

Combat arsenic with holistic approach

Experts tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Experts at a roundtable yesterday called for holistic approach to combat arsenic contamination of soil in the country.

Dhaka Community Hospital Trust, said, "It's not just a matter of providing a glass of safe water, so many issues including long-term sustainability, affordability and acceptability by the community will have to be considered before taking any measures."

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and member of the National Arsenic Expert Committee, urged the donor agencies to help implement government's Arsenic Mitigation Action Plan.

Concern over growing police torture on women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) yesterday condemned the death of a sexagenarian woman due to police torture at Savar, near Dhaka. In a statement, BNWLA leaders also demanded immediate arrest and stern punishment to the police responsible for the killing.

Networking of mental health care support providers stressed

Speakers at a meeting yesterday stressed need for building a strong network of organisations offering mental health care support to survivors of trafficking and other forms of violence to ensure standardised quality service in a sustained manner, says a press release.

Government and non-government organisations of Bangladesh and West Bengal are attending the meeting. The speakers also underscored the necessity of developing a national resource group/centre for mental health care and also said the network can be extended across the boarder of Bangladesh and West Bengal and Tripura at the first instance and gradually to sub-regional and regional levels.

Coordinator respectively of Don Bosco Ashalayam and Smita Sen, Assistant Coordinator of Prajak of West Bengal were present in the session. Shafiqul Islam, Director of the Programmes Division of the organisation acted as the facilitator.

'Small states face challenge in upholding nat'l interest'

Upholding national interest is becoming a serious challenge for smaller states in the energy-starved world where globalisation has witnessed the emergence of corporate power and the corporate-political nexus, said Bangladesh High Commissioner in London Sabihuddin Ahmed.



Bangladesh Restaurant Owners' Association organises a roundtable titled "Our responsibilities to prevent food adulteration" at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

'No legal bar to conduct DNA test of ex-DIG in Dhaka'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no legal bar in conducting the DNA test of former DIG, his wife and their septuplets in Dhaka, opined the country's legal experts at a press conference yesterday. If the former DIG insists on conducting the test in any diagnostic centre outside the country on any ground, he can do it by sending a 'second' sample there, rather than sending the defendants physically abroad, they added.

No garment worker killed in Savar: BGMEA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters' Association (BGMEA) has contradicted a BDNEWS report published in The Daily Star on page 2 yesterday under the headline 'Garments worker killed in clash with hired cadres of owners'.



M Ehsanur Rahman, deputy executive director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, speaks at the opening session of a two-day consultation meeting at the Mission Bhaban auditorium in the city yesterday.

Russia, China to hold 2nd joint maneuvers

AP, Moscow

Russia and China will stage joint military exercises for the second time following last year's first-ever Russo-Chinese war games, the chief of the Russian General Staff was quoted as saying yesterday. Gen. Yuri Baluyevsky said he had agreed with his Chinese counterpart Gen Liang Guanglie that the next round of maneuvers would be held in Russia, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi division in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions, Met Office said in a forecast, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

"Whatever we as a nation have achieved since independence have come as part of our victories in our persistent struggle on numerous fronts in an increasingly globalised world." Referring to Bangladesh's achievement with regard to women empowerment, he said, "If one wants to see how a traditional Muslim society empowers its women politically, economically and socio-culturally, one must study the Bangladesh case." The high commissioner also pointed out, "As the current chair of Saarc and Bimstec, Bangladesh is actively pursuing implementation of the Saarc Free Trade Agreement and Bimstec FTA."

Qulkhwani of Mohiuddin held

Qulkhwani of veteran freedom fighter and journalist Sheikh Mohiuddin was held yesterday at the National Press Club auditorium in the city after Asr prayers. Former minister and Awami League Presidium Member Amir Hossain Amu, The New Nation Editor Mostafa Kamal Majumder, former New Nation editor Golam Tahbbur, prominent journalists Atlab Mahmud, Elahi Newaz Khan Sazu, Azizul Haque Banna, Abdur Rahman Khan, Akter Ahmed Khan, Enayet Hossain Khan, Dhaka Reporter's Unity Secretary Shahed Chowdhury, former organizing secretary Mannan Maruf, Advocate Abdur Rab Munsif, freedom fighter Alamgir Hossain and many senior journalists, relatives, friends, colleagues and a number of well wishers of the deceased attended the qulkhwani to pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Students and teachers of Ideal Commerce College take out a colourful procession in the city on Monday as part of the inaugural ceremony of the 'Education Week 2006' organised by the college.

