

NEWS in brief

Free congenital heart treatment at BSMMU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pediatric cardiologists from India will provide free treatment to children with congenital heart diseases, without the use of operation, at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) this month, says a press release yesterday.

Noted pediatric cardiologist Dr Prem Shekhar would offer the service known as device closure from January 15 to 17 while Dr Sumanta Shekhar Padhi would do so from February 22-24.

Patients are requested to contact Room-404, Block-D, BSMMU, Shahbagh, Dhaka-1000. Telephone: 9612653 (office), cell-01819247365.

Nepali team meets army chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The visiting delegation of Nepal Command and Staff College met the chief of Bangladesh Army Lt Gen Mainul Islam at his office in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

An ISPR press release said the 25-member delegation led by Maj Gen Pradip Jung Thapa discussed issues of professional interests there.

Later, they visited Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) in Mirpur Cantonment and met the DSCSC Commandant Maj Gen Mohammad Shamim Chowdhury.

BCL's 63rd anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), pro-Awami League student body, will observe its 63rd founding anniversary today with much festivity and enthusiasm, says a press release.

The organisation is to cut a cake at Curzon Hall of Dhaka University (DU) at 12:01 today. It will place wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Dhanmondi at 8:00am.

A colourful procession will be brought out on the DU campus at 10:00am. Current and former BCL leaders and activists are expected at the programmes.

BCL was formed on this day in 1948 under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who then was a student of DU.

JSD Chhatra League will also hold rally in front of Dhaka University Central Students Union (Ducusu) building at 11:00am and a discussion at Muktibhaban in Purana Paltan at 3:00pm.

Victims to get compensation for Bangabandhu int'l airport

BSS, Dhaka

The government would provide adequate compensation to people affected due to the construction of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib International Airport.

Talking to reporters at his official residence in the city, State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan said compensation would be disbursed in the same way as has been to people affected by construction of Padma Multipurpose Bridge.

To construct the airport, he said, over 25,000 acres of land has been earmarked on Arial Beel covering Srinagar upazila in Munshiganj district and Dohar and Nobabganj upazila in Dhaka district.

\$149m WB fund to Wasa

BSS, Dhaka

The World Bank (WB) has approved US \$149 million for funding a project to improve drainage and sanitation system in the capital, said a WB press release yesterday.

The project will support Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) to rehabilitate and expand the drainage, sewerage, water supply, and sanitation infrastructures.

All set for poura elections: CEC

BSS, Netrakona

Chief Election Commissioner Dr ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday said all preparations have been taken to hold the upcoming pourasabha elections in a free, fair and impartial manner.

While talking to local newsmen at Netrakona Circuit House, he said members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) would be deployed in 56 pourasabhas and army in selected areas to help local administration maintain law and order during the polls.

Shamsul was in an official visit there to select land for two server stations which will be constructed on 20 decimal of lands in front of Netrakona sadar upazila parishad office.

Netrakona Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Humayun Kabir, Additional Police Super Tutul Chakrabarty, Netrakona sadar upazila parishad Chairman Prof Tafsiruddin Khan and district and upazila level election officers were present.

Referring to changes in the municipality electioneering code of conduct, he said election campaigns and public meetings using loud speakers has been strictly prohibited.

Two shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A businessman and his staff were injured in a drive-by shooting at Sutrapur in the city yesterday evening.

The two were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Nazimuddin, 65, owner of a motor parts shop on North Brooke Hall road, was shot in the chest and Nirmal Chandra Dutta, 52, in his right thigh.

Nirmal said one of two criminals riding a motorbike fired several shots at them as they were taking tea inside the shop at about 7:30pm.

Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sutrapur Police Station, said they were investigating if it was for previous enmity or extortion.



Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith speaks at the 59th founding celebration programme of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh on its premises at Nimtoli yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladeshis flourishing in UK: Dr Nadia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshis have become a resilient community in Britain, who fought against racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, racial attacks, harassment, and discrimination, said Dr Nadia Khanum, a Bangladeshi British.

Nadia, director of UK's Equality in Diversity, was speaking at the 59th founding day lecture of Asiatic Society at Nimtoli in the city yesterday.

"Bangladeshis run 85 percent of Indian restaurant businesses and 40 percent working population are engaged in catering services that brought £320 million in 2005," Nadia said in her lecture titled "Aspects of Bangladeshi experience in the UK".

She added that gradually Bangladeshis are engaging in all professions in the UK like public service, banking, law, medicine, teaching, which is very significant for our community in Britain.

Also an ambassador for diversity of the UK, Nadia said poverty and poor understanding of UK law, especially on family and safeguarding children; language and cultural barriers; and poor educational attainments are key challenges for Bangladeshis there.

Despite progresses in different sectors, Bangladeshis are still under-represented in British life, but their involvement is growing in mainstream activity and the decision-making process, she said.

Nadia cited names of several Bangladeshi Britons including Anwar Choudhury, Rushanara Ali, and Iqbal Ahmed who are playing significant role in UK government and politics.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith in his speech said it was a 'horrible scenario' of Bangladeshi community when he stayed there 40 to 50 years back.

Prof Sirajul Islam, president of Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, chaired the programme.



Four suspected members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh arrested by Rapid Action Battalion from the city's Kalabagan area on Sunday night. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka-Delhi joint survey on Feni bridge starts

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

In a bid to boost bilateral trade, a six-member team of Bangladesh and officials of Indian state of Tripura, yesterday launched a joint survey for construction of a bridge on Feni River in South Tripura district to connect Chittagong port with North Eastern part of India.

