

Chinese province to introduce Grameen model microcredit

BSS, Dhaka

China with the technical assistance from Grameen Bank is going to introduce microcredit in its island province of Hainan.

The work plan for introduction of the Grameen model microcredit was okayed yesterday at a meeting between Governor of Hainan and Grameen Bank chief Prof Muhammad Yunus in the province yesterday, a message received in Dhaka said.

Vice governor of the province and senior officials of the Hainanese provincial government

were present.

Prof Yunus, now in Hainan on an invitation by the provincial government, has agreed to work as a special adviser to the government of the province on rural finance and development.

The meeting decided that a government delegation, led by vice-governor of the province, would visit Bangladesh to see the activities of Grameen Bank.

Earlier, a top-level delegation of the provincial government of Inner Mongolia called on Prof Yunus in Beijing and sought his assistance to introduce

microcredit programme in the remote province, where a large population of ethnic minorities lives below the poverty line.

Besides, the Grameen Trust has already been invited to introduce microcredit in Sichuan province of China.

Prof Yunus also attended a session on corporate social responsibility with the CEOs of Chinese paper industry, Starbucks Coffee Company and Deloitte and focused on his idea of social business and its impact on society to address major problems in the world.

BSF abducts Bangladeshi cattle trader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday abducted a Bangladeshi cattle trader at Mohammadpur border point in Daulatpur upazila.

Cattle trader Montu Mia, 35, was picked up by BSF members belonging to Baushmari camp under Zalangi Thana in Murshidabad district in West Bengal at about 5.00am. Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources said. At that time, Montu was waiting to buy cattle from Indian cow traders near the border.

BDR is trying to hold a flag meeting with BSF during filing of the report.

Outlaw killed by Rab in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An alleged listed criminal and leader of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddha) was killed in an encounter with members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Ataikola in Pabna district yesterday evening.

The victim has been identified as Babu, 37, son of Rais Uddin of Charadangi village in the upazila.

Police said, acting on a tip-off, Rab raided Purba Bonogram the village to nab outlaws. As the Rab team reached the village, the outlaws opened fire, police said.

Babu was shot dead in a shootout as Rab returned fire. The law enforcers recovered a rifle and two bullets from the spot.

ABU is accused in over a dozen of cases including 5 five murder, police said.

Lightning kills 2 in Khulna, Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two persons were killed by lightning in Khulna and Bagerhat yesterday.

Police said Shajahan Golder, 32, a shrimp cultivator, died as a thunderbolt hit him at about 1.30 pm at Ramnagar under Paikgacha upazila in Khulna.

Shaikh Matiar Rahman, 45, a farmer, was killed as another thunderbolt struck him at about 4:15 pm at Bichat village under Kachua upazila in Bagerhat, police said.

Man dies in rooftop fall in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A construction worker met a tragic end as he fell from roof of a two-storied building in Raiganj upazila yesterday, police and locals said.

They said Obayedul Islam, 34, of Abudia village in the same upazila received serious injuries as he fell from roof of an under-construction building of Begum Nurunnahar Tarkobagish Degree College at around 2.00 pm. At that time, he was carrying cement for construction of the building of the college. He died on way to a local hospital, they said.

Police sent the body to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with Raiganj Police Station.

Husband 'kills' young wife in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A man allegedly killed his teenage wife, a Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinee, with the help of his family members at Patwari Kandigram of Kazir Char union in Muladi upazila Saturday.

Khorshed Peshkar strangled Arju Begum, 18, daughter of Shah Alam following a quarrel at night, said Muladi Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) Mahbubur Rahman. Khorshed later sprayed kerosene on the victim's body and set fire to it with the help of family members to cover it up an incident of suicide.

As neighbours came to know about the murder, they informed police. Police arrested the victim's in-laws Abul, Russell Peshkar, Asia Begum and Moni, but Khorshed managed to flee.

Muladi OC said the couple got married in 2004. Khorshed who works at Konabaria Petrol Pump in Tongi, Dhaka came to his village home a few days ago.

Barisal superintendent of police (SP) visited the spot and sent the body to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for post-mortem



PHOTO: STAR

Owners of the shops inside the subway at Gulistan in the city have piled cartons of electronics goods outside their shops, making the passage narrower, thereby causing suffering to subway users. This picture was taken yesterday.

7 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least seven people were killed and 24 others injured in separate road accidents in Gazipur, Comilla, Jhenidah, Chandpur and Netrakona yesterday and on Friday.

UNB, from Gazipur reports: Three people, including Jessore district civil surgeon's wife, were killed and 20 injured when a bus turned upside down on Dhaka-Mymensingh road here yesterday.

Two other deceased could not be identified immediately.

Sources said a bus fell flat on the road after hitting an electric pole at Hotapara, leaving a man dead on the spot.

