

Call to make children aware of climate change issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for developing and implementing strategies to create awareness of global climate change issues among children as they are the most vulnerable in this regard.

Saying that children are facing and will face serious risks of uncertainties created by climate change, they urged the concerned authorities to establish mechanisms for promoting climate risks reduction and adaptation.

Children should not be seen only as the victims of recurring natural disasters and climate change, they can be communicators of good practices and active agents of its impacts, they added.

They also put emphasis on capacity building and training programmes on climate change for teachers, parents, civil service and grassroots leaders to address the issues

properly.

Children's Television Foundation of Bangladesh (CTFB) organised the roundtable on 'Climate change: Impact on children and awareness' at the National Press Club in the city which was moderated by its executive committee member Pratim Karim.

The concerned authorities should take a long-term management programme to protect environment, they underscored.

Participating in the discussion, Director General of the Department of Environment Nojibur Rahman said the government is much sincere to save the environment and it has a strategic plan titled 'Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy Action Plan' to address climate change issues.

It is taking initiatives to make programmes and media campaigns related to awareness building among the children towards environ-

ment, he further said.

"The government has a plan to ply environmentally sustainable transports on the roads as well as to recover footpaths or foot over-bridges to promote safe walking to combat environmental degradation," he added.

He went on saying that the people of different sectors should have to show their responsible behaviour towards environment to save the country.

Research Director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) M Asaduzzaman said, "We have to think about whether the climate change issues could be incorporated in primary or secondary education more explicitly to create awareness among the children about the issue."

"Political commitment as well as regional networks is needed to overcome the challenges of climate change impacts," he added.

M Aminul Islam, assistant

country director of Disaster Management Unit of UNDP, presented a keynote paper where he made some recommendations, including climate responsive and adaptation skill-oriented educational support, to the children to get them prepared for future.

Other recommendations include ensuring mainstreaming of climate information into education system and development planning and programmes as well as allocation of budget at the local, national and sub-national levels in order to make it effective and sustainable.

They also recommended raising public awareness by enhancing the currently limited capacity of the media and NGOs involved in communication to disseminate climate change messages and involving young people in community mapping, planning, monitoring and evaluation education for emergencies.



Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid speaks at the inaugural ceremony of 'Fifth Asian Universities Debating Championship (AUDC) 2009' at Hotel Sonargaon in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are Jalaluddin Ahmed, Prof Nazrul Islam and Prof Md Sharif. East West University is hosting the event.

Tense situation prevails again on DMC campus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A tense situation is again prevailing on Dhaka Medical College (DMC) campus over the dispute between two groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

Sources said violent clashes may take place any moment on the campus.

It may be mentioned that a fatal clash on March 31 killed BCL leader Rajib and injured 25 others.

Yesterday two groups of DMC unit of BCL were locked in chase and counter-chase on the campus paralysing all academic activities.

Sources said about one hundred students belonging to Rajib's group led by Marjuk and Tahir pasted some newsletters on the walls of the college campus demanding punishment to the culprits who had killed Rajib.

They also brought out procession on the campus demanding quick publication of the probe report on the murder of Rajib.

Chase and counter-chase took place when some students belonging to Boni's group removed the newsletter.

Police later brought the situation under control.

5th Asian universities debating contest kicks off

DU CORRESPONDENT

The six-day 'Fifth Asian Universities Debating Championship (AUDC) 2009' began amid a gala ceremony at a hotel in the city yesterday.

A total of 279 debaters comprising 69 teams of 10 Asian countries will participate in the championship. The participating teams are from Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the Philippines.

East West University (EWU) is hosting the competition.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest, Speaker Abdul Hamid Advocate said this championship would go a long way to boost the confidence of all the education institutions in the country to achieve bigger goals in future.

"As we all know, debate is more than just an argument. Participants involved in competitive debates are generally skilled in rhetoric and style, enhanced by knowledge," he

added.

Addressing the session as special guest, UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam expressed hope that this competition would have mutual benefits and would be interactive for participants of different Asian countries.

Organisers said this competition would certainly uplift the image of Bangladesh abroad as this is the first time that such kind of mega event is going to be held in any South Asian country.

The tournament is divided into two parts. The preliminary rounds will be held for three days. Top 16 teams after the rounds will qualify for the knockout rounds.

Chair of the AUDC Executive Committee Estelle Osorio, President of EWU Board of Directors Jalaluddin Ahmed and Vice Chancellor Prof Mohammad Sharif also spoke at the function.

The inaugural ceremony was followed by a cultural function staged by EWU students.

Deadline for application for withdrawal of political cases extended

Staff Correspondent

The government yesterday extended further the deadline until May 31 for submission of applications for withdrawal of the 'politically motivated cases', says a home ministry circular.

Earlier, the home ministry extended the deadline from April 15 to May 17.

Four member district-level scrutiny committees headed by district magistrates are reviewing cases filed against Awami League men during the BNP-Jamaat coalition government on political consideration for harassment.

The central seven-member committee headed by the law minister will review the recommendations sent by the district-level committees.

Meanwhile, the government has also extended the parole of Arifat Rahman Koko, younger son of BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia, by one month to June 16.

The home ministry yesterday issued a notification to this effect in line with an application filed by Koko's lawyer Mahub Uddin Khokon.

Koko, an accused in the GATCO graft case, is now undergoing treatment in Thailand.

Bangabandhu Utsab today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muktijoddha Academy and Writers' Foundation Bangladesh will jointly organise Bangabandhu Utsab at Liberation War Museum auditorium in the city at 4.00pm today.

Prof Md Mostafa Nurul Islam will present the keynote titled "Bangabandhu's Bangladesh: Bangabandhu of Bangladesh" at the programme that will be followed by a colourful function, says a press release.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Syed Ghulam Rasul, an organiser of the Liberation War, passed away in Atlanta, USA, on May 8 at the age of 76, says a press release.

A social worker, he served as the general manager of Nabisco Bread and Biscuit Factory and AB Biscuit and Bread Factory Ltd.

He was a life member of Bangladesh Lions Foundation and the Organisation for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement (OISCA).

Ghulam Rasul played an active role in the pre-liberation political movements. He also took part in the language movement of 1952 in Rangpur.

One of the advisers to Atlanta Bangladesh Association of Georgia and Jalalabad Association of Georgia, Ghulam Rasul had been residing in Atlanta since 1993.

Md Shahabuddin
METRO DESK

Md Shahabuddin, deputy managing director (Admin) of Pragati Insurance Ltd, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at the Apollo Hospitals in the city on Wednesday at the age of 60, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at the head office of the company yesterday. Later, his body was taken to his village home at Feni for burial.

His qukhwan will be held on May 16 after Asr prayers at the head office at Pragati Insurance Ltd.

Mahamuda Begum
METRO DESK

Mahamuda Begum, wife of business person of Barisal city late Alhaj Israil Talukder, passed away at Square Hospital in the city on May 8 at the age of 71, says a press release.

She left behind her two sons and three daughters to mourn her death.



Leaders and activists of BNP form a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding quick trial of the 'real perpetrators' of the massacre at the BDR headquarters. (Story on page 1)

Mob beats five narcotics dept staffs for not arresting drug peddler

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Local people at Shahapur at Pirganj in the district beat up five officials and employees of narcotics department on Wednesday night for not arresting a drug peddler after raiding his residence.

Officer-in-Charge of Pirganj Police Station Jahangir Hossain said local UP chairman informed police about the incident and a team of police led by the OC rescued the narcotics officials from the hands of the angry mob.

Sources said Sub-Inspector Monoronjon Paul along with ASI Nazrul Islam, Constable Saiful Islam, Motaleb Ali and Sirajul Islam raided the residence of drug peddler Bablu.

However, locals alleged that they did not arrest Bablu in exchange of money.

