

Siltation in Jamuna hampers fertiliser shipment

BIWTA chairman visits area today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Shipment of fertiliser through Aricha-Baghabari route still suffers as the navigation problem in the Jamuna remained unchanged during the last week, said different sources.

Most of the fertiliser-laden vessels are stranded at different points of the river while the goods are being unloaded to lighter vessels to carry them to their destination.

"At least 20 to 25 fertiliser-laden vessels are stranded at different points of the river on Paturia-Baghabari route. The navigation problem is becoming serious due to fall of water level in Jamuna and the siltation of river bed," said an official at Baghabari port.

He said the carrying companies can-

not deliver fertilisers to government godowns timely due to navigation problem.

"As we are now stranded in the mid-river, we are bound to unload the goods to lighter vessels and engine boats. The lighter vessels are hardly available here. Moreover we are bound to pay excessive labour charge for unloading the goods in the mid of the river," said Md Moniruzzaman Monir, an official of a carrying company.

He said five vessels of his company have been stranded at Harirampur-Nakalia point since last six days with over 6000 metric tonnes of fertilisers.

"After loading the fertilisers from Chittagong, we are scheduled to carry them to government godowns within 13 days. But when we fail we have to pay a

demurrage of Tk 15 for each ton of goods for each hour," he said.

The carrying company officials have also blamed the BIWTA for not dredging the river route properly.

But the BIWTA officials have denied the allegations saying that heavy current in the river often hampers the dredging work here but they are continuing their work to restore the river channel for smooth movement of the vessels.

They said they also instructed the vessel owners to carry 6/6.5 draft load in the vessels from November 1, but they do not obey the order for excessive profit.

Sources said the BIWTA chairman and other high officials will visit the area today to see the progress of dredging.

DRU announces best report awards

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) yesterday announced the names of the winners of its annual awards for best reporting.

Sharifuzzaman Pintu of the Prothom Alo won the 'President Award' for his report on education while the 'Bhorer Kagoj Award' for best report on violence against women and children went to Afroza Nazneen of the Khabarpata.

Julfikar Ali Manik and Syed Ashfaqul Haque of The Daily Star jointly bagged the 'FBCCI Award' for their investigative economic report.

Helemul Alam of The Daily Star got the 'Shaheed Jaya Hasna Hena Quadir Smriti Award' for his report on the Liberation War.

Helal Uddin of Jugantar and Mizan Chowdhury of Janakantha jointly secured the 'DCCI Award' for their objective economic report.

The 'Navana Award' for best sports report went to Masud Alam of the Prothom Alo.

Selim Zahid of Samakal bagged the 'Hedayet Hossain Morshed Smriti Award' for best report on humanitarian issues.

Kishwar Laila of Bangla Vision got the best TV report award for humanitarian issues.

Keramat Ullah Biplab of Channel 1 won the 'Dhaka City Corporation Award' for investigative city report.

Lesson sharing fair on AIDS begins in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A two-day fair to share lessons learnt on HIV/AIDS began at Zia Hall in Khulna yesterday.

Unicef and National AIDS/STD Programme (NASP) jointly organised the fair.

Khulna City Corporation Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque inaugurated the fair as the chief guest while Deputy Commissioner NM Ziaul Alam and Additional Police Super Golam Rouf Khan attended as special guests.

Government officials, leaders of different political parties, non-government organisations and professional bodies attended the inaugural programme.

City mayor in his inaugural speech underlined the need for creating mass awareness to fight out the deadly disease AIDS and sexually transmitted disease (STD).

Liakat Ali made chairman of Khulna Wasa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The government has appointed Liakat Ali, editor of the daily Purbanchal, as the first chairman of the newly established Khulna Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa).

He will head the 11-member board of Khulna Wasa formed by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives on Wednesday, said an official handout on Thursday night.

All officials and employees of Water Works Department of Khulna City Corporation have already been absorbed into Khulna Wasa.

Liakat Ali is also the chairperson of Greater Khulna Development Action Coordination Committee.



ACC Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury and Advocate Sultana Kamal look at cartoons at International Anti-corruption Cartoon Exhibition 2008 at Drik Gallery in the city yesterday. Transparency International Bangladesh organised the seven-day exhibition.

Terrorist attacks in Mumbai condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political, socio-cultural and human rights organisations and individuals yesterday strongly condemned and protested the terrorist attack on the city of Mumbai on Wednesday night with a call to be united against terrorism.

They also expressed deep shock at the loss of lives in the attack and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

In a joint statement, Bangladesh Communist Party President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim condemned the attack.

