



PHOTO: STAR
A python caught in Sylhet was brought to the Wildlife Rescue Centre at Jahangirnagar University.

Python caught in Sylhet brought to JU Wildlife Rescue Centre

JU CORRESPONDENT

A python caught in Sylhet was brought to Wildlife Rescue Centre (WRC) at Jahangirnagar University (JU) to provide it with safe natural environment in order to protect the threatened species.

The WRC authorities yesterday freed the male snake called Python Molurus in an enclosure specially built for it, with necessary natural components, including water, special trees and a hiding place for hibernation.

The huge snake was brought from Sitiesh Ranjan Zoo at Srimongal in Sylhet on September 22. It is locally called Rock Python and lives in hilly areas.

Workers of the Srimongal National Tea Garden caught the snake on September 15 and handed it over to the zoo.

"Such snakes eat once a week and spend most of their lifetime in hibernation. It lives on small mammals and rodents," said Lecturer Md Abdul Aziz.

"We will release it in its natural habitat when it becomes adult," said Prof Md Mustafa Perz, chairman of zoology department.

Obituary



Muhammad Ghulam Pir, son of late Fariduddin of Agarpur, Barisal, passed away at his residence yesterday at the age of 74, says a press release.

Ghulam Pir, ex-chairman and managing director of Shaw Wallace Bangladesh Ltd. and director of United Insurance Company, left behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at the Banani graveyard after a namaz-e-janaza at the Gulshan Azad Mosque after Asr prayers.

His qulshwani will be held at his residence at Parkside Gardens, House # 26, Rd #113, Gulshan in the city on September 28 after Maghrib prayers.

Aminul Islam Choudhury



ATM Aminul Islam Choudhury passed away due to cardio-respiratory arrest on September 19 at the Rush-Copley Hospital,

Chicago, USA at the age of 67, says a press release.

He was also suffering from lung cancer.

Choudhury, the erstwhile director of Crescent International Ltd. and Sonali Jute Mills Ltd., left behind his wife, three sons and a daughter.

His body will be flown to Dhaka in the early hours of today.

He will be buried at the Banani graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at the Banani Jame Masjid the same day after Zohr prayers.

Naseem Zafar



Naseem Zafar, wife of Syed Abu Zafar Ahmed Rasul, passed away due to prolonged kidney problem at the Ibne Sina Hospital in the city yesterday, says a press release.

She was buried at the Banani graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at the Gulshan Azad Mosque after Asr prayers.

Her qulshwani will be held on Wednesday after Maghrib prayers at her residence at Parkside Apartment, Plot No 29, Road No 64, Gulshan-2 in the city.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulshwani and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

South Asia yet to achieve food security

Speakers tell Saic meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Asia, the home of one-fourth population of the world, is yet to achieve food security and ensure nutrition for all, said the speakers at a meeting yesterday.

The 19th meeting of the governing board of Saarc Agriculture Information Centre (Saic) began at its headquarters at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (Barc) in the city.

Representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are taking part in the three-day meet.

The speakers laid emphasis on the exchange of data, information, technology and new innovations in agriculture within the member countries to enhance farm produc-

tion in the region.

They also stressed the need for implementing technology-based agriculture which will be cost-effective for the farmers.

Inaugurating the function as chief guest, State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir called for eradication of poverty of rural people involved in agriculture.

Speaking as special guest, Advisor on foreign affairs ministry Reaz Rahman said Saic should explore partnership or collaboration with other regional and international organisations dealing with similar issues under their respective mandate to share experience and information.

Pema Lhamo, chairperson of Saic Governing Board and programme

director of Information and Communication Services under the agriculture ministry of Bhutan, chaired the inaugural function which was addressed by Saic Director Dr Wais Kabir and Md Sufur Rahman.

Ambassador of Bhutan Dashi Jigme Tshul Thrim, Ambassador of Nepal Bhagirth Basnet and High Commissioner of Sri Lanka Gamini Sarat Munasingha were present on the occasion.

Later, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir released a video film titled 'Jackfruit in Sri Lanka'.

Saic is the first Saarc regional centre established in Dhaka in 1998 to exchange a regional information network on agriculture and allied disciplines.

