

BIRD FLU
Over 1000 chickens buried in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Over 1000 broiler chickens smuggled from India were buried here yesterday on suspicion that they were affected by bird flu.

Acting on a secret information, BDR Jawans recovered the chickens from Bharamshila village under Kaliganj upazila while being smuggled from India to Bangladesh in the early morning of January 17, BDR sources said.

The smugglers managed to flee leaving the chickens, said Shitalapur Nazimganj BDR Company Commander Subedar Mosharrif Hossain.

The BDR and local administration took the decision to bury the smuggled chickens at a meeting held at Kaliganj upazila Nirbahi officer's office on Wednesday.

When contacted, GM Nur Islam, president of the district poultry traders association, alleged that a group of smugglers are smuggling bird flu-affected chickens from India with the help of a section of unscrupulous law enforcers.



Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad along with his lawyer and party men comes out of the judge's court in the city yesterday after the hearing in the gold smuggling case.

Robbers loot goods worth Tk 3 lakh, kill 1 at Fatikchhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A villager was killed and another injured when a gang of robbers were decamping with the booties at Fatikchhari upazila in the district in the early hours of yesterday.

The robbers numbering 10 to 12 entered a house at South Sundarpur village at around 2:00am and made the inmates hostage at gunpoint.

They looted cash and valuables worth over Tk 3 lakh, sources said.

As the robbers came out of the house, the family members raised hue and cry for help.

The villagers rushed to the spot and managed to encircle the robbers from all sides.

At one stage the robbers began to open fire indiscriminately leaving one person dead on the spot and another injured.

The victim was identified as Kabir Munshi while the injured was admitted into Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH).

In a raid at Baraiarhat bus station under the upazila at around 8:00am, police arrested three people Zafar, Manik and Nurul Huda in this connection.

Police also recovered two one-barrel guns and two choppers from their possession.

A case was filed with Fatikchhari Police Station in this connection.

DHAKA
TODAY

Trade show

The inaugural ceremony of 6th International Garments and Textile Machinery Trade Show titled 'Garmentech Bangladesh' will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

Shikkha Karmachari Olyka Jote will hold a discussion titled 'Teacher and National Teachers' Day'. Venue: Mirpur University College. Time: 3:00pm.

Condolence meeting

Greater Khulna Development Co-ordination Action Committee will hold a condolence meeting to pay tribute to its founding president Late Abu Muhammad Ferdous. Venue: Hotel Sundarban. Time: 4:00pm.

City dwellers face acute gas crisis

Production in two wells of Titus gas field suspended, low pressure of gas from Sangu gas field

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gas crisis took a turn for the worse in many areas of the city over the last few days due to suspension of production in two wells of Titus gas field and low pressure of gas from Sangu gas field.

The city is now facing a daily shortfall of 62 million cubic feet gas, sources said.

Residents of Mirpur, Tejgaon, Malibagh, Khilgaon and Tongi are the worst sufferers as gas pressure slumps down to a level where no stove can be kept burning.

Residents of Mirpur said they had to wait for cooking until midnight when the gas pressure becomes normal.

Low pressure in the gas pipeline has also forced at least 25 CNG refuelling stations to stop their service.

A staff of a CNG station said gas pressure remains low from 8:00am to

2:30pm daily and the same problem reappears in the evening.

Energy Adviser Tapan Chowdhury yesterday told reporters that the situation would start improving from tomorrow. The crisis would be resolved at the beginning of the next month, he hoped.

27 fugitive convicts among 1,968 arrested

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested some 1,968 people, including 27 fugitive convicts, from across the country on various charges in the last 12 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, the law enforcers also seized 15 firearms, six other weapons and 36 bullets, said a police headquarters release.

Joy selected as Young Global Leader for 2007

Sajeeb Wazed Joy, son of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, has been selected as a Young Global Leader for the year 2007 as an Information Technology (IT) specialist by the World Economic Forum, says a press release.

The forum released the names of 250 young leaders, including Joy, grandson of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, at its central office in Geneva, Switzerland, on January 16.

Every year this honour is bestowed upon top 250 young leaders of the world to recognise and acknowledge their professional accomplishments, their commitment to society and their potentials to contribute to shaping the future of the world.