Imperialists are making a conspiracy against Southeast Asia in order to establish their hegemony in the region, they said, adding that Indian government should look into the matter if imperialists are involved in the deadly incidents.

Protesting the attack, Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain called on the people across the country to be united against terrorism.

People across the region and sub-continent should have raised their voice against modern and integrated terrorist attack, he added.

Terming the attackers enemies to democracy, civilisation and mankind, Bangladesh National Awami Party-Bangladesh (NAP) leaders in a statement demanded exemplary punishment to the killers who are involved in the attack.

Bangladesh Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu, General

Secretary Syed Zafar Sajjad and Foreign Affairs Secretary Shamim Ahmed in separate statements strongly condemned the terror attack on Mumbai.

Terming the attack cowardly, they said the incidents caused immense threat to the safety and security of South Asia.

Leaders of Bangladesh Democratic Lawyers Associations also condemned the terror strike.

Bar Council election results announced

BSS, Dhaka

The results of the election of Bangladesh Bar Council were announced yesterday.

Bar Council Chairman Salahuddin Ahmed announced the results.

Seven members, who were elected from the general seats, are Abdul Baset Mazumder (11,283 votes), Syed Rezaul Rahman (10,821), Shafique Ahmed (10,345), M Enayetur Rahim (10,169), ZI Khan Panna (9,899), Parimal Chandra Guha (8,759) and M Kamrul Islam (8,487), says a press release.

Seven other members, who were elected from the group seats after begging the highest votes from their respective groups, are Alhaj Mohammad Israfil, AHM Khalequzzaman, AM Anwarul Kabir, Mohammad Mishabuddin Siraj, Abdul Malek, Mohammad Yahya and Badrul Islam Chunnun.

The elections were held on November 20.

Kushtia varsity admission tests begin Dec 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The admission tests for the 1st year honours courses at Kushtia Islamic University for the academic session 2008-'09 will be held on December 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

A total of 45,781 candidates submitted their admission forms against 1210 seats in 20 departments under four faculties.

Sources said at least 38 applicants will vie for a seat to gain their admissions to the university.

Sources said 2309 admission forms were submitted for 210 seats in three Islamic departments under Theology faculty, 21903 forms for 460 seats in four general departments under Humanities and Social Science faculty, 7690 forms for 280 seats in seven departments under Science faculty, 8682 forms for 140 seats in two departments under Business Administration faculty and 5197 forms for 140 seats in two departments under Law faculty.

Pak envoy calls on Nizami

BSS, Dhaka

Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka Alamgir Babar called on Ameer of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Matiur Rahman Nizami at the party's central office yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on various issues in a cordial atmosphere, said a press release.

Assistant Secretary General of Jamaat Muhammad Kamruzzaman, Abdul Kader Mollah and Dr Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher were present.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka



Advocate A K M Khalilur Rahman, a former vice-president of Dhaka Bar Association, passed away due to a cardiac arrest yesterday at the age of 79.

He left behind his wife, three sons, a daughter and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was buried at Azimpur graveyard in the city.

Zillur Rahman, presenter of 'Tritiya Matra', a talk show on Channel 1, is one of his sons.

Farida Khanam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Farida Khanam, wife of Tofazzal Hussain Khan Fazlu, a leader of the Workers Party of Bangladesh, passed away at Birdem hospital on Wednesday at the age of 54, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

Party president Rashed Khan Menon and general secretary Bimal Biswas expressed deep shock at the death of Farida and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.



Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz hands over a certificate to a student at the graduation ceremony of the Institute of Business Administration, Dhaka University, at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

PETITION FOR DECLARING 36 PERSONS WAR CRIMINALS

Hearing on Dec 1

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court on Thursday took up a petition for hearing whether the civil suit filed against 36 persons for their alleged anti-state activities during the Liberation War in 1971 would continue or not.

On November 13, three lawyers of Dhaka Judge's Court filed the suit asking the court to declare Jamaat-e-Islami's Golam Azam, Matiur Rahman Nizami and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid, BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and 32 others as "war criminals".

The three lawyers -- Mohammad Liton Miah, Mohammad Safayat Hossain Sajib and Rajeeb Ahmad -- yesterday pleaded for opening the trial for war crimes.

After a hearing, Judge Iftekhar Ahmed of Ninth Assistant Judge's Court fixed December 1 as the date for next hearing.

The plaintiffs have prayed that Golam Azam and 35 others should be declared 'war criminals' for their involve-

ment in anti-state activities during the Liberation War in 1971.

