

Japan 'very close friend' of Bangladesh

Hasina tells Shin Sakurai

UNB, Dhaka

President of Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary League Shin Sakurai yesterday called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence.

During the meeting, Sakurai stressed the need for having Bangladesh-Japan Parliamentary

League chapter in Bangladesh with Bangladeshi MPs.

It will help MPs of the two countries take initiatives to identify the sectors for "meaningful cooperation" for the welfare of their people, he said adding that MPs of both the countries could also share experiences.

In this respect, Hasina said her party welcomes initiatives that would accelerate people's development.

Describing Japan as a "very close friend" of Bangladesh and the largest development partner, she thanked the Japanese government for their support to various development sectors and infrastructural development, including construction of Pakshey Bridge and Rupsha Bridge, and conducting feasibility study of Padma Bridge.

Hasina also recalled Japan's assistance for the construction of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge.

They also discussed matters relating to mutual interests.

Deputy Leader of the House Advocate Abdul Hamid MP, Abdus Samad Azad MP, Syed Abul Hossain MP and Hasina's Press Adviser Jawadul Karim were present.

Japan's support to liberation war recalled

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Whip Khandkar Delwar Hossain yesterday expressed his gratitude to Japan for its full support to the War of Liberation.

He expressed his gratitude to Member of House of Councillors of Japan and Acting President of Bangladesh-Japan Parliamentary League Shin Sakurai, who made a courtesy call on him at his Sangsad Bhaban office.

"The people of Bangladesh would ever remember Japan's support and solidarity to our crucial days of national life," he said.

The two leaders also discussed various matters relating to mutual interests.

Lauding the respect of the Bangladeshis towards democracy, Sakurai expressed his optimism about the future prosperity of the country in political, economic and socio-cultural arena.

DU APE Dept alumni reunion December 12

The Applied Physics & Electronics (APE) Department Alumni Association, University of Dhaka, will hold a day-long reunion at the TSC auditorium on December 12, says a press release.

The programme will start at 10.00am. A cultural programme will also be held in the evening.

For registration and other details all APE Alumni should contact the department by December 7. Telephone: 9661920-49 Ext 4980, Mobile: 019342007, 018250309, 0171405275, 018292213, 019483820.



Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury speaks at an architectural seminar on 'Fire safety & innovative facade design for high rise buildings' at a city hotel yesterday.

Domestic help dies after abortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young domestic help died from excessive bleeding after forced abortion at Hazipara in the city yesterday.

Anwara Begum, the 22-year-old housemaid, was pregnant for five months.

Minutes before her death, Anwara blamed Hafizul, a male domestic help of the house where she worked, for forcing her to undergo abortion after she conceived.

Hafizul seduced her with the false promise of marriage, she said.

Anwara, a divorcee, lived with her mother in a slum at Merul Badda. She had been working at the house at Hazipara in Khilgaon for a year.

"Anwara developed relations with Hafizul after she started working at the house. Hafizul also promised that he would marry her within a short time," the victim's mother, Julekha Begum, said.

But when Anwara became pregnant, Hafizul began to press her for abortion, she said.

At around 11:00pm Tuesday, an elderly man took Anwara to her house as she was bleeding. "Anwara told me that Hafizul forced her to undergo abortion at a Khilgaon clinic," her mother said.

Julekha took Anwara to the clinic again in the night. Clinic officials advised them to go to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Anwara was finally taken to the hospital at 3:00pm yesterday, but the doctors declared her dead.

Her mother, however, could not mention the name of the one-storey clinic.

Anwara was married to one Abu Taher of her village, Char Malgaon in Damuddya, Shariatpur, two years ago. After her divorce a year later, she came to the city with her mother.

Ramna police went to the house to search for Hafizul, but he was not there.

HC grants bail to five DU teachers

UNB, Dhaka

Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University and his four colleagues were yesterday granted anticipatory bail for two months in connection with an attempt to murder case.

On reopening after the Eid vacation, the High Court heard the petition and granted the anticipatory bail.

Bench comprising Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Jinat Ara also issued rule upon the government to show cause why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail.

The four others granted the bail are Prof Sultana Shafi, Prof Durgada Bhattacharjee, Prof Khondker Bazul huq and Dr Mohammad Samad.

The case was lodged by Prof Azad Chowdhury himself with Ramna thana in May last for an alleged attempt on his life by unknown assailants.

They now apprehend police action against them following a confessional statement by an accused in the case, Shafiqur Rahman, also a teacher of Dhaka University who had told the magistrate that the attack on Prof Azad was a staged managed.

Shahed Akhtar new envoy to Thailand

BSS, Dhaka

The government has decided to appoint Shahed Akhtar as the next Bangladesh Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand.

