



Geneva talks to create climate fund begin


UNB, Geneva
 A two-day long Geneva Dialogue on Climate Finance began here yesterday to form a new financial fund to face the adverse effects of the climate change.
 Environment ministers from 46 countries have been taking part in the dialogue.
 State Minister for Forest and Environment Dr Hasan Mahmud and environmentalist Dr Kazi Khalequzzaman arrived in Geneva to join the dialogue.
 Moritz Leueberger, Environment Minister of Switzerland and Dr Adrian Fernandez, president of National Institute of Ecology, Mexico, jointly presided over the inaugural session.
 Officials said the world leaders who gathered here would take ahead the commitment of different nations on adaptation to and mitigation of the climate change, although there was a common understanding among the parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
 Besides, the role of private sectors towards forming a new climate change fund would be discussed during the dialogue alongside the important discussion on management of climate change funds.
 The officials hoped that a number of important questions might be resolved during this meeting. Priority will be given to the discussion on how the developed countries could play pro-active role in adaptation and mitigation programs.

Dhaka keen to send Ansar, BDR to UN missions

Home ministry to request PM to raise issue at UNGA

UNB, Dhaka
 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be requested by home ministry to raise the issue of sending members of Ansar and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) to United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions when she attends the UN's 65th general assembly next month.
 The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Home Minister Sahara Khatun at her ministry yesterday afternoon, the meeting sources said.
 At the last general assembly, the prime minister drew UN's attention to send the Form Police Unit (FPU) compromised of women members of Bangladesh Police.
 Responding to her call, the UN gave permission to send the women of FPU.
 Presently, 150 policewomen of FPU are engaged in UN peacekeeping operation in Haiti.
 The meeting also formed a 4-member committee headed by Additional Secretary of the home ministry Iqbal Khan Chowdhury to examine the possibility of sending members of Ansar and BDR to UN peacekeeping missions.
 Three other members of the committee are Benazir Ahmed, deputy inspector general (DIG) of administration at Police Headquarters, Lt Col Nasim of BDR and Mizanur Rahman, deputy director general of Ansar and Village Defense Party (VDP).
 The committee will find out ways to send members of Ansar and BDR as Form Ansar Unit and Form BDR Unit in consultation with the UN through foreign ministry.
 Official sources said 15 Ansars were sent to UN peacekeeping mission in 2005 as members of Armed Police Battalion.
 According to existing UN policy, there is no provision to send members of Ansar and BDR to peacekeeping missions.
 Presently, around 12,000 members of Bangladesh's armed forces and nearly 2000 members of Bangladesh Police are successfully participating in different peacekeeping missions.
 Inspector general of police, director generals of BDR and Ansar and concerned officials attended the meeting.

Obituary

METRO DESK

 Md Amanullah, father of noted theatre personality Shamsul Alam Bakul, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Ibrahim Cardiac Centre in the city on Wednesday at the age of 84, says a press release.
 Amanullah, a retired government official and proprietor of Alam Cabinet at Shalgharia in Pabna, left behind his wife, one son and four daughters.
 He was buried in his family graveyard in Pabna yesterday.
 His kulkhwani will be held at his Pabna residence after Asr prayers today.


Padma bridge construction starts in January

JS body told
BSS, Dhaka
 Construction of the bridge over the river Padma would start in January next year and is expected to be completed by 2013.
 About US \$ 2.29 billion would be available from development partners including World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank, JAICA, Islamic Development Bank and the Abu Dhabi Fund.
 The WB is financing US \$ 1.2 billion, the largest soft loan for a single project ever to be provided to Bangladesh.
 This was informed yesterday at the 15th meeting of the parliamentary standing committee of communication ministry held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan with committee Chairman Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the chair, said a press release.
 They discussed in detail a report on Padma bridge, to be built by the bridges division of the communication ministry, submitted before the committee.
 A progress report on construction of a four-lane Dhaka-Chittagong Highway was also presented.
 The committee expressed satisfaction over sanctioning of work order to the lowest bidder of the project to upgrade Dhaka-Chittagong Highway to four lanes and recommended to maintain quality of work.
 Committee members Communication Minister Syed Abul Hossain, Zillul Hakim, Nazrul Islam Manju, Abu Zahir and Golam Mowla Rony attended the meeting.
 Secretary of Roads and Railway Division Mozammel Haque Khan, Bridge Division Secretary Mosharrif Hossain Bhuiyan and concerned officials of the parliament secretariat were present at the meeting.

