

New services at British HC office in Sylhet

UNB, Dhaka
The British High Commission office in Sylhet has introduced new improved services for the visa seekers on the occasion of its first anniversary.

Saudi envoy calls on Khaleida

BSS, Dhaka
Saudi Ambassador in Bangladesh Abdullah M Obaid Al Namla made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleida Zia at her office yesterday.

1474 more held

UNB, Dhaka
Police rounded up 1,474 criminals including four listed terrorists during the last 24 hours ending 6 am yesterday.

available to the applicants who have travelled to the UK, European Union, Switzerland, USA, Canada or Australia in last five years.

The applicants can drop their completed application forms along with a passport and banker's draft covering the visa fee at the Sylhet office, and collect the ready passport and visa within five working days from the same office.

Settlement Applications can now be lodged at Sylhet. All necessary supporting documentation along with a banker's draft can be submitted to the office for forwarding to Dhaka for a decision.

Interviews in Sylhet are carried out on two days in each month when visa officers based in Dhaka visit the office.

During the one-year service, 12,500 people have visited the British High Commission office in Sylhet to seek information and advice about visas for the United Kingdom.

Visitors also have access to a wide range of literature covering British culture, education commercial and development-related topics.

Further information can be obtained by telephone on 724694-5, by e-mail: bhcsylhet@sol-hd.com or from the High Commission website: www.ukinbangladesh.org.

Photo projects social issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Press photography is a medium that reflects the real world as well as the ideal world the human beings crave for. Its credibility and relationship with time and space tempted some of the fine artists around the world to work behind the lens.



Each year, the World Press Photo Contest, the premier competition for the photojournalists, explores the potentiality of those who have taken the medium with full gusto.

The exhibition of the winning entries from 2002 contest was launched at the Drik Gallery in the city on November 22.

As part of the festival of photography, 'Chobi Mela II', the exhibition displays the works by photojournalists from across the world. Their photographs capture the moments they stand beside the oppressed and reveal the social issues.

The political instability and consequences of drought in Pakistan is vividly expressed by the photograph of a one-year-old Afghan boy who died in a refugee camp in Pakistan. Clicked by Erik Refner of Denmark, it was awarded the 2nd prize in 'People in the News Stories' category.

'The hands wrapping the body of the child in a white funeral shroud looks like a sinister force to me,' noted Farhana Sayeed, a schoolteacher in Dhakamandi. 'It shows the ultimate reach of the worldwide instability,' she added. The contest was held under

different categories like 'portraits', 'daily life stories', 'spot news stories', 'general news stories', 'science and technology stories', 'nature and environment stories' that focussed on almost every aspect of life.

The photographs left immense effect on the stream of visitors who wrote down their thoughtful comments on the comment book. The award winning photographs are available in print in the form of World Press Photo-Year Book 2002 for Tk 1400.

As a souvenir, other photographs are also available in the form of cards with prices ranging between Tk 10 to 20.

The exhibition will remain open from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm daily until December 12.

Haroon new envoy to Finland

BSS, Dhaka

Mohammad-al-Haroon, Ambassador of Bangladesh in Sweden concurrently accredited to Finland, presented his credentials to the President of Finland Mrs Rajja Kaarina Halonen at her official residence in Helsinki recently.

While presenting the credentials, he conveyed to the President the warmest greetings of the President and Prime Minister of Bangladesh, press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said here yesterday.

Reciprocating the sentiment, the President of Finland enquired about the problem of arsenic in drinking water in Bangladesh. She wished him success in his assignment in strengthening the bilateral ties between the two countries.

City AL meeting today

UNB, Dhaka

An emergency extended meeting of Dhaka city Awami League will be held at the party office today.

All party leaders, including presidents and general secretaries of all thana, ward and union units, have been asked to join the meeting, said a press release.

Change in election system to university bodies suggested

BSS, Dhaka

The present election system to different administrative offices of universities requires change to uphold the desired educational atmosphere, and expert committee of education ministry recommended.

