METROPOLITAN/NEWS

new EU

UNB, Dhaka

Ambassador

to Bangladesh

The European Union High

Representative has

announced William Hanna, an

Irish national, as the new EU

Head of Delegation and

Ambassador Stefan Frowein.

Hanna held the posts of

ambassador and Head of

Delegation to Tanzania,

Unit of Europe Aid and

responsible for Centralised

Operations for Asia and

the ambassador and Head of

EU Delegation to Bangladesh

upon completion of diplo-

He was born in Belfast in

1955. He did his Master's of

Arts in French and European

law from the University of

Edinburgh, and obtained a

Certificate in Advanced

European Studies from the

Directorate General for

Development - Coordination

with Member States in

European Commission,

Economic Advisor, Delegation

for Barbados and the Eastern

Caribbean, Economic Advisor,

Delegation Cameroon, Head

of Division, West Africa, Head

of Delegation in Tanzania,

Head of Delegation in

Uruguay and Paraguay and

Head of Unit, Centralised

Operations for Asia and

Thief beaten

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mob allegedly beat a thief to

death at Satkania in

as Md Nasir, 45,of Dhemsha

chased two alleged thieves,

who stole a motorcycle from a

garage adjoining to

Bangladesh Tobacco

Company, while fleeing

around 1:30am. The other

thief managed to flee with the

leaving him critically injured

before some youths came to

his rescue. He was sent to the

Hospital where he suc-

cumbed to his injuries around

Mohammad of Sitakunda

Police Station confirmed the

incident. However, the family

of the victim claimed that he

3 Indians among

Benapole border

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Bangladesh Rifles detained 48

people including three

Indians while they were trying

to enter Bangladesh illegally

through Sadipur border in

Benapole yesterday evening.

BDR Nayeb Subedar Liakat

The Bangladeshis, all hail

from Barisal and Khulna, were

Hossain said they raided the

area and detained 19 women,

23 men and six children.

48 detained in

Officer-in-Charge Nur

6:00am.

was innocent.

The mob beat up Nasir

stolen motorcycle but Nasir.

The victim was identified

Witnesses said locals

Chittagong early yesterday.

village in Satkania upazila.

Central Asia.

to death

Hanna served as

College of Europe in 1977-78.

Hanna will take office as

Currently, he is the Head of

Uruguay and Paraguay.

Central Asia.

matic formalities.

Hanna will replace EU

Prior to his appointment,

ambassador to Bangladesh.

Complete projects in time

PM directs public engineers

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has directed the officials of the public works department to complete their projects in time, maintaining quality of the construction as well as architectural aspects.

She gave the directives when the newly elected executive members of BCS Public Works Engineers Association called on her office in the city yesterday morning.

Association's President Kabir Ahmed Bhuiyan and General Secretary Abdul Kader Chowdhury led the delegation.

Calling for quick implementation of development projects, the PM said the government is evaluating development projects every six months to expedite the pace of development.

She said the government has decided to release funds for development projects on the basis of progress of the pro-

During the meeting the delegation apprised the PM about their situation, including their needs and problems.

The PM gave them a patient hearing and assured them of looking into their matters, said PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

She appreciated the public works entontheoccasion.

department for quality of their works and gave them necessary guidelines for further improvement. In this regard, she mentioned con-

struction of the new court building of Chittagong, as well as the preservation of the old building. She also asked the engineers to give

top priority to protection of the environment and climate change in executing all construction projects.

Among others State Minister for Works Abdul Mannan, Secretary to the prime ministers office (PMO) Mollah Waheduzzaman and Works Secretary Khondoker Showkat Hossain were pres-



Newly elected executive committee members of BCS Public Works Engineers Association call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday.

Journos barred from covering meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Ministry officials yesterday barred around a dozen of journalists from covering a meeting though they went there on invitation.

The meeting was held between State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak and a visiting delegation of United Nations Capital Development Fund and representatives of United Nations Development Programme at a city hotel.

The state minister's public relations section earlier sent invitations to the journalists of different print and electronic media and also called them over phone to cover the minister's programme.

The journalists went to the meeting at the conference room of the hotel but they could not cover it as the ministry officials requested them not to cover it.

Nanak himself became astonished and said, "I am unaware of the reason behind this behaviour."

"There was nothing that could not be disclosed in the meeting. In fact, the discussion was about of a successful project," said the minister.

The state minister and members of the delegation at the meeting talked about the projects funded by the two UN agencies to strengthen local government bodies of Bangladesh.

Use modern dredgers to increase navigability

Recommends JS body

Bss, Dhaka

The parliamentary standing committee on water resources ministry yesterday recommended the use of modern dredgers and dredging system to increase navigability of

A meeting of the committee also suggested construction of roads or embankments with the dredged soil.

The meeting was held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with committee Chairman M Abdur Razzak in the chair, said a press release.

