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TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS

9 get Ekushey Padak 2008

UNB, Dhaka

Nine distinguished personalities of the country have been awarded "Ekushey Padak" 2008 in recognition of their outstanding contributions to their respective fields.

The awardees are Dr Nazma Chowdhury (research), Khandaker Nurul Alam (music), Waheedul Haq (music-posthumously), Shyam Sundar Baishnab (music-posthumously), Shefall Ghosh (music-posthumously), Prof Muzaffer Ahmad (education), Khaleq Nawaj Khan (language), Prof Dr Zohra Begum Kazi (social work-posthumously) and Dilwar Khan (literature).

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will formally distribute the award among the recipients at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital tomorrow morning, said a PID handout.

2004 GRENADE SEIZURE CID quizzes 11 staff of Dhaka Central Jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has made a move to unearth the mystery behind the seizure of a grenade at the Dhaka Central Jail a day after the grenade attacks on an Awami League rally on Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, 2004.

The CID has already interrogated 11 present and former jail employees including the then superintendent and deputy superintendent, sources said.

The then deputy inspector general (prisons) Toyab Ali Mollah might also be grilled.

The CID took the initiative as part of its move to conduct a

AL asks govt to let Hasina get treatment abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday urged the caretaker government to allow detained AL President Sheikh Hasina receive treatment abroad as recommended by her personal physician.

The call came after a bilateral meeting between AL and the Ganotantri Party -- one of the allies in 14-party combine -- held at acting AL President Zillur Rahman's Gulshan residence.

The meeting, chaired by Zillur Rahman, decided to help the caretaker government to hand over state power to an elected government through holding of the parliamentary election in line with the electoral roadmap announced by the Election Commission.

Both parties demanded that the government hold dialogues with all political parties as early as possible and without any conditions.

AL and the Ganotantri Party have both decided to take a common stand on issues to be discussed at both dialogues with the

REORGANISING BNP Delwar kicks off talks with dist leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Secretary General of a faction of BNP Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday started exchange of views with district level leaders in a bid to reorganise the party across the country.

Party leaders and activists from Kurigram led by district unit President Idris Ali met Delwar, Khaleda Zia-appointed secretary general, at his Nam flat in the capital and urged him to announce a programme to free detained party Chairperson Khaleda.

Meeting sources said leaders of the district and upazila units of BNP also urged the secretary general to reconstitute the district committees as soon as possible to strengthen the party.

They appreciated the recent stance of four standing committee members of BNP, who informed court that the much-talked-about October 29 meeting at former finance minister Saifur Rahman's residence was not a meeting of the standing committee. They urged the party leadership to make the

Draft voter lists of 3 city corporations published

Rajshahi 2.57 lakh, Khulna 3.98 lakh, Sylhet 2.54 lakh

STAR REPORT

Draft voter lists for Rajshahi, Khulna and Sylhet city corporations were published yesterday.

The number of voters in Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) stands at 257,700 while it is 398,010 in Khulna City Corporation (KCC) and 254,450 in Sylhet City Corporation (SCC).

Acting Rajshahi Divisional Deputy Election Commissioner and District Election Officer Sayed Muhammad Musa said the draft voter list had been sent to all the 30 ward commissioners of RCC and election offices, reports our Rajshahi correspondent.

The number of RCC voters decreased by 16,428 in the draft voter list from the earlier one prepared in 2006.

"The final voter list is likely to be published on March 24 after making necessary corrections," he said adding that the voters have to submit their applications to the election office by March 5 for making changes if necessary.

The authorities will review those and make final decisions by March 20.

As part of preparation for holding the RCC elections in April, the election office sent a list of 129 polling centres for approval.

Khulna District Election Officer Md Mujibar Rahman said the draft voter list for the KCC was sent to the offices of 31 ward commissioners in the city yesterday, reports our Khulna correspondent.

As per the draft voter list, the

40 injured as Manna fans clash with cops

Famous actor laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 40 people, including six policemen, were injured in a series of clashes between police and fans of departed film star Manna near Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC) in Tejgaon yesterday.

The actor, who rose to dizzying heights of popularity, was taken to his hometown of Tangail in the afternoon and laid to rest.

In the capital, several thousand people, mostly youths, started thronging the BFDC premises since morning to have a last glimpse of their beloved actor. Many of them came from neighbouring districts of Dhaka.

The clashes ensued when police baton-charged the crowd as they



Police charge truncheons on Manna fans who gathered in front of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation gate in the city yesterday to have a glimpse of the film actor's body.



Thirteen-year-old Naim holds the ancient statue of Lord Buddha that he found abandoned near a water tank on Nawabpur Road in the capital yesterday.

Appointment of acting law secy illegal: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) in its judgment yesterday declared the appointment of Kazi Habibur Awal as acting law secretary illegal.

HC division bench of Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Shahidul Islam delivered the judgment after completion of hearing on a rule of a writ petition and directed the authorities concerned to send copies of the judgment to the chief justice, law adviser and establishment adviser.

4 killed in Cox's Bazar road crash

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Four people died when a truck crashed into a roadside mosque at Jimongkhali village under Teknaf upazila on the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway yesterday morning.