Dhaka seeks Myanmar land for crop cultivation

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday proposed Myanmar to lease out its unplanted and fallow lands for commercial crop production.

Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury made the overture to his Myanmar counterpart Tin Naing Thein at a meeting at the commerce ministry.

Emerging from the meeting, Altaf told the newsmen that three issues - commercial use of Myanmar lands, relaxing the visa procedure and non-conventional shipping agreement came up for discussion.

The two sides agreed in principle to relax the visa process and extend its duration for the business people for their uninterrupted stay in the two countries for boosting bilateral trade, he added.

Altaf said the meeting also agreed to amend the existing Coastal Shipping Agreement to facilitate easy and cost-effective movement of ships between the two countries.

Tin Naing Thein said the discussions focused on increasing the bilateral trade relations between the two friendly countries.

Bangladesh fetched 4.18 million US dollar through exporting different commodities to Myanmar in 2004-2005 fiscal year while the bills for imports from Myanmar amounted to 32.66 million US dollar during the same period.

Thus Dhaka's bilateral trade with Yangon is heavily tilted in favour of Myanmar.

Myanmar defence team calls on army chief

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The delegation of Myanmar Armed Forces led by General Thura Shwe Mann paid a courtesy call on Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Moeen U Ahmed at his office yesterday.

General Moeen welcomed General Thura Shwe Mann and other members of the delegation in Bangladesh. They discussed matters of professional interest, an ISPR press release said.

Besides, possibility of enhancement of cooperation in military training between the two friendly countries was also discussed.

Foskett new Australian envoy to Bangladesh

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Australia has appointed Douglas Foskett as new High Commissioner to Bangladesh.

He will replace Lorraine Barker, who has been High Commissioner since November 2002.

Foskett is expected to take up his assignment in December, says a press release.

Earlier, he served in Australian missions in Myanmar, Indonesia, New Zealand and Port Louis.

Two robbed of Tk 50,000 and gold ornaments

DMCH CORRESPONDENT

Two organised gangs robbed a trader and a woman of Tk 50,000 and gold ornaments after making them unconscious in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Mohammad Badal, 30, a readymade garment trader, was travelling from Tongi to Gulistan in a bus when a gang made him unconscious and took away Tk 50,000 from him.

A rickshawpuller rushed Badal to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at noon, source said.

"I found myself lying on the floor at the hospital when I regained my consciousness," Badal told reporters. "After a while, it all became clear that I was robbed."

In the other incident, two youths pressed a piece of cloth on the face of Jahannara Begum, 55, a housewife, at Town Hall in Mohammadpur area, making her unconscious.

Then they took away her gold ornaments.

Local people rushed the woman to the DMCH.

Wasa realises Tk 9.94 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) in a drive yesterday realised about Tk 10 lakh from bill a defaulter and snapped several connections for not paying the arrears in the city.

The court led by Wasa Magistrate Kazi Wasiuddin went to realise an arrears of Tk 9.94 lakh from a house at Moneshwar Road in Jigatola. The owner of the house instantly gave a cheque for Tk 9.94 lakh to the court.

The court snapped the connection of a public toilet at New Market in the city for not paying an arrear bill of Tk 44 lakh.

Besides, the mobile court snapped four connections, two at Shatmasjid Road and two others in Mohammadpur Town Hall area.

Permanent Pay Commission under consideration

PM tells govt officials

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the government officials to play a more

responsible role for achieving the desired national progress.

Listing various measures for protecting the interest of the officers and employees of the republic, she said more could be done for their welfare if the base of economy could be made stronger through combined efforts of all.

"Formation of a permanent Pay Commission is under active consideration of the government," she told the function.

She asked them to take pragmatic financial and social development programmes and ensure their timely implementation.

She was speaking at a function marking the installation of the executive committee of the Officers' Club and inauguration of a newly built

auditorium of the club at Bailey Road in the city.

Referring to her government's achievements in various fields, Khaleda thanked the officials for their contributions towards the successes.

She also expressed her gratitude to the people for demonstrating their massive confidence in them in the last general election and their full cooperation in implementing development programmes.

"Thirty-four years have gone by since we have achieved our independence, but we could not yet attain progress up to the desired level. So, it is necessary to take up suitable and pragmatic financial and social development programmes and ensure their proper implementation," she said.

