

Tk 169 cr Kuwaiti loan for three bridges

UNB, Dhaka

Kuwait will provide a loan amounting to US \$ 28 million (approximately Tk 169 crore) to finance three bridge projects in Bangladesh.

The projects are Third Buriganga Bridge, Second Sitakohya Bridge and Teesta Bridge.

An agreement was signed between the two countries to this effect yesterday after the arrival of a delegation from Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) on a two-day visit to Bangladesh.

KFAED Deputy Director General Abdul Wahab Al-Bader, leader of the Kuwait Fund delegation, and Economic Relations Division Secretary Mirza

Tasadduq Hussain Beg signed the agreement.

Ambassador of Kuwait Abdullah Masoud Abdullah was present at the signing ceremony.

The bridges are expected to bring about socio-economic prosperity of the people, said a press release.

It said the bridges would help ease the traffic pressure on the capital and facilitate movement and transportation of people and goods to and from the city greatly, reducing the time and distance.

Besides promoting and facilitating internal trade and commerce, the projects would also promote external trade with the neighbouring countries of India, Nepal and Bhutan, contributing to the economic growth of Bangladesh, the release added.

The delegation also discussed possible funding for a number of other feasible projects in health, power generation and transmission, as well as setting up of technical institutes, research centre, bridge and rail communication.

The Kuwait Fund has so far provided US \$ 336.36 million to Bangladesh to finance 17 projects. With the signing of the new loan agreement, the total number of projects will stand at 20.

The Kuwait Fund has been contributing to three major sectors - power development and rural electrification, road communication and transport, and agriculture.

Besides, it financed the feasibility study of six other bridges across the country and flyover in Dhaka amounting to US \$ 1.04 million.

Plant seller shot, 2 stabbed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A plant seller was shot and a vegetable vendor and a youth were stabbed in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Hoodlums shot and injured the plant seller at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

Ashraf Ali Mithu, 19, was taking tea on the footpath close to his nursery near the Abahani cricket ground when four hoodlums came running and sprayed bullets on him.

Mithu, with four bullets in his hands and legs, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after the gang fled away. The reason for the attack could not be known immediately.

Dhanmondi police could not say anything about the incident.

The vegetable vendor was

stabbed by a gang of extortionists at Rampura in the city as he refused to pay toll.

Four extortionists, led by one Abul, stabbed Humayun Kabir, 32, at Ulan kitchen market at around 9:00am.

Kabir was rushed to the DMCH with injuries in his head and back.

He said Abul and his accomplices demanded Tk 5,000 from him nearly a month ago but he did not pay.

In another incident, muggers stabbed a youth at Khilgaon level crossing area.

The muggers stabbed Joinal Abedin, 21, in his hand and snatched his gold chain when he was going home at Malibagh Baganbari on foot at around 4:00pm.

He is now undergoing treatment at the DMCH.

SK+F- PROTHOM ALO DEBATE

Second round today

CU CORRESPONDENT

On the second day of the 2nd SK+F-Prothom Alo inter-medical college debate competition at the Chittagong Medical College auditorium (CMC) yesterday, Syheta M A G Osmani Medical College, Rangpur Medical College, Sir Salimullah Medical College and "A" team of CMC emerged champion in the first round.

Jamshed Sobhan Symon, Md Aminul Islam, Tarequl Islam and Saif Ahmed were adjudged as the best debaters.

Prof. Mahbulul Haque of Chittagong University, Dr. Laila Zaman, Md Hasan Imam of Chittagong College, and Dr. Nazimunnahar of CMC were the judges at the four sessions.

The second round of the competition will be held at the same venue today.

A total of 16 government and non-government medical colleges are taking part in the competition that began on Monday.

These are CMC group "A" and "B", Sir Salimullah Medical College, Mymensingh Medical College, Syheta MAG Osmani Medical College, Khulna Medical College, Rajshahi Medical College, Rangpur Medical College, Dinajpur Medical College, Comilla Medical College, University of Science and Technology, North East Medical College, Bangladesh Medical College, BGC Trust Medical College, Rakib Rabeya Medical College and Sher-e-Bangla Medical College.

Quadrat-I-Khuda scholarship introduced at DU

BSS, Dhaka

Quadrat-I-Khuda Memorial Scholarship has been introduced at Dhaka University in memory of eminent scientist Dr Quadrat-I-Khuda.

His son and Chairman of Quadrat-I-Khuda Foundation Dr M Manzur-I-Khuda handed over a cheque for Tk four lakh to Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz at his office yesterday.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, Treasurer Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan, Dean of Science Faculty Prof RIM Aminur Rashid, Dean of Social Science Faculty Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Dean of Law Faculty Prof Naima Haque, Prof Khondkar Nizamuddin and Acting Registrar Anwar Hossain were present.

