

'Biotechnology can play significant role in alleviating poverty'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Speakers at the 15th International Congress on Biotechnology in Animal Reproduction said that biotechnology can play a significant role in alleviating poverty and building a society free from hunger in developing countries like Bangladesh.

The speakers at the two-day congress at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) also said that such technology deserves an extra focus from scientists and functionaries to reach this at the doors of the beneficiaries.

BAU and International Congress on Biotechnology in Animal Reproduction (ICBAR), Japan jointly organised the congress.

Former vice-chancellor of BAU Prof AKM Aminul Haque was present at the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest.

Presided over by Prof Gentaro Oguri, president, Association of ICBAR, the inaugural session was attended by BAU Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Akhtar Hossain as chief patron.

Prof Tatsuki Suzuki, vice-president, Association of ICBAR, delivered the welcome address

while Organising Secretary of the Congress Prof Md Golam Shah Alam gave the vote of thanks.

Speaking as the chief guest, Dr Aminul said that the use of biotechnology in animal production has been making rapid advances worldwide.

Besides host Bangladesh, representatives from Japan, South Korea, China, India, Egypt, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom, Italy, Bulgaria, Sweden and other countries took part in the congress.

Prof Akhtar Hossain said that the objective of the conference is to bring scientists and academicians

from all over the world to promote greater understanding of the biotechnological issues, sharing new scientific knowledge and raise awareness of their potential benefits and risks and the implications in terms of needed regulatory framework, institutional capacity building and human resource development.

Prof Oguri said food security and nutritional status of the peoples are under great threat. To improve their nutritional conditions, effective and more sustainable technologies are required for better production of food of animal origin, he added.



Guests hold copies of two books titled 'Power politics in the Asia-Pacific: The case of Chinese modernisation' and 'Selected papers on security and leadership' by Lt Gen Md Aminul Karim at a publication ceremony at Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) in the city yesterday. From left are Md Aminul Karim, Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley and Prof Hafiz GA Siddiqui.

Two books on power politics, security launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The publication ceremony of two books titled 'Power Politics in the Asia-Pacific: The Case of Chinese Modernisation' and 'Selected Papers on Security and Leadership' by Lt Gen M Aminul Karim was held in the city yesterday.

Speakers at the launching ceremony said the books will help adopt a proper foreign policy.

Both the books are well written and provide in-depth analysis of economics, politics, bureaucracy, politics and national security of the Asia-Pacific region and Bangladesh, they added.

Academic Press and Publishers Library (APPL) in association with Dhaka Language Club (DLC) organised the programme at Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) office in the city with APPL Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley in the chair.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury unveiled the covers of the books.

Speaking as the chief guest, he said the books will contribute a lot to the formulation of a proper foreign policy. "Critical issues like economics, future power, foreign policy and national security are wonderfully described in the books," he added.

Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, writer Lt Gen M Aminul Karim, former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, North South University Vice Chancellor Prof Hafiz GA Siddiqui, Chinese Ambassador Zheng Qingdian, ex-foreign secretary Faruq Sobhan, Prof Razia S Ahamed of Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and APPL Managing Director Shahina Rahman attended the programme.