It said as experience shows that after 30 years of independence the system of election in some cases demands consideration, particularly in the practices of electing the vice-chancellor, syndicate members and deans. Appropriate decisions should be taken through consultations between authorities and the teacher community to amend the relevant provisions of the 1973 Order.

The report prepared by the committee constituted with the leading academicians to suggest reforms that requires immediate implementation pointed out that the way teachers are indulging in institutional and national politics is adversely affecting academic affairs in various ways.

It said the 1973 Order for the universities provides for teachers direct participation in electing the senate, syndicate, vice-chancellor, deans, academic council, finance

committee and so forth. Moreover, teachers are now actively involved in national politics, a situation which is not desirable. The division and polarisation among teachers is being sharpened by their participation in the internal election process and external politics.

However, the report said there is no gainsaying that teachers should be politically aware and guide the nation in the right political direction but their direct involvement and participation in party politics is undesirable.

The committee observed that at present, in some of the universities the 1961 Ordinance introduced way back in the Pakistan period is in force. Some universities are run by the 1973 Order, and there are still some others, which follow laws promulgated after 1975. There are significant differences between the universities in some fundamental issues like the appointment of the vice-chancellor, formation of syndicate, senate, academic council, finance committee and so forth.

Iraqi envoy meets Speaker

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh always believes in religious coexistence and is playing a leading role in maintaining peace and friendly relations with all countries, said Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar.

'Bangladesh also believes that the Muslim Ummah will try to maintain world peace by extending cooperation,' Sircar said when Iraqi Ambassador to Bangladesh Adnan Mahmood Hatab Sultan met him at his Sangsad Bhavan office yesterday, said a Parliament Secretariat press release.

SINGER 3RD INTERIM DIVIDEND FOR 2002 AND BOOK CLOSURE. This is for information that the Board of Directors of Singer Bangladesh Limited in its 119th Board Meeting held on November 25, 2002 at 11:00 a.m. has declared 3rd Interim Dividend for 2002 as follows:

4 die in city incidents

BSS, Dhaka

Four persons including a minor boy were killed in separate incidents here on Sunday, police and hospital sources said.

Mohammad Rafiq, a battle leaf shop owner, was chopped to death by a group of miscreants at Tejgaon Station Road on Sunday evening.

Victim's brother Dulal alleged that the miscreants chopped him to death as he refused to pay them toll. They also looted Tk 8,000 after killing him on the spot.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Jalal Uddin, a mid-aged man committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling of bathroom at his 125, Green Road residence here in the afternoon the

same day.

The victim was identified as the son of Mohammad Yasin of the area. Police said family feud might be the cause of suicide. Police recovered the body and sent it to DMCH for autopsy.

In another incident, Mohsin, a minor boy was killed in a gas cylinder explosion at a place adjacent to the West Gargaon Water Tank under Kafrul Police station here on Sunday.

The incident took place while the owner of cylinder was trying to sell balloons to the children. Balloon seller Alim was also seriously injured.

The boy was identified as Mohsin, 8. And the body was sent to DMCH for autopsy. The balloon seller was also admitted to DMCH in a critical condition.

A young man Farhad, who was seriously injured in an accident at the Nakhapara rail gate on Saturday night, succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on Sunday.

He was injured seriously when a running train knocked him down Saturday night while crossing the road. He was taken to DMCH where he died Sunday morning.

Four separate cases were lodged with respective police stations in these connections.

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Prof Nawabali Trust Fund formed at DU

Dhaka University (DU) authorities have constituted a new trust fund after the name of late Prof Nawabali Ahmed.

According to a DU press release, a cheque for Tk one lakh was handed over yesterday to DU Vice-chancellor Prof S M A Faiz to establish 'Prof Nawabali Ahmed, FICS Memorial Trust Fund'.

Dr Nasima Ferdus, professor of the Department of Physics of the DU and daughter of the late physician handed over the cheque.

From the income of the trust fund, a student securing the highest marks in surgery in the MBBS final examination from Dhaka Medical College will be awarded gold medal every year.

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