They also prayed that no war criminals should be permitted to form any political party and that they be disqualified from any elections.

The plaintiffs have also mentioned in their complaint that Golam Azam and 36 others were identified as "war criminals" after the Liberation War but are yet to be brought to book.

Delwar Hossain Saidee, Mohammad Quamaruzzaman and Abdul Kader Mollah are also defendants in the case.

During the Liberation War in 1971, Golam Azam, Nizami, Mojahid and others formed local militia groups like Al Badr, Al Shams and Rajakars and these forces were involved in the killing of around 30 lakh people and violated over three lakh women, the plaintiffs said.

They also killed a large number of intellectuals on November 14, 1971, the plaintiffs added.

6 re-arrested in Bokul murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Members of joint forces re-arrested six out of seven accused in businessman Asraf Ali Bokul murder case at the jail gate on Thursday night.

Earlier, Kushtia District and Sessions Judge's Court granted bail to them the same day.

The joint forces arrested the six accused after they came out of the jail.

They are Chairman of Zagati Union Parishad (UP) Sahin Salauddin, ex-chairman of Ziarakhai UP Sawkat Ali Sako, Altaf Hossain, Lutfar Rahman, Jubo League leader Anwar Hossain and Sahidul Islam. The other accused advocate Delwar Hossain was not arrested.

Police arrested the seven accused on November 22 within three hours the outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz (JMF) cadres shot dead Bokul at around 9:00pm at his house at Ratulpura under Sadar upazila.

On the following day, Shishir, elder brother of the victim, filed a case with Sadar Police Station.

The police produced the six before the court yesterday, which sent them to jail again.

Purbachal housing project

FROM PAGE 1

Rajuk yesterday also invited application for about 1,100 plots under Uttara third phase.

The applicants will have to collect the forms by December 17 and have to submit those by December 18.

People under 12 categories including MP, justice, journalist, civil servants, autonomous body, armed forces, artist/sportsperson, businessperson, private service holder and wage earner will be able to apply.

Rajuk in 2004 allotted about 15,500 plots under the Purbachal project in different categories including government and private sector employees, justice, journalists, expatriates and lawmakers.

It has so far allotted 2,823 plots for the affected people, says an official.

Rajuk had reserved 4,000 plots for the Adibashi and 1,000 for the affected. Of these, 2,823 plots have been allotted through 10,000 applications by the affected and Adibashi people were submitted in 2003-2004.

In the fresh application

Rajuk mentions that plots for Adibashi and the affected people would be given later.

Rajuk sources say the present caretaker administration is trying to allot the plots before the elected government takes over.

Rajuk is also considering an increase in the price of plots by 25 percent, the sources add.

The rate of the plots is Tk 1.5 lakh for each 3-katha plot, Tk 1.65 lakh for each 5-katha plot, Tk 1.75 lakh for each 7.5-katha plot and Tk 2 lakh for a 10-katha plot, says a Rajuk official.

The Purbachal project is situated in Rupganj in Narayanganj and Kaliganj in Gazipur in between the Balu and Sitalakha rivers at a distance of 16km from zero point in Dhaka.

Its implementation period is July 1995 to June 2010. But it is not going to be implemented by 2010 and Rajuk is taking initiatives to extend the deadline to June 2012, says an official.

Project Director Rafiqul said the utility service providers have already started their work to set up necessary

infrastructure.

Site development work of sectors 1, 2, 3, 4, 11 to 14 and 17 has almost been completed. For other sectors the same work is progressing smoothly, the official adds.

Road construction in sectors 1 to 5, 11, 13, 14 and 17 has already started and is expected to be completed by December this year, he says.

Necessary measures are being taken for the work of utility services like electricity, gas, water supply and sewerage, the project director said.

The land usage plan of the project includes residential 39.80 percent, commercial plots 3.9 percent, administrative 1.9 percent, industrial 2 percent, research and institutional 2.3 percent, road network 25.9 percent, physical and social infrastructure 9.1 percent, lake 6.6 percent, forest, echo park, green belt and urban green 5.7 percent and sports facilities 2.8 percent.

The invitation for application for institutional plots has already been made and a guideline is being prepared in this regard, Rafiqul added.

CONTEMPT CHARGE Humayra's parents asked to appear before court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) has ordered father, mother and uncle of Dr Humayra Abedin, a Bangladeshi expatriate in London, to appear before the court on December 3 in connection with a contempt of court charge.

Following a petition moved by Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a human rights organisation, a HC bench comprising of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui passed the order on Wednesday after issuing a contempt rule against them.