Civil Surgeon of Jessore ABM Khasru's wife, Tahmina Begum, 35, and another unidentified man succumbed to their injuries on the way to Sadar hospital.

The injured were rushed to Sadar Hospital.

UNB from Comilla adds: An unidentified man was killed and four others injured as a bus ramed into an auto-rickshaw in the town on Comilla-Chandpur road yesterday noon.

Police said a Chandpur-bound bus ramed into a CNG-run auto-rickshaw coming from opposite direction, leaving a passenger of

the auto-rickshaw dead on the spot and four others injured at about 12:00 noon.

The injured were rushed to Comilla Medical College Hospital.

The bus driver managed to escape. A case was filed.

A report from Jhenidah says: A quack was killed in a road accident at Sreerampur Bazar in Shailakupa upazila on Jhenidah-Kusthia road yesterday.

Police said Naresh Biswas, 45, of Sheikhpura in Shailakupa, died on the spot as a truck hit his motor cycle from behind at about 10:00am.

He was going to his private chamber at Harinarayanpur Bazar in Kusthia district.

Another report from Chandpur adds: A housewife was crushed under the wheels of

a bus at Dherra village in Hajiganj upazila on Chandpur-Comilla highway on Friday noon.

Police said Shahina Begum, 30, wife of Lokman Hossain of Subidpur village in the upazila, died on the spot when a

Chandpur-bound ran over her while she was crossing the road at noon.

Outraged by the tragic incident local people put up barricade on the road, disrupting vehicular movement for about an hour. Later, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. They also seized the bus.

Our Correspondent from Netrakona reports: One person was killed in a road accident on Netrakona-Mymensingh road at Sakua Bazar under Netrakona Sadar upazila in the district yesterday.

Police said a bus hit a rickshaw from behind at about 8:00am when the helper trying to drive the bus at Sakua Bazar, leaving rickshaw passenger Abdul Matin, 55, dead on the spot.

Police rushed to the spot and seized the bus. But the helper managed to flee.

A case was registered with Netrakona Police Station in this connection.

Demolish Rahmatullah instt to ease traffic jam N'ganj municipality urges DC

A CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Narayanganj municipality has urged the deputy commissioner (DC) to take necessary steps for demolishing the old building of Rahmatullah Muslim Institute located in the centre of the town and near the rail gate-2 in order to ease traffic jam and reduce the sufferings of the public.

According to municipal authorities, if the three-storied building is demolished, the residents of Deobag, Palpara, Nagbari, Kashipur and Bholai will be benefited most as it will widen the main road used by thousands of commuters everyday.

Besides, vehicular transportation from the rail gate-2 to Dhaka-

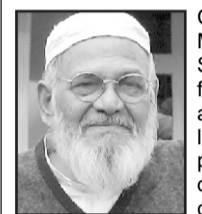
Munshiganj Road will become easier.

Municipal Chairman Dr Selina Hayat Ivy said Rahmatulla Institute was allotted a plot by erstwhile Dhaka Improvement Trust where they had built a new commercial building without vacating the municipal land where the old building is located.

In order to widen the road, owners of houses and shops have already allowed municipal authorities to demolish extended portions of their establishments at Deobag and Palpara areas.

But the vehicular movement is being disrupted as the building is situated in the middle of the road, she added.

Obituary



Capt. (ret'd.) Muhammad Shujat Ali, a freedom fighter and former lawmaker, passed away due to old-age complications at

Richardson Regional Medical Centre, Texas, USA on Friday at the age of 81, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, six sons, two daughters, a number of grandchildren, relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

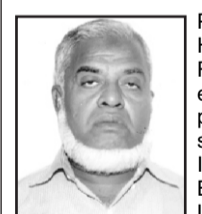
Shujat Ali, who did his BA (Hons) in political science from Dhaka University in 1942, received the King's Commission (1943-44) as an officer first in the Royal Indian Air Force and later in the Royal Indian Army.

Recipient of both the War Medal and the Pakistan Medal, he was also the commandant of Palatana freedom fighters' training camp in Tripura, India. He was critically injured along with Maj. Khaled Mosharrif in Kosha sector during the War of Liberation. He hoisted the Bangladesh flag in Debidwar, Homna, Chandina, Muradnagar and Daukandi on December 4 in 1971.

Shujat Ali was elected MNA in 1970, MCA in 1972 and Jute in 1973. He was also a successful jute businessman.

His body is expected to be flown back home on Tuesday. His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque in Dhaka and at his village home at Debidwar.

Prof AKM Habibur Rahman



Prof AKM Habibur Rahman, former executive vice-president and secretary of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, passed

away due to prolonged illness at Ibn Sina Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 70, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, four sons and three daughters. The namaz-e-janaza was held after Asr prayers at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque.

