

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bangladesh to support Kennedy institute

BSS, Dhaka
Bangladesh has decided to support the establishment of the Edward M Kennedy Institute in Boston as late Senator Edward M Kennedy helped Bangladesh during the War of Liberation in 1971.

Edward Kennedy was always a great supporter of Bangladesh and the causes of humanity, justice, fairness and democracy, according to a message received here from New York yesterday.

He played a leading role to help improve the lot of the poor people.

In memory of late Kennedy for his contribution to Bangladesh, Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith recently handed over a cheque to Vicki Kennedy, wife of the former senator.

BRTA exam results on web

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) is going to publish the result of driving licence exam online from today.

The result will be found at the BRTA website at www.bрта.gov.bd.

The website will provide information about the schedule of the driving test exams, results and other relative information about licences. The trainee license holders will also get information from the website, says a PID handout.

The system will help BRTA to find out fake licence and licence holders.

BRTA has already provided the facility of paying fees for licences and vehicle tax through online.

RU Fine Arts dept observes 32nd anniversary

RU CORRESPONDENT

Fine Arts department of Rajshahi University (RU) celebrated its 32nd founding anniversary on the campus yesterday.

Teachers, students, and employees of the department brought out a colourful procession to mark the day.

They also organised an art competition, a cultural programme, and a discussion in which speakers remembered Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin marking his 96th birth anniversary.

Eminent writer Prof Hasan Azizul Haque inaugurated the programme as the chief guest while Bilkis Begum presided over the discussion.

Fine Arts department started its journey in the name of Art College in 1978.

JU wins debate contest against EWU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) has won the Cambrian University Campus debate competition over East West University.

Students from the two universities debated on "Trial of war criminals: A demand of time, not political vengeance" held at Bashundhara City.

Debate for Democracy Chairman Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron conducted the parliamentary debate competition.

Md Mujibur Rahman MP, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on religious affairs ministry, was the observer discussant.

As the ruling party, JU debaters argued that the nation is now awaiting the war crimes trial. Putting the Razakars, al Badars, and war criminals on the dock is the demand of time.

The opposition, East West University (EWU), contradicted that the nation is being misled in the name of the trial out of political vendetta. People are being arrested in different fabricated cases without proper evidence.

The JU team comprised of Nusrat Amin, Koushik Azad Pronoy, and Irteza Ahmed. The EWU debaters were Touhid Hossain Papan, Samiul Mueyed, and Kamal Uddin.

The programme will be aired on ATN Bangla on December 31.



Department of Environment officials yesterday inspect a pipeline of Experience Textiles Ltd, a Pakistani venture for fabric dyeing at Bhaluka in Mymensingh, discharging liquid toxic pollutants in Kakchhara and Sadhuya beels (wetlands) and agricultural lands around. Inset, the polythene sheets used to hide the discharge spot. (Story on Page 1)

BNP's audit report submitted

BNP earns, spends millions of takas, says Azam Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP earns millions of takas from subscriptions and donations and spends in the same fashion, said Ahmed Azam Khan, an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, yesterday.

He was speaking to reporters after submitting Bangladesh Nationalist Party's (BNP) annual audit report, on behalf of the party, to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) officials, complying with the electoral laws.

Replying to a question, Khan, also a lawyer of Khaleda, said, "BNP earns millions of takas in subscriptions and donations and spends similarly for, being a large political party, it has millions of leaders, workers and well wishers."

He, however, denied disclosing the exact amount of earnings and expenses.

BNP has proved its transparency and accountability by submitting the audit report, he said.

'Use sign language on tv news'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Hearing-impaired people yesterday demanded that the government to launch sign language on all television news and establish sufficient sign language school across the country.

Action Aid Bangladesh and Society of the Deaf and Sign Language jointly arranged a discussion on use of Bangla sign language on television news in the city's DRU.

Understanding needed to resolve CHT land disputes

Says HR commission chairman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Chairman of National Human Rights Commission, Prof Mizanur Rahman, yesterday said the government and indigenous people are required to reach a mutual understanding to better resolve long-standing land dispute in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

"I become very happy to know the government has postponed the current activities of CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission," said Prof Mizanur. "As the hill people are opposing the commission's activities, there is no question for its functions to continue."

"In this regard, the government has to create confidence in them and it can be done through dialogues."

The HR commission chief was briefing journalists yesterday noon at Rangamati Circuit House after visiting Rangamati General Hospital, Shishu Sadan, Maternity

Hospital and the prison. About the BDR mutiny trial, Mizanur said the court should provide the accused mutineers with opportunity to defend themselves.

The accused complained to me of being denied justice, he said, adding that it is ominous for us if it is the situation. He also urged the government to ensure fair trial.

Mizanur observed the district general hospital is in an unhygienic condition and the patients are not getting minimal healthcare facility, as the on-duty doctors remain absent.

Even medicines are not available at the hospital, he said, adding that many patients complained that the doctors take bribe from the patients for childbirth.

The hospital's X-ray machine has gone out of order, he said. "I think the doctors willingly kept it out of order to create opportunity for private pathological laboratories in the town."

The HR commission boss said he found no doctor on-duty at district maternity hospital when he visited it. "I found a pregnant woman unnecessarily referred to Chittagong by the authority."

"I instantly asked the lone doctor in the hospital, who was attending a meeting at the DC Office leaving the emergency patients. And I ordered him to make arrangement for the child delivery."

Prof Mizanur urged the government to recruit doctors to the vacant posts he found in the general hospital to ensure healthcare services for lagged people of CHT.

Later, he called on Santu Larma, chairman of CHT Regional Council, at 4:00pm at the latter's office.

Prof Mizanur Rahman reached Rangamati yesterday after visiting Khagrachhari on Tuesday. He is on a two-day visit to CHT and will return to the capital today.



Bangabandhu Sangskritik Parishad brings out a procession from in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday commemorating December 29 of 2008 when the Awami League led grand alliance won the national election.

10 killed, 16 injured in road accidents

METRO DESK

Ten people were killed and 16 were injured in road accidents in Habiganj, Kurigram, Sirajganj, Dinajpur, Jhenidah and Lalmonirhat districts yesterday.

UNB, Habiganj reports: Two cops were killed and two others, including officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar Model Police Station, injured in a head on collision between a police pickup van and a truck in Shahapur on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway in Madhabpur upazila early yesterday.

Constable Nazrul, 32, died instantly while Mobarak, 25, was declared dead at Upazila Health Complex.

Police said the accident occurred at about 2:30am when the Dhaka-bound truck hit the police van.

Two injured, including OC Mozammel Haque, were shifted to Dhaka from the health complex.

UNB, Kurigram says: Three cattle traders were killed and two others injured as a cattle laden truck turned turtle at Andharir Jhar in Bhurungamari upazila early yesterday. Dulal, 60, Amir, 55, and Hannan, 50, died on the spot. All of them hailed from Shibganj in Bogra district.

Injured, Muazzin and Sohel, were rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Two cows also died in the accident.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent adds: Two people were killed and another was injured in two road accidents in Sadar upazila of the district yesterday.

In an accident, a rickshaw-van puller was killed when a bus hit his rickshaw while he was

trying to cross Sirajganj-Pabna Highway at Hatikumrul yesterday afternoon.

In another accident, a minor boy was killed after falling down on the road from the lap of his mother when a hit their rickshaw in front of the court mosque of the municipality area of the district.

Rani, wife of Lutfur Rahman and also the mother of the boy, was critically injured in the incident.

Our Correspondent from Dinajpur adds: Sharmin Aktar 30, of Paddapara in Nawabganj upazila died instantly when a truck hit her while crossing the road at Nawabganj Bazaar in Nawabganj upazila yesterday afternoon.

Our Jhenidah Correspondent adds: A man was killed and another injured as a pickup van hit a rickshaw carrying them from behind at Ahsannagar on Jhenidah-Kushtia Highway around 9:30am yesterday.

Nawser Ali, 60, of Dudshar village in Shaikupa upazila of the district died on the spot. Seriously injured Saiful was admitted to District Sadar Hospital.

Our Correspondent from Lalmonirhat says: A bus driver was killed and at least 10 passengers were injured in a road crash at Sarpukur in Aditmari upazila yesterday.

Driver Mohir Ali, 40, of Patgram upazila of the district, died on the way to the hospital.

Police a Rangpur-bound bus was collided head-on with a Burimari-bound truck on Lalmonirhat-Burimari Highway around 11:30am.

The injured were admitted to Aditmari Upazila Health Complex and Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital.

BDR MUTINY CASE

'Disgraceful son of freedom fighter'

Prosecutor brands accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A BDR special court prosecutor yesterday termed an accused sepoy of Record Wing under BDR headquarter "disgraceful son of a freedom fighter".

"I salute your father for his heroic contribution. But your active participation in BDR mutiny have damaged your father's image," said Lt Col Mizanur Rahman, prosecutor of the Special Court-9.

Lt Col Mizanur said this while he was producing arguments in favour of the allegations against the accused.

Days earlier during cross-examining witnesses, sepoy Paritosh Kumar Biswas said he is a son of a freedom fighter and claimed himself innocent.

The allegations against Paritosh include leaving Darbar Hall defying the order of the then director general (DG) and taking part in the mutiny.

The prosecutor yesterday presented arguments in favour of allegations against 67 accused.

The Special Court-9 at 13 Rifle Battalion at BDR headquarters, led by BDR sector

commander of Dhaka, Col Habibul Karim, adjourned the proceeding till 10:00am of January 11 next year.

The court also said the accused will get chance to present their arguments against their allegations after the end of prosecutor's argument.

Meanwhile, the proceeding of another special court was carried out simultaneously at BDR Darbar Hall in Pilskhana. Five witnesses gave depositions and were cross-examined by 22 accused.

At about 1:40pm, a jawan told the court that he was terribly feeling unwell and requested the court for urgent treatment.

"I am feeling severe pain in my head. It seems the Darbar Hall will act responsibly towards me," said sepoy Touhidur Rahman.

The court said it is not possible to take him outside during the court proceeding and resumed its activities.

About five minutes later, the sepoy passed out and fell down from his seat. He was then taken to BDR Hospital for treatment as per the court order.

Robbers loot valuables from MP's house

A CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Robbers looted valuables worth around Tk 7 lakh from house of lawmaker Engineer Mosharrar Hossain, also a former minister of Awami League, at about 3:00am in the port city yesterday.

Masuk Karim, SI of Kotwali Police Station, said a gang of 15 to 16 persons with knives and machetes entered into the lawmaker's Nandan Kanon house crossing the boundary at about 3:15am.

At first they kept hostage the security guard Nurul Huda while he was on duty at front gate and then they kept hostage drivers and another security guard on the ground floor, the SI said.

Then they entered into second floor and kept hostage lawmaker's son Somu and his wife and daughter while the lawmaker was sleeping on 5th floor, Karim said.

Robbers looted three cell phones and different parts of Mosharrar Hossain's private car.

Police suspected the gang was a car lifter.

Police said lawmaker's driver Amor Dey filed a case in Kotwali Police station in this connection.

Appeal for help for RU student

RU CORRESPONDENT

Amit Kumar Nag, a first year student of population science department of Rajshahi University (RU), is fighting for life as he fell from the third floor of a building on December 24.

Friends of Amit said his backbone has been broken and he is suffering from other complications.

According to his family, Amit was admitted to Square Hospital in Dhaka after being referred from Rajshahi Medical College Hospital the day after the accident.

The family sources said they have already spent about Tk 3 lakh but doctors placed the cost of Tk 10 lakh more for his further treatment.

It is quite tough to continue the treatment of Amit as his father is a primary school teacher, they added.

Friends, teachers, students, and employees of the department have urged all to come forward to help save the life of Amit.

Any financial assistance can be forwarded to the address: Asshan Kumar Nag, Account No 3826, Agrani Bank, Bogra Branch.

Necessary contacts can be made at 01717712206 (Kabir) and 01937288958 (Porag).

Amit fell from the third floor of a rented residence at the university near Kazla area while he was reading on the roof, say his friends.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Rangpur, Sitakunda, Satkhira, Jessore, Kushtia and Srimongal and it may continue in next 24 hours till 6:00 today.

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country, Met Office said.

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

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:22pm and rises tomorrow at 6:41am.

Country's highest temperature 28.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 07.7 degrees at Chuadanga.

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

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.



Seminar: Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will arrange a seminar. Venue: 10/B/1, Segan Bagicha, Time: 3:00pm.

Meeting: Bangladesh Automobile Workshop Malik Samity will arrange a meeting. Venue: Institute of Diploma Engineers, Time: 10:00am.

Workshop: Institute of Public Health Nutrition will organise a workshop. Venue: IPHN, Mohakhali, Time: 10:00am.

Reception: A reception of marginal farmers will be held. Venue: Army Stadium, Banani, Time: 11:00am.

Seminar: Institute of Micro Finance will arrange a seminar. Venue: BIDS conference room, Agargaon, Time: 11:00am.

Roundtable: Brac University will organise a roundtable. Venue: 12th floor, TK Bhaban, Karwan Bazar, Time: 10:30am.

Seminar: BIDS will organise a seminar. Venue: BIDS conference room, Agargaon, Time: 11:00am.

Dance: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will organise a dance programme. Venue: Shilpakala Academy, Time: 6:00pm.

Olympiad: North South University will arrange a mathematics olympiad. Venue: NSU campus, Time: 3:00pm.