

Unite nations to face critical challenges

Hasina urges Asian lawmakers

UNB, Dhaka
Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the Asian parliamentarians to launch joint efforts in uniting the nations to overcome the critical challenges like poverty, terrorism, human rights violations and environmental degradations in the continent.

Hasina, also president of the Awami League (AL) made the remarks while exchanging views with the delegations of Asian parliamentarians during her visit to European Parliament at Strasbourg in France.

Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand. Awami League presidium members Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP, International Affairs Secretary Syed Abul Hossain MP, Forest and Environment Secretary Mahmud Hassan and former ambassador Mohammad Ziauddin were also present.

AAPP is to strive and attain peace all over the Asia. "I think Asian parliamentarians can play a pivotal role in achieving the objectives of the AAPP," she said, adding that the parliamentarians of Asia should come up with coordinated approach to work for establishing peace in Asia as well as overcoming the malaise affecting the Asian continent.

Names of 10 living greatest Bangalees announced

BDNEWS, Dhaka

New York branch of 'Muktadhara', a renowned publisher, announced the names of the greatest ten living Bangalees selected through a worldwide e-survey on Tuesday.

All of them are well established in their respective fields and have become living legends. Dr Anisuzzaman and poet Samarendra Sengupta of West Bengal announced the names of the ten greatest Bangalees at a ceremony at Hotel Dhaka Sheraton in the city.

The ten greatest Bangalees are Amartya Sen, Jafar Iqbal, Dr Muhammad Yunus, Ravi Shankar, Saurav Ganguly, Sunil Ganguly, Sheikh Hasina, Khaleda Zia, Dr Kamal Hossain and Humayun Ahmed.

The survey was conducted from December 1 last year to May 31. Expatriate Bangalees from 38 countries took part in the survey by logging on to www.greatestbangali.com.

The selected greatest Bangalees will be given a reception at Manhattan Centre of New York on August 28.



Sammita Aijnibi Samannaya Parishad forms a human chain on the High Court premises in the city yesterday to realise its three-point demand.

Govt firm to improve condition of child workers: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said the government is committed to improve the condition of child workers and protect their rights by withdrawing them from hazardous jobs.

by the government for rehabilitation of the working children," she said replying Manzur Qader (BNP-Pabna) during the question-answer session in the Jatiya Sangsad.

withdraw 10,000 child workers from the risky jobs. Under the project, she said non-formal education and training were given for their rehabilitation.

Infrastructural facilities a must for sustainable tourism

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adequate infrastructural facilities are a must to develop a sustainable tourism industry which in turn can help alleviate poverty, said the speakers at the inaugural session of a seminar yesterday.

programmes for the development of sustainable tourism that include awareness building, involvement of local community and participation of private sector.

KALURGHAT BRIDGE OPENS Third Karnaphuli bridge work to begin by Jan: Huda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The work on much desired third bridge over the Karnaphuli will begin by January next with the financial assistance from Kuwaiti Fund and it will be a cable-stayed bridge.

Communication Minister Nazmul Huda said this while inaugurating the renovated Kalurghat rail-road bridge in the port city yesterday.

The minister said the primary design of the third bridge has already been completed.

Construction of the bridge will not pose any threat of siltation in the river, he said, adding that the construction involves over Tk 500 crore.

The government has also a plan to build another bridge beside the Kalurghat bridge at a cost of Tk 150 crore involving the private sector, the minister said.

Nazmul Huda said that heavy vehicles such as trucks and large buses will not be allowed to use the Kalurghat bridge.

The ferry service which was earlier introduced as an alternative to the bridge would continue for the heavy vehicles, he added.

Bangladesh Railway Director General AFH Mostafizur Rahman, Acting General Manager (Railway-east) Mokhlesar Rahman and Chief Engineer Habib Ahmed attended the inaugural ceremony.

Tommy Miah's Kitchen launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Master chef Tommy Miah is one of those great talents the Bangladeshis can be proud of, said Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal at a book launching ceremony in the city yesterday.

"Tommy Miah's Kitchen", the first Bangla cookbook by the Bangladeshi-born chef and UK-based entrepreneur, was launched at his restaurant Heritage at Gulshan.

Dr Zafar Iqbal, a popular novelist, said Tommy enhanced the image of the country abroad with his extraordinary cooking talent.

