



Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of National Disabled Day Celebration Committee speaking at a press conference of National Forum of Organisations working with the Disabled (NFOWD) at the National Press Club yesterday. — Star photo

UNFPA chiefs call on Hasina

The outgoing and newly appointed representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Aliah P Mouchiroud and Shu Yun Xu yesterday called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Ganobhaban residence, reports BSS.

Mouchiroud lauded Bangladesh's achievement in various social sectors including health, medicine and family planning. He noted with deep appreciation the support he received from the government and other agencies during his stay here and conveyed felicitations of the UNFPA chief Naifs Sadique to the prime minister.

Xu hoped that he would get the similar cooperation and support during his tenure in Dhaka and added that his organisation would extend its all out support for implementing various programmes in the health and family planning sector.

The prime minister said her government is trying to reach medicare services to the doorstep of the people. She hoped that the services would be extended in a more effective way through public representatives after the coming upazila elections.

Health Secretary MM Reza was present during the meeting.

Hasina shocked at death of AL leader

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her deep shock at the death of veteran Awami League leader Badiul Alam, reports UNB.

Alam, former president of Rangamati District Awami League and convenor of local Bangladesh Parishad died of old-age ailment in his hill town residence on Monday.

Sheikh Hasina in a message said, the death of Alam is an irreparable loss in the political arena of the country.

The Prime Minister conveyed her deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Tk 70 lakh Danish grant

Bangladesh will receive Danish Kroner 1,009 million (approximately equivalent to Taka 70 lakh) as grant under an agreement signed in the city yesterday between Bangladesh and Denmark, reports BSS.

The grant will be utilised for implementation of the project entitled "support to the establishment of the Ombudsman institution in Bangladesh" the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs will implement the project.

The immediate objective of the project is to take necessary technical preparations for the establishment of an Ombudsman institution prior to the initiation of a long term programme.

Dr Mashur Rahman, secretary, economic relations division of the Ministry of Finance and Finn Thilsted, Charge D'affaires EP of the Royal Danish Embassy signed the agreement on behalf of their respective government.

Architects express solidarity with BUET students' movement

Bangladesh Architect Society, an association of the professional architects, has expressed its solidarity with the ongoing movement of the students of Architecture Department of BUET in protest against admission system, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference yesterday, the leaders of the society expressed concern over the volatile situation centering admission test at the Architecture Department of BUET. They said the authorities are going to hold the admission test in the department on April 10 with the controversial admission system of last year.

The leaders also resented for not yet forming a committee demanded by the agitating teachers and not inclusion of the departmental teachers in the committee on transforming the department into an institution.

The society called for holding of the admission test and other activities as per opinion of the majority of the teachers of the department.

Mobasser Hossain read out the written statement while other members of the convening committee, architect Ehsan Khan, SM Ismail, Iqbal Habib, Rezaul Rahman were present at the press conference.

Workshop on Rice-Crop Protection opens

120m tonnes of rice lost to weeds in Asia every year

By Staff Correspondent

Experts at an international workshop in Gazipur yesterday agreed that a better crop protection mechanism could save loss in yield that costs dearly the entire South Asia, the largest concentration of poor farmers in the world.

Some 50 agronomists, scientists, academicians and researchers sat across the table on the first day of the three-day "Rice Crop Protection" workshop at Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI).

It was observed that 120m tonnes of rice is lost each year in Asia due to weeds alone. Insects cause 18 per cent yield loss in rice in Bangladesh while weeds are another 10 per cent loss, 13 per cent more accounted to diseases and lastly, two to four per cent loss is attributed to rats, BRRI revealed.

The workshop was organised under the joint aegis of British Department for the International Development (DFID), Crop Protection Programme (CPP), BRRI and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

"If we have to take up the challenge of food security, there is no option left with us than to ensure better crop protection to save grain loss caused by pests, weeds and other reasons," said George Rothschild, Principal Policy Advisor of the Natural Resources Institute (NRI) of UK who was the immediate past director general of the IRRI.

Other participants also stressed need for building up a more efficient linkage between researchers and the extension workers so that farmers are provided with latest technology.

Throughout the day, a number of other papers were presented from a diversified range of institutions like, IRRI, BRRI, NRI, DFID, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC), CARE Bangladesh, Novartis (both India and Bangladesh chapters) and various other NGOs, government and private organisations and universities of UK, India and Bangladesh.

Earlier, director general of BRRI Dr Hamid Miah welcomed all at the BRRI premises. The participants will talk to farmers and visit rice fields today, the second day of the workshop.

1 killed, 30 hurt in bus mishap in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, Apr 6: A man was killed and 30 others were injured when a bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Jalchhatra in Modhupur thana of Tangail district on Monday, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said the mishap occurred while the Mymensingh-bound bus giving side to a motor-bike at 8 pm. Six of the injured were rushed to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where Zohed Ali, 50, died.

Police seized the bus and a case was filed in this connection.

Ershad condoles death of JP leader

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad has expressed his deep shock at the death of former MP and president of Panchagarh district unit of JP Abdul Quddus, reports BSS.

Quddus who was elected MP in the 1988 parliamentary elections, died of heart attack recently.

Ershad prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed his sympathy to the bereaved family members of late Quddus.

Mymensingh train mishap death toll rises to 3

MYMENSINGH, Apr 6: With the death of one more passenger at the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital today (Tuesday), the Friday's train mishap death toll rose to three, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said Golum Khandakar (25) died early in the morning. Earlier, one passenger died on Friday and another on Sunday.

Ten more passengers are now being treated at the MMCH who were injured in the accident occurred when six bogies of a Chittagong-bound mail train derailed near Sohagi Rail Station in Ishwardi thana on Friday.

Special envelope released

The Postal Department yesterday released a five taka special envelope commemorating introduction of direct Dhaka-Calcutta bus service, reports APB.

Post, Telecommunication and Home Minister Mohammad Nasim released a special envelope at a simple function here. A special canceller was used.

Secretary in charge of the Post and Telecommunication Ministry Nazmul Ahsan Chowdhury and DG of Postal Department Giasuddin Ahmed were present on the occasion.

16th meet of ICTE held

The 16th annual International Conference on Technology and Education (ICTE) was held at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, recently says a press release.

Delegates from over forty nations attended the conference. Prof Lutfor Rahman, Pro-Vice Chancellor of University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) attended the conference as a committee member of the Advisory Board of ICTE from Asia.

The conference is held in Europe and America in alternate years.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours, reports APB.

Met Office says day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period across the country.

There would be little change in the subsequent two days.

Country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded at 37.3 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi and the lowest 20.8 degrees at Jessore.

The sun sets today at 6:16 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:44 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town

Temperature in Celsius

Humidity in percentage

Max Min Morning Evening

Dhaka 35.5 26.6 76 63

Chittagong 32.6 24.6 86 85

Rajshahi 37.3 24.2 84 55

Khulna 34.6 25.8 83 61

Barisal 33.8 24.8 83 71

Sylhet 34.0 23.8 77 59

Cox's Bazar 31.2 24.5 82 85