



Fazle Hasan Abed wins Kravis prize

BSS, Dhaka

Brac Founder and Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed has been selected for the second annual Henry R Kravis Prize in leadership.

The prize, which carries 2.50 lakh US dollars, is designated for the recipient's organisation to honour the extraordinary leadership in the non-profit sector. Abed was selected for his innovative work with Brac in health, education and micro-finance, said a Brac press release.

The prize is administered by Claremont McKenna College, the Kravis Leadership Institute and Marie-Josée and Henry R Kravis. Members of the selection committee include Nobel laureate Amartya Sen and former president of the World Bank James D Wolfensohn.

"Today's outstanding leaders in the not-for-profit arena also possess many of the same skills required of the most effective entrepreneurs in the for-profit business world. The Kravis Prize was established to celebrate their vision, boldness, and determination," Kravis said, adding: "Fazle Abed is such a leader."

Under Abed's leadership, Brac has grown into one of the largest development organisations in the world, reaching more than a 110 million people with a holistic and multifaceted approach to poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor.

Today, Brac operates major programmes in Micro-finance and income generation, health, education, and social development. Abed has led Brac's expansion across Bangladesh and beyond, recently starting operations in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, and Southern Sudan, the release added.

Abed has been recognised through honorary degrees from renowned institutions as well as national and international awards which include the Ramon Magsaysay Award (1980), UNICEF's Maurice Pate Award (1992), Olof Palme Award (2001), the Gates Award for Global Health (2004) and the UNDP Mahbub ul Haq Award for Outstanding Contribution in Human Development (2004).

Body found on roof of six-storied building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of an unidentified man in a sack from the rooftop of a six-storied building in the city's Dhanmondi area yesterday morning.

The victim aged around 40 was slaughtered, police said.

The body was later sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

The police picked up two security guards and a caretaker of the building located at Road No. 4.

Police suspect that the sack with the body was thrown from the nearby underconstruction six-storied building at dead of night.

Six Indian citizens held in Sherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested six Indian citizens at Burunga in Nalitabari in Sherpur district on Thursday.

On information, members of Burunga BDR Camp raided the house of one Noushen Marak, a Garo, at Burunga and arrested the Indian citizens. Noushen and his son Inrul Marak were also arrested, BDR sources said.

The arrestees were sent to Burunga BDR Camp and were later shifted to Mymensingh 45 Rifles Battalion headquarters for interrogation, sources added.

Locals said the Indian citizens, Garo men hailed from Meghalaya, didn't have any passport who crossed the border to see their relative Noushen.

However, BDR is yet to publish their identities till filing of this report yesterday afternoon.

Bangladesh to do better under honest, dynamic, efficient leadership

Says Chinese envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Outgoing Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Chai Xi yesterday said Bangladesh with its tremendous potentials in social and economic development would do better as long as it is piloted under an honest, dynamic and efficient leadership.

"Chinese experiences tell us that a government's performance in addressing the reform, development and stability determines the performance of the country and its people," he said at a reception accorded to him by Jatiya Press Club in the evening.

Chai Xi, who leaves Dhaka next week after completing three and a half years as Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh, said development is the fundamental principle while reform is the motive force of development and the only way to modernisation.

He said stability serves as the precondition of the development and reform, and the development and reform will lead to consistent stability.

9 organisations fined Tk 19.4 lakh for pilfering Ctg WASA water

BSS, Chittagong

Nine industrial and commercial establishments have been fined Tk 19.40 lakh for pilfering water of Chittagong WASA, evading revenues and installing deep tubewells without permission.

Special City Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury fined the organisations during raids in the last seven days in the city, a press release said yesterday.

It was found during the drives that unscrupulous consumers had been consuming WASA-supplied water by setting up illegal connections or deep tubewells at their business establishments without permission.

Water-lifting machines and instruments were also seized and illegal water supply connections disconnected during the drives titled "Operation Save WASA."

Chai Xi, who spent 15 years of his 30-year diplomatic career in Bangladesh, said that from a student of Dhaka University to the ambassador of China to Bangladesh, he had seen the amazing changes of society, the remarkable development of the economy and the great improvement of the people's life.