She said the officials will have to work in close cooperation with the people, giving priority to their well-being.

Khaleda proposed to observe a "Senior Citizens' Day" on a particular day of the year to pay respect to the elderly retired officials as well as to build a link between the old and the new officials.

She said on the Citizens' Day a reception can be arranged in honour of the senior citizens at the Officers' Clubs in the city and elsewhere in the country.

She said whatever the country has achieved so far, the elderly retired officials have had important contributions to that and "It's our duty to do something for them in return."

Cabinet Secretary Dr Saadat Hussain, who is also Chairman of the Officers' Club, presided.

Newly elected general secretary of the club Mohammad Shajahan Majumdar also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, the Prime Minister unveiled the plaque of the newly built common auditorium Bhaban.

SANITATION FOR ALL BY 2010

Ghuridah a model for achieving target

ABDUL JALIL BHUYIAN, back from Gaibandha

When the sanitation situation across the country, including rural and urban areas, is grim, a remote union in Shaghata upazila under Gaibandha district achieved 100 percent sanitation coverage well ahead of the government target of 2010.

Like other parts of rural Bangladesh, the people of Ghuridah Union once resorted to using unhygienic water for all aspects of life, including washing, drinking and cooking. Such practices were responsible for spreading endemic diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery and hookworm.

Now, the people of the union have become aware of basic personal hygiene, thanks to three NGOs - Gram Uন্নayan Parishad (GUP), Uন্নayan Shahojugi Team (UST) and Udayan Swabholombi Sangstha (USS). They now wash their hands with soaps after using toilets. The poor use ashes or earth as alternative to soaps.

"Earlier, we left excreta in open spaces, which posed various health hazards. Now we dump those under earth," says Hafizur Rahman, a van driver of village Jhara Barsha. "Although we knew that open defecation was a unhygienic practice, we did not care."

Sudhanya Chandra Das and Niranjana Chandra Das of Daspara expressed the same views. They said that they now can work for more

time as diseases have reduced following the improvement of sanitation situation.

Kajoli, 9, was not used to wearing slippers and even she was not aware of the importance of washing hands after using toilets.

The girl is now aware of personal hygiene as she has learnt about cleanliness from her school where the NGO workers with the support from the local government division conduct awareness campaign.

She said, "I wash my hands with soap before eating foods and, of course, after using toilet." "Sometimes, I use ashes and earth as my parents can't always afford soap."

Earlier, only the well-off families can afford sanitary latrines but now every family has access to sanitary facilities, said Sarala Bala, 60, of Daspara.

Mosammat Nazma Begum, president of Ghuridah Union Gram Uন্নayan Parishad, said "We undertook the awareness programme in the union to achieve the target of 100 percent sanitation for all by 2010."

"First, we briefed the village heads about the advantages and disadvantages of the sanitation, she said. Later, we included UST activists, UP members and members of Ansar, VDP and police in our campaign to motivate the people about sanitation," she said. "We also faced many problems during our campaign."

Shaghata upazila nirbahi officer and local union parishad chairman also extended their cooperation in

this regard, she added.

Md Nizam Uddin, project manager of Uন্নayan Shahojugi Team (UST), said "We started sanitation activities at the villages of Jhara Barsha and Chirir Patal in October 2003 under the project titled 'Advancing Sustainable Environmental Health Programme (ASEH)' in cooperation with the Water Aid."

"Actually, we began our activities at Ghuridah Union in 1988 under a coordinated programme, including Rural Health Development," he added.

"We are implementing the ASEH through an organisation of disadvantaged women, popularly known as Gram Uন্নayan Parishad led by Mosammat Nazma Begum," he told

journalists at a briefing at the Samaj Kalyan Sangstha (SKS) conference room at Shaghata on September 23.

Nizam said, "The main objective of the programme was to empower the women, alleviate poverty and bring changes to the attitude regarding safe water and sanitation."

UST Chairman Hamidul Huq, Azhar Ali of Water Aid and Shah Md Anwar Kamal also spoke at the briefing.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman formally declared the Ghuridah Union as '100 percent sanitised union' on July 5.

Begum Rawshan Ershad, local lawmaker from the Jatiya Party, said everything is possible if people involve themselves in any activities.



