

SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY

Academic session begins in Delhi tomorrow

Manmohan to inaugurate the regional seat of higher education

REZAUL KARIM

The long-awaited South Asian University will start its academic session from tomorrow to make it an institute of South Asian studies focusing on its issues and challenges.

Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh while attending the 13th Saarc Summit held in November 2005 in Dhaka proposed to create a Centre of Excellence, in the form of a South Asian University, to provide world-class facilities to students and researchers of the region.

Manmohan Singh is expected to inaugurate the university on its temporary campus at Akbar Bhawan, New Delhi of India. He is likely to speak on the economy of South Asia, said a report of The Times of India recently.

The first two courses are in MA (development economics) and Masters of Computer Application (MCA). The MA course is for two years while MCA for three years.

Both the courses have got 25 students each. In development economics, 13 students are from other Saarc countries while 12 from India. In MCA, there are 16 Indians

while its permanent campus will be set up at Maidan Garhi in South Delhi, next to Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), by 2014, for which land is being acquired in Mehrauli in South Delhi.

The university intended to be state-of-excellence, will start functioning on the a temporary campus

and nine from Saarc countries.

Tuition fee is fixed at US\$ 440 per semester with most of the cost heavily subsidised to ensure easy access and affordability to all and scholarships offered along with earn while you learn programmes.

The university hopes to enroll after five years close to 3,000 students, 300 teachers and have 10 postgraduate facilities and a small faculty of undergraduates. The university is planning to have 7,000 students and 700 teachers.

According to the officials, engineering and medical programmes

will also be introduced after a few years. The teaching staff will be mostly from Saarc countries.

On crucial visa issue, officials said that India at the Saarc summit has asserted that there will be no discrimination in visas against any student from Pakistan, including those from Bangladesh, although police reporting would be a must.

They said the Indian government assured that visas will be facilitated in a timely manner to ensure that any student who gets admission is able to join the classes without any delay.



Former secretary Nuruddin passes away

BSS, Dhaka

Nuruddin Ahmad, former secretary and freedom fighter, passed away at his Gulshan residence in the city yesterday at the age of 91.

He was in jail for seven months during the rule of Khandaker Mostaque after the killing of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

His wife Begum Badrunnesa was education and social welfare minister in Bangabandhu's cabinet.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Gulshan Mosque after Zohr prayers today.

His qulhwani will be held at his residence at House No 2/A, Road No. 84, Gulshan-2 after Asr prayers on Friday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed profound shock at his death.

Prime Minister's Adviser HT Imam also condoled the death.

Cops detain three youths at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday detained three youths as they tried to flee away leaving a dead body at emergency unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The arrestees were identified as Roni, 22, Faruque, 24 and Mortaza, 34. They were employees of residential hotel, Dallas, in capital's Sutrapur area.

DMCH cap police took them to Emergency Unit Police Camp for further investigation.

Police said, the trio took an unconscious man to the hospital's emergency unit at about 1:00 pm. Later, they tried to escape as on duty doctors declared the unconscious man dead.

JCD leader assaulted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists assaulted a Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader in front of Public Library yesterday.

The victim was identified as Mohammad Khokon Sikder, an Assistant General Secretary of Suryasen Hall unit of JCD.

Campus sources said a group of BCL activists numbering 20-25 armed with rod and hockey sticks swooped on Khokon at 3:00pm.

Mirza Abbas gets bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted bail to former BNP minister Mirza Abbas, and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Rafiqul Islam Khan, in separate criminal cases.

Detained Mirza Abbas, also BNP standing committee member, got ad-interim bail in three separate cases filed on charges of vandalising cars and obstructing police in discharging their duties.

Rafiqul Islam Khan, also Dhaka city unit chief of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, got anticipatory bail in six separate cases.



Traffic jam is seen on Khilgaon Flyover in the city from 9:00am to 12:00 noon almost every day. This photo was taken around 10:00am yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQUE

Experts confirm Anthrax in samples, 9 more affected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A team of experts from Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) yesterday confirmed Anthrax germ in the samples collected from Pabna and Sirajganj districts.

The team led by Head of Pathology Department of Veterinary Science Professor Dr Abu Hadi Noor Ali Khan, visited Anthrax affected areas of the two districts on Monday and collected swab samples from some affected people.

After primary lab tests of the samples, it was clear that the affected people were infected with the Anthrax germ, said Dr Khan when contacted. The team experts

also passed similar remarks.

The team of experts included Vice-Chancellor of BAU Professor Dr M A Sattar Mandal, Head of Medicine Department Professor Dr Siddiqur Rahman, Head of Microbiology and Hygiene Department Dr Sukumar Saha and Chief Medical Officer of BAU Health Center Dr Fayez Ahmed.

On the other hand, the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) on Saturday said laboratory tests of the samples of affected people, collected from the Shahzadpur upazila in Sirajganj, would take at least a week to confirm whether they have Anthrax.

