



German envoy leaves today with new posting in Myanmar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

German Ambassador in Bangladesh Dietrich Andreas leaves Dhaka today for Myanmar to take up his new posting there.

During his four years' tenure in Dhaka, the envoy played an active role in the donor-initiated development endeavours for Bangladesh.

Prior to his departure, the outgoing ambassador made a farewell call on President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and other important ministers.

Besides, he also met the members of the civil society and a host of well-wishers.

During his meeting with the government leaders, the German envoy lauded the remarkable progress achieved by the people and the government, and predicted a bright future for the country.

He also appreciated the people of Bangladesh as hardworking, intelligent and friendly and said they achieved democratic maturity because of the steps taken by the government for the expansion and improvement of education.

Born in 1943, Ambassador Dietrich Andreas joined the German foreign service in 1972.

Child trafficker handed 30yr imprisonment

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man to 30 years rigorous imprisonment for kidnapping two children for trafficking in January 1999.

Judge Monowara Begum of the Second Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression handed down the verdict in the presence of the convict, Abdul Jalil.

Abdul Jalil kidnapped the two victims --- Sharmin, 5, daughter of Mohammad Shahjahan Fakir, and Sultana, 4, daughter of Habib, residents of Gulshan Sattala Basti (Slum) in the city - on January 10, 1999 in front of their residence while they were playing.

Later, Gulshan police rescued the victims from Neketon Project and arrested Jalil the same day after Shahjahan Fakir filed an abduction case.

DEBATE FESTIVAL DUDS, GoD in final

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Debating Society-1 (DUDS) and Group of Debaters (GoD) yesterday reached the final of the Third Holy Cross-Coca-Cola and The Daily Star Debate Festival 2005 that began in the capital on Friday.

In the semifinal held at Holy Cross College in Dhaka, DUDS defeated the North South University (NSU) Debating Society while GoD got walkover against Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BuEt) Debating Society.

Asif Newaz of NSU has been adjudged the best debater in the semifinals of the parliamentary debate on the conflicts between Palestine and Israel and between the Tamils and the Sinhales in Sri Lanka.

A Barowari (open) Debate was also held yesterday participated by Sarjit Baral and Asif Newaz of NSU, Abir Kusum Pal of GoD, Zakir Hossain of Jagannath College University, Tusher of Notre Dame College and Ayesha Arjumand of Holy Cross College.

The results of the open debate will be announced on the final day of the festival to be held on August 12 at the LGED Auditorium. The theme of the festival is 'May the global conflict be resolved through exercise of logic'.

Shikhti Sunny, president of Holy Cross Debating Club, said, the objective of selecting the international issues for the debate festival is to build up the capacity of the young students, because solution of any conflict lies in the comprehensive understandings of the problem.

"We want that the students in their young age critically analyse the international conflicts and contribute to establishing peace through scientific knowledge," she added.

A total of 13 debating clubs of different colleges and universities took part in the first round of the festival.

PM asks new secretaries to work with sincerity

Bss, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the secretaries to perform their duty with sincerity, dedication and commitment.

She also asked them to attach utmost importance to priority sectors while utilising the resources, time and land.

She was speaking to the newly promoted secretaries of the government who called on her at her office.

Khaleda asked them to discharge their duties in accordance with the rules and regulations by remaining above fear and pressure.

She advised them to give top priority to development goals and interests of the country to achieve

greater welfare of the people. She urged them to discharge their responsibilities entrusted with them to attain self-reliance in all spheres of national life.

"I am in politics and enjoy the political confidence of the people" Khaleda said, adding: She has been elected Prime Minister by the people and hence she has nothing more to expect.

Similarly, she said, the secretaries of the government have also reached the highest administrative positions. "Let us work together to improve the lot of the people and ensure welfare for them", she added.

She asked them to fix up their respective work lists and take up

development projects at the beginning of the year and work with dedication to complete them on time to help people reap the benefits.

