

JS body hits out at BTV

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary standing committee at a meeting yesterday criticised the state-run Bangladesh Television for not changing its typical sycophantic character.

Members of the committee on information ministry said that some staffs of the television, who have been working there for long, have always been flattering the government leaders and activities through TV programmes.

"We did not see any changes in the programmes and activities of BTV (Bangladesh Television) in the last four months. It is running its programmes in its typical way," Obaidul Quader, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting in the parliament building.

"They (some officials and employees of BTV) praise one government and the same people change overnight and keep flattering the next government," Quader observed. "Those people need to be removed," he added.

"We talk about digital Bangladesh, we talk about change. But mere words will not be able to bring about changes. We need to change our mindset," he commented.

He also said the BTV's terrestrial facilities would be useless unless it becomes popular.

6 microbus lifters held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A special team of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested all the six members of a gang of microbus lifters from Comilla on Wednesday and recovered two microbuses lifted within a span of eight days from the port city.

The arrestees were brought to Kotwali Police Station in Chittagong yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Mohammad Shahidul Islam alias Khokon, 37, Nurul Absar, 38, Ilias, 24, Delwar Hossain alias Ledu, 33, Sohel Chowdhury, 24, and Nezam Uddin, 25.

Two cases were filed against them with Kotwali Police Station in this connection.

Assistant Commissioner Babul Akter of CMP Kotwali Circle, who also led the drive, said they traced and started following gang leader Shahidul Islam Khokon since April 27.

Police said during primary interrogation the arrestees confessed that they used to lift microbuses after hiring those in the guise of government high officials and getting the driver unconscious offering something with sedatives.

They sold the stolen microbus to drug-peddlers, particularly Phensidyl-peddlers, and the latter also provided advance money for the lifting, said the sources.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Alhaj Hadrat Maulana Abdulkuddus Bhuayan, freedom fighter and former Pesh Imam of Dhaka Cantonment Garrison mosque, will be held today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Badda Mahalla in Savar after Juma prayers. Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chehlum of Firoza Begum, mother of Manzur Alam Shaheen, Organising Secretary of Bangladesh Awami Jubo League, will be held at her village home in Feni, says a press release.

On the occasion, a daylong programme, including Qurankhwani, milad mahfil and doa will be held at Ananda Community Centre on pauroshava premises of the district. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.



Mujahidul Islam Selim addresses a view exchange meeting at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

Call to stop building Tipaimukh dam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Politicians and environmentalists yesterday protested the Indian government's move to build a dam at Tipaimukh on the river Borak, saying that it would seriously harm the environment in Bangladesh.

They called on India to cancel the decision and reach a mutually agreed solution through talks with the lower riparian country on the possible adverse impacts on the environment.

The experts made the call at a view exchange meeting on Tipaimukh dam on river Borak at Manipur in India and possible environmental hazards in Bangladesh: what is our duty/organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa).

Awami League organising secretary Mahmudur Rahman Manna said, "It is a big problem for the country and we want to resolve the issue through holding talks with our friendly neighbour."

"We need to talk on the issue right now. Otherwise, once the dam is built, we would have nothing to say. We have to do everything possible to stop the project," he said.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) general secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said the dam would hit the people badly in the entire region, but northeastern districts of Bangladesh would be worst affected.

Bapa vice president Syed ANM Wahid said the government should send an expert delegation to Tipaimukh and explain to the Indian government how the dam will have disastrous effects on the environment.

Gono Forum presidium member Pankaj Bhattacharya and Revolutionary Workers Party general secretary Saiful Haque also spoke at the meeting presided over by Bapa vice president and former adviser to the caretaker government ASM Shahajahan.

Temperature continues to fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Smarting under almost two weeks of severe hot spell, the city dwellers started to have some relief from the sweltering heat as the temperature continued to fall for the last two days.

Some places in the country have experienced rains yesterday, while a light drizzle also pelted down in few places of the city.

According to meteorological office, the residents of Dhaka and its adjoining areas may likely to witness rains today or tomorrow.

"There may be rains today in Dhaka," said an official of Metoffice.

Met office said around 32mm rainfall was reported from Rangpur yesterday, while 5mm rainfall in Mymensingh.

Temperature in Dhaka came down to 34.3 degree Celsius yesterday, while the highest temperature was recorded in Jessore at 37.4 degree Celsius yesterday.

The temperature was recorded 38.6 degree Celsius a day before.

Westerly breeze blowing over the country had retarded formation of clouds in the sky, said the weather officials.

The country has been

reeling under heatwave, unusual in the second half of April, making the life and living miserably.

Four people were reported dead in heat stroke during the last few days in different areas of the country, while diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases also spread.

Former minister Tarikul, wife sued

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Lawmaker of Jessore constituency-3 Khaledur Rahman Tito filed a defamation case against former minister Tarikul Islam, also the publisher of the daily Loksamaj, his wife Nargis Begum, editor, and Anwarul Kabir Nantu, acting editor of the daily, yesterday.

The lawmaker filed the case with Jessore Judicial Magistrate Court-1. Magistrate Abdus Sabur Mina summoned the accused to appear before the court physically on May 13.

In his petition, Tito alleged that a false and baseless news was published against him on the daily on April 22.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia,

Noakhali and Comilla in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Prevailing mild to moderate heat wave over the regions of Rajshahi, Jessore and Chuadanga may abate, it said.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country during the period, it said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:27pm today and rises at 5:23am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 37.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 21.0 degrees Celsius at Rangpur.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Shamsunnahar Begum, wife of late Abdullah Saheb of Bhimpur, Chakkhil, Noakhali and son of senior journalist of

The Independent Main Uddin Ahmed, passed away due to diabetes at her residence on April 18 at the age of 80, says a press release.

She was buried at her family graveyard.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Tomorrow is the 9th death anniversary of Maj General (Retd) Abdul Mannan Siddique, former home and housing minister, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his residence in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Rasheda Mohiuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 1st death anniversary of Rasheda Mohiuddin, former Awami League

leader and English newscaster of Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be organised at her village home at Muktagachha and at the local AL office.

Serajuddin Ahmed

METRO DESK



Today is the 24th death anniversary of Serajuddin Ahmed, founder chairman of Elite Paint Group of

Companies and founder director of Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd, says a press release.

He was also former president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) and former chairman of Tea Traders' Association of Bangladesh (TTAB).

On the occasion, a milad mahfil followed by Ziafat will be held at his Gulshan residence in the city. Similar programme will also be held at his Chittagong residence.

Begum Rokeya Hamid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the first death anniversary of Begum Rokeya Hamid, wife of Hamidur Rahman,

former Pourashava chairman of Tangail, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and doa mahfil will be held at her home at Akurtakur para in the district after Asr prayers.

Wasefa Akter Zahan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Tomorrow is the first death anniversary of Prof Wasefa Akter Zahan, former dean of Agri

Business Management Institute of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and doa mahfil will be held and foods will be distributed among the destitute.

2180 hectares of land, 6km roads may face river erosion this yr

Expert says at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 2180 hectares of land and 6 kilometers of roads may face river erosion along the Jamuna, the Ganga and the Padma rivers during the monsoon this year, Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) said yesterday.

Flood embankment may be breached at seven locations along the bank of the Jamuna, while 165 kilometers bank of the three major rivers of the country are vulnerable to erosion this year, it said.

Dr Maminul Haque Sarker, head of Morphology Division, CEGIS, revealed the information at a dissemination seminar on 'Riverbank Erosion Prediction 2009' organised jointly by GEGIS and Bangladesh Water Development Bank (BWDB) at Spectra Convention Centre in the city.

The prediction was made

when around 6000 hectares of floodplain land is eroded along the main rivers annually, leaving thousands of people homeless and damaging infrastructures.

