

Abandoned baby Anisha breathes her last

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The baby girl, who was rescued from a dustbin in the capital's Mirpur on March 11, died on early Monday at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Anisha, a name given to her by doctors and nurses of neonatal intensive care unit, breathed her last around 2:00am, Zahirul Islam, a sub-inspector of Shah Ali Police Station, told The Daily Star last night. A woman rescued the newborn from a dustbin. Later, Shah Ali police brought her to the DMCH. Zahirul said an autopsy was conducted yesterday. Anisha was suffering from hepatitis, the SI said citing doctors. Some couples rushed to DMCH with requests to adopt her but the decision was pending with a court.



CRACKDOWN ON, SO IS JAYWALKING

Clockwise from top, A group of pedestrians cross a street amid moving traffic risking their lives in the capital's Bangla Motor area yesterday. In continuation of their drive against jaywalking, law enforcers have been bringing pedestrians to book. After violating traffic rules, many had to stand in queues and pay fines to a mobile court set up there.

PHOTOS: AMRAN HOSSAIN

ACC quizzes 3 Rajuk officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday interrogated three officials of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) including its chief town planner over corruption allegations. The officials included Sirajul Islam, chief town planner; Ashrafal Alam Akanda, town planner; and AZ Shafiul Hannan, an authorised officer. These officials were interrogated for altering the land use as delineated in the Detail Area Plan (DAP) for commercial and

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Compensation given after 26yrs

Family of DU student killed in road crash receives first instalment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Twenty six years after the untimely death of Nafia Gazi, a revered debater and a bright student of Dhaka University, her family yesterday received the first installment of compensation from BRTC (Bangladesh Road and Transport Corporation). The first payment of Tk 2.5 lakh was handed over to Nafia's father by Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader at the latter's office in the secretariat in Dhaka. The remainder of the total Tk 10 lakh compensation would be paid within six months, the minister said. "We are trying to prove one thing -- that although BRTC is a state body, it isn't above the law." On March 29 of 1991, economics student Nafia was crushed under a bus belonging to the government-owned transport service BRTC near Mauchak market in the capital. Nafia secured first place in her first-year finals. A gifted debater and a writer, she was also involved in various other extracurricular activities in the university. Dhaka University Debating Society organises a debating completion named after her every year. The killing of such a brilliant student caused a huge public outcry.

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Slit-throat bodies of two women found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A woman's body with her throat slit was recovered by police yesterday from a hotel in the capital's Uttara yesterday. The deceased was Pushpo Rani Shil, 44, of Moddha Badda. She had checked into Neela Abashik Hotel in Abdullahpur area on Monday along with one Durjoy, 30, and a two-year-old child, said Ali Hosen Khan, officer-in-charge of Uttara West Police Station. Quoting hotel sources, the OC said the duo rented a room in the hotel claiming themselves as husband and wife. They also informed the hotel authority that they came to Dhaka from Tangail for treatment. Madhob Shil, a relative of Pushpo, told The Daily Star that Pushpo went outside home with her granddaughter, Monisha, 2, at 5:00pm on Monday with a distant relative. The relative told other family members of Pushpo that he was taking her to a Bank as her signature was required to withdraw Tk 50,000. Yesterday around 4:00am, Durjoy along with the child

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Save Manpura from river erosions

Demand residents, rights bodies at Dhaka human chain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
With his father farming on around seven bighas of land at Uttar Shakuchiya in Manpura of Bhola, the family of Mohammad Sajib Uddin was solvent once. But land erosions twice ate up their land and wreaked havoc on the family, making them marginalised. The erosion forced the family to move to another place. His father had to become a livestock broker while his eldest brother dropped out of school and became a day labourer to support the family. "My brother has been a day labourer since he was forced to stop studying some 15 years ago. Another brother of mine is a mason. Now they're helping me continue my studies. Or else, I would have to accept the same fate," the tenth grader told The Daily Star during a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday. Like Sajib, over a dozen of Manpura residents, who are facing similar hardship caused by the river erosions, took part in the human chain organised by 28 rights organisations. In the hour-long programme, they demanded immediate government initiatives to save the coastal island in Bhola from river erosions, and

ensure transparency and accountability in the works undertaken by Water Development Board (WDB) and local administration. "We must save our coastal areas and the coastal people. We must save Manpura. A proper utilisation of budgetary allocations has to be ensured in this regard," said Aminur Rasul Babul of Unnayan Dhara Trust. Zayed Iqbal Khan of Bangladesh Krishak Federation said, "Between 1973 and 2010, Manpura has lost around 34 square kilometres of land. The land is decreasing day by day. A concrete flood control embankment has to be built to protect the people." Subal Sarkar of Bangladesh Bhumihin Samity said about 20 villages and 10 bazars have gone completely under water. "Even the Manpura town is in a vulnerable condition, since the river is just about 300 yards away." Mihir Biswas of Paribesh Bachao Andolon said it is necessary to create green belts to save the coasts. Also, the coasts should be brought under the government's seventh five-year plan and Sustainable Development Goals. Mustafa Kamal Akanda, assistant director of Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust, conducted the programme.

Declare haor areas disaster prone: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
BNP yesterday demanded that the government declare flood-hit haor areas as disaster prone, and provide the victims with relief materials until new crops are harvested. Addressing a press conference at the party's Naya Paltan central office in the capital, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir also alleged that the government did not take effective steps to tackle the disaster and alleviate sufferings of the flood-hit victims. Referring to his recent visit to different flood-affected areas in Netrakona, Fakhru said the victims told him that they were going through inhumane situations amid a shortage of food as their crops were completely damaged. In reply to a question, he said the government is trying to tame Hefajat-e-Islam. Fakhru said the government is hatching a conspiracy to hold a unilateral election. Fakhru also said they will not participate in the general election if a level-playing field for all parties is not ensured.




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5 held with snake venom in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Detectives in a drive in the capital's Kuril bus stand area seized 12 pounds of snake venom and arrested five persons on Monday night. Abdul Baten, joint commissioner of Detective Branch of police, disclosed it yesterday at a press briefing at Media and Community Centre of Dhaka Metropolitan Police. On information, detectives conducted the drive and seized six glass jars containing venom, and arrested Abu Hanif, Afsar Ali, Nazrul Islam, Muktar Hossain and Rahich Uddin, said Baten. Checking the market price, police said the maximum price of 12 pounds (5.5kg) of venom might be Tk 25 crore. In primary interrogation, the arrestees confessed that the venom was illegally brought into the country mainly to sell it to different pharmaceutical companies, which use it for producing medicine, said Baten. Earlier on March 8, police also seized 12 pounds of venom from the capital's Dhanmondi. The jars seized on Monday bear the trade mark similar to those seized in March, he said. "We are suspecting an international syndicate is behind the trade; we are looking into it," said the joint commissioner.

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