

Be ready to tackle any possible floods: PM

Disaster prevention package unveiled

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the food and disaster management ministry and other authorities concerned to take necessary advance preparation to deal with any possible flood in the current monsoon.

PM gave the directive in a meeting with the ministry officials at the secretariat, where she unveiled a package of disaster prevention and adaptation measures, including building new food godowns, 2097 cyclone shelters and a Tk 30000 crore river-dredging project.

Hasina said the government will set up more cyclone shelter centres and godowns under a contingency plan to face natural calamity and food crisis caused by floods, cyclones, droughts and the like.

"Modern cyclone shelter centres need to be set up in the coastal areas, particularly in Satkhira, Khulna and some parts of Patuakhali district. Also, modern godowns will have to be constructed for adequate food stock to keep food supply smooth at times of natural calamity."

Food silos also need to be built in the northern districts for successfully facing food crisis during Monga period, she said.

"We have a plan to set up 2097 more cyclone centres, of which 1318 will be set up by LGED, education and religious affairs ministries and 779 by the food and disaster management ministry."



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at a meeting of the officials of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management at the Secretariat yesterday.

The premier also said new establishments like schools and colleges in the coastal areas will have to have such design so that these can be used as cyclone shelters as well.

The authorities concerned also have been directed to set up the new cyclone shelter centres by keeping a separate house for preserving rainwater, as scarcity of sweet water prevails during floods, cyclones and tidal surge.

"Separate houses in the cyclone centres will preserve rainwater. During the crisis times, people can drink the rainwater as this is the most pure water," she observed.

Hasina said people have to face serious trouble for lack of adequate number of toilets and drinking water in the cyclone centres.

The PM underscored the need for constructing raised

grounds with earth in the coastal areas for protecting domestic animals during natural calamity.

Besides, weather forecasting system also needs to be modernised for taking preparations in time.

She observed that Bangladesh can share information on weather forecast with neighbouring India.

India has modern weather forecasting system with which it can make long-term weather forecast, and give Bangladesh the information, which will be beneficial for both the countries.

"Already talks are underway with India over sharing information on weather forecasting," Hasina informed the meeting.

Expressing concern over the increasing global warming, the prime minister said the government is going to

initiate a massive project worth about Tk 30000 crore to bring back the navigability of the rivers, which will protect the country from unusual flooding.

Citing experts' opinion, Hasina said Tk 3000 crore might be needed to be spent per year to launch the capital dredging in the rivers and for maintenance of the rivers.

The government has already had talks with the development partners and got positive response over mobilising necessary funds to implement the massive dredging project, the PM said.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzak and Secretary Mukhlisur Rahman, PM's Principal Secretary MA Karim, Office Secretary Mollah Waheeduzzaman and Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were present at the meeting.

'Saarc states lack info on climate change'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There have not been enough researches on climate change in the Saarc countries and they lack necessary information on this issue, said Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique yesterday.

He was speaking at the inaugural session of a week long training programme on 'Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction' at Nabab Nawab Ali Choudhury Senate Bhawan on Dhaka University (DU) campus.

Faculty of Earth and Environment Science of DU and Saarc Disaster Management Centre of New Delhi are jointly organising the programme.

He said a huge number of researches have been carried out in the developed countries to address the climate change issue.

"We should share information derived from researches, ideas and data for better disaster risk management," he added.

The governments, universities and the research centres should work together to this end, he also said.

Shahnaz Huq-Hossain, dean, Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences, DU Treasurer Mijanur Rahman and Binod Shakia from Saarc Disaster Management Centre of New Delhi were also present.

Tk 12.5 lakh fake stamps seized, four arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized fake postal and revenue stamps worth around Tk 12.5 lakh, fake stamp-producing equipment and arrested four people in this connection from the city's Motijheel area yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Md Nasir Uddin, 26, Moinul Islam, 40, Md Billal Hossain, 13, and Md Ripon, 12, of Garam Panir Lane at Motijheel.

Assistant Police Super (ASP) Minhazul Alam of Rab-4 told The Daily Star that acting on a tip-off, a Rab team raided the house and caught the four red-handed. They also seized the fake stamps with equipment.

The recovered fake stamps were of Tk 2 to Tk 20 equivalent stamps worth over Tk 12.42 lakh, he added.

The ASP said they also seized a printer, a scanner machine, two auto-numbering machine, 10 dices and 15 carbon plates, adding that a case was filed with Motijheel Police Station.