Highly appreciating Tommy's commitment to the country, he hoped that many will follow his example.

"Tommy Miah's Kitchen" is the sixth book of recipes by the master chef. His other books are written in English and endorsed by the British Airways, Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, and Queen Elizabeth II.

"Cooking is an art and Tommy has again proved it. He also proved that Bangladesh has many great talents to be proud of," said novelist Imdadul Haque Milon.

Speaking on the occasion, Tommy Miah said he aspires to introduce Bangladeshi foods across the world.

Farid Ahmed of Somoy Prakashan, publisher of the book, said the writer's share of the earning from the book will be donated to Shishupali Plus, an orphanage and rehabilitation centre for destitute children at Sripur, Gazipur.

Siddika Kabir, a cooking expert, Anisul Huq, joint editor of the Prothom Alo, Golam Murtoza, executive editor of Saptahik 2000, and Pat Kerr, founder of

Proshika staff's body retrieved from hostel run by Shibir cadres

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Police retrieved a decomposed body from a student hostel run by the cadres of Islami Chharta Shibir in Lalmonirhat town yesterday.

He was identified as Samsul Islam, 40, an assistant manager of Aditbari upazila unit of Proshika, a non-government organisation.

Breaking the door open, police entered the room and recovered the body which bore several injury marks.

Police suspected that the victim was murdered two days ago.

Locals informed the police after smelling bad odour coming from the room in the early morning.

Police arrested Peyari Begum, 40, maidservant of the hostel, and Karim Hawlader, 45, deputy director of Rural Development Board of Lalmonirhat in this connection.

They are also hunting for Shibir cadres.



Ruling four-party alliance candidate Khairul Kabir Khokon along with supporters and activists visits different polling centres at Madhabdi during the Narsingdi-1 by-elections yesterday.

9 killed, 113 injured in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least nine people were killed and 113 injured in separate road accidents in Chittagong, Comilla, Gazipur and Khulna yesterday.

Our STAFF CORRESPONDENT from Chittagong adds, two people were killed and 13 others injured in three separate road accidents in the district and city.

A truck rammed a grocery shop as driver Mukhtar lost his control over steering at Sitakunda Sadar Bazar at around 5.30am yesterday killing him on the scene and injuring the shop owner Abul Kalam, who was in sleep.

In another accident yesterday, at least 12 passengers were injured when two city service buses collided in front of Chittagong Port's jetty no-5. Local people rushed five seriously injured to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Police said one Shankar Saha, 50, of village Jafraabad, was run over by a speeding bus at 11.30pm on Tuesday at Boro Darogharhat in Sitakunda upazila. He died on the spot.

UNB from Comilla reports that four people were killed and 50 others injured in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday.

Police said three passengers

were killed and 30 others injured when a Feni-bound bus fell into a roadside ditch as the driver tried to overtake a pickup van at Kotbari in Sadar upazila at about 2.45pm.

The victims identified as Shyamol Bihari Sen, 35, of Noakhali, Amanullah, 35, of Feni, Abu Taher, 38, of Comilla were travelling in the bus.

Another accident occurred near Suaganj Bazar in Sadar South upazila at about 3:00pm when two passenger buses collided, leaving one passenger dead and 20 others injured. Identity of the victims could not be known immediately.

The injured of both the accidents were rushed to Comilla Medical College Hospital.

BDNEWS from Gazipur says, at least three people were killed and 25 others injured when a bus skidded off Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Gazipur Sadar upazila yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at Hotapara as the driver of a Mukti Paribahan bus lost control over the steering at noon, killing the three unidentified passengers on the spot.

Of the injured 12 were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and the remaining were treated at Gazipur Sadar Hospital.

UNB from Khulna adds, 25 people were injured in a road

accident in Khulna yesterday in the morning.

Sources said the accident took place in front of the Afil Jute Mill under Fultala Upazila when a Kuchhia bound bus plunged into a roadside ditch while giving side to another bus which was trying to overtake it.

Local people rescued the victims and 10 were admitted to the Khulna Medical college Hospital.

The driver of the bus fled the scene and Fultala Thana police seized the bus.

Policy to ensure allocation, use of network frequency soon

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A draft of frequency allocation plan (NFAP) and spectrum policy has been prepared aiming at ensuring proper allocation and use of country's network frequency.

