

New navy chief takes over

UNB, Dhaka
Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba took over as new Chief of Naval Staff yesterday.
He replaced Rear Admiral Abu Taber who went on retirement on completion of his normal tenure of service in the Bangladesh Navy on June 3.
Later, Admiral Mujtaba called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the National Economic Council complex at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city.
The new Navy Chief was formally

adorned with the rank badges of Rear Admiral by the Acting Chief of Army Staff, Major General Jamilul Din Ahsan, and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam in presence of the Prime Minister.
Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division, Major General A M Mahmuduzzaman, Defence Secretary K M Ehsanul Haq and other senior military officials were present on the occasion.

Nat'l Award for Tree Plantation announced

UNB, Dhaka
A total of 33 persons and institutions have been selected for the Prime Minister's National Award for Tree Plantation for the year 2001.
The first prize winners will get Tk 10,000, second prize winners Tk 8,000 and third prize winners Tk 5,000. All of them will also receive a crest and a certificate.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to distribute the prizes among the winners at the inaugural ceremony of the next national tree plantation drive.
This was decided at a meeting of the national committee for selection of PM's tree plantation award at the Environment and Forest Ministry yesterday.

Presided over by Environment and Forest Minister Shahjahan Siraj, the meeting was attended by Secretary of the Ministry Sabihuddin Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Agriculture University Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Chief Forest Conservator Anwar Faruque and President of Bangladesh Women's Sport Association Shamsunnahar Khawja Ahsanullah.

The meeting selected the 33 persons and institutions from 11 categories, said an official hand-out.
The visiting delegates from New York-based Foundation for Asian University of Women (AUW) shared opinions about the course curriculum of a proposed university with the academicians and vice-chancellors of different universities of the country yesterday.

Education Minister Dr M Osman Faruque and State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon attended the meeting as guests. Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. Anwar Ullah Chowdhury and vice-chancellors of other leading public and private universities were also present.

The meeting was told that the foundation was raising 100 million dollar fund to set up Asian University for Women (AUW) in Bogra which will be accommodating 2,000 female students from Asian countries.

The university will start its academic activities in 2005 and half of its seats would be earmarked for less-privileged students.

The education minister expressed the hope that the AUW will be a center of excellence. The Bangladesh government will provide all possible assistance for smooth functioning of the university, he added.

One arrested with fake 500-taka notes
A man was arrested along with 11 counterfeit notes of Tk 500 from the Millgate area of Tongi here on Monday.
Police said local people caught Hanif, 45, red handed when he was making payment at a confectionery with the fake notes. Later, he was handed over to police and a case was filed.

Thundershowers likely
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions with moderately heavy falls at places today.
Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.
Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore, Mongla and Ishurdi and the lowest 21.4 degree Celsius at Sayerpur.
The sun sets in the capital today at 6.43 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11 am.
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
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Chittagong	33.5	26.4	73	74
Rajshahi	35.8	25.0	76	73
Khulna	35.5	24.0	--	--
Barisal	34.0	24.0	80	89
Sylhet	31.2	22.1	88	85
Cox's Bazar	34.5	27.0	87	72

JS adopts obituary reference
The Jatiya Sangsad on the opening day of its third session yesterday adopted an obituary reference on the death of seven former members of the Sangsad and politicians who died after the second session.
The obituary reference was taken on former MP and freedom fighter Dr Habibur Rahman, former MP Alhaj Abdul Majid Talukder, former MP and freedom fighter Alhaj M Moazzem Hossain, former MP, freedom fighter and eminent physician Dr A K M Asjad, former MP and freedom fighter Shamsuzzoha and revolutionary politician Rabindra Chandra Neogi alias Robi Neogi.
The House observed one minute's silence paying respect to the late parliamentarians and leaders.
Later the lawmakers offered munajat-seeking peace of the souls.
The munajat was led by Moulana Abdus Shobhan.

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About 400 boys and girls formed a human chain holding a 400-foot long canvas in front of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban to protest growing violence across the country. The canvas was painted by 800 adolescent boys and girls. The Nirapod Koishor Andolon organised the event calling for all to stand up against violence and help make the country free from violence.

AUW to be set up in Bogra

BSS, Dhaka
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Fertility rate has not declined in 8 years

Speakers tell workshop

UNB, Dhaka
The fertility rate in Bangladesh has not declined as desired in last eight years despite an increase in the use of contraceptives.
Observing that fertility rate of women is much higher, the participants at a workshop in the city yesterday stressed the need for continuous availability of contraceptives to growing number of couples.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain inaugurated the two-day workshop aiming at finding out strategies for contraceptive security to bring down the fertility rate.
UNFPA Representative Suneeta Mukherjee and USAID official JL Anderson also spoke at the inaugural session.
Mosharraf said contraceptive security strategy is a matter of national concern and ensuring it is a real challenge in Bangladesh.
"Important indicator of progress in population sector is the increase of the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR), which is now nearly 54 per cent."
Participants viewed that it should be raised to 70 per cent.

New 100-taka note from today
UNB, Dhaka
Bangladesh Bank will issue a new 100-taka note on monument pattern with the signature of BB Governor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed today.

The Recto-Verso-system note will have a picture of the National Memorial on the front side and of Shatgombuj Mosque on the other along with a photograph of Jamuna Bridge, the central bank said in a press release yesterday.
"On both sides of the note, there will be Pyramid Pattern (anti-scan) which helps check forgery," it said.

British HC closed tomorrow
British High Commission in Dhaka and its offices in Chittagong and Sylhet will remain closed to the public tomorrow to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Queen Elizabeth II, says a press release.

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- Mr. David Mason will attend the seminar as guest speaker.

Interview: Mr. David Mason will interview Business Clients on the 8th, 9th and 10th June. You are invited to make appointments.

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