Out of the income of this fund every year, one meritorious student, who will secure the highest marks in Honours final examination among all departments of Science, Biological Science, Pharmacy, Arts, Social Science and Law faculties of Dhaka University, will be awarded Tk 2,000 per month as scholarship for 12 months of his/her postgraduate studies.

The scholarship programme will be effective from this year and in this regard the donor has handed over an extra cheque for Tk 24,000 to the vice-chancellor, the release said.

Prof. Faiz thanked the donor for the donation to set up the scholarship programme at the university.

Four houses gutted in Chandpur

UNB, Chandpur

Four houses were gutted in a fire at Torpur Chandi village in Sadar upazila on Monday.

Witnesses said an electrical short circuit sparked off the blaze at around 3:30pm, causing an estimated loss of Tk 4 lakh.

At least seven people suffered burns when they tried to extinguish the fire.

The fire fighter brought the blaze under control with the help of the local people.



Newly elected members of Bangladesh Public Relations Association called on Information Minister Tariqul Islam at secretariat yesterday.

Cigarettes, nets worth Tk 87 lakh seized

UNB, Dhaka

Members of the Coastguard in separate raids seized 90,900-metre current nets and 70 other illegal nets worth Tk 20.21 lakh from different coastal areas in last three days.

The nets were seized from coastal areas of Char Fatra, Sowdagapara, Goitala, Laskarpara, Newpara, Khepupara, Mohipur, Fulbunia, Kolapara, Charkechikata, Satnal, Gozaria, Kaliarchar, Katakhal, Char Bharabi, Teigachia, Agunmukho, Patua, Golachipa and other adjoining areas.

The seized nets were burnt in front of local people and fisheries officials.

The Coast Guard members of east zone raided the Reajuddin market and New Market in Chittagong and seized foreign

Ministerial-level seminar begins in Montreal today

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafurul Islam Chowdhury left here for Canada Monday night to attend a seminar on 'Extra Ordinary Meeting of the 15th meeting of the Parties to Montreal Protocol'.

The three-day ministerial-level seminar, beginning today in Montreal, is expected to take important decisions on reducing the use of methyl bromide and invention of its alternative.

The state minister is leading a two-member delegation to the seminar. He is expected to return home on April 5.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry over the country with chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind at one or two places over Rajshahi division and the region of Tangail, Mymensingh and Sylhet till 6pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 39.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and the lowest 21.8 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6.11 pm today and rises at 5:58 am tomorrow. 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
Dhaka	34.6	25.4	72	63
Chittagong	31.2	24.0	69	76
Rajshahi	39.6	25.5	77	41
Khulna	34.0	25.5	79	--
Bharisal	32.5	25.2	78	68
Sylhet	33.0	25.0	75	61
Cox's Bazar	31.8	24.4	70	74



Chashi Nazrul Islam, convener of the Chalachitra Shwartha Sangrakkhan Parishad, speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Politics gets priority in appointment of 289 RU staffs

It is so urgent that there is no time to give ad, says pro-vice chancellor

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Appointment Committee of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday prepared a list for recruiting 289 third and fourth class employees without any advertisement.

Sources said the appointments are being made on 'emergency basis' under political recommendations of the ruling alliance partners BNP and Jamaat.

The committee led by its Chairman and Pro-Vice-Chancellor K A M Shahadat Hossain Mondol met in an emergency meeting on Monday and yesterday to prepare a draft list of the appointees.

"We have prepared a draft list which will be published as soon as possible," said the chairman.

"The appointments were so urgent that we had no time to give advertisements," said Mondol denying the allegations that the

applicants are being recruited on the basis of political recommendations.

Meanwhile, in an apparent bid to force the authorities to comply with the recommendations, hundreds of outsiders belonging to Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir gathered in front of the offices of the VC and the Pro-VC during the last three days.

Teachers concerned discussed the issue with local BNP and Jamaat leaders who also pressured them to follow their recommendations.

Additional police have been deployed in front of the administrative building to avert any untoward incident.

Earlier the authorities decided to recruit 136 third and 153 fourth class employees to meet the immediate requirements of many departments, offices and halls of the university.

JU admission test schedule published

JU CORRESPONDENT

The schedule of admission tests for first year honours courses in Jahangirnagar University (JU) under 2003-04 academic session was published yesterday.

According to the schedule, the admission tests will be held from April 17 to 26.

Admission tests for the departments under Ka unit (Science faculty) will begin on April 17 and the tests for electronics and computer science, mathematics and physics departments will be held on the same day. The tests for environmental science, geological science, statistics and chemistry departments will be held on the next day.

Admission tests for the departments under Gha unit (Life science faculty) will begin on April 19 and the tests for botany and zoology departments will be held on the same day. The tests for biochemistry and molecular science and pharmacy departments will be held on April 20.