This was disclosed yesterday at a workshop organised by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regularity Commission (BTRC) prior to finalise the plan at the Cirdap auditorium.

More than 100 representatives from concerned spectrum stakeholders and top frequency users, including mobile and land phone operators; radio, armed forces division and national security divisions participated in the workshop.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Barrister Aminul Huque in his speech at the inaugural session as chief guest said with the advancement of information technology in the digitalisation era, the number of frequency users is also growing fast in the country.

He said that without a plan, it would be difficult to meet the requirement of frequency space of the new users.

The country will ensure the best use of frequency with the plan like other countries, who facilitate the largest number of users with the same range of resource, he added.

BTRC vice chairman AM Rezae-Rabbi presided.

With the assistance of the World Bank, the BTRC along with experts from Interconnect Communication, a UK-based IT consultant firm, has been working in this connection for the six months.

BTRC Commissioner Justice Abdus Salam spoke at the working session.

College student shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown hoodlums shot and injured a college student in the city yesterday.

Reaz Uddin Shahin, 18, an HSC examinee of Tejgaon College, went out of his Rampura residence at 11:30am when a gang of four sprayed bullets on him in front of a slum at Ulan, said his elder brother Faisal Uddin.

The armed group then fled the scene, he added.

Reaz, with two bullet-wounds in the left leg, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), and later shifted to Orthopaedic Hospital.

Khilgaon police admitted the incident, but could not give any details.

Obituary



AM Ashraf, managing director of Universal Traders Ltd., passed away due to a massive cardiac arrest on June 21 at the age of 55, says a

press release.

He is survived by his father, mother, wife, one daughter and three sons.

A milad mahfil will be held at House # 330/E, Road # 28, Dhanmondi after Asr prayers on Friday.

Engineer Md Mosharraf Ali



Engineer Md Mosharraf Ali, a retired commissioner of Water Development Board, passed away on Tuesday at the age of 90, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, sons, daughters and grandchildren. Renowned cardiologist Prof Dr Mahabub Ali is his eldest son.

Mosharraf Ali was buried at his family graveyard at Manpasha in Barisal.

His qulkhwan will be held at his residence at House # 13, Road # 103, Gulshan-2, in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Relatives, friends, and well-wishers are requested to attend the qulkhwan.

Md Sirajul Islam

Md Sirajul Islam, a retired divisional signal and telecommunication engineer of Bangladesh Railway, passed away due to old-age complications on Tuesday at the age of 85, says a press release.

He is survived by two sons, one daughter and grandchildren.

His qulkhwan will be held at Eskaton Garden government colony Jame Mosque after Asr prayers on Friday.

Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of Madhu Sengupta, proprietor of New Agency in Chittagong, says a press release.

A social worker, Madhu died at a hospital in Kolkata last year at the age of 42.

On the occasion, different religious programmes will be held on Kaibalyadham premises at Pahartali, Chittagong, on July 11.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programme.



Akhand takes over as BTTB chairman

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Engineer Abdul Maleque Akhand, member of BCS (Telecom) Cadre, took over as chairman of Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) yesterday.

Earlier, the government appointed him chairman of BTTB, replacing Engineer Nurul Islam, who has been made OSD in the establishment ministry.

Akhand said that he would work with dedication for its betterment by increasing country's tele-density and fulfilling the vast demand of the customers as well as users.

The immediate implementation of the submarine cable project and the digitalisation of telecom exchange across the country would be his major priority areas.

Govt to set up Barisal, Sylhet Unnayan Kartipakkha

BSS, Dhaka

The government has decided to set up Barisal and Sylhet City Corporation Unnayan Kartipakkhas (development authorities).

The decision was taken at a meeting at LGRD ministry with LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Post and Telecommunication Minister Aminul Haque, Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, State Minister for Land Ukil Abdus Sattar, Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizarun Rahman Minu and secretary to local government division AHM Abul Kashem attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed the existing relations between the city corporations and the Unnayan Kartipakkha. It also laid emphasis on strengthening the city corporations and the Unnayan Kartipakkhas and building them as the complementary organisations for each other.

Bhuiyan called upon the authorities concerned of all Unnayan Kartipakkha to put emphasis on town planning.

Currently, there are four separate Unnayan Kartipakkhas in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna City Corporations.

WEATHER TODAY. No change in temperature likely. UNB, Dhaka. Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions till 6:00pm today.