Death anniversary

Today is the 36th death anniversary of poet Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, a martyr of the War of Liberation, says a press release.

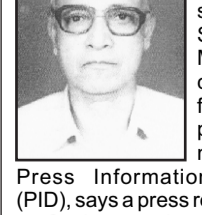
Mahtab, son of Ahaj Habibullah Ahmed, hailed from Joypurhat. A road in Joypurhat was named after him in recognition of his sacrifice in the liberation war.

He also played a role in the anti-British movement in 1937.

Two of his books of poems are 'Sonar Hat' and 'Alo'.

A doa mahfil will be held at Dhaka Railway Central Mosque at Kamalapur in the city after Asr prayers.

Syed Salehuddin Mahmood



Today is the first death anniversary of Syed Salehuddin Mahmood, columnist and former deputy principal information officer of

Press Information Department (PID), says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at Mirpur Shaheed Intellectual Graveyard Asr prayers today.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury calls on British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London on April 19.

57 diploma engineers awarded

BSS, Dhaka

Fifty-seven diploma engineers were honoured yesterday with national award for scoring outstanding results in the Diploma-in-Engineering Examination-2006.

Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB) Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury and Director General of the Department of Technical Education Prof M Abul Basher were special guests. IDEB President Rafiqul Islam Bhuiyan chaired the function.

Addressing the function, Prof Wakil Ahmed said lack of infrastructure facilities and skilled teachers has long been a major obstacle towards ensuring quality education in the country.

"There is no alternative to turning the vast population into human resources to keep pace in the competitive global village," he said and asked the diploma engineers to achieve high excellence in morality and also in technical know-how to benefit the nation.

Welcoming the meritorious diploma engineers, Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury said 'inferior complexity' should not exist in their minds as former Indian Prime Minister Deva Gouda was also a diploma engineer.

"There's a huge scope for the diploma engineers to work in the fields like water, food and environment side by side with other key areas in the Saarc regions," he added.

Lutfur Rahman Joy, an assistant professor of Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology, has been awarded 'Mother Teresa Gold Medal 2006' for his contribution to literature and research, says a press release.

He received the award at a programme at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city recently. Bangladesh Shechhasebi Federation organised the programme.

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Take measures for management of clinical waste

Environmentalists tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists at a discussion yesterday demanded steps for compulsory management of medical waste in all government and private hospitals of the country.

They also underscored the need for radioactive waste management along with general medical wastes.

The discussion titled 'Government Initiative in Medical Waste Management' organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon was held at its Lalmitia office in the city.

Waste produced in the pharmaceutical companies should also be monitored, the speakers observed.

They also said medical waste management policy should also include the treatment of wastes and other types of liquids produced in the hospitals.

Liquid waste of Wasa should compulsorily be purified before dumping into rivers, the speakers said.

Bapa General Secretary Mahidul Huq Khan chaired the programme while Dr Nasima Akhter of Brac, former president of Bangladesh Medical Academy Prof Rashid-e-Mahbub, Executive Engineer of

Dhaka City Corporation Dr Tariq Bin Yusuf and Chairman of Health and Hope Hospital Dr MH Chowdhury Lenin spoke.

One arrested on rape charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police arrested Anwar, 25, yesterday on charge of raping a teenage girl at Deshpapara area of Gazipur.

As the girl was coming back from her friend's house on Thursday evening, alleged criminal Zahir along with his two associates Anwar and Mithu raped the girl on gun-point.

She was later taken to the sadar hospital in a critical condition. Resident Medical Officer of the hospital said her condition has improved.

Victim's mother has filed a case against Zahir, Anwar and Mithu yesterday, said Officer-in-charge of Joydevpur Police Station Abdul Matin adding that police has been trying to arrest the other accused.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country, Met Office said, predicting that day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore, Chandpur and Mongla and lowest 21.1 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6.23pm today and rises at 5:31am 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	33.7	26.2	71	83
Chittagong	32.5	15.4	77	77
Rajshahi	33.4	23.2	79	59
Khulna	34.0	26.6	73	85
Barisal	34.0	24.5	76	91
Sylhet	25.9	21.1	98	96
Cox's Bazar	32.7	25.0	77	76



PHOTO: STAR

Winners of Mhed-Salma Amin Journalism Award 2006 pose for photograph with the guests at the prize giving ceremony at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Former adviser to the caretaker government Dr Akbar Ali Khan, sitting in the middle, was present as the chief guest at the function organised by Media Forum for Human Rights and Environmental Development (MHED). Hasibur Rahman Bilu of The Daily Star won the prize for his report on environment, Ismat Marjida Khan of the Shamokal for her report on women and children issues and Shah Alam Bhuiyan of the Ittefaq for his report on human rights.