



The World On Time

PACKAGES, DOCUMENTS AND FREIGHT WORLDWIDE

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A rare eagle lands at Dhaka Zoo

By Shehab Ahmed
The huge bird, an unidentified brownish black eagle, rests on a wooden platform at the birds' enclosure at the Dhaka Zoo since it was brought from Narsingdi more than a week ago.

None at Panchdona village in Narsingdi knew from where it came. They trapped the majestic bird with bamboo poles and fishing nets on the wetlands on December 11.

Someone thought that it should not be killed and informed the local administration. In a quick feat of wisdom,

the administration thought that it should be sent to the Dhaka Zoo.

When the bird was brought to the zoo, vets there were shocked to see its condition. Bruised and beaten, the bird was in a trauma, also having diarrhoea.

"Now it has started regaining strength, having found a mate — a black eagle — in whose nest we have kept it", Dr Iqbal, the zoo's vet said.

"We have given it some sulphur drugs and vitamins initially", Rafiqul Islam, chief of the bird section said.

But none could identify the species of the eagle. Zoo officials could not say whether it will be freed or will have to spend the rest of its life in the cage.

It is hostile to humans and keeps back from visitors, making it difficult to be snapped.



Star photo: Sk. Enamul Haq

Protest against BOI boss on

By Staff Correspondent

The Officers and Employees Welfare Council (OEWC) of Board of Investment (BOI) at a meeting yesterday reiterated its demand for removal of its executive chairman Mokammel Haque for his alleged activities against the interest of the organisation and growth of investment in the country.

The OEWC will submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister early next week demanding his removal and fulfilment of its four-point demand, meeting sources said.

The meeting discussed the overall situation in the BOI and observed that certain decisions taken by the executive chairman affected investment in the country and damaged the working atmosphere in the office. The whole situation will be described in the memorandum, they said.

The meeting was presided over by OEWC Convener Mahmud Hasan Mian.

Meanwhile an uneasy calm was prevailing at the BOI office at Dilkusha in the city yesterday following Wednesday's agitation by a section of officers and employees demanding Haque's removal. Most of the officers and employees are now scared and worried for their salary and festival bonus, the

sources said.

Haque did not come to office yesterday as he was attending a meeting of the Board of Governors of Private Export Processing Zones Authority at the Prime Minister's office.

The four-point demand includes promotion of some officials, end to appointment on deputation, regular payment of salary at the beginning of every month and preparation of a new organogram for BOI. Promotion of many officials are long overdue, they claimed.

The BOI Board has no member now. All the members either retired or were transferred recently. BOI member Ansaruddin Khan retired yesterday and two others — Khandakar Abdur Rahman and Azizullah — retired few weeks back. Another member — Zahid Hossain — was made OSD in the ministry of establishment last month.

According to the BOI Act, there should be six members in the board but that was never fulfilled, according to sources.

Mokammel Haque joined as BOI Executive Chairman in August with the rank and status of a minister.

Haque could not be reached over telephone last night for comment.

Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Dec	Sehri	Iftar
15	24	-	521
16	25	5:14	522
17	26	5:14	523

Prayer Timings

December 24		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:12	5:22
Juma	12:45	1:15
Asr	3:42	4:00
Maghrib	5:21	5:28
Tarabi	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Fitra fixed at Tk 25 for Dhaka

Government has fixed this year's fitra at Tk 25 equivalent to price of 1.65 kg wheat or ata for the people living in and around Dhaka, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a meeting of National Fitra Fixation Committee at the Islamic Foundation yesterday.

The fitra for the other parts of the country has to be determined on the basis of the market price of the same quantity of wheat or ata, the meeting said.

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THIS THURSDAY

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PHILIPS

Aricha ferries falter at falling water level

By Staff Correspondent

Ferry service at Aricha ghat, one of the busiest river ports in the country, may close anytime as water level in both the Jamuna and Padma rivers is falling alarmingly, officials said yesterday.

Water level fell by at least one and a half feet in last one week and if the trend continues, it is indication, then there are bad days ahead. Ferries have to zigzag through the water in a bid to avoid the shoals.

Water level as of yesterday morning was fathomed at little over seven feet at the point of Aricha ghat. It was more than 11 feet about a month ago.

Ferry movement at Daulatdia and Pratapbari ghat also faces low water problem.

Pratapbari ferry ghat was shifted from Nagarbari early this month due to fall in water level while the narrow channel

said yesterday that dredging is being done in an unplanned way and that it is not sufficient either. However, relevant BIWTA officials claimed they are doing their best to keep the river routes in operation.