Meanwhile, Rab-10 members seized two firearms, 21 bullets and arrested four juvenile crime suspects in this connection from Motijheel early yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Md Omar Faruq, 15, of Sabujbagh, Uzzal Banik Bappi, 15, of Gopibagh, Mohaiminul Islam Nahid, 14, of RK Mission Road and Md Sayed Hossain, 15, of Sabujbagh.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab men conducted a raid at the house of one Haider on 2nd Lane of Gopibagh around 12:30am and arrested the juveniles.

New MD of Dhaka Sangbadpatra Hawkers Samabaya Samity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Mostafa Kamal, a director of Bangladesh Importers Association, has been appointed as managing director of Dhaka Sangbadpatra Hawkers Bahumukhi Samabaya Samity Ltd, says a press release.

Kamal, a freedom fighter, is also a former president of this Samity and general secretary of Dhaka Sangbadpatra Hawkers Union.

The Samity took the decision on his appointment at its annual general meeting recently.

Trial of BDR mutineers to start soon: Faruk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan yesterday said the trial of BDR mutineers will start soon, and the whole process will be completed as per country's law and constitution.

He said the government is extremely conscious so that no innocent people or BDR personnel are punished.

Replying to a question the minister said the CID is continuing its investigation while the proposed reforms of BDR are going on in full swing.

He said the law enforcement agencies are continuing their drive to arrest accused BDR men who are absconding and some firearms, which went missing from the BDR headquarters during the mutiny, have been recovered.

The minister was address-

ing a roundtable titled 'Learning English as international language for better entry into global job market and world business' at a city hotel. It was organised jointly by the Bhorer Kagoj and FM Institute.

The minister laid emphasis on the learning of English for having better jobs in global market and reducing unemployment problem in the country.

"The government is pledge-bound to develop information technology (IT) and education sector of the country. The key way to develop these sectors is the learning and practice of English language across the country," he added.

Presenting the keynote paper Firoz Mukul, principal of the FM Institute, urged the government to declare English as the second official language

of the country.

"English should be given the status of second language of the country by bringing an amendment to the constitution," he added.

Speaking on the occasion Prof Dr Shamsur Ali, vice chancellor of South-East University, urged the government to extend the retirement age of English teachers up to 70 years to resolve their paucity.

Moderated by Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamol Dutta, the roundtable was also addressed by University Grant Commission Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam, former state minister for education Ehsanul Haque Milon, former VC of Dhaka University Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, former diplomat Nasim Ferdous, and journalist Jaglul Ahmed Chowdhury.

APPELLATE DIVISION

Number of posts of judges raised to 11

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

President Zillur Rahman yesterday raised the number of posts of judges in the appellate division of the Supreme Court from 7 to 11.

The president raised the number of judges as per Article 94 (2) of the constitution, said an official hand-out.

The four new judges will be appointed next week, sources said.

After assuming the office, the present government has appointed two judges in the appellate division and 20 judges in the High Court division of the Supreme Court.

At present, there are seven judges in the appellate division and 82 judges in the HC division. The new appointments will be made in the SC building.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed told The Daily Star recently that the office rooms in the SC building

and other logistic supports for new judges are being arranged.

The minister also said the government will appoint more judges to ensure fair dispensation of justice and to reduce the huge backlog of cases.

Sources said Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin will retire on December 23 this year.

Also, four judges of the appellate division -- Justice Md Tafazzal Islam, Justice Md Joynul Abedin, Justice MA Matin and Justice Md Abdul Aziz -- will retire by the end of the next year.

Two HC judges -- Justice MA Rashid and Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury -- have retired this year and two other HC judges -- Justice Shah Abu Rahman and Justice Md Abdul Aziz -- have been elevated to the appellate division.

Obituary

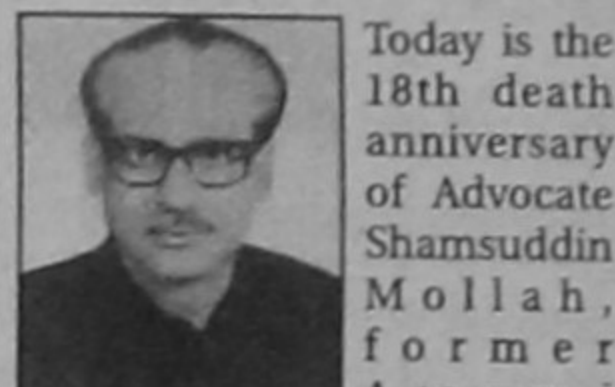
METRO DESK

Monjurul Ahsan Khan, leader trainer and former field commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts and former director of SOS Children's Village, Dhaka, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Mirpur Heart Foundation Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 60, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 18th death anniversary of Advocate Shamsuddin Mollah, former Awami

League lawmaker, one of the organisers of the War of Liberation and a close aide to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, says a press release.