He appreciated the fast development in textile and garment industry, the increase in export income and the moderate GDP growth. The country with 140 million diligent and intelligent people has tremendous potentials in social advancement and economic development, he said.

"I could deeply feel the true love and genuine friendship of the people of Bangladesh to the people of China. I have special sentiment on Bangladesh and its people, and consider Dhaka as my second home," Xi said in an emotion-charged voice.

On bilateral trade and cooperation, the ambassador said the total trade volume almost doubled to US\$ 3 billion. He also men-

tioned his special efforts to establish the air-link between Dhaka and Beijing via Kunming.

He mentioned immediate past prime minister Khaleda Zia and Chinese premier Wen Jaibao's reciprocal state visits in 2005, which he said witnessed the establishment of Sino-Bangladesh Comprehensive Partnership of Cooperation featuring long-term friendship, equality and mutual benefit.

"The bilateral relations were injected with new impetus and stepped into a new era of advancement," he said, expressing the hope that "with our joint efforts the Sino-Bangladesh friendly relations and cooperation will be further consolidated and enhanced in the days to come for the benefit of our two people."

Earlier, Press Club President Shaikat Mahmood, General Secretary Kamal Uddin Sabuj and immediate past president Reazuddin Ahmed also spoke.

Hasina urges students to concentrate on studies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the students of Azimpur Girls School and College to concentrate on studies to uphold the glorious image of the institution.

"I want the students of this school to concentrate on studies to secure better results to glorify its image," Hasina, who studied in the school, said while inaugurating the golden jubilee programmes of the institution.

The AL chief cut a cake and celebrated the occasion spending the whole day with friends from her girlhood days.

Recalling her golden days at school during the turbulent 1960s, Hasina said, "My friends and I took part in the [political] movements, but at the same time we were attentive to our studies."

"I wish I could return to my school days, but it is not possible as I am 60 now," Hasina, who passed the SSC examination from the school in 1965, said in a nostalgic note.

College Principal Dr Hosne Ara chaired the daylong function. Kazi Manjur-Mowla, son of the first headmaster of the school—Kazi Ambar Ali, Mohammad Ferdous Khan, Dr Kaneez Siddiqui, and Mohammad Hanif, deputy commissioner of Dhaka and president of the school's governing body, attended the function.

Hasina's batch mates at the school, Rahela Banu, now a professor at the Language Institute of Dhaka University, Nargis Majid, teacher of Aga Khan School, Dr Selima Rozy, Dr Masuda Gani and journalist Nasimun Ara Huq also went to meet their old friends and celebrate the occasion.



Fire fighters try to extinguish a fire at Power Mosquito Coil Factory at Shanir Akhra in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Muslims should unite to overcome problems

Says US Islamic cleric

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting American Islamic scholar Imam Yahya Hendi yesterday said Muslims across the world should unite instead of focussing on division to overcome the problems facing the Muslim Ummah.

"Our worst enemy is ignorance of Islam. Muslims need to work together," Imam Yahya said when asked about the present divisions among Muslims.

Talking to UNB at the Victoria Park (Bahadur Shah Park) Jame Masjid in the old city, he said poverty is one of the worst problems in the world, including Muslim countries.

Asked about his mission to Bangladesh, Imam Yahya, who is the Muslim chaplain at Georgetown University, the first American University to hire a full-time Muslim cleric, said he wants to build a link between America and Bangladesh and the Muslims of the two countries.

"Besides, my visit here is an attempt to clarify to Bangladeshi people that American Muslims are peacefully performing Islam," he added.

Imam Yahya said unlike Bangladesh, where majority Muslims belong to one 'majhab' Hanafi, there are many 'majhabs' (school of thought) in America where Shiite and Sunni work together with a common objective to do good for all people.

"We are not divided and pray in the same mosque together," he added.

After Juma' prayers at the Victoria Park Jame Masjid, Imam Yahya delivered a short speech in Arabic while Khatib of the mosque Mufti Aminul Huq translated it into Bangla.