PHOTO: STAR
A weeklong China-Bangladesh Friendship Photography Exhibition began at the Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium at the National Museum in the city yesterday. The Chinese Embassy and Bangladesh-China Friendship Association arranged the exhibition.

Husband beats wife to death at Uttara

DMCH CORRESPONDENT

A man beat his wife to death at Uttara Adabar in the capital yesterday while feuding over a trifling matter.

Monjuara Begum, 30, wife of rickshaw-puller Sheikh Dahir Uddin, died of internal haemorrhage in the abdomen, a Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue source said after the autopsy.

Neighbours said Monjuara and Dahir began a quarrel over food at 11:30pm on Saturday. The feud escalated and Dahir beat her severely and she died on the spot at 12:15am yesterday, the neighbours added.

The news of Monjuara's death spread out and locals rushed to the spot and caught Dahir. They handed him over to the police and a murder case was filed with the Adabar Police Station.

Arrest of OC Rafiq demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student front of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), formed a human chain in front of the High Court yesterday demanding immediate arrest of OC Rafiqul Islam of Motihel Police Station, the main accused in Momin murder case.

Kamrul Islam Momin, a student of Mirpur Commerce College, was shot dead in the city on September 13 over a land dispute.

The BCL also demanded arrest of the other accused involved in the murder.

Meanwhile, the family members of Momin yesterday demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident.

They also wondered why no action was taken against OC Rafiq yet.

Sources said OC Rafiq came to High Court yesterday in connection with a hearing for an anticipatory bail.



PHOTO: STAR
President Iajuddin Ahmed speaks as chief guest at the launching ceremony of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (DCCI) 'Vision - 2021 for a Prosperous Bangladesh' at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

'Formulate effective policy to revive jute industry'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a function yesterday called for formulation of an effective policy and its implementation in order to revive the jute industry.

Developing diversified jute products and promoting them in international market are a must to restore the past glory of jute, they

said at a prize giving ceremony organised by the Jute Diversification Promotion Centre (JDPC).

Eight producers of diversified jute goods won the awards. The ceremony was held at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council auditorium in the city.

Speaking as the chief guest, Textile and Jute Minister Shahjahan

Siraj called on the industrialists and businessmen to come forward to promote diversified jute products.

Jute goods are environment-friendly and its widespread use will lead to employment generation and poverty alleviation, he said.

He also said that seven jute industries have been set up at the initiative of JDPC and they are exporting diversified jute products.

Minister for Science and Information & Communication Technology Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, International Jute Study Group Secretary General AFM Sarwar Kamal and JDPC Executive Director ABM Abdullah also spoke while Textile and Jute Secretary Md Abdur Rashid Sarkar presided.

AGITATION AT JU Business admin depts postpones exams

JU CORRESPONDENT

The department of business administration of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday postponed the first semester final examination of 2004-2005 academic session for an indefinite period in the wake of protests by the students against the indecent behaviour of a teacher of the department.

The authorities took the decision at a meeting on September 24 as the students said they would not sit for the examinations until the teacher is dismissed.

All academic activities of the department came to a halt as the students remained firm in their stance and vowed to continue boycotting all classes and examinations until their demand is met.

Hundreds of general students brought out a protest procession on the campus at 11:30am yesterday to press home their demand.

They also burnt an effigy of the teacher, Tanvir Ahmad Siddique, accused of indecent behaviour with female students.

They also staged a sit-in on the social science premises at 1:00pm.

In a press release yesterday, the Shikkhak Mancha, a teachers' platform, expressed their moral support to the students and urged the university authorities to take necessary steps in this regard.

They also demanded formulation of a code of conduct for all.



Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are expected at places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions during the period. Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 23.3 degree Celsius at Sitakunda.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:51pm today and rises at 5:49am 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	31.1	26.0	86	90
Chittagong	31.6	24.8	85	96
Rajshahi	33.8	26.1	83	83
Khulna	35.0	27.6	84	88
Barisal	33.6	26.7	79	83
Sylhet	26.7	23.5	99	93
Cox's Bazar	32.2	24.6	79	80



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA
Former secretary MA Mannan presents a bouquet to Awami League President Sheikh Hasina when he and his wife joined the AL at a simple ceremony at the party's Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday.