



STANDARD CHARTERED-THE DAILY STAR CELEBRATING LIFE AWARDS



(Clockwise from top left) Winners of Standard Chartered Bank-The Daily Star Celebrating Life Awards pose for photograph with President Zillur Rahman, centre, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, left, and Standard Chartered Bank CEO Jim McCabe, right, sitting in front of them at a ceremony at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday. Artists perform a dance item at the programme. Mahfuz Anam and Jim McCabe accompany Zillur Rahman to the Celebrating Life photo exhibition. The president hands over lifetime achievement awards to Mustafa Monwar, Rashid Talukder and Mohammad Rafiquzzaman. The event was organised jointly by The Daily Star and Standard Chartered Bank. (Story on Page 1)

DU Gha unit exam Friday

DU CORRESPONDENT  
The admission test for Gha unit (the unit for changing group) first year honours courses at Dhaka University for the session 2010-11 will be held on Friday.

A total of 54,568 students will sit for the one-hour exam scheduled to start at 10:00am, says a press release.

Seat plan of exam is available on the university's admission website www.admission.univdhaka.edu

DU authorities directed all examinees not to enter exam centres with cell phones or any electronic devices.

Tk 956m projects to fight climate impacts okayed

Digital map to be used to save forests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to develop a digital map of the country's forest to build a stronger forest monitoring system.

"Once we have a digital mapping of the forests, we can monitor if forests are destroyed anywhere just sitting in the ministry or the forest department. We don't need to go to the spots physically," State Minister for Environment and Forests Dr Hasan Mahmud told reporters after a meeting.

The digital mapping will be done under the Forest Information Generation and Networking System project worth Tk 8.27 crore, said Mahmud, after presiding over the meeting of the Climate Change Trustee Board at

his ministry yesterday. "The mapping will play a very positive role in protecting forests," said the state minister. The trustee board, which is the authority to approve projects from the Climate Change Trust Fund (CCTF), has approved the project.

The board also approved Afforestation in the Coastal Areas to Mitigate Adverse Effects on Climate Change project of Tk 19.9 crore and Land Reclamation by Constructing Cross-dam in Char Mainka, Char Islam and Char Mantaz project in Bhola worth Tk 24.37 crore.

Other approved projects are Protection of Karnaphuli, Ichamati, Halda and their branches in Chittagong worth Tk 20 crore and Installation of Solar Power Plant at

Army Headquarters and all Formation Headquarters.

"We have approved the solar power project in principle, but asked them to reduce the amount from Tk 23.62 crore," he said. Under the solar power project, 375 kilowatts power would be generated, Hasan Mahmud noted.

"By constructing cross-dams, we want to reclaim 144 square kilometers of land in Bhola chars," he said. Already Bangladesh has witnessed reclamation of 105 square kilometers in the coastal area, he said.

The government allocated a total of Tk 1,400 crore in last and present fiscal year to the CCTE. Of the amount, Tk 579.33 crore or 34 percent of the money has been fixed deposited in the bank, while the rest Tk 820.66 crore is meant for projects.

So far, Tk 506 has been allocated for 45 government projects and 28 non-government projects, said the environment ministry officials.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Health Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque, Food Minister Dr Abdur Razzaque, State Minister for Water Resources Mahbubur Rahman, Cabinet Secretary Abdul Aziz, Finance Secretary Dr Mohammad Tareq and Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman were present at the meeting.

UNB adds: the government yesterday approved the five projects at a cost of more than Tk 956 million to face adverse impacts of climate change.

The Climate Change Trustee Board approved these projects at its 7th meeting held at the environment and forests ministry in the afternoon.

JS body worried at soaring food price

Asks to keep rice price at Tk 25 a kg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday, expressing concern over the soaring prices of food grains, directed authorities concerned to keep the price of rice within Tk 25 per kilogram.

The parliamentary standing committee on food and disaster management ministry also asked the ministry to prepare a list of hardcore poor people using voter ID card for better distribution of food aid.

"It's an abnormal trend that price of rice is increasing defying the stabilising facts that the production and stock of it are sufficient this year," said Sayedul Hoque, chairman of the committee, at the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The committee directed the ministry to take all out steps to strap up the trend and to keep the price within the reach of common people.

Holding some of the rice mill owners responsible for the current price hike, the committee asked Bangladesh Bank to be more careful in disbursing loan to them.

Some of the mill owners have stocked up huge amount of rice causing the abnormality, observed the committee.

The committee also opined for reducing the amount of rice in fair price outlets and the vulnerable group feed (VGF) programmes to bring more poor people under the food aid programmes.

They suggested five kgs and 20kgs of rice instead of 20 kgs and 30 kgs respectively for the fair price and VGF programmes.

Meanwhile, the ministry officials assured the committee that about seven and a half lakh tonnes of food grains are available at different storages while another eight lakh tonnes food grains are also in the import channel to meet up the demand of the market.

DHAKA TODAY

Conference

National Heart Foundation Hospital & Research Institute will arrange a conference. Venue: Sheraton hotel, Time: 10:00am.

Human chain

State University of Bangladesh will form a human chain. Venue: Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi, Time: 3:30pm.

Street play

Society for Community Health Rehabilitation and Awareness, UNFPA and Citycell will jointly organise street play on the occasion of World AIDS Day. Venue: Hajjaribagh Park, Time: 4:00pm.

Book Fair

Dhaka International Book Fair will be inaugurated. Venue: Central play ground, Dhaka University, Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) will arrange a discussion. Venue: Sonargaon hotel, Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

Bangladesh Bird Club and Wetland Trust will jointly organise a seminar. Venue: IDB Bhaban, Agargaon, Time: 4:00pm.

Rally

Department of Population Sciences of Dhaka University will arrange a rally. Venue: Aparajeyo Bangla, Time: 10:30am.

Seminar

Directorate of Health services will organise a seminar. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 10:30am.

Art competition

Amra Kuri will organise an art competition. Venue: Shishu Academy, Time: 3:30pm.

Rally

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal will organise a rally. Venue: Mukhtangan, Time: 3:30pm.

Month of victory begins today

BSS, Dhaka

December, the month of victory, pride and glory for the nation, begins today.

The nation wrested its liberation from the Pakistani occupation forces emerging as an independent country on the world map in this month in 1971.

This month of victory takes back the nation 39 years down the memory lane when the Bangalees fought the nine months of bloody war.

"The struggle of our time is the struggle for our emancipation! The struggle of our time is the struggle for our independence," Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman announced at an emotion-charged crowd at Dhaka's Race Course Maidan (now Suhrawardy

Udyan) as the then Pakistani junta declined to install Awami League under his leadership to power despite its landslide victory in 1970.

But the Bangalees were not prepared for the unprecedented cruelty that descended on the dead of night of March 25, 1971 in the name of infamous "Operation Searchlight" of Pakistani Occupation Army to crush the Bangalee nation's

struggle for independence.

The Bangalees armed resistance against the Operation Searchlight was supported crucially by India and the situation eventually led to the full-fledged war between India and Pakistan resulting in Pakistan Army's unconditional surrender to the joint command of Indian Army and Mukti Bahini (freedom fighters' force) on December 16, 1971.

WEATHER TODAY

Temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning.

Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degrees Celsius over the country, Met office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:10pm today and rises at 6:25am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 30.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Comilla, Cox's Bazar and Kutubdia and lowest 13.4 degrees Celsius at Sayedpur.

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	27.3	18.8	49	40
Chittagong	29.0	20.1	76	51
Rajshahi	26.5	13.8	75	76
Rangpur	26.1	14.0	89	76
Khulna	28.4	18.2	80	69
Barisal	29.0	17.1	86	90
Sylhet	29.0	18.3	94	60
Cox's Bazar	30.0	20.0	74	62

Obituary

DU CORRESPONDENT

Shree Mridul Dey, a joint secretary general of Bangladesh Engineering Industry Owner's Association (BEIOA), passed away yesterday, says a press release.

He was under treatment of a hospital in Kolkata, India.

BEIOA President Abdur Razzak and Secretary General Abdul Hakim Mia condoled his death.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Selina Zaman commemorative lecture on Dec 3

METRO DESK



Selina Bahar Zaman commemorative lecture will be held at Sufia Kamal auditorium

at National Museum in the city at 4:00pm on December 3, says a press release.

Former chief justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, also head of the caretaker government, will deliver the commemorative lecture.

Educationist Selina Bahar Zaman passed away on December 1 in 2004. This is the 5th commemorative lecture in the series, which began in 2006.

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

**WE MOURN**

We are deeply saddened to inform that Late Mr. G.M. Chowdhury's wife, Mrs. Mumataj Chowdhury passed away on 29<sup>th</sup> November, Monday night in the capital's Apollo Hospital (Innallilaha way inna lahi raziwun). She was 84 years old at the time of death. She was the mother of the Chief Executive Officer of Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited, Mr. Mehboob Chowdhury. She has also left behind three sons, Mr. Masud Chowdhury, Mr. Azman Chowdhury and Mr. Afsan Chowdhury, countless relatives and well-wishers.

Her Namaaz-e-Janaza will be held today after the Zuhr Prayers at Gulshan's Azad Masjid. May Allah grant her soul. All the well-wishers of the departed are requested to pray for the forgiveness of her soul.

Family members of the departed soul.