On the occasion, wreaths will be placed at his grave at 8:00am and Quirankhuni will be held at his Khabashpur residence at 10:00am.

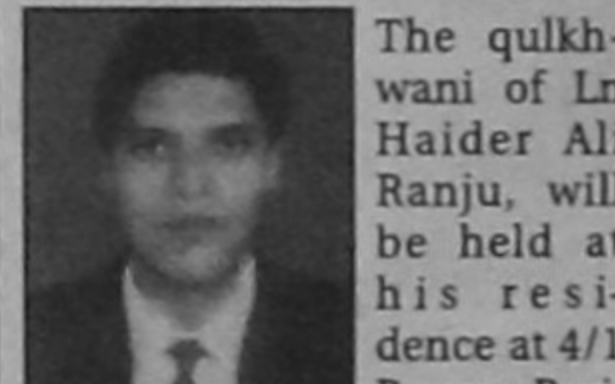
Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of Saleha Hossain, an educationist, writer and wife of former deputy prime minister Shah Moazzem Hossain will be held at her residence at House No # SEF-10, Road No # 142, Gulshan-1 in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Haider Ali Ranju

METRO DESK



The qulkhwani of Ln Haider Ali Ranju, will be held at his residence at 4/1 Begum Bari,

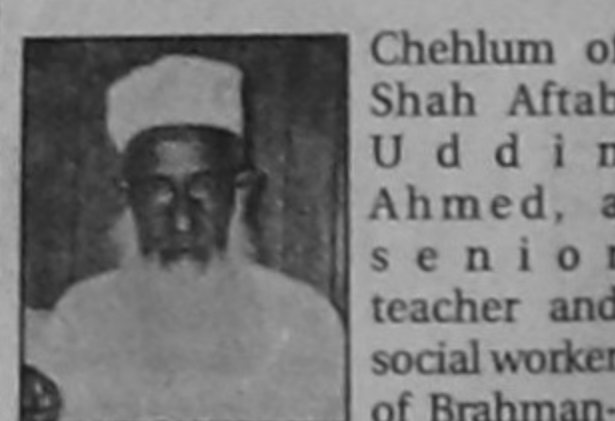
Satrasa, Tejgaon in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Ranju, region chairperson of Lions Clubs International, District 315 B-2 Bangladesh, passed away due to cancer at a city clinic on Tuesday at the age of 39.

He left behind his mother, wife and two sons.

Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Chehlum of Shah Aftab Uddin Ahmed, a senior teacher and social worker of Brahman-

baria, will be held at his Shahbajpur residence in Brahmanbaria after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at 30 mosques after Juma prayers and foods will be distributed among the destitute.

Bilkis Banu



Chehlum of Bilkis Banu, wife of late Syed Anisuzzaman, former president of Chittagong

Bar Association and former chairman of Hoechst Pharmaceuticals, will be held today, says a press release.

A doa mahfil will be held at the Uttara house of her son after Asr prayers today.

Hasnat Abdullah, Rashidi Suza, Khodeja Suza get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted bail to former chief whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah, and former Awami League lawmaker Mostafa Rashidi Suza and his wife Khodeja Rashidi Suza in five separate cases against them.

Abul Hasnat Abdullah got bail in four cases, while Suza couple got bail in a case. They were earlier convicted and sentenced to jail for different terms in absentia in these cases.

Upon separate appeals filed by the convicts against their convictions, the HC bench of Justice MA Wahhab Miah and Justice Md Abdur Razzak passed the bail orders.

Petitioners' counsel Advocate SM Rezaul Karim told The Daily Star that the bail orders of his clients will remain valid until disposal of their appeals.

He also said there is no bar to his clients' release from jail following the HC orders, since they are not arrested in any other case.

Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder appeared for them.

Move to build Tipaimukh dam protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilita Nari Samaj yesterday expressed solidarity with the ongoing agitations against construction of the Tipaimukh dam.

They formed a human chain in front of the National Museum in the city where leaders of the organisation urged the government to take immediate steps to this end.

