

# Protect wetland to save city from waterlogging

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is necessary to ensure proper drainage of rainwater before filling up any wetland or waterbody, said the speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They called for updating as well as strict implementation of the laws related to the protection of wetland and open space to protect the city from waterlogging.

They also laid emphasis on the participation of city dwellers to maintain the drainage system of the city along with the authorities concerned.

The discussion titled 'How to solve waterlogging problem of Dhaka city' was organised jointly by Nagrik Sanghati and Organ Developments Ltd at the National

Press Club in the city.

Kazi Mohammed Shish, former chief engineer of Water and Sewerage Authorities (Wasa), presented the keynote speech at the discussion.

He said no less than 56 crore litres of water drains out from the city every year and of this, 23 crore litres is rainwater and the rest household liquid waste.

But under the existing drainage system, only 60 percent of the total water is drained out from the city, he added.

Kazi Shish said the household liquid waste is increasing every year with the growing number of populations but the city drainage coverage is not increasing at the same rate.

He said the city drainage system

has been designed in such a way that it can drain out in an average 65 millimetres rainfall in six hours.

"So if the drainage system remains properly clean, there is no question of waterlogging during the normal rainfall. But most of the drainage system is clogged with household waste and polythene. So there is severe waterlogging in the city during the monsoon," he added.

Dr Moniruzzaman Mia, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, said, "If we remain conscious and law-abiding we can protect the city from waterlogging."

Dr Atiqur Rahman presided over the discussion which was moderated by Dr AQM Mahbubur Rahman.

Md Asaduzzaman, managing director of Organ Developments Ltd, Sharifuzzaman Sharif, general secretary of Nagrik Sanghati, and Mihir Biswas, member-secretary of Buriganga Bachao Andolon, were present at the discussion.

said.

But the city now needs a drainage network covering 260 square kilometres, but it has only 150 square kilometres, he added.

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## President undergoes cataract surgery

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed underwent a successful cataract surgery at Birdem Hospital in the city yesterday.

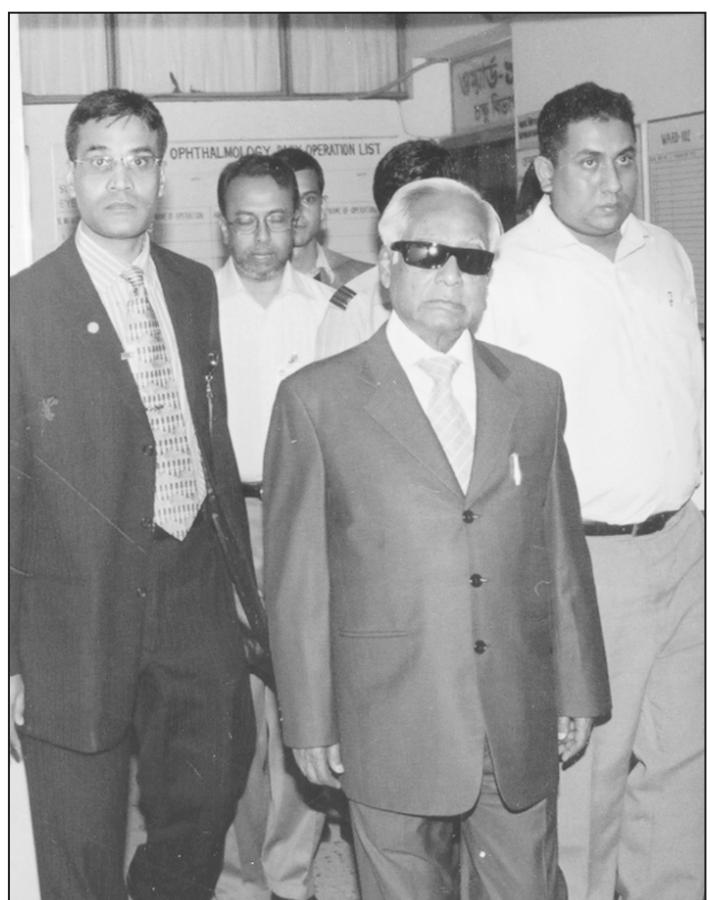
A surgical team headed by Prof Dr Sheikh MA Mannan performed the phaco emulsification cataract surgery with intraocular lens implantation on the left eye of the president.

