JU biodiversity

The negligence of authorities concerned in conserving trees and bushes have put the biodiversity of Jahangirnagar University (JU) in

A large number of trees on the campus were burnt in several fire

over the last few months as the

authorities did not take any steps to

A gang of miscreants set fire to a

jackfruit garden on the eastern side

of the social science faculty building

More than 100 jackfruit trees

Bushes and trees on six acres of

The fire damaged large number

In another fire, around 8000

medicinal plants having five to eight

feet height were burnt to ashes in

last January. The burnt trees include

Haritoki, Neem, Amloki and Bohera,

authorities with the help of forest

About Tk 2 lakh were spent in

Sources said in the name of

"We lack adequate manpower to

cleansing drive, the employees of concerned department very often

set fire to trees and bushes destroy-

look after our natural resources. The

university security system must be

improved as large number of outsid-

ers illegally use university land as

their cattle ground. Some students

are also involved in the misdeed,

said Md Abu Hasan, assistant

registrar and chief of the estate

Expressing concern over

repeated fire, Prof A B M Enayet

Hossain blamed the outsiders for

causing our land barren and affect-

ing the biodiversity of the campus

"Recurrence of fire incident is

He said the situation could be

department.

the incidents.

ing the biodiversity of the campus.

and environment ministry.

planting the saplings.

The saplings were planted on the western side of Meer Musharraf Hossain Hall by the university

planted by university authorities in

land at Wildlife Sanctuary on the

campus were burnt in another fire

of medicinal and herbal plants.

1996 were burnt in the fire.

on March 2 this year.

some days ago.

in jeopardy

JU CORRESPONDENT

METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

Democracy in party a must for good governance

Nagorik), at Swanirbhar Auditorium in the city.

Speaking at the workshop Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, a noted economist and Sujon president, said pillage is going on unabatedly in the country as dishonest, black money holders and muscle men are being elected in elections.

He said in last general election the lowest expenditure was Tk 1

democracy.

Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar,

principles and existence of effective democratic institutions are needed to ensure election of honest, competent and dedicated individuals to public offices, he

"If we really want to have a functional democracy in the country, there must be a systematic reform requiring compulsory registration of political parties and strict

disclosure of finances and qualifications of the elected representa-

voter list is a challenge to democracy as it has not been prepared in

citizens were not enlisted in the voter list whereas 64 lakh fake voters have been enlisted in it.

Adviser to former caretaker snoke at the workshop



Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association stages a token hunger strike at Muktangan in the city yesterday to press their 21-point demand, including an end to discrimination in salaries.

EVICTION OF SLUM DWELLERS

40 injured as mob clash with police

BDNEWS, Dhaka

At least 40 people were injured in a clash between police and a mob demonstrating against the eviction of slum dwellers at Dhalpur under

Demra Police Station yesterday Despite the stay order by the court, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) on Thursday demolished Dhalpur Adarsha Bosti, known as Bangabandhu slum.

Police also arrested four of the protesters from the spot. They are Abdul Hakim of East Goran. Imdadul Huq of Sabujbagh, Gofran Gazi of Shahiahanpur and Moslem Talukder of Mir Hazirbagh.

Being homeless, at least 10,000 people have been passing their days under the open sky since

Awami League leaders Motia Chowdhury, Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya went to the spot Witnesses said when the AL

leaders were visiting the victims, police swooped on the people who brought out a procession protesting the eviction of slum dwellers by the They said police action led to a

clash between the law enforcers and the agitators, leaving at least 40 people, including a police constable, injured. SI Mohammad Yunus of Demra

Police Station told the news agency that police charged baton as the agitating people pelted stones at them (police).

MRI, CT scans of Hasina done in US

UNB, Dhaka

For treatment of her blast-affected Orlando in the United States.

The Awami League (AL) Bangabandhu Avenue.

"She will visit physicians next Monday at the hospital with these tests to take her treatment," a party source told UNB Saturday.