Dhaka elected to two int'l postal bodies

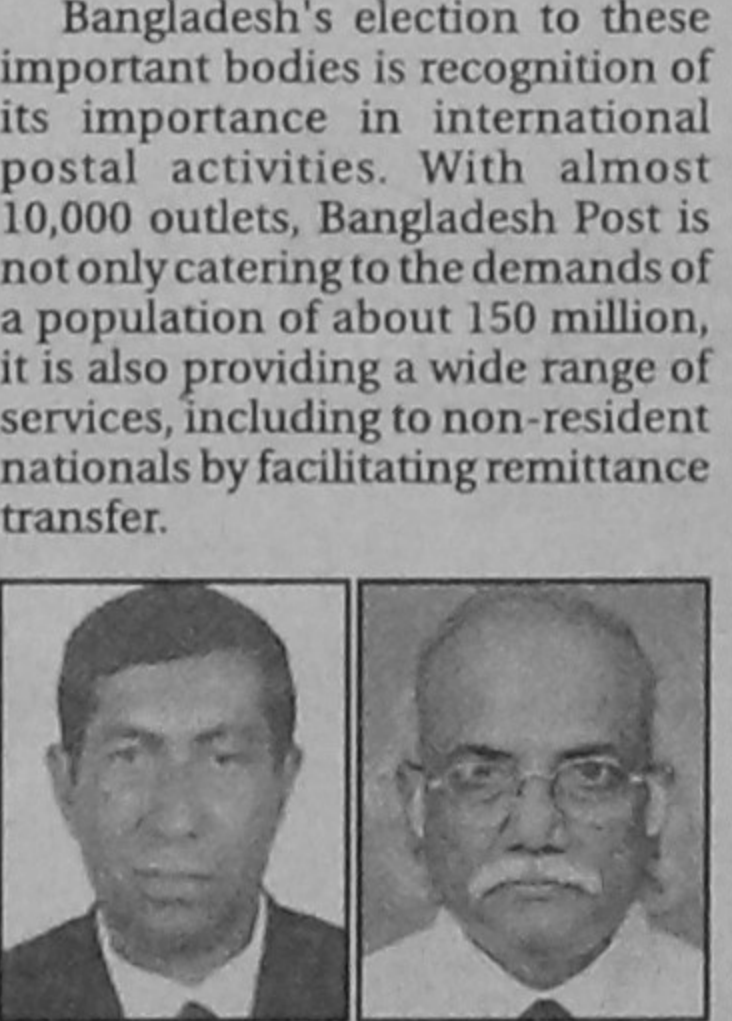
METRO DESK

Bangladesh has been elected to two top international postal bodies recently, says a press release.

The elections to the Council of Administration (CA) and the Postal Operations Council (POC) were held in Geneva during the on-going 24th International Postal Congress on August 6.

The Council of Administration carries on all governance-related activities of the 191-member Universal Postal Union between the Congresses, which are held every four years. And the Postal Operations Council is responsible for operational, commercial, technical and economic postal matters. Both the Councils have 40 members each.

Bangladesh's election to these important bodies is recognition of its importance in international postal activities. With almost 10,000 outlets, Bangladesh Post is not only catering to the demands of a population of about 150 million, it is also providing a wide range of services, including to non-resident nationals by facilitating remittance transfer.



Mohanagar Puja Committee executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kazal Devnath and Advocate Tapas Kumar Pal have been made the president and secretary general of the executive committee of Mohanagar Sarbojanee Puja Committee (MSPC) respectively at its biannual congress at Dhakeshwari Mandir in the city recently, says a press release.

The 71-member executive committee was sworn in on Thursday.



Shishu Jubo Sangskritik Jote forms a human chain in front of National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding declaration of August 15 as the national mourning day and public holiday.

4 killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Four people were killed and nine others injured in separate road accidents across the country yesterday.

Our correspondent in Gaibandha reports: Two people were killed and five others injured in a road accident at Taltola on Rangpur-Bogra highway yesterday.

The accident took place when a speeding bus rammed a rickshaw van from behind, killing two passengers on the spot.

The injured were rushed to Govindaganj Health Complex.

The victims are Mokhesur Rahman, 28, and Sarbat Ali, 38, of

village Uttarpara in Govindaganj upazila.

Our correspondent in Sirajganj adds: A minor boy was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck on the Dhaka-Bonpara Highway at Soyadabad in Sirajganj Sadar in the early of yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Gul Mohammad, 8, of the Soyadabad village in the same upazila.

The accident took place at around 5:30am when a Dhaka-bound truck from Rajshahi hit him from behind and crushed his body under the wheels while he was crossing the road.

A correspondent in Comilla

adds: A man was killed in a road accident at Kongsanagar area on Comilla-Sylhet highway at Debidwar upazila yesterday.

The victim was identified as Md Sumon, 25 of Barara village of the upazila.

The accident occurred when a Comilla-bound passenger bus knocked him down while he was crossing the road.

Our RU correspondent adds: Four people were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway at Choddopai Crossing in Rajshahi city yesterday.

The accident occurred when a speeding human hauler collided head-on with a motorcycle.

Youth relieved of rape charge after serving four months in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Languishing in jail for more than four months, an innocent youth was finally relieved of charges brought against him in a rape case that also led to the death of his brother and mother.

The youth was identified as Md Shamim, 30, a shop owner and resident of Halishahar B Block area in the port city.

Detective Branch (DB) of police on Thursday submitted the final report to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) court, Chittagong after an investigation, saying that a DNA test confirmed that Shamim is not involved in the rape.

Sources said the rape case was filed by a girl who lives in a nearby slum on April 10 this year.

Shamim's family members alleged that a local community police leader with the connivance

of the then officer-in-charge and a sub-inspector of Halishahar Police Station had the girl file the case to realise money from Shamim.