Other members of the surgical team were Prof AH Syedur Rahman, Dr Nazrul Islam, Dr Ziaul Ahsan, Dr Abdul Rakib Tushar, Dr Sharminna Alauddin and Dr Siddiqui Rahman.

A medical board comprising Prof Hazera Mahbub, Maj. Gen. (retd) Ziauddin Ahmed, Prof AKMian, Prof Md Omar Farruk, Prof AKM Nurunnabi Chowdhury, Prof Jafar Latif, Prof AKM Morshed, and Brig. Gen. Prof Md Sk Bahar Hossain was with the surgical team.

The operation, which began at 9:30am, was successfully completed by 9:55 am, said a Bangabhaban release.

On completion of the operation, the president took rest up to 4:30pm at Birdem and returned to Bangabhaban at 4:40pm.



President Iajuddin Ahmed comes out of Birdem Hospital in the city yesterday after a successful cataract surgery.

## Five CAAB employees jailed for taking bribes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday sentenced five employees of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) to two to six days' imprisonment for taking bribes from a Kuala Lumpur-bound passenger at Zia International Airport.

The five -- Iqbal Bahar Bhuiyan, Shahjalal Patwari, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Sheikh Ansar Uddin and Mohammad Shamsuddin -- were handed over to the Airport police at 12:15am today.

The police said the five employees found that the passenger, Shahabuddin, was carrying Tk 68,000 in his bag when it was put in the scanning machine. But they let him go after he bribed them.

Later, the joint forces arrested the five and produced them before the mobile court at the airport.

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Carrying banners, festoons and placards and wearing white T-shirt, several hundreds of official of National Museum and leaders and activists of ICOM brought out a colourful procession at 7:30am from Shahbagh in the city that paraded different city streets.



A colourful procession was brought out from the National Museum in the city yesterday to mark the International Museum Day.

PHOTO: STAR

## Preserve country's history, heritage for next generation

Experts say at Int'l Museum Day programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Museum Day was observed across the country yesterday as elsewhere in the world with a renewed commitment to preserving the country's thousand-year-old heritage for the next generation so that the history becomes a source of inspiration to them.

This year the theme was 'Museum and Universal Heritage'.

National Museum and International Council of Museums (ICOM) Bangladesh jointly organised daylong programmes, including discussion, seminar and view exchange meeting, to mark the day.

Participants at the seminar pointed out the problems the museums are undergoing and placed recommendations, including training facilities for skilled museum staff, making the young generation interested about museum, fund raising for the museums and making the best use of information technology.

Director General of National

Secretary to the cultural affairs ministry ABM Abdul Haq Chowdhury inaugurated the daylong programmes organised to mark the day at National Museum in the morning.

"Museums are the mirror of a nation that bridges the past with the present," said Haq.

He called upon the authorities concerned to preserve the objects in the museums that present the thousand-year-old history and heritage of the nation and unveil those before the world community.

Later, a seminar was organised at the auditorium of the museum.

Additional secretary to primary and mass education ministry Kazi Akhtar Hossain said the ancient culture and the history of Bangladesh shall have to be portrayed before the next generation through the museums.

In the evening, a view exchange meeting was held where representatives from different museums across the country took part.

Two bodies recovered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the bodies of an unidentified woman and a newborn baby in the city yesterday.

The body of woman wearing white T-shirt and jeans was found in a paddy field at Matual Mirdha Barin Jatrabari.

Her hands and legs were tied with rope and a scarf was tied around her neck, the police said.

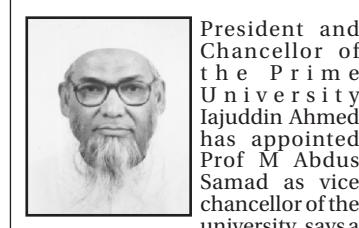
The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, the police recovered the decomposed body of a newborn from a water body in Tejgaon Industrial Area.

Sources said locals washed the police after they saw the body floating in the water body.