The AL chief was to address a discussion marking the 87th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Muiibur Rahman tonight (US local time) at Orlando Sheraton Hotel Hasina's son, Sajib Wazed Joy, was

ear, MRI, CT scans and other medical tests have been done on opposition leader Sheikh Hasina at Sanklack and Sisine hospitals at

President left Dhaka for the USA on March 16 for her ear treatment. She has been experiencing hearing problem following the August 21 grenade attack at AL rally at

badly," he added. improved if a boundary wall is also to address the function.

2 CU students hurt in clash

CU CORRESPONDENT

Two students of law department of Chittagong University (CU) were injured in a clash with the students of the same department yesterday over a past feud.

Sources said the clash erupted at around 11:00am when Mostofa Muktadir, a sophomore, along with his year-mates attacked Mohammed Anwar, a fourth year student of the department.

They beat Anwar mercilessly with baton

One of Anwar's year-mate Rezaul also received injury while he tried to save Anwar from the attack, sources said.

Both were rushed to Hathazari Adhunik Hospital for treatment

Earlier on Thursday, Mostofa and Anwar were locked in an altercation centring a bathroom of their cottage where they live in separate room, said Assistant Proctor Mohammed Jafir Ullah Talukder.

"We settled the matter amicably on that day in presence of them," he added.

The CU authorities have formed a three-member committee headed by faculty Dean Associate Prof Mohammed Zakir Hossain, also the chairman of the department, to probe the matter.

Obituary

Bss,Savar

Induprova Bhowmik, mother of journalist Barun Bhowmik, died of a massive heart attack at her house at Dakkhinpara in Savar on Friday night at the age of 99.

She left behind three sons and three daughters. Induprova's eldest son Barun Bhowmik is a senior reporter of the daily Al-Amin and executive committee member of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ).

Wife of late schoolteacher Shailendranath Bhowmik Induprova was cremated at their family crematorium in Sadarpur village under Pathalia union of Savar upazila.

Meanwhile, President of DUJ Altaf Mahmood and General Secretary Omar Faruque expressed profound shock at the death of Induprova Bhowmik.

He noted that the institution had been presenting the country with bright

Saffat Shariar, a student of class eight, and Abdullah Al Mamun became champions in the annual sports of the school branch and the

Later, a cultural function was held.

Bright students

Speakers at a prize giving cere-

mony of Ispahani Public School and

College (IPSC) yesterday urged the

bright students to work for the

Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury

was present as chief guest while editor

of the daily Prothom Alo Matiur

Rahman and resident editor of the

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC)

urged to work

for country

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Chittagong

country.

Police intercept the activists of Chhatra Sangram Parishad at Palashy intersection in the city yesterday as the demonstrators were marching towards Eden College to lay siege in protest against the attacks on general students by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists

Fire service men and police

The fire originated from a shanty

however could not confirm the

at the slum at Kazi Nazrul Islam

Road around 7:00pm and quickly

engulfed the entire slum and the

adjoining liquor shop and four-

escaped unhurt but some children

were trapped in the blaze, they said.

city corporation Igbal Hafiz Jubora

and Woman Commissioner Rekha

The slum dwellers and others

Local Ward Commissioner of the

storied godown, locals said.

locals' claim

New US envoy to Bangladesh Butenis sworn in

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT Patricia A Butenis, the newly appointed

sworn in on March 17 in Washington, according to a release of the US State Department yesterday She was confirmed as Ambassador

US Ambassador to Bangladesh, was

to Bangladesh by the Senate on She is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, rank of

Minister-Counsellor Prior to this assignment, Butenis was the Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Islamabad (2004-2006).

Butenis joined the Foreign Service in 1980. She has served as Vice Consulin Karachi (1980-82), Vice Consul/Political Officer in San Salvador (1982-85), Consul in New Delhi (1985-88), El Salvador Desk Officer (1988-90) and Consul (American Citizen Services Chief) in Bogotá, Colombia (1990-93).

She attended the National War College (1993-94) and served at the Visa Office, Field Liaisón, in the Department of State (1994-97). She then served as Consul General in Warsaw (1998-2001) and Consul General in Bogotá, Colombia (2001-

Ms. Butenis was born in New Jersey. She received a BA degree in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania and an MA degree in International Relations from Columbia University.