Meantime, continued fall in the water level forced BIWTA to resort to a new one-way passage to facilitate ferry service. The passage is roughly 400 feet wide.

Ferry service in Aricha-Daulatdia ghat is operating with "great caution", according to people who crossed over to Aricha from Daulatdia said.

Hundreds of vehicles including passenger buses and trucks heading towards southwestern districts from the capital have to cross Aricha.

A total of 16 ferries are now operating in two routes from Aricha.

Comes again admission ordeal

City schools continue to cause panic parenting

By Reaz Ahmad and Mustak Hossain

Students and their anxious guardians thronged city schools yesterday, the last day of procuring and submitting admission forms at all government high schools in the city.

As the year draws to an end, parents are having a hard time like in past years in confirming a berth for their wards in any of the "good educational institutions" for the ensuing year.

Admissions tests for classes I to IX in all the 24 government high schools will be held from December 26 through to December 28.

Admission seekers had to negotiate through the notorious Dhaka traffic that aggravated further yesterday causing the formation of big queues of vehicles along main city thoroughfares.

Admission tests at the Government Laboratory High School at Dhamondi were sold out for December 26.

Some 327 people collected forms for admission into Class-I at the 'School' branch of the

Government Science College at Farmgate. There are only 50 vacant seats there.

A teacher of Narinda Government High School, however, said that there were "reasonably sufficient number of seats" available for the year 2000 at the school to accommodate most of the admission-seekers.

Some 153 forms were sold for 120 vacant seats in Class-I. Over 500 more seats are available in other classes of the school.

Admission tests at Vigarni-Naon School were held on December 21.

Admission process into the Motijheel Ideal Non-Government High School, one of the most sought-after non-government high schools in the city, is yet to begin. An official of the school said that the school's two branches in the city would announce schedules for admission "within a few days".

Armed terrorists trapped at DU

By DU Correspondent

Four alleged armed terrorists sustained serious injuries when the students and employees of Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University beat them up mercilessly in front of the hall yesterday.

Two on duty police personnel near the spot Sub-Inspector Alim and Mahmud, who tried to rescue the miscreants from the mob also received minor injuries.

One foreign made revolver, two motor bikes, three petrol bombs and one knife were recovered from their possession, police said.

The injured were identified as Hanif, 20, son of Anwar of in Sharifpur, Razzak, 22, son of Mannan, of Munshiganj, Milian, son of Saiful Haq, of Barisal and Liton, whose identity could not be known immediately. They were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital under police custody.

According to witnesses, students and employees of Jagannath Hall swooped on the terrorists immediately after they reached at the hall gate at around 3 pm and hurled abusive words at each other.

The terrorists numbering six came in two groups from the Palash and on board two motor-bikes and one auto-rickshaw, sources said.

Police identified the gangs as the members of "Five Star" group led by Iqbal Hossain Apu and "Kala" Sentu and the other gang Shamim group lead by Shamim Ahmed popularly known as "pichhi" (little). Shamim were fighting to establish supremacy at the Nagar Bhaban.

The members of two gangs accused each other of extortion in city areas and got locked in an altercation. Police personnel with the help of students and employees of the hall chased them and managed to arrest three.

The remaining three fled after shooting blank shots from the spot. Police, however, chased them and arrested one along with a revolver and three petrol bombs.

Kader Siddique to name it

By Staff Correspondent

Kader Siddique has been "empowered" to choose the name of the political party he is scheduled to float following a convention at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) in the city today, said a press release issued yesterday.

The new party will be floated from a convention beginning at 10 am today. Dr Kamal Hossain will be present as the chief guest at the first session of the convention.

An emergency meeting of the Convention Preparatory Committee was held in the city yesterday with its convenor Fazlur Rahman in the chair, the press release added.

The institute will provide short and long-term programs, including a two year undergraduate degree as well as one-year and six-month diplomas.

The undergraduate degree in garments technology, manufacturing and pattern cutting will

follow the curriculum of Nottingham Trent University, UK.

The one-year diploma will focus on merchandising and marketing and will be implemented by India's National Institute of Fashion and Technology.

Two senior teachers of the Phoenix College of Clothing Technology, Sri Lanka and one from National Institute of Fashion and Technology will join the institute next February to teach the undergraduate and diploma programs.

The institute will charge Tk 30,000 a semester for the two-year undergraduate program and 40,000 a semester for the one-year diploma. Applicants will need an HSC or equivalent to enter the undergraduate program, while a bachelor degree in any discipline will be required for the diploma.

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