Shahed Akhtar is currently Bangladesh Ambassador to Spain and the permanent representative to the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) in Madrid.

Earlier, he held various important assignments at home and abroad.

Film show
The Academy Film Society will screen two films -- Devdas and Blue Velvet. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Scholarship award ceremony
The merit scholarship award ceremony for Fall Semester of East West University will be held, with State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque as chief guest. Venue: University campus, Mohakhali. Time: 10.00am.

Publication ceremony
The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Majdar Ranna' (Tasty foods) by Keka Ferdousi will be held. Venue: Liberation War Museum auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

Prize giving ceremony
The Nari Maitree in cooperation with the UNFPA is organising a prize giving and closing ceremony of the weeklong World Aids Day programme. Venue: Green Valley Centre, 390 Malibagh Chowdhurypara. Time: 9.15am.

Seminar
The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Export Promotion Bureau will hold a seminar on 'Bio-terrorism Act-2002 of the USA'. Venue: FBCCI conference room, Motijheel. Time: 3.30pm.

Special talk
The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh will hold a special talk on 'The most comprehensive Quranic verse on socio-economic ethics and its impact on modern life'. Dr Ibrahim Surty, Department of Theology, Birmingham University, UK, will speak. Venue: Seminar room of the Society. Time: 4.00pm.

Workshop
The National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled will hold a workshop on 'Rights of children with disabilities -- A voice of our own'. Venue: December 15.

Dry weather to continue

UNB, Dhaka

Dry weather will continue over the country till 6pm today. Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the river basins during early morning, Met Office said.

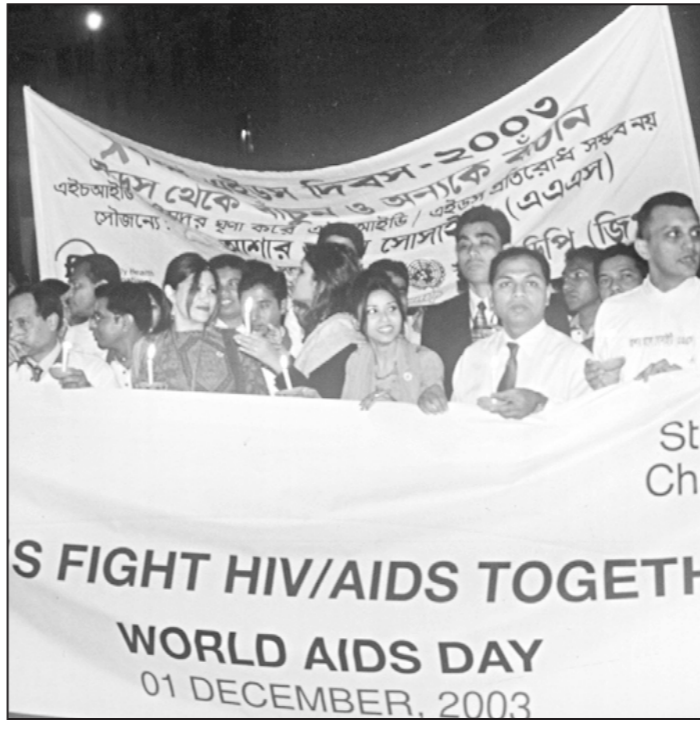
No appreciable change in night temperature is expected over the country, it added.

Highest temperature 29.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 12.2 degree at Jessore.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11 pm today and rises at 6:27am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.4	16.6	71	64
Chittagong	29.5	15.4	65	55
Rajshahi	26.6	13.0	76	79
Khulna	28.0	15.1	79	76
Barisal	27.5	14.8	86	90
Sylhet	27.2	15.5	79	67
Cox's Bazar	29.5	17.6	72	76



The Standard Chartered Bank took out a candlelight procession in the city on Monday to mark the World Aids Day.

Danish aid for rehabilitation at Mahalchhari

BSS, Dhaka

Denmark will provide 3,00,000 Danish kroner equivalent to Tk 27 lakh for rehabilitation programmes in Mahalchhari.

The Danish government will provide the assistance in support of the United Nations Humanitarian Response Programme in Mahalchhari, Khagrachhari.

An agreement to this effect was signed here on Tuesday between UNDP Resident Representative Jorgen Lissner and Danish Ambassador Niels Severin Munk.

Four robbers arrested

UNB, Narayanganj

Police arrested four robbers from a bus at Kanchpur on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Tuesday.

Police said the bandits posing as passengers attacked the passengers when the bus reached Kanchpur police outpost in Sonargaon.

They beat up the passengers and looted the valuables at gunpoint.

As the victims raised an alarm, locals rushed to the spot after the driver stopped the bus near the police outpost. They also beat up the robbers.

Police arrested Rabiul, Amirul Islam, Kabir Hossain and Haroon and recovered a pistol.