

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hillary felicitates Bangalees

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has greeted the people of Bangladesh on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bangla New Year 1417.

In a message yesterday, Hillary, on behalf of President Barack Obama and the American people, said: "I congratulate all Bangalees as you celebrate Pahela Baishakh and welcome a new year of promise and possibility."

"This holiday, which unites people of common heritage across religious and national lines, is an opportunity to honour Bangalee culture with music, drama and traditional foods."

Danish minister calls on FM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Visiting Danish Minister for Development Cooperation Soren Pind has assured that Denmark would continue to be Bangladesh's development partner.

The assurance came when the Danish minister called on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at the state guesthouse Padma yesterday.

Dipu Moni stated that Bangladesh attaches great importance to the relations with Denmark and considers Denmark as a dependable friend and development partner.

The Danish minister underscored the need for more high-level bilateral visits between the two countries.

Workshop on climate change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Youths at a workshop yesterday urged the government and other development partners to include the young generation in the decision-making process regarding climate change.

The British Council's International Climate Champion Sareka Jahan organised the workshop titled 'Learn to live with climate change' at the National Press Club.

State Minister for Environment and Forests Hasan Mahmud was present as the chief guest while British High Commissioner Stephen Evans, Chairman of Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies Saleemul Huq and Director of British Council Charles Nuttall also spoke.

S Korean envoy meets FM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed South Korean Ambassador ChoYoung Tai called on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed various issues like development and cooperation, trade, investment, human resources development, and infrastructure building.

16 HSC examinees expelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixteen examinees were expelled for adopting unfair means on the sixth day of the Higher Secondary Certificate and its equivalent examinations under 10 education boards yesterday.

Meanwhile, 2142 candidates were absent yesterday. Among the expelled students, 12 were under Technical Board, 2 under Madrasa Board and one each from Jessore and Dinajpur boards, according to Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board.

Lane for cycling demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday demanded a separate lane on all the roads for cycling.

They also demanded stand for cycles be constructed and cycles be provided to students in a low price with a view to keeping the city clean.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) and Dhaka Cycling Club jointly organised the rally that started from the Central Shaheed Minar and ended at the National Press Club.



A foreign visitor admires pictures at New Way-Ruposi Bangla Photography Competition and Exhibition organised by Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association at its auditorium in the city yesterday on the occasion of Bangla New Year 1417.

Bhutan ready to hold Saarc Summit

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bhutanese Ambassador in Dhaka Dasho Bap Kesang yesterday said his country has taken all-out preparations to hold the upcoming 16th Saarc Summit in Thimphu scheduled for April 28-29.

Talking to Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at her office, the envoy briefed her about the preparations and said that climate change issue will be high on the agenda in the summit.

This is for the first time Bhutan is going to host the Saarc Summit since the regional body was mooted in Dhaka in 1985.

Dipu said Bangladesh attaches high importance to the regional cooperation in South Asia and considers Saarc as a catalyst for regional cooperation and sustainable development and social progress in the region.

She hoped that under Bhutan's chair, new dynamism would be added and momentum be generated in the Saarc process.

Dipu stressed the need for enhancing people-to-people contact and highlighted land connectivity between the two countries to promote intra-regional trade and travel.

The minister expressed her satisfaction over the ongoing preparations in Thimphu.

Domestic help tortured to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An 11-year-old domestic help was allegedly tortured to death by a couple in their house at East Badda in the city early hours of Monday.

Police arrested husband Solaiman Mandal, who is also a final year student of City Dental College at Malibagh, and his wife Rita Begum, a housewife, on charges of killing domestic help Boby Akhter of Rangpur.

Death anniversary

DU CORRESPONDENT

Tomorrow is the third death anniversary of Dr Qamrun Nahar, a gynecologist of Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH), says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held tomorrow (April 15) to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Syed Mohammad Sajjad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 1st death anniversary of Syed Mohammad Sajjad, son of Khan Bahadur Syed Moshfekus Saleheen, says a press release.

8 projects involving Tk 1,251cr okayed

UNB, Dhaka

The Executive Committee on National Economic Council (Ecne) at a meeting yesterday approved eight development projects involving Tk 1,251 crore giving priority to riverbank protection with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The approved projects include irrigation area extension and development project under the Agriculture Ministry involving Tk 51 crore, poverty reduction and livelihood security for the people of economically depressed areas project under the Fisheries and Livestock Ministry of Tk 83 crore and river bank protection project of River Jamuna from Bahadurabad Ghat to Futanirbazar under Jamalpur district, Pingna Bazar area of Sarishabari upazila and Harindhara to Hargila of

Islampur upazila under the Water Resources Ministry of Tk 366 crore.

Other projects include river bank protection project of Jamuna in Chouhali upazila of Sirajganj under the Water Resources Ministry of Tk 36 crore, Chandpur irrigation protection project from the erosion of River Meghna at Ibrahimpur-Shakhua area under the Water Resources Ministry of Tk 156 crore, construction of seven RAB complexes under the Home Ministry of Tk 436 crore, procurement of one cutter suction dredger, pilot and dispatch boats for Mongla Port under the Shipping Ministry of Tk 83 crore and upgrading Begumganj Textile Institute to Begumganj Textile Engineering College under the Jute and Textile Ministry of Tk 40 crore.

Prof Nasir Chy passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Prof ATM Nasir Chowdhury, younger brother of National Professor Kabir Chowdhury and martyred intellectual Munier Chowdhury, passed away due to old age complications at her daughter's residence at Gulshan in the city yesterday at the age of 80, says a press release.

He left behind his two daughters Tayyeba Nasir and Tahziba Nasir and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Prof Nasir, son of Khan Bahadur Abdul Halim Chowdhury, was a teacher of Faujdharhat Cadet College, Mirzapur Cadet College, Barisal Cadet College and Mymensingh Girls' Cadet College.

On the occasion, doa mahfil will be held at his elder daughter's residence in the city after Maghrib prayers on Friday.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Md Osman Ghani

METRO DESK



Md Osman Ghani, a former deputy secretary of Prime Minister's Office, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Lab Aid Cardiac Hospital in the city on Monday at the age of 67.

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

A doa mahfil will be held at his Dhanmondi residence (House # 65, Road # 12A, Flat # A-2) after Asr prayers on Friday.

'No foreign state to interfere in war crimes trial'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Law Advocate Quamrul Islam yesterday said no foreign country would interfere in the process of war crimes trial because it is an internal issue of Bangladesh.

Quamrul said this as the chief guest at a rally organised by Bangladesh Awami Olama League at Institute of Diploma Engineers in the city demanding a ban on the Jamaat politics.

Efforts on to solve power crisis: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday she said her government is making all out efforts to solve the power crisis in the country although the situation was created by the BNP led 4-party alliance government.

She said this when outgoing UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Bangladesh Renata Lok Dessallien paid a farewell call on her at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The prime minister said the government has plans to introduce an electronic voting system with a view to making the election process more transparent and credible.

Hasina said a strong opposition is very much important to make the democracy fruitful and her government wants to see a strong opposition in parliament for the sake of vibrant parliamentary democracy.

Renata hoped that the UNDP's support to the country's development endeavors would continue in future.



Dr Qamrun Nahar, a gynecologist of Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH), says a press release.



Syed Mohammad Sajjad, son of Khan Bahadur Syed Moshfekus Saleheen, says a press release.



১লা বৈশাখ

বাংলার ঐতিহ্য, যার উপরে দাঁড়িয়ে আছে আমাদের অহংকার

আমরা বাঙালী, আমাদের আছে নিজেদের আচার আচরণ, আছে জীবন যাপনে নিজস্বতা, অস্তিত্বকে বাদ দিয়ে যেমন বাঁচা যায় না, তেমনি ঐতিহ্যকে বাদ দিয়ে যায় না শিকড়ের স্বপ্ন দেখা।
১লা বৈশাখ বাঙালীর নিজেদের উৎসব।

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