Tk 1,000cr scheme to create job for ultra poor

BSS, Dhaka
 A programme involving Tk 1,000 crore is set for generating employment opportunities for thousands of ultra poor all over the country.
 Ministry for Food and Disaster Management will be implementing the programme. The extremely poor will be provided with the means of living during October to December when job scarcity in rural areas leads many to starvation.
 The programme targets around eight lakh of the people with a daily wage of Tk 120. The number of beneficiaries would come down to 6.5 lakh if the wage increases to Tk 150.
 The programme, similar to the food for work project, will involve the people in different rural development projects.
 The money to be financed disbursement to the beneficiaries' bank accounts directly so middlemen cannot reap any benefit out of it as they usually do.
 The ministry also held a meeting with representatives of Bangladesh Bank and state-owned commercial and specialised banks to implement its plan.
 Official sources said the central bank received a request from the ministry to allow the extreme poor to open bank accounts for Tk 10, like the farmers' account.
 Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman told yesterday that the central bank would offer Tk 10 bank accounts to the poor, as it would ensure transparency of the projects' employment while assure hassle-free payment.
 "These accounts would stop payments to ghost workers who used to cash in on such programmes without any participation," the governor said.
 He said the facility would also increase the depth of the central bank's strategy for financial inclusion.
 He added that the accounts would remain active for all other banking purposes like a savings account.
 Dr Atiur said existing bank branches in rural areas would manage the accounts without facing any problem, as each branch would be required to handle 150 such accounts.

Death anniversary

DU CORRESPONDENT

 Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Prof. Dr. Mohammad Moniruzzaman, a former professor of Dhaka University, says a press release.
 On the occasion, commemorative meeting and milad mahfil will be held in the capital and his birthplace at Jessore after Juma prayers.

Hizb ut chairman, three members chargesheeted

COURT CORRESPONDENT
 A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against four members of banned Islamist outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir including its Chairman Mohiuddin Ahmed in connection with a case filed for plotting subversive and terrorist activities across the country.
 The other alleged members are Kazi Mosharraf Hossain, Hizb ut-Tahrir second-in-command, Baqui Billah, a high profile leader of the organization, and AbdulAwal, an activist.
 Of them, Mohiuddin, Mosharraf and Baqui were earlier arrested and kept in jail custody. They pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court after the charges were read out to them.
 Charge was framed against Awal in absentia.
 Judge Harun-Ur-Rashid of the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court framed the charges and fixed November 24 for trial in the case.
 According to the prosecution, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested the alleged from their respective residences in the capital on different dates.
 Rab filed the case with Dhakhin Police Station on February 24 this year.
 After their arrest, several cases were filed with different police stations in the city.


New Rab DG takes over

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Deputy Inspector General of police Md Mukhlesur Rahman yesterday officially took over as the director general of Rapid Action Battalion at its headquarters in Kurmitola.
 Prior to his appointment, the new Rab DG had served as the DIG of Rajshahi range of police. He joined Bangladesh police in 1986.
 At another occasion, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday bad farewell to outgoing Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammod and received newly appointed IGP Hassan Mahmood Khandker at Rajarbagh Police Lines.
 Additional IGP Zaved Pathway and DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque, were present at occasion among others.

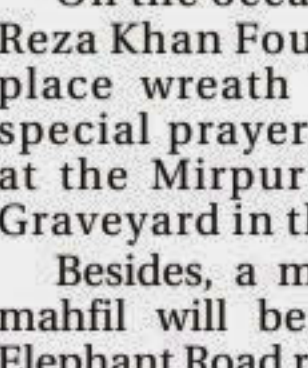
Rail link with Tungipara planned

BSS, Gopalganj
 Bangladesh Railway (BR) has undertaken a project to construct new railway lines from Kashiani to the grave of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara via Gopalganj.
 Railway lines from Kalukhali to Bhatiapara would also be renovated under this project.
 The project cost is estimated at around Tk 11,000 crore, told BR West Zone Chief Engineer MAmzad Hossain.
 He hoped that the project would soon be presented before the executive committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) for approval.
 Under the project, 85 kilometres of abandoned railway lines from Kalukhali to Bhatiapara would be repaired and a new 55-kilometre rail track would be constructed up to Bangabandhu's grave.
 BR authorities issued letters to the illegal occupants to vacate properties owned by BR in those areas.
 Millions of people in this region have long been demanding construction of railway lines and reopening of the abandoned route.
 A BR source said the railway lines from Bhatiapara of Gopalganj and Kalukhali in Rajbari established link with Faridpur, Jessore, Khulna and North Bengal.
 But the route was abandoned in 1997 as part BR's policy to reduce losses. After this, a group of unscrupulous people plundered and occupied the properties of railway.
 Some 80 cases were filed and 30 people were convicted in this connection.
 Kashiani Upazila Nirbahi Officer Subhash Chanda Biswas said the reintroduction and expansion of the railway lines would cause tremendous development in communication of this region.

Abidur Reza Khan

DU CORRESPONDENT

 Today is the fifth death anniversary of Abidur Reza Khan, one of the organisers of the Liberation War in 1971 and a close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, says a press release.
 On the occasion, Abidur Reza Khan Foundation will place wreath and offer a special prayer at his grave at the Mirpur Intellectual Graveyard in the morning.
 Besides, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at his Elephant Road residence after Asr prayers. Another doa mahfil will be held at his village in Shariatpur.