Khaleda also asked them to work for turning the huge population into workforce and to stop corruption.

The new secretaries at the meeting have expressed their gratitude to her for promoting them on the basis of merit, skill, qualification and experience.

She directed them not to keep today's work pending for tomorrow to stop wastage of time.

She asked them to contact the PMO if necessary for performing their responsibilities properly.



The newly promoted secretaries present a bouquet to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

'53pc consumers aware of their rights'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only 53 percent of consumers of Dhaka Metropolitan City are conscious about their rights and it is worse in the district sadar, according to a survey report published yesterday by the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB).

The survey was conducted in April-May this year on 2542 consumers in Dhaka and 15 other districts, says a press release.

At its conference hall, it is published that 44 to 50 percent of consumers check the price of commodities.

Only 35 percent of consumers return adulterated, inferior or impure food to the market, and none of them take legal steps against it. Both the consumers of the capital and district sadar found the government's role most important to control impure and adulterated food.

Consumers who buy food by looking at the BSTI seal or examining the label total only 51-59 percent in Dhaka and 36-43 percent in district sadars, the report said.

All consumers more or less have now come to know about toxic colours and chemicals in vegetables and

fruits.

Dr. Yusuf Harun of Dhaka University presented the survey report at the CAB Conference Hall.

Among others, General Secretary of CAB, Kazi Farook, Dr. SM Imamul Haque, Emdad Hossain and Kazi Fazlul Haque of CAB also spoke.

NEWTON MURDER Accused Jubo Dal leader held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

An accused in Dhaka City Corporation Ward Commissioner Saidur Rahman Newton Murder Case was arrested from Ghior in Manikganj on Friday.

A team of Rab-4 arrested Ripon Khan, a leader of district Jubo Dal, from a shop at Toratol plazza at about 12:00 noon.

Newton, a commissioner of Ward No 8, was killed by the assailants near Rapa Plaza in Dhanmondi on May 10, 2002.

A case was filed against 17 people including top listed criminals Kala Jahangir, Killer Abbas and Ripon Khan.

Four children rescued from traffickers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four children were rescued from alleged human traffickers in Gazipur district town Friday afternoon.

They are Pinky and Ruma, both aged about three, Bristi, aged about one, and Tania, aged about six years.

They were rescued from Dhir Ashram near Gazipur Railway Station. They had arrived at Gazipur by a train from Narsingdi and are believed to have been abandoned by the lone trafficker after locals challenged him.

A woman named Majeda asked about their whereabouts and later brought the children to the local pourashava ward commissioner's residence where they were kept and taken care of overnight.

The children were able to recall names of their parents. Bristi and Tania, belong to Gulzar while Pinky said her parents' names were Jiban and Salma. Ruma also recalled her parents' names as Liaquat and Fatema.

When contacted, the duty officer of Gazipur Police Station confirmed the incident.

Rapist cop on two-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators are yet to learn about the accomplices of the rapist policeman, arrested Friday for raping a teenager in a city hotel Thursday.

A Dhaka Court yesterday sent Nurul Islam, 32, Nayek of Riot Police on a two-day remand.

Meanwhile, the doctors at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), where the girl is undergoing treatment, performed forensic tests on her.

The 17-year-old victim yesterday told The Daily Star that Nurul raped her twice, confining her to a hotel at Farmgate with the support of a boy at the hotel.

The girl, hailing from Phulpur of Mymensingh, was robbed on the bus of Tk 600 and her clothes when she was coming to the capital Wednesday morning. Attempting to go to one of her sister's houses at Jessore, she missed the bus at Gabtoli and spent the night at the house of an elderly tea-stall owner.

The following day a bus driver proposed to her that she work at his house, but she refused. "When I was talking to the bus driver, two uniformed policemen heard our conversation and came to me," she said.

Nurul asked her to work at his house, saying his wife stays home alone and she needs company, she said. "As I did not agree, he told me that he would get me a job in a garment factory if I don't want to work at home," she added.