The dam could make the east-northern region of the country totally barren and harm the ecological balance, said speakers at the human chain.

Farida Akhter, central committee member of the organisation, said since this is a national issue, it should not be politically exploited.

"We should all work together for the greater national interest and to save the country's environment," she added.

Jahanara Begum, Sammilita Nari Samaj central committee members Tahera Sultana, Kohinoor Begum, Seema Das Simu, Sultana Akter Rubi, Rokeya Begum, Shahinur Begum, Hajera Sultana and Syeda Akhter were present on the occasion.

All JCD units to be reconstituted Says Tuku

DU CORRESPONDENT

All units of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of BNP, would be reconstituted soon as part of the restructuring process of the organisation.

This was stated by Sultan Salauddin Tuku, president of the newly formed central committee, at a view exchange meeting with the journalists in the city yesterday.

"As per the directive of Khaleda Zia (BNP chairperson) we would start reforms from the grassroots level," said Tuku who has been facing a massive protest from a section of JCD men after assuming the post of JCD chief.

He said as the tenure of all units has already expired convening committees in all units will be formed to hold a national council for new leadership of the organisation.

BNP announced the names of five top leaders of a 101-member central committee on July 1 with Tuku as president and Amirul Islam Khan Alam as general secretary.

Tuku, who contested the last parliamentary election with BNP ticket from Tangail, said the next leadership of JCD would come through election.

About the draft constitution of the organisation, JCD

General Secretary Amirul Islam Khan Alam said they would finalise it by holding a national council.

JCD, one of the biggest student organisation of the country, could not finalise a constitution since its inception in January 1979. It runs following a draft constitution which was revised last in 1999.

Both Tuku and Alam at the meeting held at Dhaka University Journalists' Association pledged that JCD would see regular students in its leadership in future to avoid the debate that it is run by 'aged leadership'.

They urged all party leaders and workers to remain alert about ongoing 'conspiracy' against the country and the JCD, and work hard to foil all conspiracies.

Meanwhile, aggrieved JCD leaders and activists, who took to the streets immediately after the announcement of the five names of a 101-member new central committee on July 1, staged demonstration on Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding fresh leadership at the central level.

They also vowed to continue their agitation until the decision of 'illegal' expulsion of four leaders of JCD's Dhaka University unit is cancelled.

BBC Sanglap on edn today

METRO DESK

BBC Bangladesh is going to organise a special episode of its flagship Bangladesh Sanglap programme on education in the city today.

A four-member panel will directly answer to questions raised by a live audience on the pros and cons of the current education system, says a press release.

The panel at this week's programme will feature Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, former adviser to a caretaker government Rasheda K Chowdhury, former vice chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Moniruzzaman Mia and President of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Annisul Haq.

The hour-long Bangladesh Sanglap provides a unique platform on radio and television, where ordinary citizens ask questions to, and debate issues with the country's political leaders and civil society personalities.

Moderated by Mithila Farzana, the programme will be recorded at 5:45pm in the Media Centre of Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre.

An invited audience of 150 citizens will take part in this special episode of Bangladesh Sanglap.

The ongoing Bangladesh Sanglap series is broadcast on BBC Bangla Radio, including FM 100 in Dhaka, at 9:00pm on each Sunday and on Channel i at 8:00pm on Monday every week.



Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls may also occur at places over Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions, Met Office said.

Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:50pm today and rises at 6:19am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 33.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Srimongal and lowest 24.6 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

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	31.1	26.5	91	67
Chittagong	28.0	24.8	95	94
Rajshahi	32.2	26.8	81	97
Khulna	31.5	27.0	96	76
Barisal	30.8	26.5	80	82
Sylhet	32.7	26.5	82	79
Cox's Bazar	28.6	25.0	97	88



Roundtable

Bangabandhu Peshajibi Parishad organises a roundtable titled 'The role of professionals in building Digital Bangladesh'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

Reception

National Press Club will accord a reception to noted writers and journalists. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 6:00pm.

Musical soiree

The monthly musical soiree of Chhayanaut will be held. Venue: Chhayanaut. Time: 7:30pm.

Human chain

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) will form a human chain protesting the construction of Tipaimukh dam. Venue: In front of National Museum. Time: 10:30am.

Roundtable

The weekly Shapthalik organises a roundtable titled 'Oil-gas export, PSC and public interest'. Venue: Biam auditorium. Time: 10:00am.