The Bangladesh team, headed by Joint Secretary of Communication department Muhammad Mustafa, arrived here yesterday and visited the Srimantapur Land Custom Station (LCS) in West Tripura district.

The Srimantapur LCS would be the biggest among the six such station in the state which is being developed on 16 acres of land at the cost of Rs 16 crore, the sources said adding that the team would also visit Belonia LCS in South Tripura district.

The joint team would explore possibility of enhancement of trade and commerce after creating communication infrastructure like construction of bridge and modernising the LCS in both sides of the border.

Gorai river excavation starts

BSS, Dhaka

The re-excavation of Gorai River began at a cost of Tk 942 crore to enliven the morbid river and ensure natural flow of freshwater to the country's south, especially to protect the Sunderbans.

"The re-excavation work has already started and it would continue from Kushtia Sadar to Khoksha upazila," Project Director Abdul Baten told the news agency yesterday.

Baten said the project would not only remove huge amount of silt from the riverbed but also build a 2,200 metre flow-divider and Ganga-Gorai guide embankment.

Police Week begins today

UNB, Dhaka

Police Week, 2011 begins at Rajarbagh Police Lines ground in the city today.

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the three-day programme, take salute and inspect a parade.

A total of 36 policemen and Rab members would be awarded medals this year for their bravery and heroism.

In a message, President Zillur Rahman paid homage to the police members who sacrificed their lives at Razarbagh Police Lines during the War of Liberation, saying that their supreme sacrifice glorified the nation.

He expressed hope that the police force will contribute more in improving overall law and order in the country as well as providing security to the lives and properties of the people.

In her message Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed hope that police force will be able to achieve people's confidence through highest impartiality, professionalism and human values.

She also urged the police force to work sincerely in checking crimes.

CABINET MEETING President's draft speech for JS discussed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday discussed in detail the draft of the president's speech to be delivered on day one of the year's first Jatiya Sangsad session on January 25.

The weekly cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina at the Cabinet Division of the Bangladesh Secretariat also formed a five-member committee headed by PM's Adviser HT Imam to finalise the speech's draft.

The committee includes PM's Adviser Dr Mashiur Rahman, principal secretary to the prime ministers' office and education and finance secretaries.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed newsmen after the meeting.

In his address, the president is expected to focus the successes achieved in various sectors during the last one-year rule of Awami League-led grand alliance government.

Meeting sources said the committee has been asked to complete reviewing the speech through inclusion, exclusion or bringing of changes in its language.

At the meeting, some of the ministers said success and activities of many ministries during the last three months have not been incorporated in the president's speech. The PM then instructed the secretaries to do so in coordination with the ministers, added sources.

She also instructed the committee to make a summary of the speech between 2,000 and 2,500 words so that the president could read it within 20 to 25 minutes. The entire speech would be tabled in the Jatiya Sangsad.

The final draft would be placed in the next cabinet meeting where the PM would put a final touch and approve the speech.

Schoolboy missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



A schoolboy went missing from the city's Moghbazar on his way to a coaching centre last Sunday.

The boy Mehedi Hasan Omi, 16, son of Mir Ahmed Miru of the area, was an SSC examinee from Central Government School.

Ahmed said Omi left his residence, at Wireless Gate near Rab-2 Headquarters, for his coaching centre 'Sawana Academy' in Gabtola around 4:00pm and did not return home.

Omi's family members found his cell phone switched off since 8:00pm, the time when the coaching centre authority told them that Omi left from there, he added.

Ahmed filed a general diary with Ramna Police Station in this connection.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Shamsul Alam, former additional superintendent of police, passed away at his 57, North Jatrabari residence early hours yesterday at the age of 85.

Shamsul, also father-in-law of Dhaka City (East) Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Shahidul Islam, left behind his wife, three sons and a daughter to mourn his death.

He was buried at Brahmanchiran graveyard at Dhalpur after Zohr prayers yesterday, says a press release.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 11th death anniversary of language veteran and freedom fighter Mohiuddin Ahmed, says a press release.

Mohiuddin Ahmed was the youngest person jailed for involvement in the language movement of 1952. He was the president of Chhatra Union during the 60's and the adviser of now defunct newspaper Daily Desh.

Muggers stab PDB staff, snatch Tk 50,000

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers stabbed a PWD employee and snatched Tk 50,000 from him in the city's Sutrapur yesterday.

Babul Hossain, 42, of Dohar and an employee of Kaptai PWD, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical state.

SI Nasiruddin Mizan of Sutrapur said a gang of three muggers riding a motorbike stopped the rickshaw carrying Babul in front of Rajdhani Super Market of Sutrapur at about 6:00am and tried to snatch the money, he added.

The muggers left the place after stabbing him indiscriminately.



Pedestrians raise a cart to its wheels on Kapasgola Fatikchhari Road in Chittagong yesterday as it fell in a pothole created during expansion of the road.

PHOTO: STAR

WEATHER TODAY

Night temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Jessore, Kushtia, Sathkhira, Barisal, Madaripur and Srimongal. Moderate cold wave is likely over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Comilla, Barisal and Sitakunda in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country, Met Office said.

Light to moderate fog may occur over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins of the country during midnight till morning.

Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:25pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.

Country's highest temperature 25.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 07.8 degrees at Chuadanga.

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	17.5	12.4	91	87
Chittagong	23.0	14.8	73	60
Rajshahi	20.5	09.7	94	85
Rangpur	22.2	11.8	97	92
Khulna	22.0	10.5	91	64
Barisal	22.4	09.4	91	85