Then he hired a CNG-run auto-rickshaw and on the way he got off the vehicle and changed his clothes. Later, he took a bus to Farmgate and took the victim to a hotel.

"He kept me waiting in a room, saying his wife would come and serve me breakfast," the girl narrated, saying a hotel boy came to the room and locked the door.

"The policeman then raped me twice with the help of the boy," she kept saying. "When he was changing his clothes, I ran out of the hotel to the street and sought help from another policeman."

The policeman sent her to Mirpur police, who arrested Nurul from Rajarbagh Police Lines Friday after she filed a case Thursday night.

Mirpur police yesterday produced him before the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate with a seven-day remand prayer to learn about his accomplices.

The Duty officer of Mirpur Police Station told The Daily Star last evening that they have arrested Nurul after confirming the incident. "He admitted his crime and we are now trying to identify other 'civilians' involved in the crime," he added.

JEWEL MURDER Three arrestees admit their involvement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police and crime-busting Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested three of the six alleged killers of a young cricketer at Rupnagar in the city during an overnight raid yesterday.

Zahidur Rahman Jewel, a player of under-15 cricket team of Kalabagan Krira Chakra, was stabbed to death at Rupnagar in Pallabi on Wednesday.

The arrestees -- Shahjahan, Rezaul and Sanaullah -- finally admitted that Asif, a friend of Jewel, hired local goons for Tk 30,000 to kill jewel over a scuffle with him that took place around three months ago.

After their arrest, the law enforcers beat them up to extract information, but they did not give in. "When the Rab members lined them up, pointed firearms at them and threatened to kill in crossfire, they started narrating the details of the murder of Jewel and their involvement," said a police official seeking anonymity.

"Asif threatened to kill my brother following the scuffle that took place three months ago," Jewel's elder brother Yasir Arafat Rubel told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said Mehedi Hasan, son of a police Havildar of the locality, called Jewel out of their house at Road No.-9 at Rupnagar at about 4:30pm on Wednesday. The gang took him to a desolate place nearby and stabbed him to death.

Police retrieved the body the next morning and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue.

Rubel said police and Rab arrested the three from their houses in the locality early yesterday after he identified them as suspects. The detainees are accomplices of Mehedi.

Quoting the arrestees, police said all the six -- Mehedi, Asif, Litu, Shahjahan, Rezaul and Sanaullah -- were involved in the murder.

Son of Abdul Jabbar Morol, a freedom fighter and the cashier of Sonali Bank, Gazipur Branch, Jewel was due to sit for the upcoming Secondary School Certificate examination.

COMMON RIVERS

Regional approach a must to resolve water issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A regional approach to management of trans-boundary rivers is crucial to resolve the water issue between Bangladesh and its neighbouring countries, said the experts at a seminar yesterday.

"There must be a regional approach for water management of trans-boundary rivers to resolve the water crisis in Bangladesh as 92 percent of its river water comes from across the border," said Country Representative of IUCN (The World Conservation Union) Dr Ainun Nishat.

Regional approach is imperative both for dry and wet seasons, he said while making a keynote presentation at the seminar on 'Water Management in Bangladesh: Regional Issues and Concerns' organised by the Centre for Strategic and Peace Studies (CSPS) in the city.

Dr Nishat also stressed on efficient management of water resources on the basis of equity and environmental sustainability.

He said it is strange that Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) charter allows bilateral discussion on natural resources, but it does not include river and water resources.

Bangladesh does not have sufficient information on India's inter-river linking project, he said, adding, "Supply of water has to be regarded as a basic human right."

Regarding the Joint River Commission (JRC), Dr Nishat said



PHOTO: STAR

Former DG of Water Resources Planning Organisation Masroor-ul-Haq Siddiqui speaks at a seminar at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Dr Ainun Nishat, Major General (Retd) M Azizur Rahman, Commodore (Retd) MA Rahman and Quamrul Islam Siddique.

certain institutional rigidity both on the part of Bangladesh and India hinders its progress.

"Bangladesh's negotiation on water sharing of international rivers suffers from a serious imbalance in absence of an effective facilitator," said JRC Member Tauhidul Anwar Khan.

"India's river-linking project should not be treated as an ordinary bilateral issue because it has an international dimension," he said, adding, "Once the national interest is compromised, it will remain as a damaging precedence."

Around 40 million people in the north-western part of the country

have been the worst victims of river system destruction caused by the withdrawal of water by India, said Chairman of Bangladesh Water Partnership Quamrul Islam Siddique.

With former secretary and ambassador Muslehuddin Ahmad in the chair, the seminar was also addressed by former DG of Water Resources Planning Organisation Masroor-ul-Haq Siddiqui, Columnist Sadeq Khan, Dr Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University and Barrister AKH Morshed.

The seminar was moderated by CSPS Executive Director Major General (Retd) MAZizur Rahman.

66 pc of women murdered are victims of dowry

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixty-six percent of women murdered in the country this year are the victims of domestic violence mainly for failure to pay dowry, speakers said at a workshop in Dhaka yesterday.

Concerned Women for Family Development (CWFD) organised the advocacy workshop titled 'Role of Media Persons to Resist Domestic Violence' at the PIB seminar room.

Domestic violence is a worldwide problem as traditional beliefs and practices lead to such violence, the speakers said.

A total of 11,164 incidents of physical torture, murder, suicide, acid burn, fire burn and abandoning by husband took place this year whereas only 827 cases were filed in this connection, said Advocate Salma Ali of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association.

Domestic violence is the worst of all the violence against women, President of 'Women for Women' Dr Mahmuda Islam said while reading out the keynote paper.

She marked the major issues behind domestic violence as patriarchal attitudes, discriminatory laws, traditional practices, weakness in implementing the laws, lack of awareness of women's human rights and son preference depriving the girls.

The speakers suggested the role of media could be clearing perception of family violence, value of girl child, disseminating information about availability of services and generating confidence among women.

At the same time media could disseminate information about laws against violence and mobilise public

opinion on full ratification of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women.

Among others, Prof Hamida Akhtar Begum of Dhaka University, Farida Yeasmin of Bangladesh

30 injured in AL-BNP clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A clash between activists of ruling BNP and main opposition Awami League (AL) left at least 30 people injured in Kachua upazila in Bagerhat yesterday.

Police and eyewitnesses said violence erupted when a procession of the AL youth front, Jubo League, came under attack by BNP cadres at 10:30am.

Kachua unit Jubo League took out the procession on the occasion of its biennial conference scheduled for today on Durga Mandir ground.

Both the sides used sticks and brick chips during the chase and counter chase, which continued for over an hour causing panic among the people and paralysing normal life. At least 20 shops were looted and 12 vehicles damaged during the clash.

Witnesses said BNP cadres exploded four bombs to which police remained silent onlookers.

The attackers are cadres of Bagerhat district BNP President lawmaker MAH Selim, alleged AL district unit President Mozammel Hossain.

Four platoons of riot police have been deployed at major points on the road from Kachua to Bagerhat town to avert further violence.

The injured are receiving treatment at Kachua Upazila Health Complex and clinics in Bagerhat.

Legal Aid and Services Trust (Blast), journalist Mahmuda Chowdhury, Rokeya Sultana and Zahur Fatima of CWFD present as resource persons.

Some 20 journalists from print and electronic media took part in the workshop.

Obituary



M D Osman Ghani, a freedom fighter and a Bangladesh Bank official, died of cardiac arrest at the Birdem Hospital in the city early

yesterday at the age of 51, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest at the Mugda graveyard in the city with state honour after namaz-e-janaza on the Bangladesh Bank premises yesterday.

