



(Left) Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina administers the oath to newly elected Chittagong City Corporation Mayor M Manjur Alam at her office in the city yesterday while Manjur Alam presents a bouquet to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office (right). (Story on Page 1)



PHOTO: BNP

CORPORAL PUNISHMENTS AGAINST STUDENTS HC asks govt to submit report on steps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the government to submit to it a report on what steps it has taken to prevent corporal punishments against the school students within two months.
The court issued a rule upon the authorities concerned to explain within 10 days why physical and mental punishment to the school students should not be declared against their fundamental rights and illegal.
In the rule it also asked the authorities to explain why their inaction to prevent corporal punishment against the school children should not be declared illegal.
The HC bench of Justice Md Imman Ali and Justice Obaidul Hasan came up with the order and rule following a writ petition jointly filed by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust and Ain O Salish Kendra.
The bench fixed August 4 for further hearing on the matter.
The rights organisations yesterday filed the petition as public interest litigation mentioning 13 reported incidents of punishment to some school children by their teachers.
The petition prayed to the court for necessary directives upon the authorities concerned of the government and educational institutions to desist from punishing school students.
Barrister Sara Hossain assisted by advocate Abonti Nurul appeared for the petitioners.

No educational instt to be allowed to run without govt approval

Says education minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said no educational institution or university without government approval will be allowed to continue their operation in the country.
"The universities which are not approved by the government will not be allowed to do anything in the name of imparting education. Even they will also not be allowed to publish any advertisement," he said.
The minister made the remarks while talking to the newsmen after the inaugural session of the sixth two-day meeting of the heads of University

Grants Commission (UGC) or equivalent bodies of the SAARC member countries at a city hotel.
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC) organised the two-day meeting.
Asked about snubbing the move to empower the UGC to fix tuition fees of private universities, Nahid said the government let the private university authorities to fix the tuition fees with the hope that they would be considerate enough.
"We hope that they would not put us in trouble," he said.
The minister, however, warned that the government would not allow anyone to do business in education sector.

"We are firmly committed that we will not let education turn into a business firm," he said.
Asked about the tuition fees in the private universities, he said the government in the private university act asked them to fix the fees according to the country's socio-economic condition and keep it within the reach of general people.
"We gave the thing onto the conscience of the governing bodies of the private universities. We must look into it if they don't follow the directives," he added.
He said the main aim of enacting the "Private University Act" is to ensure the quality education in every univer-

sities as well as making them successful.
Speaking at the function, Nahid said the new education policy which is in the process of implementation would bring qualitative changes in the country's education sector.
Speaking as guest of honour, National Professor Kabir Chowdhury said the government of all countries in the world should allocate adequate funds for higher education.
Chaired by UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam, the meeting was also addressed by RD Rajapakse, director of SAARC secretariat, Kathmandu and UGC member Dr Atful Hye Shibly.

Shut down illegal shipbreaking yard Demand environmentalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Some environmentalists yesterday demanded neutral investigation into the fire incident at Sultana Ship Breaking Yard in Chittagong on July 12 that left a number of workers injured.
They also demanded punishment to the people responsible for the incident and to shut down the shipbreaking yard completely, said a press release.
They placed the demand through a letter to the high-powered technical committee formed following the direction of High Court to take necessary measures against unapproved and environment polluters shipbreaking yard.
Representatives of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (BELA), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA), Paribesh Bachao Andolon (POBA), Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) jointly sent the letter.
Because of poor implementation of existing law, the shipbreaking sector is running without any control causing workers' death and permanent disabilities. So the illegal ship and yard owners should be punished.



Death anniversary of Hena Das today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Today is the first death anniversary of Comrade Hena Das, veteran leader of women's rights and leftist movement, says a press release.
Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will organise a discussion on her life and political career at 5:00pm at Mukti Bhawan in the city.
Hena, an anti-British activist got involved with Nikhil Bharat Chhatra Federation, a progressive student organisation, in 1938 and became a member of the Communist Party in 1942. She actively worked with the refugees of the Liberation War of 1971 and was a life long dedicated member of CPB.

One stabbed to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Unidentified miscreants stabbed a man aged about 50 years to death and dumped the body at Farmgate area on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.
The identity of the deceased could not be known.
Tejgaon police recovered the body at around 3:00am yesterday and sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy. Morgue sources said the body had stab marks on its chest.
Tejgaon police said acting on a tip-off they recovered the body.
Police assume the deceased was a drug addict.
The body is lying in the morgue as nobody claimed it.

Kaspersky launches security solution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Kaspersky Lab, a globally leading anti-virus company, yesterday launched its new and enhanced security solution--Kaspersky Small Office Security (KSOS)--for small and medium businesses in Bangladesh.
The software provides comprehensive protection for workstations and file servers running under the Windows operating system, says a press release.
The newly launched KSOS will be particularly useful for the growing number of small businesses in Bangladesh.
On this occasion, Suk Ling Gun, managing director of Kaspersky Lab, South Asia notes, "Business owners now-a-days are even more concerned about protecting their computer and file server against malware, spam, Internet fraud and data leakage as many of the business owners have their own secret recipe and would like to protect this asset from their staffs... Kaspersky Lab's KSOS solution does all these things which will give the peace of mind to the business owners."
KSOS includes a new antivirus engine with an increased threat detection rate, uses minimal system resources and is easily updated, in addition to having a heuristic analyser designed to block new malware as it emerges.
It is equipped to check for malicious code and links to phishing websites hidden inside communications sent via IM systems (ICQ and MSN).

Int'l conference on Afghanistan tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Afghanistan will bring together representatives of more than 70 partner countries, international and regional organisations and financial institutions in Kabul tomorrow to deliberate and endorse an Afghan government-led plan for improving development, governance, and stability.
According to a release sent by Afghan embassy in Dhaka, the international conference on Afghanistan will mark the culmination of several months of intensive study and rigorous policy debate on government priorities implemented through national programmes, to deliver on the key goals of economic growth and job creation.
Building on commitments made at the recent international London Conference, tomorrow's conference aims to support a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan.
Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon are scheduled to open the conference, to be co-chaired by Afghan Foreign Minister Rassoul and UN Special Representative Staffan de Mistura.
The conference marks a new phase in Afghanistan's engagement with the international community, says the release adding that a key goal of the conference is to mobilise international confidence and resources for a new generation of "bankable" national programmes, in accordance with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and President Karzai's inaugural speech of November 2009.

MOVE TO BRING BACK KOKO'S MONEY Hearing on petition for court order Aug 18

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday fixed August 18 for hearing on a petition seeking a court order to bring back Tk 19.7 crore that Arafat Rahman Koko, Khaleda Zia's younger son, had allegedly siphoned off to Singapore.
Judge (In charge) Mohammad Ismail Hossain of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after Koko's lawyer submitted a petition praying for adjournment of the hearing.
On June 29 this year, Attorney General Mahubey Alam sent letters to the governor of Bangladesh Bank and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) chairman asking them to take necessary steps for bringing the money laundered by Koko and Saimon to Singapore.
In response to the letters, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank Ziaul Hasan Siddique on July 12 this year submitted the petition with the same court seeking its permission to bring back the money.
Koko's lawyers Masud Ahmed Talukder and Sanaullah Miah submitted a petition seeking adjournment of the hearing.
The co-accused in the case is Ismail Hossain Saimon, son of former shipping minister late Akbar Hossain. Saimon has been absconding since the case was filed.
The court directed the authorities concerned to publish an advertisement in two Bangla national dailies asking Saimon to appear before it on the scheduled date.
Koko was arrested on September 2, 2007 in connection with the Gatco graft case and was later released on parole for treatment abroad.
The ACC filed the case against Koko on March 17 in 2009 under the Money Laundering Prevention Act on charge of siphoning off Tk 19.7 crore to Singapore.
According to the deposition of the ACC, a portion of the money deposited to Koko's bank account was from an account of China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd in the USA.
China Harbour was operating in Bangladesh during the time of the transfer of the money as it was constructing the New Mooring Container Terminal.
The ACC submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka on November 12 last year.
On November 15, 2009 the court accepted the charge sheet against Koko and Saimon.
KOKO'S TAX EVASION CASE
The same court yesterday asked Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kofur Police Station to submit report by August 18 to it on execution of arrest warrant against Koko in connection with a tax evasion case.
The National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed the case against Koko on March 1 on charge of evading income tax on his income of Tk 52.39 lakh between 2002-2003 and 2006-2007 fiscal years.
Koko, who is now abroad for treatment, repeatedly provided false information about his real income and expenditure, alleged the NBR statement.
Four other cases, including a graft and an extortion case, were also filed against him during the time when he was in jail.

Online submission of Indian visa application introduced

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
High Commission of India yesterday announced introduction of online submission of visa applications for nationals of all countries applying for visa with Indian Visa Application Centres (IVACs) in the city, says a press release.
Online submission of visa applications will, however, be optional and not mandatory.
Persons desiring to apply for visa to travel to India may visit the website of High Commission of India (www.hcidhaka.org) and/or Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) at www.ivacbd.com and register their applications online.
Visa applications of Bangladeshi nationals who have already registered through the e-token system will continue to be accepted at the respective Indian Visa Application Centres on the dates and timings indicated in the e-tokens till further notification.
Any queries regarding online submission of visa applications may be addressed to Manager (Administration), Indian Visa Application Centre, Gulshan, Dhaka (Phone No. 8833632/9893006 Fax.No. 9863229 Email : info@ivacbd.com)

Obituary

METRO DESK
Md Shamsuddin Mridha, a freedom fighter and Upazila Anser-VDP Officer, passed away due to cancer at the age of 57 at Mirpur City Hospital at 4:00am, says a press release.
He left behind wife, two daughters and two sons and a host of colleagues and relatives.
His first namaz-e-janaza was held at Ansar-VDP Headquarter, Khilgaon, where Additional Director General ABM Tayeful Islam and all officers and staff along with others attended the namaz-e-janaza.
A bouquet of flower and national flag were placed at the coffin of dead body as an honour for the departed soul.
The body has been sent to Muktedpur upazila, Gopalganj where he would be buried with state-honour due to his contribution in the war of liberation.