Meanwhile, our Pabna and Sirajganj correspondents reported, at least nine more people allegedly affected with Anthrax were found in the two dairy-rich districts, as confirmed by health officials yesterday.

Of them, two were reported in the Santhia upazila, raising the total affected figure to 26 for Pabna. The remaining seven were reported in the Belkuchi and Kamarkhand upazilas of Sirajganj.

Regarding the ongoing vaccination at Pabna, District Livestock Officer Dr Saiful Islam said the livestock department has already vaccinated more than 4,000 dairy animals till yesterday.

Ghulam Azam was chief patron of Razakar

Say FFs, locals in Brahmanbaria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Freedom fighters and local residents in Brahmanbaria yesterday said ex-Jamaat chief Ghulam Azam was the chief patron of Razakar, Al-badar and Al-shams -- the forces collaborated with Pakistani army during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971.

They gave the testimony before a three-member inquiry committee of International War Crime Tribunal that passed the second day of investigation on the war crime committed by

former Jamaat chief at different spots in Brahmanbaria.

They demanded immediate punishment to all war criminals including Ghulam Azam.

During the visit, the team took interviews of several freedom fighters and locals.

Today the team is likely to visit Beergaon village -- home of Gulam Azam at Nabinnagar upazila of the district.

The three-member inquiry committee headed by Additional Superintendent of Police Matiur Rahman reached Brahmanbaria on Sunday and started fact finding on war crime.

Boy found dead in city shop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered a hanging body of a 14-year old boy from a carom board shop in the city's Jurain yesterday morning while the deceased's relatives claimed it as a murder.

Nasir Sarder, son of Yunus Sarder, and a helper of a human hauler lived at Postogola Battala in the city.

Police recovered the body of Nasir, which was hanging from the ceiling of the shop at Jurain Balur Math and sent it to Sir Salimullah Medical College hospital morgue for autopsy.

Nasir's aunt Rina Begum told The Daily Star that owners of the shop Alamgir and Mithu killed the boy any time Monday night and hung his body.

She also alleged that two days back Nasir took his cousin Shamsul Haque's cell phone to the shop where Alamgir and Nasir took away the phone saying that they will use it for playing games.

Nasir went to bring back the cell phone set yesterday evening and did not return to the house since then, said Rina who had been taking care of the boy in her house since his mother died.

Rina once went to the shop to enquire about Nasir and the cell phone when the shop owners insulted her out.

She requested police for filing a murder case but police told her that they cannot take a murder case until the post mortem report is available, she alleged.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Shyampur Police Station Jamiruddin Ahmed told The Daily Star that police recorded an unnatural death (UD) case as Rina wanted it.

The OC said he did not know anything about Rina's request to file murder case. He, however, said he was not present when Rina came to the police station.

CONTEMPT OF COURT AGAINST MAHMUDUR

Next hearing on Oct 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday adjourned the hearing till October 11 on a contempt of court petition filed against detained Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of daily Amar Desh, and its publisher Hashmat Ali.

Two lawyers Reaz Uddin Khan and Barrister Mynul Hassan filed the contempt of court petition on August 17 with the SC against Mahmudur and Hashmat for publishing a commentary under the headline "Swadhin bicharer name tamasa" (Farce in the name of independent trial) on May 10.

The apex court issued a contempt of court rule the same day asking Mahmudur and Hashmat to explain why they should not be prosecuted for the commentary.

The full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim, adjourned the hearing and fixed October 11 for further hearing.

WEATHER

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions in next 12 hours as of 06:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:23pm today and rises at 5:38am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded today at Jessore and lowest 25.0 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi.

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	33.5	27.8	73	90
Chittagong	31.0	25.3	90	82
Rajshahi	31.0	25.0	92	92
Khulna	33.6	27.8	84	78
Barisal	33.5	27.3	98	84
Sylhet	35.3	26.0	91	80
Cox's Bazar	31.8	25.3	91	80

Bangladeshi cattle trader shot dead by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

A Bangladeshi cattle trader was shot dead by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along Ghona border in Sadar upazila Monday night.

BDR sources said the identity of the victim could not be known immediately after the incident.

The BSF men of Joynagar camp under Swarupnagar Police Station in India opened fire at a group of cattle traders while they were crossing the border with cattle leaving the victim dead on the spot at 11:30pm, said Major Jahangir, Operations Officer of 41 Rifles Battalion.

Bangladesh Rifles sent a letter protesting the killing and demanded immediate return of the body, BDR sources added.

Rab implicated Pradip as Ulfa man

Claim family members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of detained Pradip Marak, an alleged Bangladeshi aide to detained Ulfa leader Ranjan Chowdhury, yesterday claimed that Rab personnel implicated him as an Ulfa man being influenced by one of his former business partners.

