

## TK 55CR ESTUARY DEV PROJECT LAUNCHED Dutch govt to continue support for water sector development

BSS, Dhaka

The Dutch government is committed to supporting the development of the water sector in Bangladesh, said Aart van der Horst of the ministry of foreign affairs, the Netherlands, yesterday.

The Netherlands has been providing support for more than 30 years and the support is linked to the Bangladesh government's intention to address the crucial issues in the water sector, Horst said.

He was addressing the launching ceremony of a Dutch-supported Tk 55 crore Estuary Development Programme of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) in the city.

Presided over by BWDB Director General Sharif Rafiqul Islam, the ceremony was also addressed by

first secretary of the Royal Netherlands Embassy Neils Veenis, additional director general of BWDB Golam Mostafa, Bram van der Boon of the Netherlands, BWDB chief of planning Habibur Rahman and project director Wadud Bhuiyan.

"This day marks the start of the exciting new project of BWDB that is co-funded by the government of the Netherlands. Today begins the implementation of Tk 55 crore Estuary Development Programme. The Dutch government is providing a grant of Tk 50 crore to help the BWDB in its efforts to improve management of coastal areas," the Dutch foreign ministry official said.

Neils mentioned that through scientific studies and pilot projects at different locations, the Estuary Development Programme is expected to raise the living standard

of the people in the coastal area and contribute to attaining the national goal of poverty reduction.

He also said that his country is ready to support Bangladesh, especially in the water sector, since it is crucially important for the overall development and poverty reduction in Bangladesh, which is just a meter of two above the sea-level and is threatened by the climate changes.

In the near future, Neils said, the Netherlands will explore the possibilities for a multi-agency, multi-donor programme for integrated coastal zone management, provided the government agencies concerned agree on a common cooperation framework, under the Coastal Zone Policy and Coastal Development Strategy.

## 51521 birds of 42 species found at Hakaluki haor in Moulvibazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 51521 birds of 42 species were found at Hakaluki haor in Moulvibazar district this year, according to a recent census.

Of them, 18555 of 29 species were identified as migratory birds while the others are the local inhabitants of the haor.

The census team found four new migratory birds at the haor this year.

These are Falcated Duck, Gray leg goose, Northern Lapwing and Common Shell Duck.

Last year, the team found Spotbill duck, Comb Duck and Grey headed lapwing but this year those three species were absent.

The number of total birds was 46 712 last year.

This year most of the birds were found at Nagua-Loribai beel of Hakaluki haor. Their number is 30262.

Eminent birder Inam-ul Haq led the census team while wildlife experts Dr ASM Rashid and Md Abdul Aziz and teachers and students of Jahangirnagar, Khulna and Chittagong universities took part in the census.

Md Jafar Siddique, the project director of Coastal Wetland Biodiversity Management Project (CWBMP), disclosed the information at a press conference at the office of Kulaura upazila nirbahi officer on Wednesday last.

## Mobile court recovers port land in Ctg

BSS, Chittagong

A mobile court here on Thursday demolished a large number of illegal establishments from Newmooring Port area in the city.

A nine-katha land of the port was recovered during the drive jointly conducted by Chittagong City Corporation and Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

The court, led by First Class Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, also fined 20 motor vehicles for emitting toxic black smoke in a separate drive in the city the same day. The court realised over Tk two lakh as forfeiture from the owners of the vehicles on the spot.

In another drive, the mobile court removed a large number of illegal billboards from the roadsides in Agrabad to Patenga area on the day.

## Ferry service on Daulatdia-Paturia route disrupted

BSS, Rajbari

At least 400 vehicles stranded at Daulatdia Ghat as movement of ferries on Daulatdia-Paturia route has been disrupted due to shortage of ferries for the last couple of days.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) sources said the disruption took place when five ferries out of the 14 were sent to Narayanganj dockyard for repairing some days back.

On the other hand, the ferries on the route have been carrying a minimum load since the current dry season as the water level of the river fell to 6/7 feet against the required 8/12 feet.

Besides, emerging of numerous chars at different points of the route has narrowed the width of the channel and made the movement of large water transports risky, BIWTC sources said.

## Unauthorised mini-telephone exchange unearthed

UNB, Jessore

Police unearthed an unauthorised mini-telephone exchange at Sharsha and arrested a man in this connection yesterday.