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

President Samad new VC of Prime University



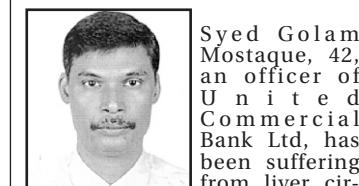
President and Chancellor of the Prime University Iajuddin Ahmed has appointed Prof M Abdus Samad as vice chancellor of the university, says a

press release.

Before his new position, he had been dean, Faculty of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Khulna University of Engineering & Technology.

Prof Samad is the vice president of Bangladesh Standard Testing Institution (BSTI) and founder executive member of Bangladesh Electronics Society (BES).

Appeal for help



Syed Golam Mostaque, 42, an officer of United Commercial Bank Ltd, has been suffering from liver cirrhosis since last two years, says a

press release.

A liver transplant is the only way to save his life, and for this around Tk 4 million is now required immediately for his operation in India.

His family has already spent a large amount of money for his treatment and is now unable to manage such a huge amount.

So Anjum Ara Begum, wife of Golam Mostaque, has appealed to affluent people of the society for financial assistance.

Contributions can be sent to Savings Account No 112200109343, United Commercial Bank Ltd, 58 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

Fair & Lovely, Faria Lara Foundation ink deal

Fair and Lovely Foundation will continue to empower women economically through education by continuing the "Supplementary Education Programme" for the third year running, says a press release.

The Foundation has signed an agreement with the Faria Lara Foundation on Thursday in this regard. These two organisations have worked together to improve the lives of rural women in the country.

On the occasion, Rakesh Mohan, chairman and managing director of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd and Anwar Hossain Khan, senior vice president of Faria Lara Foundation have signed on behalf of their respective organisations.

The programme was initiated in Bawna upazila of Barguna district in 2005.

## Empowering poor students with IT skills

Dishari trains over 800 students free of cost

KAMRUL HASAN KHAN, back from Manikganj

With a philosophy of providing a platform for the financially disadvantaged students of IT education that can help them cope with job market, Dishari Basic IT Education Centre continues its efforts relentlessly.

Established in July 2002, Dishari, a concern of British American Tobacco Bangladesh (BATB), trained more than 800 students free of cost at its four centres across the country, the authorities said.

The trainees included rural youths, who are economically disadvantaged, children of farmers, government employees and different professionals.

Dishari got started with Chechua IT centre in Kushtia to spread IT education among the rural youth, especially the children of leaf farmers. Afterwards three more centres have been set up at Moulvibazar in 2003, Manikganj in 2004 and Cox's Bazar in 2005.

Firoz Salauddin Rajib, community relations executive, corporate regulatory affairs (Cora) and also project manager of Dishari said the BATB established Dishari in support of its commitment to be a development partner of the country and to support the government's emphasis on IT.

Dishari introduced executive batch for different professionals and government employees in 2005, aiming at developing the skills

of existing jobholders in the community such as journalists, local government employees and others.

"Any computer-illiterate and financially disadvantaged can take the course at Dishari's regular course after taking part in an admission test, while professionals can take the course in Dishari's executive batch," Firoz said.

A group of journalists on Thursday visited Dishari's Manikganj branch situated in the Bari Manikganj Leaf Office at the invitation of the authorities.

Currently, the 17th batch of 12 students is completing the two-month basic course at the Manikganj centre, Shamim Haider, trainer of the Dishari Manikganj said.

Trained instructors demonstrate basic operation of computers and Microsoft Office and other basic applications that are frequently in use. Students are also taught fundamental English. Passing at least SSC is a prerequisite for admission at Dishari.

"The thing is not like that we train them up and leave them, rather along with the basic course, we enhance their confidence that they have the ability to do better," Shamim said.

Hosne Ara Akhter, one of the 17th batch students, who completed her MA in Bangla from a college in Manikganj, said she was impressed with the method of the course.

Shofika Sultana and Md Ayub Ali, two ex-students of Dishari of 4th batch here, now working at Leaf Office after completion of the basic course. Shofika is working as IT operator, while Ayub as barcode entry operator.

"All the students have access to individual PCs during the classes. The centre also has a library for the students," Shamim said.

He said many of their ex-students are doing well in the job market, while many other students got inspired to take advanced IT courses.

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## WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Rajshahi and the lowest of 23.2 degrees at Bogra.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:36pm today and rises at 5:14am 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
Dhaka	34.4	26.5	73</td	