OC Jahangir Hossain said, "I have informed the Superintendent of Police (SP) about the incident. We will take action in course of time."

People of the area had long been complaining about the drug peddling of Bablu Miah, but to no avail.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Narayan Chandra Sharma, a retired police officer and freedom fighter, has been suffering from liver cirrhosis.

According to doctors at Apollo Hospitals in Chennai, India, he needs immediate liver transplant which will cost him Tk 50 lakh.

But it is not possible for Narayan to afford such an expensive treatment.

So he has appealed to well-off people of the society for financial assistance to save his life.

Contributions can be sent to Savings Account No 34033745, Sonali Bank, Segun Bagicha Branch, Dhaka. Interested persons can also contact Sushanta Kumar Sarker, personal secretary to planning minister, Mobile: 01711-862763.

Fire at garment factory in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A devastating fire broke out at a garment factory of BSCIC industrial area in Panchabati in the town yesterday.

Eyewitnesses said the fire originated from the 6th floor of Al-Amin Sweater at 11:45 am when the owner side of the factory, BKMEA Director GM Faruque and local police were holding a meeting at the first floor to meet the demand of its workers.

At first the workers tried to douse the fire but it could not be brought under control as the flame was spreading down fast from the top floor to 5th and 4th floors, sources said.

On information, ten fire units from Hajiganj, Mondalpara and Postagola rushed to the spot and brought the flame under control at

about 2:00pm.

Valuables and garment products at the three floors of the factory were gutted.

The factory authorities claimed that the fire damaged valuables worth Tk 7 crore while fire brigade said the loss might be Tk 1 crore.

Managing Director of the factory Mr Zakaria said "The fire incident is no doubt a violence as it broke out when we were holding a meeting to meet our workers' demand."

The BKMEA director termed the fire incident 'mysterious'. Garment workers Mokter Hossain and Shafi said they were trying to douse the flame with a hectic effort before the fire fighters rushed to the spot adding that the workers were not involved in the incident.

Workers of the factory have been observing work abstention since Wednesday.

Rab seizes illegal VoIP equipment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-3 seized VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) equipment worth around Tk 1 crore and arrested one person on Wednesday night in the capital's Ramnagar area.

The arrestee was identified as Mohammad Rustam Ali Hawladar, 48, son of Motafer Ali Hawladar of Jheelpar Mirbag area. He hails from Pirojpur sadar upazila.

On information, a detective team of Rab-3 led by Lt Mohammad Jarrar Hossain Khan and Assistant Superintendent of Police Mohammad Rajib Al Masud raided a building of Mohammad Nurul Haque of that area.

The team seized 120 pieces of fixed wireless terminals, 24 pieces of gateways, around 1000 SIM cards of different cellphone companies and a computer CPU from two flats.

Lt Jarrar Hossain told The Daily Star that Saiful Islam alias Shahriar Hossain, 30, along with Rustam ran the illegal VoIP business there over last two years.

He added that sensing presence of law enforcers in plainclothes, Shahriar managed to escape.

Two injured robbers die at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two of the four robbers who committed robbery at a house in the city and sustained injuries in a mob beating, died at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Golam Mostofa, 25, and Mobarak Hossain, 18.

Two other injured robbers Shahjahan Miah, 55, and Mohammad Tushar, 35 were undergoing treatment at DMCH.

Police said they arrested four robbers when they were fleeing after looting a house at Pallabon Wednesday night.

Deputy Commissioner Imtiaz Ahmed of Mirpur Zone told The Daily Star that a gang of six robbers entered Zahurul's house on Avenue-5 at around 9:30pm and looted valuables.

One of the robbers shot Zahurul in the leg as he tried to prevent him from escaping.

Hearing the gunshot, a team of policemen patrolling the area rushed to the spot and caught one of the robbers.

The locals caught two of his accomplices and beat them up while the other managed to escape, he said.