The arrested was identified as Habibur Rahman Asgar of Pairadanga village in Jhikargachha upazila of the district.

Police said Asgar had set up the mini-exchange in connivance of some dishonest T&T employees and had been doing a brisk business dodging huge taxes.

Police recovered one antenna, huge quantity of telephone equipment and two SIMs of an Indian cellphone company from Asgar.

## Discussion on poetry at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

A day-long discussion titled 'Poetry Matters' will be held at Jahangirnagar University (JU) today.

English department of the university is organising the discussion with a view to introducing new traits and trends of writing to students and admirers of poetry.



PHOTO: STAR

Children flip through books at a stall at Amar Ekushey Book Fair in the city yesterday.

## Ekushey Book Fair draws huge number of visitors

DU CORRESPONDENT

Amar Ekushey Book Fair 2007 drew the biggest number of visitors and saw the publication of the highest number of books yesterday.

People throng the fair from 11:00am in the morning and there was hardly any space at the fair venue for the visitors to stand for a moment.

The long queues from the entrance trailed back to Shahbagh, the High Court and Central Shaheed Minar. But the crowd management by the law enforcers was better, many visitors remarked.

A number of visitors went back seeing the long queues. Some of them opted to visit Little Book Fair at the Public Library organised by some publishers who were not allocated stalls at the Ekushey book fair.

The stall owners were happy about the sales. Until yesterday, a total of 1048 new titles hit the fair against about 1450 in the corresponding period last year, according to Bangla Academy Public

Relations Office sources.

These books include 222 novels, 21 books on juvenile literature, 112 on short stories and 220 on poetry.

The publishers brought out more titles yesterday. The fair information centre reported the arrival of 138 titles till 6:00pm. And the publishers said more books would be coming at night.

Translations are also selling well this year. A large number of publishers brought out translations of famous books, mainly novels.

Novels top the buyers' list, followed by poetry, said Osman Gani of Agamee Prakashani. "But there are also some serious readers who like critical writings and books on serious subjects", he added.

A number of literateurs visited the fair yesterday. The stall attendants at Anyaprakash found it difficult to manage the fans of Humayun Ahmed as he came to the fair for the first time to release his novel Madhyanna.

Muhammad Zafar Iqbal roamed around, followed by hundreds of young fans. The tired writer sat on

the stairs of the Burwan House and gave autographs.

Ekushey Bangla Prakashan brought out poet Al Mahmud's autobiographic write-up 'Bichurna Ainay Kabir Mukh'.

Publishing house Oitijhya will bring out complete collection of Joy Bangla, the official bulletin of the expatriate government of Bangladesh during the liberation war published from Mujibnagar.

Very few stalls followed the instruction of not selling books published by other houses. The trouble over the implementation of this rule continued.

Bangla Academy held a discussion on form and content of pomes by Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal. Bishwajit Ghosh read out the key-note paper while Asad Chowdhury, Khaled Hossain and Hosne Ara also participated in the discussion chaired by Maniruzzaman.

The academy will hold the primary-round of recitation and song competition by children today.



PHOTO: STAR

Speakers at a discussion marking the 23rd death anniversary of General MAG Osmani at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are Allama Iqbal, Lt Gen (retd) KM Shafiuallah, Foreign Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and Maj Gen (retd) CR Dutta.

## 'Osmani fought for democracy, rule of law'

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion yesterday emphasised ensuring the rule of law in the country, bringing accountability in administration and democracy with a view to materialising the dreams of the freedom fighters of establishing a poverty-free Bangladesh.

They were speaking at a discussion on 'Bangladesh's Liberation War and Bangabir MAG Osmani' at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city.

Bangabir Osmani Smriti Parishad organised the discussion to mark the 23rd death anniversary of the commander-in-chief of liberation forces Gen Osmani. Parishad President Syeda Masuda Khaja chaired the discussion.

Foreign Affairs Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury addressed the occasion as the chief discussant while eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain was the special discussant.