"Twenty three educational institutions, four market places, two government offices and two healthcare centres may also be eroded," Dr Maminul Haque said.

According to the prediction report, the areas where land, embankments and roads along the Jamuna are vulnerable to erosion are Kurigram Sadar, Ulipur, Chilmari, Raumari and Char Rajibpur in Kurigram, Fulchhari and Saghatta in Gaibandha, Sariakandi and Dhunat in Bogra, Kazipur, Sirajganj Sadar, Shahjadpur and Chauhali in Sirajganj, Bera in Pabna, Dewanganj, Islampur and Sarishabari in Jamalpur, Nagarpur in Tangail and Daulatpur in Manikganj.

The upazilas vulnerable to erosion along the Ganges include Nawabganj Sadar, Paba and Bagha in Rajshahi, Daulatpur, Bheramara, Kushtia Sadar and Kumarkhali

in Kushtia, Pabna Sadar in Pabna and Pangsha and Rajbari Sadar in Rajbari district.

There are erosion-vulnerable lands and infrastructures in Faridpur Sadar and Char Bhadransar in Faridpur, Zanjira and Bhedarganj in Shariatpur, Nawabganj and Dohar in Dhaka and Tongbari in Munshiganj along the river Padma this year.

Speaking as the chief guest, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen said making river erosion prediction by CEGIS is a great initiative and the government can maintain the embankments to protect localities and people before the monsoon.

"River erosion causes losses to hundreds of crores of taka. If we can dredge rivers and maintain embankments, we can save huge money and lessen the sufferings of people," he said.

Dredging rivers will not only ensure normal flow of rivers, but also help farm irrigation, the minister said, adding that

his ministry should be allocated enough funds for such activities.

Water experts at the seminar said people lose their land due to river erosion, but the government does not take measures to compensate them, though it compensates the people when they lose their houses.

The people who become landless due to river erosion should be included in the safety-net programmes like VGF and VGD.

CEGIS Executive Director Giasuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Water Resources Secretary SM Wahid-uz-Zaman and Water Development Board Director General Abdul Kalam Mohammad Azad also spoke.

Satkhira road crash kills schoolteacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A schoolteacher was killed and another injured seriously in a road accident on Satkhira-Kaliganj road in Bakal area under Sadar upazila yesterday.

The injured schoolteacher Narayan Chandra Das, 40, son of Jyotindra Nath Das of village Debnagar in Sadar upazila, succumbed to his injuries at Sadar Hospital on Wednesday night. Narayan is an assistant teacher of Mahmudpur High School in Sadar upazila.

Injured Ishaque Mandal, 35, son of Hanif Mandal of village Laxmidari in Sadar upazila is now undergoing treatment at Sadar Hospital, sources said.

Quoting local people police said the accident occurred while Narayan was returning home from school by a Nasim that skidded off the Satkhira-Kaliganj road, leaving Narayan and Ishaque injured seriously at about 4:30pm on April 29. Later, Narayan succumbed to his injuries.

2,200kg gunpowder recovered: One held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered 2,200kg of "gunpowder" and arrested a man in this connection early yesterday at Jatrabari in the capital.

The arrestee was identified as Abdus Sobhan of Dania of Jatrabari, says a press release of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

However, Officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station Monir-uz-Zaman told The Daily Star that experts would be examining the powder to determine whether it is an explosive substance.

Abdus Sobhan told police that the powder was brought in from north Bengal region of the country for selling to mosquito-repellent-coil factories in the capital.

Police yesterday produced him before a Dhaka court, which sent him to jail.

OC Monir-uz-Zaman said they did not pray before the court for his remand but they would make the prayer if the experts say that the powder is an explosive substance.

During preliminary interrogation, Abdus Sobhan informed police that the powder was phosphate, which is a

Advertisement for Supreme cigarettes featuring a large image of a pack and text in Bengali and English. Includes 'SARM' logo and 'Supreme' brand name.