The meeting was informed about the progress of building a dam in the cyclone-affected coastal belt.

The parliamentary body recommended digging of canals in the regions where crops are produced in abundance, and setting up of sluice gates on big canals to ensure proper use of water.

It reviewed activities of Water Development Board and progress of its amended annual development programme (ADP) implementa-

Committee members Ramesh Chandra Sen, water resources minister; M Mahbubur Rahman, state minister for water resources; ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader; Mohammad Fazlul Azim; ABM Anwarul Haq; AKM Fazlul Haq; and senior officials concerned took part in the meeting.

Law and order normal across country: Tuku

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku yesterday claimed that the law and order situation remains good across the country, as top suspected war criminals are now detained and others are under close surveillance.

Tuku made the remark while talking to reporters at his secretariat office.

He said those who were involved in the Bangabandhu killing and opposed the War of Liberation, are trying to create obstacles in trying war criminals.

Tuku said the investigation agency is carrying out their investigation neu-

Those found involved in crimes against humanity after completion of the investigation will be brought to justice, the state minister said.

"Nobody will be spared, whoever he is, found involved in the crimes against humanity," he said.



Chittagong Medical College

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia visits the family members of former finance minister late M Saifur Rahman to mark his first death anniversary at his Gulshan residence yesterday.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the

The sun sets in the capital at 6:00pm today and rises at 5:46am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 23.5 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in Humidityin City/Town Celsius percentage Morning Max: Min: Evening Dhaka 31.7 26.0 Chittagong 32.6 25.0 78 Rajshahi 32.0 25.3 Khulna 33.0 25.0 Barisal 31.5 83 25.0 Sylhet 27.5 24.4 Cox's Bazar 32.5 80 23.8

Education Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khan regime in 1962.

Historic Education Day will be observed in the country today. The day is being observed commemorating the sacrifices of Mostafa, Babul, Wajiullah and other students during the Ayub

These students were staging a demonstration to establish democratic rights of the students. When their procession entered Abdul Gani Road crossing High Court, police fired on the back of the procession killing them on the spot.

tion commission formed at chiefguest.

Different student bodies and socio-cultural organisations have chalked out various

programmes to mark the day. Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front will place wreath at the memorial plaque in front of Shikkha Bhaban in the city. They will also hold discussions at their respective central

offices in the city. National Front of Teachers and Employees will hold a discussion meeting at National

Press Club at 11:00am. **Education Minister Nurul** The students were also Islam Nahid is expected to protesting against the educa- attend the programme as the

4 missing in boat capsize

UNB, Munshiganj

At least four people are feared drowned as an engine propelled boat carrying 11 passengers capsized in the Padma River near Mawa ghat on

Thursday afternoon. Those reported missing are

Shajahan, 35, of Swarupkathi,

Makbul, 25, of Shibchar,

Sheikh Maniruzzaman, 25, of

Barisal. Identity of another young man was not immediately known.

Police said the boat carry-

capsized in strong current. Seven other passengers

ing 11 passengers from Mawa ghat was going to Keorakandi at about 4-30pm when it hit a pontoon at Ghat No. 2 and

were rescued or managed to swim to the shore. with it.

returning to the country illegally, said Liakat. He added the three Indians, hailing from Nadia district of

West Bengal, were identified as Bisheswar Roy, Kuthi Rani and Padmanoma Roshan. The detainees were handed

Meeting National Front of Teachers and Employees will organise a meeting. over to Benapole Port Police Venue: National Press Club, Time: Station and a case was lodged 11:00am.

William Hanna | Conference on Saarc Begins

Agreement to deal with disasters signed

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

An international conference on Saarc began here yesterday with a call for regional economic integration and signing an agreement on a rapid response mechanism to deal with natural disasters in member-countries.

The conference was organised to mark 25 years of establishment of Saarc with the first Summit in Dhaka in 1985.

Addressing the function, Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna said South Asia, taking a cue from East and South East Asia, must take adequate cognizance of economies of the neighbourhood "just as different regions across the world have adopted the strategy of regional economic integration."

He pointed out that with implementation of South Asia Free Trade Agreement (Safta) in 2006 Intra-regional trade in South Asia has doubled over the past 5 years and this figure touched close to \$550 million in 2009, increasing from just \$ 10 million in 2006 when Safta came into force.

"What is also significant is that intra-Saarc exports, as a proportion of total Saarc exports have more than doubled in these last 25 years," Krishna said adding, "This

reflects the growing importance of the region for the overall trade of its member-

"However, there is considerably greater potential to increase the share of intra-regional trade and investment flows as has been witnessed in East and South East Asia. It is time that the South Asian region takes adequate cognisance of the economies of the neighbourhood just as different regions across the world have adopted the strategy of regional economic integration to exploit the synergies for mutual benefit in a balanced and equitable manner," he said.