Former adviser to caretaker government Maj Gen (Retd) Mainul Hussain Chowdhury, Bir Bikram, Parishad advisers Maj Gen (retd) M Azizur Rahman, Bir Bikram, Maj Gen (Retd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim, Bir Pratik, Jatiya Janata Party President Sheikh Asad, Biswa Bangali Parishad President Abdul Khaleq, Dr CM Delwar Rana, Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BBS) Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury, among others, spoke.

Highlighting the historic and patriotic role of Gen Osmani in the pre-liberation, liberation and post liberation era, the foreign affairs adviser said Gen Osmani per-

formed his duties with unparalleled courage and rising above personal interest.

As ardent believer in democracy and humanity, Gen Osmani could realize that stability of democracy and its growth was not possible without good governance, honesty and transparency.

Gen Osmani believed that implementation of these principles should begin from top of the administration, not from the bottom, Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury said adding the liberation war hero

always wanted to see the reflection of these qualities in the administration.

Dr Kamal Hossain said Gen Osmani led the freedom fighters in the liberation war to secure the independence of the country so that people could enjoy their democratic rights.

Pointing to the recent developments in the country, he appreciated the Bangladesh Army for playing a very important role at every juncture of the national life including the war of liberation.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Book launch

ICEMEDIA organises the launching ceremony of 'Published in the streets of Dhaka: Collected poems' by Prof Kaiser Haq. Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya. Time: 6:00pm.

### Discussion

Bangladesh Nari Mukti Sangsad will hold a discussion titled 'Resist fatwabs, terrorism and communalism'. Venue: ShaheedAsad auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

### Training programme

The inaugural function of a three-day training programme on 'Islamic finance and financial products', organised by Prime Bank Limited, will be held. Venue: Dikusha Hall, Hotel Purbani. Time: 10:00am.

### View exchange meeting

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Belat) and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) will jointly organise a view exchange meeting titled 'Preserving wetland and low-lying areas as per master plan'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn auditorium. Time: 9:45am.

### Seminar

Bangladesh Sports Writers' Association organises a seminar on 'Static sports arena: A way out'. Venue: National Kriya Parishad Tower. Time: 3:30pm.

### Art exhibition

An art exhibition titled 'Kobita O Chitrakola', jointly organised by Jatiya Kobita Parishad and Gallery Chitrak, will begin. Venue: Gallery Chitrak. Time: 5:00pm. The exhibition will run till February 28 from 10:00am to 8:00pm everyday.

### Seminar

Bangladesh Institute of Social Research (BISR) organises a seminar on 'Epidemiology: Some concepts and

applications'. Venue: BISR Conference Room. Time: 5:30pm.

### Memorial lectures

Women and Gender Studies Department of Dhaka University organises 'Rokeya memorial lectures' to pay tribute to Begum Rokeya. Venue: RC Majumdar auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

### Discussion

Unnayan Samannaya will hold a discussion to mark the International Mother Language Day. Venue: Bishwa Shilpa Kendra auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

### Survey report launch

Unnayan Samannaya and UNDO-Colombo will launch the report of a survey titled 'Multilateral and regional trade negotiations: Implications for the Bangladesh economy and trade industrial policy environment in Bangladesh'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 3:00pm.

### Memorabilia handover ceremony

The family members of language veterans will hand over memorabilia to Vashandolan Museum. Venue: Museum office. Time: 11:00am.

### Publication ceremony

Publication ceremony of a book titled 'Purity poisoned' describing the chronology of events related to Bangladesh National Drug Policy (BNDP) will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

### Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club Ltd. Time: 1:30pm.



PHOTO: STAR

Artistes perform at a Bangla Musical Evening organised by American Alumni Association at Banani in the city yesterday.

## 10 US Bay Area students to visit Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

Ten Bay Area students of the USA will visit Bangladesh in April for a three-week exchange programme.

The students will work with Bangladeshi students on a community service project, visit mangrove forests and attend an environmental science camp while living with a host family, according to California-based Contra Costa Time.

The grant was awarded by Relief International-Schools Online and the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the US State Department.

The students of the programme will submit a monthly report of their activities, with a commitment to Relief International when they return to the Bay Area.

This includes a 10-hour per month commitment to an environmental service project and working with the Bangladeshi students.

Anna O'Kelly, a junior at College Preparatory School, has been selected by Relief International to join nine other Bay Area students to travel to Bangladesh.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Temperature may rise

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is also likely at one or two places in Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Comilla, Met office said.