DHAKA TODAY

Fellowship
Touching Souls International (USA) in association with the Water Fellowship Committee (Dhaka) will hold a fellowship distribution ceremony. Venue: Conference Lounge, National Press Club, Time: 10:30am.

Discussion
Bangladesh Chhatra League will hold a discussion titled "Colonel Taher's politics and the future of Bangladesh". Venue: Shaheed Munir Chowdhury conference centre, TSC, Time: 5:00pm.

Book Launching
Shomoy Prakashon will launch three poetry books. Venue: Shawkat Osman auditorium, Central Public Library, Time: 5:30pm.

Open discussion
BotTala will hold an open discussion titled "Society, psyche and psychiatry: role of media". Venue: Shaheed Munir Chowdhury conference centre, TSC, Time: 11:00am.

Regional Forum
The inaugural session of the Regional Forum on Intellectual Property for the Policy Makers of the Least Developed Countries of Asia and the Pacific Region will be held. Venue: Ball room, Sonargaon Hotel, Time: 9:00am.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature
UNB, Dhaka
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all the seven divisions with moderately heavy falls at places in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.
Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.
The sun sets in the capital at 6:48pm today and rises at 5:22am tomorrow.
Country's highest temperature 35.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and Madaripur and lowest 25.8 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.
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	35.1	28.3	74	69
Chittagong	31.0	26.3	90	76
Rajshahi	33.5	27.2	83	74
Khulna	34.7	27.5	77	87
Barisal	33.5	27.0	79	92
Sylhet	32.3	25.8	88	86
Cox's Bazar	32.0	26.5	92	82

BNP nat'l executive body meets July 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The National Executive Committee of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will hold its maiden meeting on July 31 at Diploma Engineers' Institution auditorium in the city with party chairperson Khaleda Zia in the chair.
Party leaders said, members of the executive committee and presidents and general secretaries of district units will attend the meeting to discuss the latest organizational matters and the political developments in the country.
As per the BNP constitution, the meeting of the national executive committee will be held at least once in every six months. But in the meeting can be convened anytime, if necessary, with the permission of the chairperson.
The party announced names of 386 members of the executive committee on January 1 this year -- 22 days after holding the national council that re-elected Khaleda Zia the chairperson and elected her elder son Tarique Rahman the senior vice-chairman of the party.

DOHAJARI-GUNDUM RLY LINES China, ADB to help

BSS, Dhaka
Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain said China and Asian Development Bank expressed keenness to provide assistance for construction of railway lines from Dohajari in Chittagong to Gundum in Myanmar.
The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecne) approved the project this month, he added.
Through the construction of the railway route, the government wants to establish direct rail communication with the northern and eastern countries and join the Trans-Asian Railway.
The minister said the economic relations division (ERD) under the finance ministry would decide from which country or agency the assistance would be taken for construction of the railway lines from Dohajari to Ramu to Gundum.
He said a feasibility study has already been done by a Canadian firm in this regard. Besides, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will also conduct a feasibility study.
Abul Hossain said there would be no problem of fund to construct the railway route and the construction would begin during the tenure of this government.
The estimated cost for construction of the railway lines is Tk 1,852 crore, of which the government will give Tk 670 crore and the remaining 1182 crore will come as project assistance.
The 128-kilometre route will link the tourist destination Cox's Bazar with railway connectivity and join the country with Trans-Asian Railway corridor.
Besides, the project would include construction of stations at Satkania, Lohagara, Chakaria, Dulahajra, Eidgaon, Ramu, Cox's Bazar, Ukhiya and Gundum, and reconstruction of Dohajari station.

Maulana Noor Mostafa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Maulana Noor Mostafa Majumder, father of ALI law-maker Kamal Ahmed Majumder, passed away due to old age complications at his Banani residence on Saturday, at the age of 110 says a press release.
He was buried at his village in Feni yesterday after namaz-e-janazas at Banani Jam-e-Mosque and Jam-e-Ulum Madrasa in Mirpur 14.
Maulana Mostafa left behind his two sons and three daughters to mourn his death.

4 BCL bodies dissolved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday dissolved four committees of the organisation.

4 BCL bodies dissolved

The unit committees are Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) in Sylhet, Chittagong (South), Bhola and Pataukhali district.

Death anniversary of Ashraf Ali Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Today is the second death anniversary of Ashraf Ali Khan, former senior health education official of Tangail.
On the occasion, a Quran khwan and feeding of the destitute will be organised.
Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for eternal peace of the departed soul.