Admission tests for the departments under Kha unit (Social science faculty) will begin on April 21 and the tests for urban and regional planning and economics will be held on the same day. The tests for business administration and anthropology will be held on the following day. Geography and environment and government and politics departments will be held on April 24.

Admission tests for the departments under Ga unit (Arts faculty) will begin on April 25 and the tests for drama and dramatics depart-

ment, English, history and Bangla departments will be held on the same day. The tests for archaeology, philosophy, and international relations departments will be held on the following day.

Admission tests will be held in four shifts from 9:30am to 5:00pm everyday according to the roll no of the admission seekers.

All classes and examinations will remain suspended during the admission tests. Results of the tests will be published on daily newspapers.

Jubo League discussion today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami Jubo League, youth front of the opposition Awami League, will hold a discussion at Muktangan in the city at 2:30pm today to mark the Independence Day.

Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud, president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, will attend the programme as chief guest. Awami League leaders Obaidul Kader, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan and Abdur Rahman will take part in the discussion.

Leaders of different progressive and pro-liberation organisations will also join.

Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanak will preside over the discussion.

DHAKA TODAY

Children's art competition

Nazrul Institute organises an art competition for the children as part of its programme to celebrate the Independence and National Day. Venue: House-330/B, Road-28 (Old), Dhanmondi. Time: 10.00am.

Nazrul Fair

The inaugural ceremony of a three-day Nazrul Fair and Folk Festival, organised by Nazrul Academy to celebrate the Independence Day, will be held with Food Minister Abdullah Al-Noman as chief guest. Venue: Academy premises, Moghobazar. Time: 5.00pm. The fair will remain open from 4.00pm to 9.00pm daily.

European film session

Jahangirnagar Film Society, in association with Goethe Institut, organises a European film session. Under the programme, two films titled 'Happy Birthday Turkey' and 'The Man Without a Past' will be screened. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm and 5.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a British film titled 'Diamonds Are Forever' (1971). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Prize giving ceremony

The prize giving ceremony of Sony-Rangs-Prothom Alo Winter Festival Chamak Part-2 Raffle Draw will be held. Venue: Sonarjori Tower, Sonargaon Road. Time: 3.30pm.

Roundtable

A roundtable on 'What type of school we want', organised by Sushikha Andolon, will be held. Venue: CIRADP auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 10.00am.

Jatiyatabadi Peshajibi Parishad discussion

Jatiyatabadi Peshajibi Parishad organises a discussion in observance of the Independence Day with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.30pm.

BNP meeting

A meeting of Dhaka City unit of BNP will be held with Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: 80, Naya Paltan. Time: 7.00pm.

AL meeting

An extended meeting of Dhaka City unit of Awami League (AL) will be held. Venue: 23, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 11.00am.

BJP discussion

Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) organises a discussion in observance of the Independence Day with party Chairman M Nazir Rahman as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

BUBT seminar

Bangladesh University of Business and

Technology (BUBT) organises a seminar on 'Higher Education in America'. Venue: Dhaka Commerce College Campus, Mirpur. Time: 10.00am.

Jatra

Liberation War Museum will stage a jatra titled 'Swadhin Sultan Ilyas Shah' by Desh Opera as part of its programme to celebrate the Independence Day. Venue: Cafe theatre of the museum, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6.30pm.

Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal discussion

In observance of Independence and National Day, Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal will hold a discussion with Information Minister Tariqul Islam as chief guest. Venue: BARC auditorium, Farmgate. Time: 4.00pm.

BMBS seminar

Bangladesh Manobadhikar Bastabayan Sangstha (BMBS) organises a seminar on the freedom of journalists in the light of the constitution with former chief justice Habibur Rahman Khan as chief guest. Venue: 153, Monipuripara, Farmgate. Time: 3.00pm.

Chattagram Samity meeting

A meeting of the executive committee of Chattagram Samity, Dhaka will be held. Venue: 32, Topkhana Road. Time: 6.00pm.

Painting exhibition

The opening ceremony of a two-day exhibition of paintings by Tapash Shikder and Nila, organised by International University of Business, Agriculture and Technology, will be held. Venue: University campus, Dhanmondi.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Shishu Academy programme

In observance of Independence and National Day, Bangladesh Shishu Academy organises a discussion, prize distribution and cultural function with Women and Children's Affairs Minister Begum Khurshid Jahan as chief guest. Venue: Academy premises. Time: 4.00pm.

Proshika reception

On the occasion of the Independence Day, Proshika will accord a reception to 12 women freedom fighters with Professor Khan Sarwar Murshid, chairman of Transparency International, Bangladesh, as chief guest. Venue: Auditorium of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh. Time: 10.00am.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an Indian film titled 'Munna Bhai M.B.B.S.' (2003), and two American films titled 'Scarface' (1983) and 'Kids' (1995). Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm, 6.30pm and 8.30pm.