Four injured in bomb blasts during clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people, including a 10-year-old boy, were injured in bomb blasts as two gangs of hoodlums clashed in front of the Sir Salimullah Medical College in old part of the city last

The gangs -- one led by Mahmud Hasan and the other by Rony -clashed over domination in the area at about 9:30pm, local people said.

Equipped with sticks, rods and bombs, they chased each other during the clash and hurled bombs. injuring four people who were passing the area. Of the injured, the boy, Rakib

Ahmed Shuvo, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while three others -- Omar Faruque, Md Sumon and Abdul Kader -received treatment at the Mitford Hospital. Kotowali Police picked up one

Russell from the scene after the



Experience sharing Bangladesh National Women Lawyers'

Association (BNWLA) organises an experience-sharing meeting on 'Combating domestic violence'. Venue: LGED Bhaban. Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion A discussion will be held to mark the

27 49

45 33 42

86th Birth Anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Venue: Monisingha Farhad Trust Bhaban. Time: 4:00pm.

View excha nge

Campaign for Good Governance organises a view exchange meeting on 'Public service sector and public nterest'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

BFUJ meeting Ajoint meeting of the newly elected and

outgoing executive committees of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

40 shanties gutted in Ctg fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg A fire gutted at least 40 shanties, a

godown of electronic goods and a iquor shop at Sadarghat in the port city last night. Fourteen fire fighting units were

engaged in taming the raging flames till 8:30pm with locals claiming some children at the slum were trapped inside it.

RU staffs observe work abstention

RU CORRESPONDENT

Officers and employees of Rajshahi University (RU) observed a daylong work abstention programme yester-day to press home their five-point demand.

The demands include immediate confirmation of the jobs of 31 employees appointed on January 15, 2002, extension of retirement age up to 65 years and withdrawal of the decision of slashing 20 percent of pension.

During the work abstention programme, enforced by the Officer and Karmachari Oikya Parishad, no administrative activities were held in different offices of the university. Meanwhile, the RU third and fourth-class employees will observe

work abstention programme today

and tomorrow to press for the same

BNP interviews nomination seekers today Bss, Dhaka

A meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Board will be held at the Prime Minister's office at Tejgaon in the city at 2:00pm today to interview nomination seekers for by-election in Manikganj-4 constituency

BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will preside over the meeting. The nomination seekers have been requested to be present at the

meeting venue at 1:30pm.

daily Abul Momen were the special Alam Chowdhury however said they quests at the ceremony. don't think anybody was trapped President of the school managing committee Mirza Ali Behruj Ispahani presided over the function while School MANIKGANJ BY-POLL principal Hasina Zakaria, guardian Dr MA Kader and a student named Minhaj

Bin Malik addressed the audience. Mohiuddin Chowdhury in his speech called upon the students to serve the people after completing their education.

Matiur Rahman thanked the Ispahani Group for their contribution in the development of education and culture of the country.

students, which is a great service for the

college branch respectively.

A Rahman Khan Bss. Barisa

A Rahman Khan, a freedom fighter

of Rupatali village under Sadar upazila died of old-age complications at his house here on Thursday He was 60. Freedom fighter Khan was

buried at his family graveyard in full state honour on the same day. UNO Humayun Kabir Laskor and

City Corporation Secretary ATM Nasir were present during his burial on behalf of the government.

Speakers tell workshop STAFF CORRESPONDENT crore and the highest was Tk 27 not the quality of the candidates." "Every candidate should submit crore which clearly shows that only Practice of democracy within the the black money holders can an affidavit stating his or her qualifitives." Badiul said party is a must to help establish contest the election. cations, wealth and other relevant good governance in the country, We have to break this culture information along with the nominasaid the speakers at a workshop. tion paper," he said, adding that immediately in order to save our The workshop titled 'Obligations there should be a provision for democracy, he said, adding, "We have to create awareness among to political reform and the ninth punishment in case of giving wrong general election' was organised by people about their democratic information in the affidavit. Sujon (Sushasaner Janye rights," said Prof Muzaffer. The practice of democratic

He said people from every sector of the country have to come foreword to save hard earned

member-secretary of Sujon and country director of Hunger Project, said "Politics in Bangladesh has been criminalised where people still cast their vote considering the election symbol of the parties and

