluctant to do the repairs, fearing further losses, he added.

On the back of this, most owners are

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Road crashes kill 10

CITY DESK

Ten people were killed and five others injured in road accidents in the country yesterday and Thursday.

Our Bogra correspondent reports three people died and three others were injured when a truck rammed into an auto-rickshaw on Bogra-Dhaka highway in Mohipur area on Thursday.

The deceased were Hasib, 17, and Shibbir Hossain, 15, of Nishindhara area of Bogra town and Kajal Kumar, 30, of Jamalpur.

Meanwhile, Abdul Aziz, 25, of Dharmakam died when a truck collided head-on with a bus on Bogra-Dhaka highway in Sherpur municipality area on Thursday.

The deceased was the helper of the bus.

Our Savar correspondent reports, Alomgir Hosen 34, of Singair died when a bus hit his motorcycle from behind on Dhaka-Aricha highway in BPATC area on Thursday.

Meanwhile, an unidentified youth, aged around 22, was killed when a bus run him over while he was crossing Dhaka-Aricha highway in Thana Bus Stand area of Savar yesterday.

Our Benapole correspondent reports, Fantu Roy, 26, of Bagdanga village in Jessore was killed after falling from the roof of a running bus on Benapole-Jessore road in Beniali area on Thursday.

BSS reports, two persons died and another was injured when a bus rammed into a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Kararchar area in Narsingdi yesterday.

The victims were Mahurunnesa, 24, Khokon 35, and Apu 30.

Our Barisal correspondent adds a member of police force died and his wife was injured when a truck hit his motorcycle on Barisal-Dhaka highway in Kashipur area yesterday.

The deceased was Munshi Md Jewel, 35, of Kathalia of Jhalakathi and was working at armed police battalion in Barisal.



Zohra Tajuddin's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, wife of the country's first Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad.

After the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and nearly all his family, and the four national leaders including Tajuddin in 1975, Zohra held the Awami League together in the hard times that followed, says a press release. Born on December 24, 1932, she united and organised the party after being elected its convener in 1977, and remained a presidium member till her death.

Misinterpretation of religions disrupts peace

Speakers tell Ahmadiyya discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Misinterpretation of religions, all of which speak of harmony, disrupts world peace and causes radicalism to proliferate some world regions, speakers told a discussion, "Peace Symposium", in the capital's Bangladesh National Museum yesterday.

Religions speak of peace but, due to some militant groups, work behind most barbaric and brutal incidents, they said, adding that some fundamentalist groups use religions, mostly Islam, for their personal interests.

Maulana Abdul Awal Khan Chowdhury of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Bangladesh, the discussion's organiser, said Boko Haram and Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham were doing the opposite of Islam's preachings on peace and tolerance and imposing their rules on people.

"If we think Bangladesh is far away from Afghanistan or Pakistan, it would be foolishness as Taliban is not restricted to any land boundary or ethnic community," he said.

Prof Syed Anwar Hossain of Dhaka University presented a keynote paper, stating that lessons on living in peace should begin at the family, then at society, country, interstates and finally at the global level.

Real and lasting peace will free people from fear, intimidation and other forms of injustice, he said.



A karbari presents roosters to the seventeenth Bohmong king, Bohmongree U Chaw Prue, who received annual jhum tax and traditional gifts from headmen and karbaris (village heads), on Raj Punnah, a festival of the Bohmang Circle, at the king's temporary Darbar Hall in Bardarban town yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Everest conqueror Wasfia Nazreen explains a photo to visitors at a daylong exhibition showcasing the snaps of her mountain expeditions around the world, at Liberation War Museum in the capital yesterday, organised by the Fazlul Huq Institute of Media Studies or FIMS.

PHOTO: STAR

Woman wrongly declared dead before she actually died buried

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman, who survived nearly 26 hours after she had been wrongly pronounced dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 2:00pm on December 4, was finally buried at the capital's Jurain graveyard yesterday.

The unidentified woman, around 45, breathed her last at 4:00pm on December 5. Anjum Mufidul Islam, a charity, buried the body.

Patients and their attendants in the ward of DMCH's new building where she was being treated alleged that doctors and nurses were reluctant to even go near the woman as she had some reeking wounds.

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Tangail Islamists

FROM PAGE 4

Over a hundred police personnel held back several hundred Islamists who tried to head towards the brothel and attack the sex workers.

Earlier, Imam of the mosque Maulana Shamsuzzaman in his "khutba" (sermons) said as Muslims it was their religious duty to protest against sex trade and urged the people of Tangail to resist any bid to re-establishment of the brothel.

"The brothel, situated in the middle of the densely-populated traditional town, was a den of unethical activities, drug trade and criminals. Poor and helpless girls including the under-aged were sold at the brothel, and they were forced into sex trade by some influential outsiders," he said.

Religious zealots under the banner of Asamajik Karjokolap Protirodh Committee (AKPC) evicted around 1,500 residents of the brothel, including 700 sex workers, on July 11.

On December 9, Fawzia Karim Feroze, president of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association, filed a writ petition with the High Court on behalf of the sex workers, seeking directions for their safe living at the brothel.

Following the HC order, the evicted sex workers started returning to the brothel on Monday, and the number of the returnees rose to over 150 by yesterday.

'Boyfriend' kills teenager after rape in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A teenager was killed after being raped allegedly by her boyfriend at Baghadanga village in Moheshpur upazila of Jhenidah on Thursday night.

Mongla Ali, of the village, raped Alpona Khatun, 19, daughter of Sultan Ahmed, at a nearby field as she wanted to marry him, said the victim's family, adding that Mongla with his two cohorts then poisoned her.

Moheshpur police recovered the body, which had been sent to Jhenidah sadar hospital morgue for autopsy, and also a syringe from the spot. A case was filed. Mongla is absconding.