He said the number of Muslims in the USA is now eight million and the number of mosques now stands at 2,500 while the number of Madrasa is 500.

Imam Yahya, who holds a Master's degree in Comparative Religion from Hartford Seminary, said after September 11, 2001, American Muslims had thought that Islam would face disastrous consequence there, but that apprehension has gone and the number of Muslim is increasing remarkably.

Imam Yahya, who arrived here on Thursday, will visit Chittagong and Rajshahi before he leaves for Calcutta on March 7.

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BBC World Service resumes its 20th edition of Bangladesh Sanglap today at 5:45pm at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Centre in the city.

Former commerce minister and BNP leader Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, Awami League Presidium Member Kazi Zafarullah, former adviser to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal and popular actor and campaigner for Road Safety Ilyas Kanchan will feature the four-member panel for this week's Sanglap, says a press release.

The Sanglap programme will be aired on BBC Bangla radio at 7:30pm tomorrow and on Channel 1 at 8:00pm on Monday.

Two traders shot in city

Three arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three extortionists were caught by local people after they shot and injured two traders at a phone-fax shop at Maghbazar in the city on Thursday night.

However, another extortionist managed to escape.

The injured traders are Sohrab Hossain, 35, and his brother Shahadat Hossain, 26. They received bullets in their abdomens.

Witness said the gang of four stormed into the shop 'Millennium Telecom' at Maghbazar Wireless gate at around 11:00pm and opened

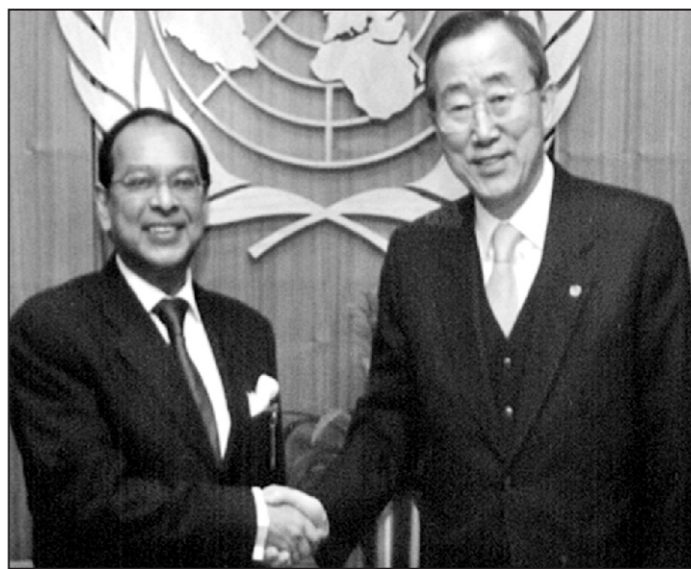
fire on the brothers.

As Sohrab and Shahadat raised an alarm, local people chased the gang and caught hold of Shaon, Sagar and Dipu with two revolvers and three bullets. But Rana managed to escape.

The mob also beat them up and handed them over to the police.

Sohrab and Shahadat were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Sources said the armed extortionists demanded Tk 50,000 in toll three days ago and Thursday was the last date for payment.



Foreign Affairs Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury calls on UN General Secretary Ban Ki-moon at the latter's office in New York recently.

DHAKA TODAY

Conference

Save the Environment Movement organises the 1st National Conference on Environmental Law. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Debate

The final round of Pre-world Debate Championships organised by Bangladesh Debate Council will be held. Venue: The Red Brick School. Time: 4:30pm.

Art competition

Academy for Educational Development (AED) and Bangladesh Human Rights Advocacy Programme (BHRAP) jointly organise a children's poster art competition to mark the International Women's Day. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Time: 11:30am.

Conference

The 11th Annual Scientific Conference organised by ICDDR, B will be held. Venue: Radisson Water Garden Hotel. Time: 4:00pm.

Debate

Independence Day Debate Competition 2007, organised by ATN Bangla, will begin. Venue: Level 8, Bashundhara City. Time: 11:00am.