Stressing the need for adaptation and capacity building for Saarc member-countries, Krishna said that while in a region afflicted by continuing natural disasters, the creation of the Saarc Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) in New Delhi in 2006 was a step in the right direction, the agreement to develop a Natural Disaster Rapid Response Mechanism under the auspices of the SDMC has not yet been final-

"This is unfortunate as it is hampering the ability of the Centre to respond to urgent needs of members including during disasters," he

Barua rules out fertiliser crisis in peak season

UNB, Dhaka

Farmers will not face any fertiliser crisis in the coming peak season, despite some fertiliser producing units remaining inoperative due to persisting gas crisis, said Industries Minister Dilip Barua yesterday. "We've taken precautionary measures to

avert any fertiliser crisis, as the fertiliser producing units remained inoperative due to gas crisis," Barua told journalists at a press conference at the conference room of the Industries Ministry yesterday. The press conference was arranged to

inform countrymen about the development activities of the ministry over the last 20 months.

Minister Barua firmly said that there would be no shortage of Urea, a fertiliser, in the coming Boro season, and Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company (KAFCO), a multinational fertiliser producing company, has for the first time agreed to sell all its fertiliser to Bangladesh in the peak

The government, however, set a demand target of fertiliser at 28.31 lakh metric tons for the current year, showing a sharp drop in targeted demand compared to the previous year's target, when it was 29.51 lakh metric tons. Asked about the causes behind the reduced

demand target, Minister Barua said: "The use of Urea fertiliser has decreased as the farmers have started using diammonium phosphates (DAP) fertiliser widely...it's being produced in two units in Chittagong, and we'll import if necessary."

He claimed that the farmers haven't faced any fertiliser crisis during the tenure of the present government, and nobody has had to

sacrifice their lives for fertiliser, as happened

"We will build sufficient stock of fertilisers to address the demand....currently we have a stock of 4 lakh metric tons of fertiliser, in addition there are stocks of fertiliser at the dealerlevel," he said. On the other hand, Qatar has agreed to

supply 400,000 metric tons of urea including an additional 100,000 metric tons to Bangladesh in the current fiscal, under a deal agreed between the two governments. Qatar Fertiliser Company Limited (QFCL) will supply the fertiliser, as stipulated by the agreement, which was signed during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Oatar in October 2009, Barua said.

He said the government is also giving priority to importing fertilisers from alternative countries apart from the Middle East and China through 'state-to-state' deals.

Replying to a question, Barua said the government would set up three new fertiliser factories, having an annual production capacity of nearly 5.77 lakh metric tons of fertiliser. "Of the three would-be factories, Shahjalal Fertiliser Project might go into production during the tenure of the government."

Emphasising people's participation, Barua said the government would gradually offload the shares of profitable SoEs in the capital

He, however, neither disclosed any names of the SoEs which might go to the capital market, nor the timeframe of offloading shares.

BCIC Chairman and acting Industries Secretary KH Masud Siddiqi and Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation

(BSFIC) Chairman Ranjit Kumar Biswas were also present at the press conference.

Man dies in fall from high rise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Discussion

10:30am.

11:00am.

Human chain

Equity and Justice Working Group

Bangladesh will form a human chain.

Venue: National Press Club, Time:

A man died after falling from the thirteenth floor to the ground through lift passage of a trade centre at Banani in the city yesterday.

Mohammad Nurul Islam, 35, was a caretaker of thirteen-storyed Century Trade Centre at Road No-17.

Sub-inspector Mohammad Nuruzzaman of

Gulshan Police Station said Nurul fell on top of a lift kept at the ground floor while cleaning roof of the lift passage around 4:00pm.

Nurul died on the way to United Hospital in Gulshan and the body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy, said the SI.

An unnatural death case was filed with the police station.

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh.

Seminar

Family Planning Association of Federation of Bangladesh Bangladesh (FPAB) will organise a Chambers of Commerce and seminar. Venue: FPAB auditorium, 2, Industry (FBCCI) will arrange a discussion. Venue: FBCCI audito-Naya Paltan, Time: 10:30am. rium, 60, Motijheel, Time:

Discussion Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri will arrange a meeting. Venue: 8/1,

Nilkhet, Time: 9:00am. Meeting Samajtantrik Chhatra Front will arrange a

Time: 11:30am.

Bhaban, Time: 3:00pm.

meeting. Venue: 23/2, Topkhana Road, Campaign

All-Party Parliamentary Group will

proceed with caution till further notice.

Mongla are advised to keep hoisted local cautionary signal number three, met office said. All fishing boats and trawlers over North Bay and deep sea have been advised to remain close to the coast and

Low over bay

The low over Northwest bay

and adjoining area persists.

Deep convection is taking

place over North Bay and

adjoining areas. Squally

weather may affect the mari-

time ports and coastal areas of

Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and

Maritime ports of

organise a campaign programme Venue: South Plaza, Jatiya Sangsad