Abul Hossain Hiru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

 Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Abul Hossain Hiru, former president of Sutrapur Awami League and member of advisory committee of Dhaka city unit, says a press release.
 He was also the city unit president of Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association (city unit) and founder president of the TikatulTraders Association.
 On the occasion, doa and milad mahfil will be held at his residence after Juma prayers.

Flood warning on mobile phones introduced


STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The government yesterday, in association with two mobile phone operators launched early warning signal for flood on mobile phones, using cell broadcasts for the first time in the country.
 The pilot warning service was broadcast in Sirajganj where waters of the Jamuna River flowed above danger level.
 The Disaster Management Bureau (DMB) is coordinating the programme along with Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) with technical assistance from Grameenphone and the state-run Tele Talk, says a press release of the DMD.
 Under this programme, people would be informed about impending natural disasters through SMS cell broadcast services.
 A nationwide coverage for early warning messages will be disseminated through cell broadcasts following lessons learnt from the pilot initiative, the release said.

Court asks DB to quiz city Jamaat chief at jail gate


COURT CORRESPONDENT
 A Dhaka court yesterday rejected a five-day remand prayer for Rafiqul Islam Khan, Dhaka city unit chief of Jamaat-e-Islami and directed Detective Branch (DB) of police to interrogate him for two additional days at the prison gate in the case filed for torching a bus.
 Rafiqul was charged with setting a bus ablaze in capital on the day before the BNP's June 27 hartal. He was produced before the court yesterday on completion of his two-day remand in the same case.
 Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ismail Hossain also ordered to send Rafiqul to jail after DB Inspector Bazlur Rahman, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, produced the Jamaat leader before it with a prayer for a five-day remand.
 Rafiqul already went through a three-day remand in a case filed with Ramna Police Station for torching a car on June 26, which killed one of its passengers afterwards.
 Detectives arrested Rafiqul from his Mirpur residence on August 25, in connection with the car torching case.
 Two days before his arrest, Rafiqul Islam got anticipatory bails in six cases filed against him on charges of preventing police from performing duties, and hurting religious sentiment of the Muslims.

Help build graft-free Bangladesh

NUVC urges teachers
DU CORRESPONDENT
 Teachers have to work to help build a corruption-free, educated and developed Bangladesh, said National University Vice Chancellor Prof Kazi Shahidullah yesterday.
 He was speaking at the concluding ceremony of the training programme for college teachers at the academic building of the university at Gazipur, says a press release.
 He added that students follow their teachers' ideology the most and the teachers' success lies in making their students attentive to studies and helping them explore their unearthened merits.
 Prof Shahidullah distributed certificates and books among the participants at the function. A total of 80 teachers of English, Management and Physics of various colleges in the country joined the one and a half month training session.



WEATHER



Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka
 Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.
 Day temperature may rise likely over the country, Met Office.
The sun sets in the capital at 6:15pm today and rises at 5:41am tomorrow.
 Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Comilla and lowest 25.2 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.
 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	33.8	27.0	63	60
Chittagong	32.6	26.4	72	80
Rajshahi	35.3	26.5	78	85
Khulna	35.5	27.0	80	86
Barisal	33.5	26.5	77	73
Sylhet	34.5	26.9	84	61
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.0	73	79

Child hawker killed in road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 A 10-year-old boy, who used to hawk newspapers, died of injuries sustained after a bus hit him at Moghbazar level crossing in the capital yesterday.
 Mohammad Imon is son of Nur Alam hailing from Bhandaria in Perojpur. He had been living with his maternal uncle Habibur Rahman at a slum in Mohakhali.
 Imon tried to get on a bus to sell newspapers, but the helper pushed him off, he fell down and got hit by another bus, said his maternal cousin Hafiz Uddin.
 Imon with his injuries was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died yesterday afternoon.
 Officer-in-charge (OC) Shiblee Noman of Ramna Police Station said they had heard of the incident, but could not identify the buses.



TODAY

Discussion
 Bangladesh Nirjatan Protirodh Society will arrange a discussion. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

Mehedi utsab
 Dhakabashi and Bangladesh Photo Journalist Association (BPJA) will arrange a mehedi utsab. Venue: BPJA Office, Time: 11:45am.

Seminar
 Al-Quds Committee Bangladesh will organise a seminar. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium, Time: 9:30am.

Janmashtami utsab
 Sri Sri Harekrishna Namihatta Sangha will arrange Janmashtami utsab. Venue: Church Community Centre, 9, Tejgunjpara, Time: 5:00am.

Meeting
 Association of Engineers, Bangladesh will arrange a meeting. Venue: White Hall, Dhanmandi, Time: 4:00pm.

Roundtable
 Bangladesh Enterprise for Development & Society Studies (BEDSS) will organise a roundtable. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 10:30am.

Launching ceremony
 An audio album by Mukta Majumdar will be launched. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium, Time: 3:30pm.

Meeting
 Dhaka University Teachers for National Interest will organise a meeting. Venue: ICMA auditorium, Nilkhet, Time: 3:00pm.