Drawn from a pool of over 4,000 candidates, the Young Global Leaders nominated in 2007 have been chosen by a selection committee of 34 eminent international media leaders chaired by Queen Rania Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The Young Global Leaders 2007 include 125 business leaders, as well as leaders from governments, academia, media and society at large from nearly 70 countries.

Alexander Doglasi, a British MP, Stiffany Harsheth, US representative of House, Paul Rayan, US congressman, Joyel Cuplan, deputy chief of staff of White House, Omar Abdullah, MP of India, Omar Ayub Khan, state minister for Finance Ministry of Pakistan, Arne Brodin, CEO of Bank of Moscow, Bhikram Chandra, managing editor of India based television NDTV, Ardian Fenty, newly elected mayor of Washington DC, have also been selected.

The 250 members of Forum of Young Global Leaders will meet at an annual conference at Dalian in China from September 4 to September 6 this year.

GOLD SMUGGLING CASE
Ershad's lawyers complete arguments

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Defence lawyers of former president and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday completed the arguments in connection with the gold smuggling case implicated him 16 years ago.

After completion of the arguments from the defence, Judge Mamtaul Islam, Chairman of University Grants Commission Prof M Asaduzzaman and Additional Secretary of the education ministry Ashraful Maqbul were also present in the hearing.

The judge passed the order following a time petition by the prosecution saying that Additional Public Prosecutor Golam Mostafa Khan was sick and he could not take part in the hearing.

On information, a police team led by the superintendent of police (SP) went to the spot at about 11:30pm, recovered the body and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

Police said a gang of three riding on a motorcycle came to a tea stall at Eidgah para where Saidul was watching TV news at about 10:00pm.

The gang threw two bombs on the tea stall, dispersed the people and picked up Saidul at gunpoint.

They took Saidul to a nearby field and shot him dead on the spot.

He was an accused in two murder cases.

Outlaw gunned down in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Members of the outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) gunned down one of their rivals belonging to outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML)-Janajuddha faction in the district on Wednesday night.

The dead was identified as Saidul Islam, son of Abu Bakar at Aria village under Daulatpur upazila.

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WEATHER TODAY
Severe cold over Srimongal may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Weather will remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may also occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

It said severe cold over Srimongal region and mild to moderate cold wave over Rajshahi division and the regions of Mymensingh, Tangail, Faridpur, Jessor, Barisal, Feni and Rangamati may continue.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period.

Highest temperature 29.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 4.8 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:35pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature	Humidity in celsius		
percentage	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	24.8	10.8	58	33
Chittagong	29.1	12.1	56	38
Rajshahi	24.0	9.2	86	58
Khulna	25.1	11.0	82	69
Barisal	25.5	9.0	95	69
Sylhet	26.0	9.9	63	42
Cox's Bazar	27.0	14.8	58	53



President Iajuddin Ahmed administers the oath of office to Dr Chowdhury Sajjadul Karim and Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury as advisers to the caretaker government at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

ASK hails move to separate judiciary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Am o Salish Kendra (ASK), a legal aid and human rights organisation, yesterday hailed the caretaker government for taking the initiative to separate the judiciary from the executive.

In a statement, it also hoped that necessary steps would be taken so that the judiciary can act as an independent body without any unwarranted interference from the executive.

It said although the constitution calls for the separation of the judiciary, elected governments did not take any effective steps in this regard. Rather, attempts were made to interfere in the judiciary by means of executive power, it added.

Promulgation of four sets of fresh rules is a major step towards an independent judiciary, the ASK said, adding that but mere separation of the two important organs (executive and judiciary) of the state is not enough. At the same time, appointment of competent persons in the judiciary should be given priority.

The statement said the caretaker government has taken a bold step to separate the judiciary, but it is the responsibility of the next elected government to make the move effective and successful.

Democracy in Bangladesh will be strengthened further through the completion of the process of separating the judiciary, it added.

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The meeting was convened after the BDR sent a letter asking BSF to sit across the table to peacefully resolve the issue through discussion.

At the meeting, the BSF members said they could not take any decision without prior permission of the higher authorities.

The BDR men then asked the BSF to hold another meeting soon after consultation with its higher authorities.

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