Tk 25,000 BDR help for injured tea vendor

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) provided Tk 25,000 to tea vendor Akhter Hossain who was injured by bullet during the BDR carnage at Pikhana.

BDR Director (Admin) Col M Obaidul Haque handed over the cheque to Akhter and his father Eshaq Mia of Khankata village of Mehendiganj upazila of Barisal, said a release.

Akhter, who was the only earning member of his family, was shot in his chest and hand while he was selling tea at Gate No - 4 of BDR headquarters at about 9:00am on February 25.



As many as 81 BDR jawans arrested from Satkania Baitul Ijlat BDR Training Centre are being taken to a court in Chittagong yesterday.

Four muggers injured in shootout with cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four muggers received bullet injuries during shootout with the law enforcers in separate incidents in the city's Adabar and Tejaon areas early yesterday.

The muggers -- Mohammad Mobarak, 25, and Heron alias Hira, 24, of Adabar and Jahangir Hossain, 23 and Uzzal Miah, 26 of Tejaon -- were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police said a shootout

between the accomplices of Hira and Adabar police took place when a patrol police team tried to capture the criminals who were snatching valuables from passengers of an autorickshaw at Nobodoy Housing Area at Adabar at around 4:30am.

Hira and Mobarak were injured in the shootout, but three others managed to escape, police said.

Both Hira and Mobarak denied the charges. Hira said he was arrested from Mirpur at around 1:30am while Mobarak was arrested from Adabar at around 11:00pm.

They said police took them to different areas in the patrol car and shot them at point-blank range.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Adabar Police Station Shahidul Haque said they are listed criminals accused in several cases.

Meanwhile, another incident of shootout took place between a team of DB police and the accomplices of Jahangir Hossain and Uzzal at BG Press Lane in the area at around 1:30am as the DB team prevented them from snatching.

In another incident, a gang of three muggers snatched money and a cellphone from the passenger of a taxicab at Banani in the city on Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Ekram Hossain, project officer of Brac University.



Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over all the six divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 6:34pm today and rises at 5:15am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 20.8 degrees Celsius at Sayedpur.

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	32.5	23.2	70	57
Chittagong	30.3	21.5	72	66
Rajshahi	33.5	22.2	85	58
Khulna	32.6	22.2	83	68
Barisal	32.0	22.0	91	62
Sylhet	31.8	21.8	82	67
Cox's Bazar	33.6	23.0	75	63

DHAKA TODAY

Haji Fair
Haji Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB) organises the 2nd Haji and Umrah Fair beginning today. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 11:00am.

Memorial meeting
Sammilita Nagarik Andolon organises a memorial meeting to pay tribute to noted nuclear scientist Dr Wazed Miah. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 5:00pm.

Seminar
The Department of Water Resources Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) and Rotary, District 3280 will jointly organise a seminar. Venue: Seminar Hall, Civil Engineers' Building, Buet. Time: 3:00pm.

Launching ceremony
The launching ceremony of British Council's global project 'International Inspiration' will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 6:30pm.

Memorial lecture
Kumudini Welfare Trust of Bengal (BD) Ltd organises a memorial lecture and discussion to mark the abduction day of noted philanthropist RP Saha. Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy. Time: 4:30pm.

Bangabandhu Festival
Writers' Foundation Bangladesh and Muktijoddha Academy will jointly organise Bangabandhu Festival. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion
A discussion on the Bangla version of American writer Dr Robert W Fuller's 'All rise: Somebodies, Nobodies and the Politics of Dignity' will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar
A seminar on specialty milk (Anlene and Prolene) suitable for diabetic, cardiac, orthopedic patients and pregnant or lactating mothers will be held. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Time: 5:00pm.

Conference
Bangladesh Physical Society organises the International Physics Conference beginning today. Venue: Central auditorium, Buet. Time: 8:00am.

Discussion
A discussion on Dr MA Wazed Miah will be held. Venue: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). Time: 4:30pm.

National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy. Time: 4:30pm.

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