Conference

Brac and UN Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor (CLEP) jointly organise 'Conference on thematic issues of CLEP- National consultation process'. Venue: Brac Centre auditorium. Time: 9:00am.

Awards ceremony

Bangladesh Institute of Art, Design and Technology organises its first awards ceremony. Venue: Institution of Diploma Engineers. Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

Sex Workers' Network of Bangladesh will hold a discussion on 'No eviction of the sex workers' without a planned rehabilitation' to mark the International Sex Workers' Day. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity. Time: 10:30am.

Seminar

Campaign for Good Governance organises a seminar on 'South Asian unity and Saarc in poverty elimination and quelling conflict'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Shikha Andolon Mancha will hold a discussion titled 'The origin of life and its evolution'. Venue: Business Studies auditorium. Time: 3:30pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central

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

Lecture

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organises 'Halima Begum and Shaikh Sharafuddin Trust Fund Lecture 2006'. Venue: Society seminar room. Time: 4:30pm.

Art exhibition

The 2nd Children Art Exhibition organised by Charuloy Academy will begin. Venue: Nalinikanta Vattashali Exhibition Hall, National Museum. Time: From 10:30am to 4:30pm everyday (till March 7).

Reforms must be before polls

Rob demands at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ongoing reform activities must be completed before holding the next general election to prevent the political criminals from entering parliament.

This was demanded by Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) leader ASM Abdur Rob who first hoisted the flag of independence in the turbulent days of 1971.

He was speaking at a discussion organised by JSD in observance of the Day of Hoisting the Flag of Independence at its office in the city yesterday.

Rob said there is no alternative to completion of the reform activities to shape the politics, state management system, electoral process and the economy befitting for an independent country.

The JSD leader said the nation has united once again after the Liberation War in 1971 and it is time to arrest the criminals and corrupts and declare them ineligible to take part in the election.

He said the criminals, godfathers, corrupts and the black money holders must be resealed.

Presided over by JSD Vice-president Nurul Amin Bhuiyan, the discussion was also addressed by Party General Secretary Abdul Malek Ratan, Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury and Major General (Retd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim.

Two PBCP activists held in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police arrested two cadres of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) ML Red Flag faction from Shalbagan areas in the city yesterday evening.

Acting on a tip off, police arrested Fazar Ali alias Fazal, 32, and Suman, 34, of Balrampur in Kamarkhanda of Sirajganj district, from a place near Shalbagan kitchen market.

Police was interrogating them at Boalia Police Station while filing of their report.

Mother hands over drug-addict son to police

UNB, Jhalakathi

A mother handed over her drug-addicted son to police in the district town on Thursday.

Sources said Parveen Hossain with the help of her neighbours took Shahnewaj to police station as the spoiled son damaged furniture of the house at Katpotti area of the town for realising money from his mother to buy drugs.

When produced, the court sent Shahnewaj, 18, son of late Altaf Hossain, to jail hajjat.

Earlier on February 15, the mother sent a letter to the deputy commissioner in this regard.

Apprehending arrest, Shahnewaj went into hiding.

Finding no other way out, the helpless mother handed over her son to police when he returned to the house in the morning and started damaging furniture for money.

Ex-AL lawmaker Reza A Karim passes away

Awami League (AL) leader and former lawmaker Reza A Karim Chowdhury passed away at his own residence yesterday at the age of 80, says a press release.

Reza, a language movement veteran and one of the organisers of the liberation war, was also a member of provincial council in 1970.

He left behind his wife, three sons, eight daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

AL President Sheikh Hasina in a statement expressed shock at the death of Reza.

Quazi Shamsul Haque

Quazi Shamsul Haque, former officer of Bangladesh Tobacco Company Limited, passed away in the city yesterday evening, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Shah Shaheb Mazar at Paribagh in the city at 11:00am today.