Immediately after the case was filed, Shamim was summoned to the police station in the name of interrogation and detained on the same day.

The community police leader also demanded Tk 50,000 for the release of Shamim, his family members said. Shamim was sent to the jail custody the next day.

Meanwhile, Shamim's elder brother Akhteruzzaman Babu suffered a massive heart attack and died on April 13 after failing to manage the money for the release of his younger brother.

After these two incidents -- detention of her innocent son and the premature death of another son -- Shamim's mother Saleha Begum became so dis-

traught that she died the next day.

Following the incidents, the investigation of the case was transferred to the DB police.

Blood samples of the girl and Shamim and the semen sample collected from the girl's cloth were sent to Dhaka for DNA test on June 10. The DNA analysis report reached Chittagong on July 23.

The report was prepared by Prof Sharif Akhteruzzaman and Shafiqul Alam of National Forensic DNA Profiling Laboratory at Dhaka Medical College.

Talking to this correspondent, DB Inspector Sujaul Haq said the investigation and the DNA test report showed that Shamim is innocent. "In the final report, I have appealed to the court to relieve the accused of the false charge and take legal action against the plaintiff."

Making of a non-functional president?

FROM PAGE 1

his hand picked Army Chief General Ashfaq Pervez Kiani will rescue him soon.

According to the constitution of Pakistan, President Pervez Musharraf is still more powerful than prime minister and the parliament. President is the supreme commander of the Armed Forces. President can dissolve national assembly with the help of army anytime. He also has the powers to impose governor rule in any province.

PPP Co-Chairperson Asif Ali Zardari and PML-N Chief Nawaz Sharif think that President Musharraf is not in a position to suspend the government with the help of Pakistan Army. They are sure that army is already doing military operations in Baluchistan and tribal areas bordering Afghanistan. If army will help Musharraf against the newly elected democratic government then people in Sindh and Punjab province could also come out on the roads and army will be in a big trouble.

Article 41 of the constitution says that "there shall be a president of Pakistan who shall be the head of state and shall represent the unity of the Republic". If the president of Pakistan will become non-functional and elected chief ministers of four units of the federation will not welcome him then it will be very difficult for Musharraf to claim that he represents the unity of Pakistan. Ruling coalition has decided to call the national assembly meeting to initiate the

impeachment process against Musharraf next week. Speaker of the national assembly will hold a debate in the joint sitting of the two houses of parliament on impeachment resolution.

According to article 47 of the constitution, two third members of the total number of both houses must declare that president is unfit to hold his office due to incapacity, or he is guilty of violating constitution or he is involved in gross misconduct. Musharraf will face the first ever impeachment motion in the history of Pakistan.

Highly placed sources in ruling coalition claimed that a comprehensive and lethal charge sheet against President Musharraf is already in the making.

This charge sheet may open many new Pandora boxes. The joint meeting of the two houses of the parliament will try to pass a resolution against a person who abrogated constitution of Pakistan not once but twice (October 12th 1999 and November 3rd 2007), who arrested one elected prime minister in 1999 and then arrested the chief justice of Pakistan on March 9th 2007.

The charge sheet will say that according to the article 56 of the constitution, president was bound to address both houses of the parliament at the commencement of the first session of national assembly after new general election but he never performed his constitutional obligations. The charge sheet will accuse President Musharraf for conspiring against

the sitting elected government with the help of the opposition party, Pakistan Muslim League (Q). Ruling coalition members will also quote from his memoir "In the line of Fire" during the debate and say that as the army chief and head of the state, Musharraf created PML-Q on the advice of his close aide Tariq Aziz in 2002 which was a clear violation of the constitution as well as army rules.

PML-N members will demand to set up an independent inquiry commission against Musharraf to investigate the Kargil episode. According to the sources in the ruling coalition, Musharraf will have a safe exit if he resigns from the office of the president in next two days. If the impeachment motion will be passed by the parliament then it will be difficult for the government to provide him safe exit because many in Pakistan want him to produce in a court of law for breaking constitution, for the operation in Red Mosque last year and for the killing of innocents in Baluchistan and tribal areas.

Just weeks back, US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher advised Pakistani politicians that they should stop squabbling about President Musharraf and focus on

nobody from Washington will come and rescue their most trusted friend in Pakistan.

One federal minister of the ruling coalition has cautioned his leadership about the possible dangers in this new game. The minister is of the view that both ruling coalition and President Musharraf are playing a very risky game. The numbers are very important in this game. Coalition partners need 295 votes out of 442 to impeach President Musharraf.