Abdul Malek BDNEWS, Dhaka

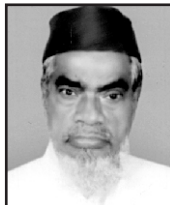
Abdul Malek, a senior worker of Proshika, passed away due to cardiac arrest at Suhrwardy Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 48.

He left behind his wife, two sons and two daughters.

He was buried at Tajmahal Road graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Proshika building at Mirpur and at Mohammadpur Jame Mosque.

Proshika President Kazi Faruq Ahmed condoled the death of Malek.

Abu Bakar Siddique



city on July 24 at the age of 90, says a press release.

He was buried at Banani graveyard on July 25.

He left behind his wife, five sons and four daughters.

Death anniversary



Today is the 27th death anniversary of Abul Quasem, former judge and president of Chittagong Bar Association, says a press release.

On the occasion, Abul Quasem Sub-Judge Smriti Sangsad will arrange a memorial meeting and a milad mahfil on Friday at 3:00pm at the Raozan-Rangunia Nizamuddin Public Hall auditorium in Chittagong.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme.

WEATHER TODAY

Moderately heavy falls likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Dhaka divisions and at many places over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are likely at places during the period, Met Office said. It said day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

Highest temperature 36.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 25.3 degree Celsius at Ishwardi.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:42pm today and rises at 5:28am 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	
Dhaka	32.8	27.0	69
Chittagong	31.2	26.0	81
Rajshahi	32.8	26.3	72
Khulna	32.5	26.6	78
Barisal	32.0	25.8	79
Sylhet	36.4	26.8	61

Khulna transport workers clash with Rab : 7 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and four transport workers were injured in a clash at a place near Khulna University yesterday.

Bus services on Khulna-Satkira and Khulna-Paigachha routes remained suspended till 1.00pm in protest against the alleged excess committed by Rab members.

According to police and eyewitnesses, the clash took place after four drivers of passenger buses plying on Khulna-Paigachha route were beaten by Rab for overloading and not keeping necessary documents required for plying on the road.

The drivers and helpers of all buses at Sonadanga terminal became agitated and went on strike.

They also hurled stones at a pick-up van carrying some Rab personnel at 12.00 noon.

The situation was brought under control following a meeting between Rab officers and Motor Sramik Union leaders.

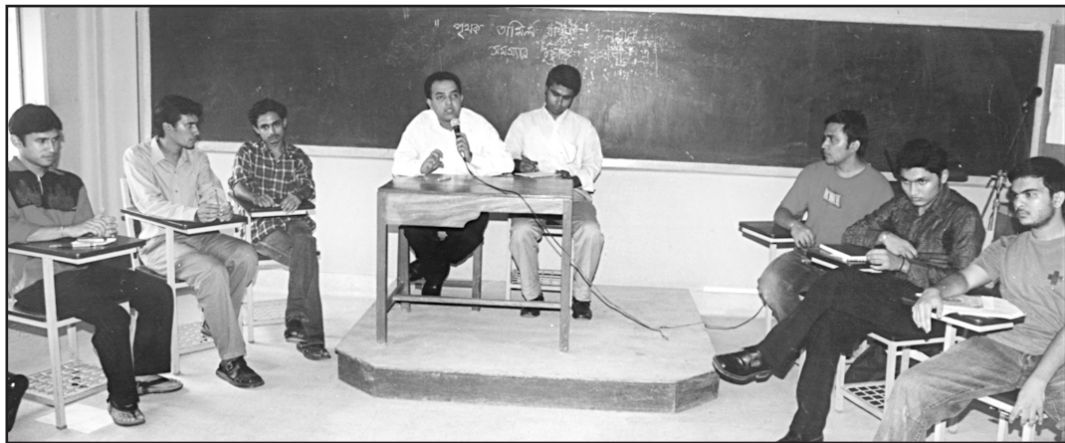


PHOTO: STAR

Two teams take part in a debate competition at the Third Holy Cross-Coca-Cola and The Daily Star Debate Festival at the Holy Cross College in the city yesterday.