At a press conference held at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU), the family members urged the Prime Minister and Home Minister to unearth the truth behind the arrest and they demanded immediate release of Pradip.

Pradip Marak's wife Bipla Chichham, sister Espna Chichham and daughter Prima Chichham spoke at the press conference.

They said Pradip used to run a security firm Bangladesh Indigenous Security at Khilkhet and he was also the chairman of Garo Adibasi Unnayan Samabai Samity in Sherpur.

Pradip Marak's daughter Prima Chichham said her father was kidnapped from the city's Ashkona on April 21 after an anonymous caller asked him to go to a spot at 10:00am.

"Since then my father remained missing and we thought our father is no more alive. Following the incident we also filed a case against Mohammad Zia of Jhinaigati, the former business partner of my father, with Airport Police Station", Prima said.

"But around three months after the missing on July 17 we came to know that our father is under the custody of Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) on charges of his involvement in Ulfa activities", Prima said.

She claimed that Rab men arrested her father to serve Zia's purpose. Talking to The Daily Star, Commander Mohammad Sohail, director of Rab legal and media wing, denied the allegation of Pradip Marak's family and said, "The allegation is totally baseless and we arrested Pradip on specific information of his involvement in Ulfa activities."

VIOLATION OF ORDER Moulvibazar DC offers apology to HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Commissioner of Moulvibazar yesterday offered unconditional apology to the High Court for defying its orders on a disputed piece of land and his appearance in the court.

An HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh M Zahir Hossain exonerated DC Mostafizur Rahman from contempt of court petition against him, and directed him to comply with its order within seven days.

On April 21 this year, the court ordered the DC to immediately accept the rents from Zilu Mian of the district for Bengali years 1416 and 1417 for his plots of land, and dispose of his application regarding dispute of the property.

The DC yesterday told the HC through an affidavit that he would execute its order immediately.

He also tendered unconditional apology for not appearing before the HC on August 22 as per its order.

Earlier on August 23, the bench kept the DC standing in the dock for nearly two and a half hours for violating its orders.

The bench on August 11 directed the DC to appear before it on August 22 in connection with a contempt of court petition filed against him by Zilu Mian.

The HC on the same day issued a contempt of court rule against Mostafizur Rahman and asked him to appear before it on August 22.

Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun appeared for the DC while Deputy Attorney General represented the government and advocate Nazmul Huda advocated for Zilu Mian.

Sayedee to face tribunal on Sep 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday directed the prison authorities to produce detained Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayedee before it on September 21 in connection with 1971 war crime charges.

The tribunal also fixed September 21 for holding hearing on the eight applications earlier filed by Sayedee and four other Jamaat leaders, said Registrar of the Tribunal Shahinur Islam yesterday.

On August 10 this year, the tribunal directed the prison authorities to produce Sayedee before it on August 24, but the tribunal yesterday deferred the date as the structural reform of the court building is going on.

The four other Jamaat leaders who earlier filed the petitions are Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojaheed, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Molla.

They filed applications for withdrawal of the tribunal orders that earlier issued arrest warrants against them. The applications also sought the court orders to acquit them of the war crime charges and for necessary documents and papers.

Hermaphrodite shot over Eid toll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 150 agitated hermaphrodites (hijra) attacked the residents of an Uttara house yesterday afternoon after the residence owner shot injured one of their accomplices when they were trying to extort money from residents.

Injured Rina, 22, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Police and locals said house owner Asgar Ali fired a gunshot with his licensed revolver when a gang of seven to eight members of hijras stormed his house on Road 15 in Section 12 around 4:00pm and demanded money as Eid gift. When refused, they swooped on his family members.

Following the incident, around 150 hijras thronged the area and attempted to vandalise the house. Police and Rab members however resisted them.

A tension was prevailing in Uttara as the angry hijras were roaming the area.

Nandini, another hijra who was present during the incident, told The Daily Star the house owner fired at them when they went to protest at misbehaviour conducted by security guards.

Uttara Police Station Officer-in-Charge Khandker Rezaul Hasan said Asgar opened firing in self-defence.

Police have seized the revolver.

DHAKA TODAY

Trade Expo
The High Commission of Pakistan will organise a trade expo. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 10:00am.

National debate
UNDP and Prime Minister's Office will jointly organise a national debate. Venue: NEC conference room, Time: 10:30am.

Meeting
Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FCCI) will arrange a meeting. Venue: Ministry of Industry, Time: 10:30am.

Discussion
Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MCCI) will organise a discussion. Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Time: 4:30pm.

Seminar
Bangladesh Graduate Medical Laboratory Technologist Society will arrange a seminar. Venue: Institute of Public Health auditorium, Mohakhali, Time: 4:00pm.

Roundtable
The Editor dot Net will organise a roundtable. Venue: Cirdap auditorium, Time: 11:00am.