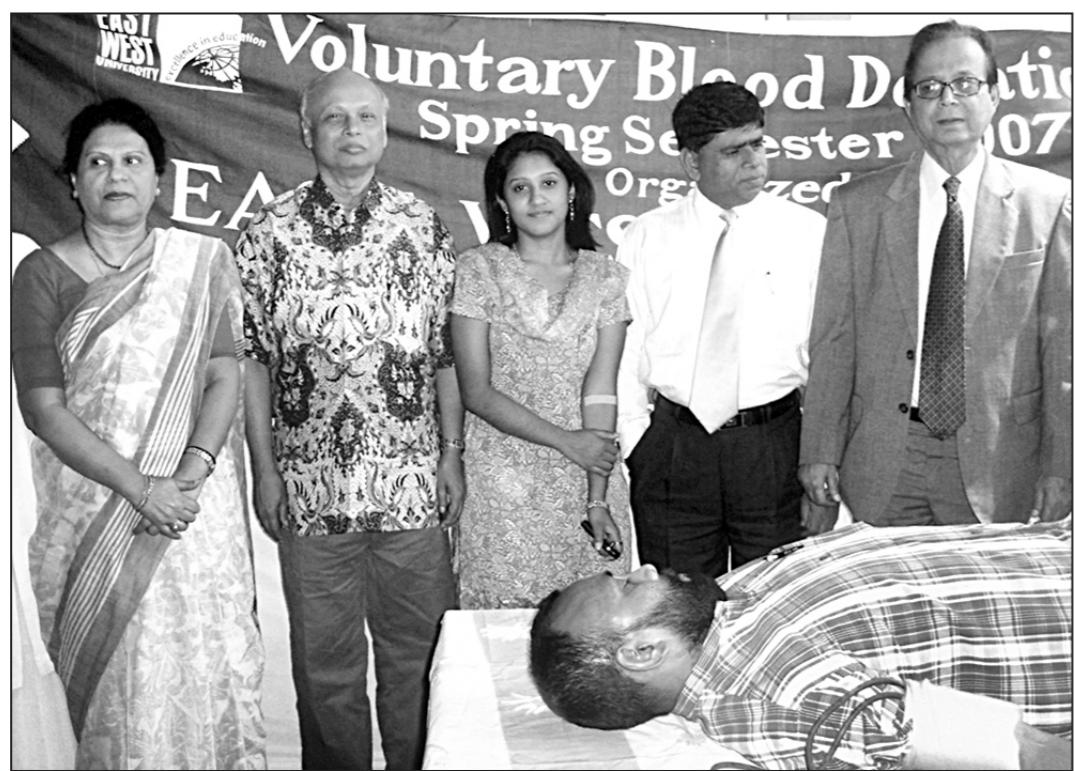
He will be buried at his village home at Golapganj in Sylhet.

Jaharalal Nath

Jaharalal Nath, vice president of Chittagong Newspaper Hawkers' Association, passed away at his village home at Nandanpur under Mirsarai upazila in Chittagong at the age of 60 yesterday morning, says a press release.

He had been long suffering from cancer.

He left behind his wife, four daughters and a son.



East West University held a daylong blood donation programme on the ground floor of its Foundation Building in the city recently.

Blood Donation programme at EWU

East West University (EWU) held a daylong blood donation programme for Spring Semester 2007 on the ground floor of its Foundation Building in the city on Wednesday, says a press release.

The Medical Centre, Social and Environmental Club and Rotaract Club of East West University in collaboration with Bangladesh Red Crescent Society organised the programme inaugurated by Jalaluddin Ahmed, president, Board of Directors.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Dr Mohammad Musa and Joint Registrar Suraiya Ahmad were also present.

The programme was aimed at raising public awareness about the need for regular blood donations, encouraging new and re-energising current donors and helping reduce blood crises in the country.



Thundershower unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet and Khulna divisions and at one or two places elsewhere across the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 32.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 16.0 degrees at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:02pm today and rises at 6:18am tomorrow.

The 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	22.4	18.2	88	87
Chittagong	32.1	19.4	58	50
Rajshahi	21.6	17.2	99	87
Khulna	23.6	18.0	95	79
Barisal	24.2	19.3	72	79
Sylhet	22.1	17.2	95	75
Cox's Bazar	32.5	19.4	71	52