Earlier, Humayra's cousin Shipra Chowdhury and ASK jointly filed a habeas corpus writ petition with the HC stating that the parents of Humayra, 32, have kept her (Humayra) detained forcibly.

Following the petition, the HC on October 27 directed the parents of Humayra to produce her before the court.

In response to the HC order, the lawyers for Humayra's parents told the court that Humayra was mentally sick and she should be kept with her parents.

But they failed to show any document about her mental illness to the court.

As the matter came up before the HC bench, it passed the order on Wednesday.

Advocate Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed moved for the parents of Humayra, while Barrister Sara Hossain, Murad Reza and Ramjan Ali Khandaker moved for ASK.

Ziabul's death anniversary today

RU CORRESPONDENT

The 18th death anniversary of Ziabul Hassan will be observed in Rajshahi today, says a press release.

Ziabul, an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Rajshahi city unit and a class ten student of Rajshahi Muslim High School, was shot and hacked to death on this day in 1990 by armed cadres of the then autocratic ruler to foil an imminent mass upsurge.

Since then, BCL, Ziabul Memorial Parishad and other Progressive Student Organisations of Rajshahi have been observing the day as 'anti-repression day'.

On the occasion, Ziabul Memorial Parishad and BCL will hoist black flag at their offices and wear black badges and place wreaths at the grave of Ziabul. Quorankhwani, milad mahfil, special prayers session and discussion will be also held.

Mozammel Hossain

METRO DESK



Today is the 6th death anniversary of valiant freedom fighter Capt. Mozammel Hossain, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held after Asr prayers at Hossain Nagar, Baitus Mozammel Jame Masjid at Savar EPZ link road. Quorankhwani and feeding of the destitute have also been arranged.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad.

Emergency a bar to holding fair polls

FROM PAGE 1

said, "It is part of our observation to strike a right balance between free environment and security and safety of everybody involved in the polling process."

The core team of EUEOM arrived in Bangladesh on November 7 and it has met the election commissioners, top leaders of the major political parties, foreign adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and a few domestic election observers. Forty-four long-term observers have already been deployed across the country who will be soon joined by 88 more observers before the polls.

Stating that the polls situation this time is different compared to the situation two years ago, the chief observer of the EUEOM said all stakeholders they talked to are convinced that the election should be held as slated on December 29.

"Two years back one party was boycotting. Now both parties want to participate. Now, I hope that there will be a level playing field on election day."

He said he hopes the election results are accepted by Bangladesh people and all others concerned.

Alexander said democratic elections will have losers and winners and therefore losers have a great responsibility for the stability of democracy while it is the responsibility of the winners to respect the losers, he said.

Asked if there is any possibility of boycott by any political party, he said, "It will be an unfortunate development no matter who decides what and a boycott will be a very unfortunate development."

When asked for his comment on the fact that two political parties have objections about a few domestic election observation organisation, the EUEOM head Alexander said domestic observers are very important and they can be extremely

helpful to increase the credibility of the electoral process.

"Therefore, generally speaking I would say that domestic observers should be allowed to the degree that is possible," he said.

Asked if the mission would pull out observers if the state of emergency is not lifted, Alexander, also a member of parliament in Germany, said any such speculation at this point would be irresponsible.

Responding to another question on whether the mission found any stakeholders supporting the state of emergency, he said only a few organisations the mission talked to did not mind the state of emergency for the sake of security issues, while all others said there should be free environment for campaign and clearly favoured lifting of the state of emergency.

Asked about EUEOM's expectation of the elections when a certain political party has already violated rules of

the Election Commission by not nominating candidates through grassroots level, he said they would not make any comment on the nomination process of parties now because the nomination process is still ongoing.

"We will evaluate once the nomination process is over based on the law here and international standards."

The EUEOM will observe the electoral process including the nomination of candidates, campaign activities and the electoral framework and tools, media environment, voting, counting and tabulation processes.

The mission will present a preliminary statement within 48 hours of the close of polls and a final report two months after the end of the electoral process.

Deputy Chief Observer of the mission Graham Elsom and election expert Maria Espinosa were also present at the press conference.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

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

Yesterday's highest temperature of 30.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 12.4 degree at Srimangol.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:24am 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
Dhaka	28.8	17.0
Chittagong	30.0	17.5
Rajshahi	28.7	14.3
Khulna	28.4	17.5
Barisal	28.5	15.4
Sylhet	28.2	16.2
Cox's Bazar	30.3	17.6