

NEWS in brief

Dhaka, Delhi to hold joint events on Tagore's birthday

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and India have started massive preparations to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Nobel laureate Poet Rabindranath Tagore.

Meetings, rallies, and seminars are chalked out for the three-day celebrations in different places like Shanti Niketan and Shilaidah which bear the memory of the great poet.

A joint meeting of the two countries decided to organise enthralling programmes in New Delhi on May 7, in Bangladesh on May 8 and in Kolkata on May 9.

Gold traders call strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Swarna Shilpi Poddar Samity, an organisation of gold traders, yesterday called an indefinite strike to protest the killing of a gold trader Abul Kalam Azad in Old Dhaka's Tanttibazar area.

Abul was shot in his shop on Wednesday afternoon by three youths who demanded valuables.

Abu Sayeed awarded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Eminent educationist Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed and Dhaka Ahsania Mission were awarded the Quazi Azhar Ali Memorial Gold Medal-2010 on Wednesday for contribution in the fields of education and health.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith handed over the medals to Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Rafiqul Alam and Bishwa Shahitya Kendra founder Prof Abdullah at a programme held at Bangladesh University in city's Mohammadpur, says a press release.

Plan against child labour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Global march against child labour, a global effort to eliminate the child labour, yesterday organised a views exchange meeting with civil society, children in hazardous labour and government officials to form a plan of action for the Bangladesh perspective, says a press release.

Bangladeshi troops attacked

BSS, Dhaka

Some Bangladeshi troops were attacked in Abidjan on Tuesday following the volatile situation in Ivory Coast over the country's presidential elections.

"The team (of troops) came under attack when it was trapped between two processions of the rival groups of Ivory Coast," said an ISPR release here yesterday.

The release added the Bangladeshi troops including their commander tackled the situation with courage and patience.

Math olympiad held at NSU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An inter-university Mathematics Olympiad was held in North South University (NSU) in the capital yesterday.

Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science of NSU in collaboration with Bangladesh Mathematical Society (BMS) organised the competition at the university where over 250 undergraduate students from different universities of the country participated.

Dhaka, Bangkok to intensify cooperation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Thailand agreed to work together and intensify bilateral cooperation in combating money laundering and human and drug trafficking.

The agreement was reached during a meeting between Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni and her Thai counterpart Kasit Piromya in Bangkok on Wednesday after a 3-day official visit to Cambodia.

According to a foreign ministry press

release yesterday, the two ministers held extensive discussions on wide ranging issues of mutual interest. They also agreed to enhance mutual cooperation in various multilateral bodies.

Kasit showed keen interest to support Bangladesh in the infrastructure sector and in engaging in joint venture projects of the pharmaceutical sector.

He suggested Bangladesh pharmaceutical companies to explore Thai markets to export drugs.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the free distribution of textbooks to children at Gano Bhaban in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Govt to form welfare board to protect child rights

ALPHA ARZU

The government will form a 19-member National Child Welfare Board to monitor the children's rights, risky child labour, and ensure education and health services.

Proposing the formation of the board, the cabinet at a meeting yesterday approved the draft of Child Act, 2010. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat.

Under the proposed act, separate Shishu Kalyan Boards will also be formed at district and upazila levels to assist the national board for the overall development of children, sources in the social welfare ministry said.

It suggested considering individuals under the age of 18 as children in compliance with the United Nations Convention

on the Rights of the Child.

Presently 47 percent of the country's total population falls under this age group, said Wahida Banu, chairman of Bangladesh Shishu Odhikar Forum.

The incumbent act, formulated in 1974, considers individuals under 14 as children.

The proposed boards will work independently, but they should also ensure the birth registration of all children so the government can work properly, said Quomaran Nessa Khanam, secretary of social welfare ministry.

The government must know the number of children to involve them in national development, she added.

The act also proposed to punish the individuals or institutions who turn rude on children. The punishment will be a five-year imprisonment or a fine of Tk

100,000 or both, ministry sources said.

The same sentence will be applicable to anyone forcing a child to prostitution.

If anyone inject or feed any sedative or addictive item to a child, or employ juveniles for selling liquor, he or she will face three years' jail term or a fine of Tk 100,000 or both, said Nasima Begum, joint secretary of the social welfare ministry.

Secretary of social welfare ministry will head the National Child Welfare Board, while the director general (DG) of Directorate of Social Services will be the member secretary.

The additional secretaries of home, LGRD, education, information and women and children affairs ministries, joint secretaries (legislative and parliamentary affairs) of law ministry and labour and employment ministry, divisional commis-

sioner of Dhaka division, DGs of Prime Minister's Office, directorate general of health services, directorate of primary education, disaster management bureau and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics will be the members of the board.

A representative each from United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Council and two from NGOs will also be a part of the board, which will sit twice a year.

The district commissioner (DC) will be the president of the 11-member district level board, where deputy director of the district social services office will take the role of secretary.

The upazila nirbahi officer will lead the upazila level Shishu Kalyan Board. This body will hold meeting in every three months and will report to the district board.



Fire fighters try to douse a fire at Kamrangirchar Rahmatbagh area in the city yesterday that gutted three factories producing polythene bags and two warehouses.