Assistant Professor of the

critical analysis of primary educa-

and strategies: Women standing

on their own' -- were also pre-

education policy and the maternal

Three more papers -- 'A socio-

The speakers said the new

They said 1.64 crore competent

government Hafiz Uddin Khan. Justice Kazi Ebadul Haque, Dhaka University Teacher Prof Latifa Akhand, Jahangirnagar University Teacher Prof M Masud and representatives of different NGOs also

Dr Najma Chowdhury, second from left, speaks at a conference on 'Women in contemporary Bangladesh: New challenges' at CIRDAP auditorium in the city yesterday. On her left are Prof AFM Yusuf Haider and Angele van der Women still face discrimination

Speakers say at conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Women are still vulnerable and facing various forms of discrimination in the country and it is high time to understand their issues from a

global perspective, speakers said at a conference yesterday. At the concluding session of the national conference on 'Women in contemporary Bangladesh: New challenges', the speakers also highlighted the obstacles facing women and discussed the ways to

resolve those. The Department of Women's Studies of Dhaka University organised the two-day conference at CIRDAP auditorium in the city in association with the project titled 'Institutionalising the Department of Women's Studies' and the Association of Social Studies (ISS),

Pro-Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University AFM Yusuf Haider attended the session as the chief guest while Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam was present as the guest of honour and First Secretary of Netherlands Embassy Angele van der Heijden as special guest.

Lauding the activities of the women's studies department, Mahfuz Anam said women activists should now try to find out ways of implementing laws to genuinely empower women in the country.

"A grand convention bringing together the most prominent women's rights organisations in the country should be held to formulate a charter of demand which should be placed before all the major political parties," he said, adding that the women's rights organisations should use their vote bank to make the big parties accept their

Overbridge after name of journo Pasha demanded

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Citizens Rights Movement (CRM) formed a human chain in front of the Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University yesterday to realise its six-point demand. The demands include setting up

of mills and factories in safe and

hygienic environment, removal of

risky structures from across the country including the capital, and safe road network. CRM chief adviser Syed Margub Morshed presided over the rally held

at the venue of human chain. The CRM placed a six-point charter of demands at the rally. A procession was also brought

out demanding construction of an overbridge at the Bangla Motor intersection after the name of journalist Yusuf Pasha where he died in a tragic road accident on March 17.

Describing the women's studies department as a promising one, Prof Yusuf Haider hoped that the department would produce a group of

'We have to understand the women's issues from a global perspective and act locally," he

has already become part and parcel of Dhaka University. Founder-member of the depart-

Mahtab was also present.

Rajshahi

Barisal

Cox's Baza

sented several papers department Runa Laila presented a paper titled 'Closing gender gap! A

tion policy in Bangladesh. economic analysis of the maternal mortality in Bangladesh', 'How marginal is marginal? Reflection in Angele van der Heijden praised women's Status in Bangladesh' and 'Looking into the future: Allies

the quality of papers presented at the conference and hoped that the new department will sustain, as it

ment Dr Najma Chowdhury chaired the session while Chairperson of

Three sessions were also held

the department Dr Nazmunnessa

young generation who will be aware of rights and gender issues.

sented. The papers highlighted the forms of oppression on women, remarkable progress of women in governance, strategies for women participation and partnership in politics, gender gap in primary

yesterday where experts pre-

No change in temperature likely

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours

until 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country Met Office said in a forecast. Highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded vesterday

The sun sets in the capital at 6:09pm today and rises at

16.3

20.2

17.6

23.0

at Cox's Bazar and lowest 14.7 degree Celsius at Rangour.

33.6

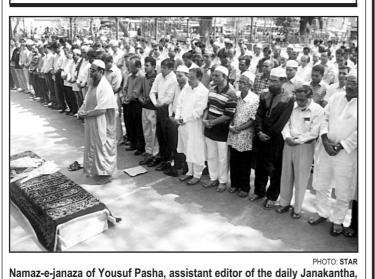
31.6

32.4

32.1

35.0

6:03am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were percentage Dhaka 31.6 21.5 Chittagong 33.6 22.6



was held at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. He was killed in a city road accident on Friday