Stray violence marks hartal

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Pickets damaged a number of vehicles in the capital while the law enforcers charged batons on processions and policewomen at about 6:00am to 6:00pm. The police also foiled hartal supporters' bid to bring out processions at Motijheel, Gulistan, Mohakhali, Russell Square and old part of the city. They cordoned off the AL central office on Bangabandhu Avenue and prevented party leaders and workers from bringing out processions. The 14-party opposition alliance enforced the countrywide hartal to protest the death of Awami Swechchha Sebak League leader Golam Mostafa Milon on Sunday and force the government to accept its electoral reform proposals.

dragged three pickets to a police van, leading to scuffles between the female activists of the main opposition and policewomen at about 10:40am. The police severely beat up activist Sonali Mallik and picked up two other female activists—Lovely and Nasrin—from the spot. Later, the angry opposition workers damaged three vehicles including two minibuses passing through the Russell Square. The opposition leaders and workers staged demonstrations in the morning at Mohakhali where opposition leader Milon was killed on Sunday. Led by AL Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed, the opposition men brought out a procession at about 9:30am on Mohakhali-Gulshan road and chanted slogans blaming the BNP-led four-party alliance government and the police for the killing. The police intercepted and chased the activists to disperse the procession. This prompted the opposition men to throw stones at the law enforcers. They held a rally in front of Titumeer College around 11:40am where Tofail vowed to continue the agitation against the four-party alliance government until the opposition's demands are met.

Diip Barua from joining the opposition programmes in the area. They also picked up a hartal supporter who allegedly damaged a minibus on the Mohakhali-Gulshan road. An AL procession led by party legislator Asaduzzaman Noor from Motijheel was intercepted by the police at Noor Hossain Square at 11:40am. The law enforcers picked up two activists from the scene. Asaduzzaman Noor argued with the police for release of the activists. At one stage, the police charged batons on the opposition men, leaving 10 injured. At about 10:30am, opposition activists led by AL leader Dr Mostafa Jalal Mahiuddin brought out a procession in Lalbagh area. Some hartal supporters damaged a taxicab in the English Road area. The police chased to disperse another group of pickets near Tantibazar at noon when the demonstrators started to throw stones at the law enforcers. Hartal elsewhere Our correspondent in Rajshahi reports: At least five AL leaders and workers were injured in the city while pickets ransacked Bangladesh Railway offices and assaulted railway officials in the morning. The police intercepted and picked up one when pickets were pelting stones at the railway office. Other pickets, however, snatched the activist from the law enforcers. They also damaged six motor-cycles at different points in the city. A correspondent from Pabna

Strike goes on for four days at RMCH

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Strike of intern doctors in Rangpur Medical College and Hospital (RMCH) has been continuing for four days aggravating sufferings of the hospitalised patients. Hospital sources said as the intern doctors remained off from their duty, the patients are not getting treatment at different wards. RMCH Director Shajahan Bishwas said he engaged some government doctors at different wards and at the emergency department round the clock to reduce the problem. "The patients have not faced so much trouble as the media showed," he defended. Meanwhile, the intern doctors and the leaders of the RMC student council sat in a meeting with Bangladesh Medical Association and Doctors Association of Bangladesh to resolve the ongoing crisis. A medical officer of RMCH said the authority agreed with the demand of the intern doctors regarding demolition of the shops inside the campus but it is not enough.

Ershad leaves for China

UNB, Dhaka

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad left Dhaka yesterday for China on a seven-day visit at the invitation of the Communist Party of China (CPC). During his stay in China, Ershad will meet top CPC leaders and ministers in Beijing and discuss bilateral issues. JP presidium member Kazi Jafar Ahmed, former ministers Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud and Ziauddin Ahmed and vice chairman Golam Masih and HM Golam Reza are accompanying the party chief. Ershad is expected to return home on July 12.

Baluch Assembly Speaker in city

UNB, Dhaka

Haji Jamal Shah Kakar, Speaker of Baluchistan provincial assembly of Pakistan, arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh. Whips Rezaul Bari Dina, Md Jahed Ali Chowdhury, Syed Shahidul Haq Jamal and secretary of the Parliament Secretariat Ehasanul Fatah received him at the airport, said a handout. He will place wreaths at the National Memorial in Savar and the mazar of late President Ziaur Rahman at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar today. He is also scheduled to visit Parliament and meet the acting Speaker.

Death anniversary



Today is the 6th death anniversary of Dr AKM Shamsul Huda, a language veteran and former Vice President (VP) of Sir Salimullah Medical College, says a press release. On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard Mosque and special food will be served at an orphanage.

DHAKA TODAY
Mango festival
Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel organises a 'Mango festival' party for underprivileged children. Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 12:30pm.
View exchange
Nani Maitree will hold a view exchange meeting with the media people on violence against women. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.
Opening ceremony
The opening ceremony of Rup Hair and Beauty Corner will be held. Venue: House-260, Road-27, Dhanmondi. Time: 4:00pm.



Malaysian High Commissioner Abd Malek Bin Abdul Aziz speaks at a briefing on Mega Familiarisation Programme 2006 at his residence yesterday. Nur Shafiq Haris, area manager of MAS, is also seen in the picture.