Witnesses said the driver of the Teknaf-bound truck, carrying

Ancient statue found in city hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An ancient statue of Lord Buddha was found abandoned near the water tank of a hotel at Nawabpur Road in Old Dhaka yesterday.

An employee of an electric shop found the statue lying near the water tank of Nidu Hotel and informed the police.

On information, the law enforcers rushed to the spot and recovered the statue, weighing 2.37kg. They said the market value of the statue might be Tk 2.5 crore.

Police said one of the boarders might have brought the statue to the hotel and left it there, fearing arrest.

Work on Padma Bridge to start next year

CA says after opening Mukterpur Bridge

UNB, Munshiganj

The CA told the function that instruction has been given to the authorities concerned to immediately construct an alternative road from Mukterpur to Chashara of Narayanganj to make communication between Dhaka and Munshiganj smoother.

He said this region, including Dhaka, Munshiganj and Narayanganj, will have a coordinated transport system if the alternative road is constructed.

The CA said the present government is giving topmost priority to expansion and development of the country's communication system to achieve rapid economic progress.

The head of the caretaker government said, "Padma Multipurpose Bridge Construction" project was approved in August last and a decision was taken to construct the bridge at Maowa to establish a direct road communications between the country's southwestern region and other parts of the country.

He said works on formulation of a design of the project and the process for land acquisition are going on.

He gave directives to all organisations concerned to work in coordination to implement the project in due time, terming it a very important work in national life.

Dhaka Wasa launches online billing system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) yesterday officially launched its online billing system, with a view to reducing customer harassment and ensuring transparency in the billing process.

Anwarul Iqbal, local government, rural development and cooperatives adviser, inaugurated the website at Wasa Bhaban in the capital yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, Adviser Iqbal said the standard of existing water and sewerage billing of Wasa is poor in comparison with that of other countries in the world.

The Wasa has some problems in its billing and collection method that its customers often complain about and the introduction of the online billing system is a significant step towards addressing the issues, he added.

If the online billing system is implemented properly, the customers will be able to access their monthly water bills over the internet and file complaints if there is any discrepancy in their bills, said Iqbal.

Since about 80 percent of the city dwellers do not have internet access, Wasa will need to explore ways how to draw the city dwellers into using the online service to make the online billing system a success, he also added.

Regarding the preservation of natural water bodies in the city, Adviser Iqbal said the government has decided to preserve the water body behind Sonargaon Hotel upto Rampura Bridge by demolishing 11 structures instead of 300 structures, as proposed by Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakha (Rajuk) earlier.

Since sewage from Baridhara and Gulshan areas is being dumped into Gulshan lake due to

DEATH SENTENCE Govt trying to obtain Saudi royal clemency for 8 Bangladeshis

STAR REPORT

The government is trying to obtain royal clemency from the Saudi Arabia monarchy for eight Bangladeshi workers facing death sentences.

The Arab News, quoting the Labour Councillor SM Haroon-ur Rashid, reported on Sunday that the Bangladesh embassy is exerting all efforts to help the eight on the death row.

Earlier, the government instructed its embassy in Saudi Arabia to further investigate the matter, after the workers' relatives appealed for the governments help in Dhaka on February 7.

Haroon-ur Rashid told the Arab News, published from Riyadh, that he was confident a compromise could be reached that would save the men's lives.

37 killed in fresh Afghan blast

AFP, Kandahar

A Taliban suicide car bomb aimed at Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan killed 37 civilians yesterday, a day after another suicide blast left 100 dead in the country's deadliest such attack.

Nato's International Security Assistance Force said three of its soldiers were also wounded in the powerful suicide blast Monday in a car parts market about 50 metres (160 feet) from the Pakistan border in the town of Spin Boldak.

It would not comment on the nationality of the troops but Kandahar province governor Asadullah Khalid told reporters they were Canadians.

The Canadian military confirmed it had a convoy in the area but would not say if it had been

involved in any incident.

The interior ministry said the attack killed 37 civilians and wounded 30 more.

The blast caused a fire and destroyed a vegetable market, leaving a 30-metre-wide hole in the ground, an AFP reporter at the scene said. More than 100 shops were destroyed or damaged, he added.

About 20 burned bodies were collected in one clinic, many lying on the floor, he said. Witnesses said many of the victims were shopkeepers.

"My cousins were killed. I can't find their bodies," said one trader, 25-year-old Abdul Majeed.

A spokesman for the extremist Taliban movement said his group had carried out the blast, which is similar to scores carried out by

18 killed in fresh Maoist unrest in India

AFP, Bhubaneswar

Thirteen Maoist rebels and five police were killed in gunbattles in the eastern Indian state of Chhattisgarh yesterday as heavy fighting continued for a third day in a neighbouring state, police said.

Three guerrillas and five police were killed in a gunfight in thick forest around 450 kilometres (350 miles) from the local capital Raipur.

"Three bodies of Maoists were

THICK DARK SMOKE billowing from a plastic factory at Begum Bazar of Old Dhaka that caught fire early yesterday as locals watch from rooftops.

PHOTO: STAR

Prayer Timing

February 19

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-07
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation