

240 MW power cut in Ctg

A CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Consumers of Chittagong Power Development Board (PDB) experienced loadshedding up to 130 megawatt (MW) during the day and 230-240 MW in the evening yesterday.

"We could not go for demand generation due to shortage of gas supply," said PDB Chief Engineer (Generation) Shibu Kumar Chowdhury. Due to gas shortage, two units of Shikolbaha remained closed for the last two days, he added.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Begum Shamsun Nahar, mother of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) President Nasir Uddin

Yusuf, passed away at her Purana Paltan residence in the city yesterday at the age of 94, says a press release.

Shamsunnahar, wife of late Abul Foyes Md Yusuf, left behind her six sons, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her qukhani will be held at her Purana Paltan residence at 11/1/Kha after Asr prayers on Friday.

Abul Mokarram Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Abul Mokarram Hossain, a freedom fighter, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his Hazaribagh residence in the city on Monday at the age of 57, says a press release.

Mokarram, husband of city Mahila Awami League leader Ayesha Mokarram, left behind his two daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was buried with state honour at Azimpur graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Hazaribagh Park.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the third death anniversary of Nurunehar, a noted folk singer and mother of photojournalist Monwar Ahmad, says a press release.

She was the first ever Muslim female singer from East Bengal to perform in All India Radio Akashbani Kolkata Centre. She was also regular performer of Radio Pakistan before independence and Bangladesh Television since its inception.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at the Mirpur Graveyard Jam-e-Mosque in the city after Asr prayers.

Abdul Hamid

METRO DESK



Today is the 6th death anniversary of Abdul Hamid, former senior assistant secretary of the ministry of industries, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad and doa mahfil will be held at Azimpur Road Side Mosque after Maghrib prayers.

IBA club office opens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Institute of Business Administration Communication Club (IBACC) inaugurated its club offices on the institute premises in the city recently.

MM Ispahani Ltd Managing Director Salman Ispahani was the chief guest at the ceremony with IBA Director Prof GM Chowdhury in the chair. IBA Prof Syed Munir Khasru, Moderator of IBACC Saif Noman Khan, other IBA faculty members and students were present on the occasion.

Appreciating MM Ispahani Ltd for sponsoring the office set up, Prof GM Chowdhury urged other businesses to follow their example and extend support to IBA in promoting the extracurricular activities of its students. Salman lauded the role of IBA for giving the country the best business graduates and encouraged IBA students to join well-reputed local businesses.



Vehicles on Dhaka-Chittagong highway stand still for about an hour due to a head-on collision between a covered van and a truck near Sitakunda upazila yesterday.

5th Islamic Confce of Edn Ministers Nahid seeks support to improve quality of education

UNB, Kuala Lumpur

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday sought cooperation from the Muslim Ummah for improving quality of Bangladesh's higher as well as technical education.

He made the call while addressing the 5th Islamic conference of education ministers at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Malaysia.

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Mohd Yassin formally inaugurated the conference, said a press release.

High Education Minister in Malaysia Dato Sri Khaleed bin Nordin, vice-chairman of Islamic Conference of Ministers' of Higher Education and Scientific Research (ICMHESR) Dr Peter Adok Niyabe, director general of the Islamic Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation (IESCO) Dr Abdul Aziz Othman Altwijri and OIC Assistant Secretary General Abdul Moiz Bokhari also spoke at the session.

Addressing the occasion, Nurul said the government of Bangladesh has given topmost priority to improve its education sector.

The theme of the conference this year is 'Enculturation of quality academia, research and innovation towards prosperity of Ummah'.

Japanese woman dies at city hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Japanese woman, who allegedly died to commit suicide, died at a Gulshan hospital in the city yesterday.

Kazuko Uful, 37, was wife of Mohammad Musa, a resident of Marium Tower in Gulshan.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Officer-in-charge Kamal Uddin of Gulshan Police Station said Kazuko sustained injuries after she tried to kill herself with a scarf at her residence on October 15. She was then taken to Apollo Hospital in Badda where she died yesterday evening.

According to a DMP official, Musa and Kazuko got married some 16 years ago in Japan and have been in Bangladesh for two and a half years. Musa, hailing from Comilla, owns a business in Dhaka.

BDR MUTINY Court reads out charges against 400 more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A BDR special court holding trial for mutiny charges against 622 accused jawans of 13 Rifle Battalion yesterday read out charges against 400 more accused.

With the yesterday's 400, hearing on charge-framing against 500 accused has been completed. The court at Darbar Hall of Pilkhana BDR Headquarters read out charges against 100 accused on Monday.

The three-member Special Court-8, headed by BDR Deputy Director General Brig Gen Obaidul Haque, adjourned the trial proceedings till 10:00am today. Two other members are Lt Col Serajul Haque and Maj Zahidur Rahman Khan.

The charges against all the accused include leaving Darbar hall during a Darbar on February 25 last year ignoring the directive of the then BDR DG when a chaotic situation was created and not to take any effective step against mutineers despite being member of a disciplined force.

Moreover, not to inform higher authorities about mutiny on time, disobeying lawful authorities during the February 2009 mutiny at Pilkhana, taking arms and ammunition from different cots and magazines and taking part in the rebellion are also taken into account as charges.

Some of the accused were also charged with possessing looted ammunitions and hobnobbing with mutineers.

The special court resumed the hearing around 10:00am yesterday and ended it around 3:00pm.

On Monday, Prosecutor Lt Col Akhter Hamid Khan, who is also commanding officer of 13 Rifle Battalion, placed charges against 623 accused.

Of the BDR men being tried, one had died earlier and has been acquitted.

The accused BDR jawans were in the uniform they wore during the February 25-26 bloodbath that left 74 people including 57 army officers killed.

The court ordered to produce the accused before it in the same get-up they were in during the mutiny, so that witnesses would not be confused.

DHAKA TODAY section listing events: Novelist Mani Shankar Mukharjee, Celebration, Workshop, Launching ceremony, Seminar.

3-DAY REGIONAL CONFERENCE BEGINS Call to tackle climate change impact on health

UNB, Dhaka

South East Asian leaders and experts at a regional conference yesterday stressed taking integrated measures unitedly to tackle the adverse impact of climate change on health in the region.

The South East Asian Region including Bangladesh is highly vulnerable to climate change, and nearly all adverse environmental and social effects caused by climate change ultimately threaten human health, they said.

The government of Bangladesh and the South-East Asia Regional Office of the World Health Organisation (SEARO-WHO) jointly organised the three-day conference titled 'South-East Asia Regional High Level Preparatory meeting for the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change' at Hotel Sheraton in the city.

Health and Family Welfare Minister AFM Ruhul Haque formally inaugurated the conference as chief guest while PM's Adviser on Health and Social Welfare Prof Modassar Ali and State Minister for Environment and Forests Hasan

Mahmud addressed the session as special guests. SEARO-WHO Regional Director Dr Samlee Plianbangchang presided over the session.

Addressing the conference, Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque said environmental change is occurring all over the world and taking its toll.

Referring to the several devastating incidents caused by climate change, he said millions of people will be displaced if the sea level will rise by one or two metres.

He stressed the need for combined regional efforts in protecting human health from the impacts of climate change.

The health minister also urged the South East Asian leaders to raise their voices against the problem by placing specific recommendations at the next climate conference in Mexico to press home the regional demand.

Samlee Plianbangchang said strengthening control of diseases of poverty is essential to protect the most vulnerable populations.

Eleven countries under SEARO-WHO including Bangladesh are taking part in the conference.



Outgoing Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Itala Maria Marta Occhi pays a farewell call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday.

Italy keen to open missionary schools

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said steps are being taken to curb terrorism at all levels and generate power to improve the electricity situation.

Hasina said this when outgoing Italian Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Itala Maria Marta Occhi paid a farewell call on her at her office.

The Italian ambassador expressed Italy's willingness to open missionary schools in Bangladesh.

Hasina urged Italy to invest in Bangladesh's renewable energy, power generation, oil, gas and mineral exploration, ICT, tourism agro-processing and water treatment.

Global Community Day Oct 23

METRO DESK

Citibank, NA Bangladesh will mark its Global Community Day this year with the motto - "Empowering the Next Generation of Girl Students", says a press release.

Citi will celebrate the day with the students of Kalampur Amatunnessa Girls High School in the city's Dhamrai area on October 23 from 11:00am onwards.

In light of this year's motto, Citi has planned to hold sessions with the students to make them aware of and build confidence in them to tackle social issues like stalking that has been affecting many young girls in the country.

Under the Global Community Day programme, Citi employees in almost 100 countries, together with their family members, volunteer their time and talent for a single day to work for the common goal of making a difference in the communities where we live and work.



IBA Director Prof GM Chowdhury presents a crest to MM Ispahani Ltd Managing Director Salman Ispahani at the inaugural ceremony of the IBA Communication Club Office in the city recently.

'Raise pay, status of nurses'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nurses should be entitled to a comparatively standard pay structure and status with respect to other professionals in the society, if Bangladesh is to lift its nursing services to international standards.

Health experts said this at the launching of a health magazine in the city's Birdem Hospital yesterday.

The experts also stressed on upholding the nurses' image in the country and improving their services through creating avenues of training abroad and giving promotions as per their skills.

A K Khan Healthcare Trust in association with Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB) organised the launching ceremony of the magazine "Nurture" and a documentary film "I Am A Nurse" as a supplement to their efforts to enhance the image of the nursing profession in the country.

Prof Dr A K Azan Khan said, like many other countries in the world, Bangladesh is facing

the crisis of skilled nurses. "It is frustrating that the doctor-nurse ratio in our country is 5:1 while the standard ratio should be 1:5," he said.

Poor financial support, lack of appreciation, vague status of nurses and negative social attitude towards them - are some of the factors that discourage the youths from joining this profession, he explained.

Termining nurses as the essential part of healthcare system, Azan Khan criticized the poor initiatives taken by government over the years for development of this profession.

He also opined that the nursing professional's package of salary and other facilities should be relevant to the intensive healthcare they provide to the people.

Chairman of CDRB Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly, who chaired the occasion, said thousands of patients fail to get proper medical care due to shortage of skilled nurses.

Among others, health expert Dr Mohan Nagarajan and Dhiraj Radhi also spoke on the occasion.

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