PHOTO: STAR

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Prof Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of the Independent University, Bangladesh died at the city's Apollo Hospital at about 5:00pm yesterday at the age of 71, says a press release.

He left behind his wife and three daughters.

His first namaz-e-janaza will be held at 10:30am on the IUB campus in the city.

Three factories, two warehouses gutted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three factories producing polythene bags and two warehouses were gutted in a fire at Kamrangirchar Rahmatbagh area in the city yesterday.

Fire brigade sources said five of its units managed to douse the flames, originating from one of the factories at 1:15pm.

The gutted factories are Meem, Anika Plastic and Jawad Plastic.

Locals said there are some factories manufacturing polythene bags on the banks of Buriganga River.

The fire originated from Meem Plastic Factory and soon spread to nearby factories and warehouses where plastic goods are kept, they added.

Owner of Jawad Plastic Saif Rahman Jasim said property worth around Tk 1 crore was gutted in the fire.

Birth anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 36th birth anniversary of Novera Deepita, a

brilliant journalist of The Daily Star, says a press release.

Novera, who was also a gold medallist student of Dhaka University, passed away on July 27 in 2006.

Every year Novera Deepita Memorial Trust awards 'Novera Deepita Memorial Scholarship'.

**WEATHER TODAY**

Slight rise in night temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Jessore, Kusthia and Srimongal and it may continue in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over Rajshahi, Rangpur, and Dhaka divisions, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:22pm and rises tomorrow at 6:40am.

Country's highest temperature 28.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 09.2 degrees at Srimongal.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.0	13.5	63	65
Chittagong	24.9	13.6	84	67
Rajshahi	24.8	11.2	81	75
Rangpur	25.0	10.9	89	75
Khulna	26.0	11.7	84	79

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Conference**  
Bangladesh Trade Union Centre will organise a conference. Venue: Wapda auditorium, Motijheel, Time: 10:00am.

**Cultural programme**  
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will arrange a cultural programme. Venue: Shilpakala Academy, Time: 6:00pm.

**Roundtable**  
Association for Land Reform and Development will organise a

**Council**  
Freedom Fighters Rehabilitation and Recreation Centre will hold its council. Venue: 33, Topkhana Road, Time: 10:00am.

**Cultural programme**  
Bangabandhu Shishu Academy will arrange cultural programme. Venue: Shishu Academy, Time: 4:30pm.

**Meeting**

www.seapearlbld.com

Happy New Year 2011

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1 মাত্র ৩০ লক্ষ টাকায় একটি ফুল ফার্নিসড ৫ স্টার সুইটের আজীবন সাফকবলা অংশীদারী মালিকানা অথবা একক মালিকানায় প্রতি বছর ৬ / ১২ মাসের জন্য ভাড়া দিয়ে অবিশ্বাস্য মুনাফা আয়ের সুযোগ

8.60 লক্ষ টাকায় Sea Pearl-এর Vacation Ownership কিনে Interval International-এর মাধ্যমে বিশ্বব্যাপী ২৫০০ পাঁচ তারকা রিসোর্টে অবকাশ যাপন, ৫০০০-এর বেশি বিশ্রামের হোটেলে সর্বোচ্চ ৫০% ডিসকাউন্ট উপভোগ করার দারুণ সুযোগ

Sea Pearl ১০ একর (৬০০ কাঠার বেশি) জায়গাজুড়ে গড়ে ওঠা দেশের একমাত্র বিশ্রামের পাঁচ তারকা রিসোর্ট, যা বিশ্বের সর্ববৃহৎ পাঁচ তারকা ড্যাকেশন এক্সচেঞ্জ নেটওয়ার্ক-এর সঙ্গে সংযুক্ত

আন্তর্জাতিকভাবে স্বীকৃত বাংলাদেশের প্রথম Eco-Friendly সবুজ সমারোহের পাঁচ তারকা বিচ রিসোর্ট

ইনানী বিচের ডাঙনমুক্ত নিরাপদ এলাকায় সমুদ্রের তীর ঘেষে এই প্রকল্পের পাশেই বাংলাদেশ সেনাবাহিনীর বেওয়াচ রিসোর্ট, বর্ডার গার্ড ক্যাম্প, পার্কিং এরিয়ার সাথে প্রস্তাবিত নেভাল কোস্ট গার্ড এবং অদূরেই আর্মি ক্যাম্প প্রকল্পে যোগ করেছে বাড়তি নিরাপত্তা

প্রকল্পের অর্থাৎয়ে আছে প্রাইম ব্যাংক লি. সহ দেশের শীর্ষস্থানীয় আরও ৮টি ব্যাংক

প্রায় প্রতিটি অ্যাপার্টমেন্ট থেকে সমুদ্রের সৌন্দর্য উপভোগের দারুণ সুযোগ

প্রকল্পের বিশেষ আকর্ষণ হিসেবে থাকছে বাংলাদেশের সর্ববৃহৎ ২টি সুইমিংপুল (১১০০০ বর্গফুট ও ৫০০০ বর্গফুট), সর্ববৃহৎ কার পার্কিং স্পেস, সর্ববৃহৎ Children Playground (প্রায় ১১০০০ বর্গফুট) ও একটি ইনফিনিটি পুলসহ বিশ্রামের পাঁচতারকা রিসোর্টের যাবতীয় সুযোগ সুবিধা