Night temperature may rise slightly over the country, it added.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 27.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Khepupara and the lowest of 9.8 degrees at Srimongal.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:55pm today and rises at 6:30am tomorrow.**

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in	
percentage	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Max Min Morning Evening				
Dhaka	25.5	12.6	63	43
Chittagong	27.0	14.6	55	53
Rajshahi	25.8	10.6	70	54
Khulna	26.6	13.9	69	57
Barisal	27.0	16.6	79	55
Sylhet	25.2	12.8	75	47

## AREF KILLING Execution of verdict demanded

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Police is yet to arrest some killers of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) central leader Kazi Aref Ahmed and its four other local leaders after seven years into the killings.

Leaders, activists and different sections of people demanded immediate execution of the convict killers and arrest of the absconding criminals to mark the eighth death anniversary of the slain leaders yesterday.

JSD and its front organisations observed the day holding separate discussions in the district yesterday.

An armed gang killed Aref, the central president of JSD and one of the organisers of country's Liberation War, along with his four local party colleagues when he was speaking out against political violence at a rally at Kalidaspur village in Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia district on February 16 in 1999.

Bullets riddled the body of the leader, as soon as he finished speech and was about to leave the rostrum. His colleagues, all from Kushtia, died while trying to save him.

The four who died with Kazi Aref are Kushtia district JSD President Lokman Hossain, General Secretary Yakub Ali and other party leaders Israil Hossain and Somser Ali.

Verdict of the case was announced on August 30, 2004 where 10 people were sentenced to death and another 12 to life imprisonment.

The convicts with death penalty are Ilias Hossain and Sahir Uddin of Talbaria, Bakkar of Kishorinagar, Mannan Mollah of Pachabrita, Anwar, Jhantu and Jahan of Kursha, in Kushtia district and Jalal of Baliaishisha, Safayat Hossain of Rajnagar and Rowsan of Bhabanipur in Meherpur district.

Of the convicts, Mannan Mollah, Jahan, Jalal, Rowsan and Baker are still absconding.

The convicts with life imprisonment are Nuruzzaman Laltu of Kairadanga in Chuadanga, Rofat and Asgar of Talbaria, Faraj, Tashir and Garesh Razzar of Kalidaspur, Majid of Hridoypur, Mohid of Talbaria, Mahatab of Rajnagar, Albar of Pagla, Akubbar of Malihad and Tikka of Kursha in Kushtia.

Of them, Mahatab, Oliar and Akubbar are evading arrest, while another absconding Mohit was killed in 'crossfire' with police on February 12, 2005 after arrest.

JSD President Hsanul Haq Inu blamed 'political inaction' for not bringing the killers into book.

"A political intervention was behind the trial since its beginning, as a result although police pressed charge against the real killers, the court could not punish them," Inu told this correspondent over cell phone yesterday. He demanded arrest of the killers whose names were dropped by the immediate past BNP government.

When contacted Rowsan Jahan Sathi, wife of Kazi Aref, said the government should execute the verdict because people want to see punishment of the killers.

## Trader shot in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot a trader on the head near Rajshahi Development Authority (RDA) market on Thursday night.

The injured trader Nazibar Rahman, 30, was undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

Local traders caught a youth red-handed from the spot when he along with his gang was trying to snatch Tk 4 lakh cash from the trader, police sources said.

Sources said Nazibar was returning home at around 10:30pm from RDA market. He was reportedly carrying Tk four lakh cash when a group of muggers boarding on a motorbike waylaid him at a lane of Shaheb Bazar and tried to take away his bag.

After a scuffle, the muggers opened fire on the head of Nazibar and tried to leave the spot with bag full of money. The locals however caught one and were able to recover the money, police sources said.

Members of Rab and Boalia police rushed to the spot and arrested Selim, who is a notorious mugger of the area, locals said.

RDA market traders demanded deployment of additional police forces and ensure security during their trading hours.

The condition of the trader is still critical, the RMCH sources said.

## Death anniversary

UNB, Dhaka

The 3rd death anniversary of Nilofer Haque, wife of Hosaf group chief engineer Emdadul Haque, will be observed today.

Quranikhwani and milad mahfil will be held on the occasion, says a press release.