They claim to have the support of 305 members. If Musharraf can convince Pir Pagara of PML-Functional to hold his party's 6 votes and some dissidents in PPP led by Makhdoom Amin Fahim decide to abstain then coalition partners will be in big trouble.

Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif were very relaxed yesterday and they claim to their colleagues that they will ultimately win the support of 350 members. Both camps are very confident but there is one difference. One camp is led by a functional federal government having the support of four provincial governments.

Other camp is led by a virtually non-functional President who is looking towards army which is claiming now to be neutral and no more interested in politics. If army does not come to rescue its supreme commander then Musharraf will become a "lesson" in the history of Pakistan.

ACADEMIC EXCHANGE DU signs MoU with Japanese varsity

UNB, Dhaka

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Dhaka University and Rikkyo University of Japan on Thursday, aiming to establish and promote academic exchange and research programmes between the two institutions.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz and Rikkyo University Vice Chancellor Prof Kasahara Kiyoshi signed the MoU at a function held at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan of Dhaka University.

Farida Hasan laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Begum Farida Hasan, former BNP lawmaker, was laid to rest at Korotian Tangail yesterday.

Her first namaz-e-janaza was held at the south plaza of the Sangsad Bhavan and the second one at Korotia, says a press release.

The qulhwani of Begum Farida Hasan will be held at Gulshan Jame Mosque adjacent to Gulshan Shooting Complex after Asr prayers on Sunday.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Major (retd) Syed Sayadat Hossain, a former national basketball player, died of heart ailments at his New Eskaton residence in the city on Thursday at the age of 50, says a press release.

Seyadat, a Gregorian, left behind his mother, wife, two sons, a daughter, two brothers, a sister and a host of friends and relatives to mourn his death.

Qulhwani of the deceased will be held at his residence after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Kazi Akbaruddin Siddique, one of the founder members of the Awami League

and a former lawmaker from Brahmanbaria-5 constituency (Nabinagar), says a press release. He was also one of the organisers of the liberation war.

His son Kazi Zahiruddin Siddique Titu, a Juba League leader, requested his relatives, friends and admirers to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Children take interview of 55 war heroes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some young boys and girls of Central Kachar Kachar Mela have done a remarkable job by interviewing 55 war heroes of 'Crack Platoon 71', a guerrilla team during the Liberation War.

They handed over the manuscript of the interviews to the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday with a view to making the young generation aware of the true history.

The 'Crack Platoon 71' was a valiant force that carried out secret attacks on the Pakistani army during the liberation war.

The team was also known as 'Bichu Bahini', which secretly attacked on the army convoy and important installations during the war.

The young boys and girls of

Kochi Kachar Mela formed the 'Crack Platoon 2005' and started interviewing the freedom fighters in August 2005. They finished the work this month.

They collected some unheard stories from the unsung heroes of the liberation war. Eminent writer Dr Zafar Iqbal has agreed to write a story based on the interviews for children.

At a simple ceremony yesterday, Director of Kochi Kachar Mela Khandoker Ibrahim Khaled handed the work of the 'Crack Platoon 2005' to the member of the Trustee Board of the Liberation War Museum Rabiul Hasan.

The members of the Crack Platoon 2005 are Dilshad Sharmin Mithun, Aparna Das Jui, Muhammad Imtiaz Uddin, Ashraf Haque Siddique, Abu Bakar Siddique, Sakib Irfan, Dewan Abdul Kayum Salman, Sharafa Badrit Proma and Mahmudul Hasan Siddique Ivan.

Train derails in Thakurgaon

UNB, Thakurgaon

Train movement on Thakurgaon-Dinajpur-Panchagarh route remained suspended after an inter-city train derailed in Bochaganj upazila yesterday afternoon.

Railway sources said five compartments of Inter-city Kanchan veered off the track near Mollapara station at about 2:00pm.

However, none was injured in the accident.

Thakurgaon station master Shamsul Haq told UNB that a relief train left Parbatipur station in the afternoon for salvage operation.



Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said, predicting that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 8 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest of 25.0 degrees at Rajshahi and Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:36pm today and rises at 5:32 am 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	36.0	27.8	69	62
Chittagong	33.3	25.9	73	82
Rajshahi	35.0	25.0	98	68
Kulna	35.0	27.5	70	67
Barisal	33.4	26.5	67	73
Sylhet	36.8	27.5	70	59
Cox's Bazar	33.5	25.0	69	87