

NEWS in brief

War Crimes Tribunal lawyers collect records of 70s

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecutors of the International Crimes Tribunal collected handouts of 1972, 1973, and 1975 and the gazettes of 1974 and 1975 from the directorate of information yesterday.

A team of prosecutors of the tribunal led by Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Arief Tipoo collected the documents while they met Chief Information Officer Harun-or-Rashid at the directorate.

During the visit, the prosecutors also collected three sets of DVDs that carry the digitised copies of the newspapers -- Dainik Bangla, Ittefaq, and Bangladesh Observer -- from 1972 to 1975, says a government handout.

Prosecutors Advocate Zehad-Al-Malum and Advocate Altaf Uddin Ahmed were also in the visiting team.

Six Hizbut men held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested six active members of Hizbut Tawhid from Choddopai under Motihar Police Station in the city yesterday afternoon.

They are Asaduzzaman Khan Sohel, 27, Alfaz Hossain, 25, Mahmudul Karim, 26, Rabiul Awal, 28, Ashraf Ali, 25 and Mizanur Rahman, 28 of the city.

Rab-5 said they held them while distributing leaflets, CDs and giving wrong explanation of religion. The elite force also recovered several CDs, books, and leaflets from them.

Mayor saves birds from slaughter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton yesterday released all the ten birds (locally known as Cha Pakhi) that were presented to him for consuming as food.

A grassroots leader of Awami League, who the mayor did not identify, presented him some ten birds as gift at his Rajshahi Nagar Bhaban office.

Khairuzzaman rebuked the leader for bringing the birds and decided to release those in the sky.

'Teach kids ethics from beginning'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally have urged the people to be more conscious about ethics and character.

World Religion dept of Dhaka University (DU) and Swami Sharupananda Research Centre jointly organised the event on the occasion of the Character Building Movement Day on January 1, said a press release.

Justice Gholam Rabbani urged the government to recognise the day nationally. DU VC Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique urged parents to teach ethics to their kids from the beginning of their life.

Chairman of the department Dr Quazi Nurul Islam, Prof Jugol Brahmachari, Dr Paresch Mondol, Father Tapan de Rojario and Dr Prodip Kumar Roy also spoke.

4 steel mill workers burnt in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Four workers sustained burn injuries when molten iron splashed on them at Jafor Chowdhury Islamia Steel Mill under Bayezid Police Station here early yesterday.

Another worker also sustained minor injury while trying to save himself from the splashing iron.

The injured--Ismail, 20, Kalu Miyan, 45, Md Iliash, 30, Md Hasan, 25 and Md Jahangir, 24 were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

The status of Ismail was stated to be critical.

The accident occurred at about 2:00am when the lock of a hot iron pot broke down and it fell on the floor, said Milon, a worker of the factory.

The injured were rushed to CMCH around 2:30am.



PHOTO: STAR

Chittagong City Corporation bulldozes illegal structures on Chawkbazar DC road in the port city yesterday.

100 shops evicted in CCC drive

Butcher fined for slaughtering cattle in open place

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) evicted over 100 illegal shops at Chawkbazar in the port city yesterday.

CCC Magistrate Sheikh Saleh Ahmed led the three-hour drive that started at 11:00am.

Over 100 illegal kitchen shops, set up between Chaw Super Market and Dhupirpul over one-kilometre area, were evicted.

The mobile court also fined a butcher Tk 10 thousand for slaughtering cattle in open place and for running business without trade licence at Chawkbazar.

Of the same kitchen shops, three fruit traders were fined Tk 18 thousand for occupying footpaths to run the business illegally. The CCC team penalised a crockery trader Tk 10 thousand for the same allegation.

Two bakeries, M/s Chittagong Foods and M/s Foyez Foods, of the same market were fined Tk 1.45 lakh for making adulterated food items.

Magistrate Ahmed told The Daily Star that they will continue the drive.

DURBAN CLIMATE SUMMIT

Govt to seek opinion for roadmap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to make a roadmap based on the opinion of political parties, civil societies, and environmentalists for this year's Durban climate conference (COP 17) in South Africa.

State Minister for Environment and Forests Hasan Mahmud told a seminar on 'COP 16: Way Forward' held at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

The minister said the prime minister has approved the climate resilience fund of \$113 million donated by development partners. The fund will be allocated for different projects in a few months to fight climate change impacts, he added.

The government wants to ensure proper compensations for affected people due to the climate change, said the minister.

It is necessary to start taking preparation from now on for the Durban conference.

Concern, an international development

organisation, and Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad jointly organised the seminar.

Monzurul Hannan Khan, the deputy secretary of the ministry and Dr Aminul Islam, assistant country representative of the organisation, presented two papers at the seminar while Quazi Khaliquzzaman, the coordinator of Bangladesh climate change delegation members, moderated it.

Khaliquzzaman said many people have a misconception that the delegation would bring a lot in the climate conference.

Dr Aunur Nishat, vice-chancellor of Brac University said, different natural calamities have increased not only in Bangladesh but in the developed countries due to climate change.

Secretary of the ministry Dr Mihir Kanti Majumder, members of Bangladesh climate change delegations Mizan R Khan, M Shamsuzzoha and ActionAid local chief Farah Kabir, among others, attended the seminar.

Visually impaired tells their tale in book

DU CORRESPONDENT

Shedding light into the lives of the visually impaired through his writings, Sarwar Hossain Khan, being challenged himself, launched a book yesterday, becoming country's first visually impaired person to do so.

In his book, Sarwar portrayed difficulties, challenges and lifestyle of the visually impaired people while mentioning laws and government contribution present for them.

He also described the pragmatic but miserable scenario the visually impaired women face everyday.

Present as the chief guest, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan unveiled cover of the book "Bangladesher Protibondi Jonogosthi: Obosta O Shambhabana" at Dhaka University (DU).

Sarwar completed graduation and post graduation from political science department and attained MPhil Degree in 2008.

The minister vowed to help Sarwar, on behalf of the government, so that the writer can reach his dream of attaining a doctorate (PhD) degree.

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, present as the special guest, appreciated Sarwar's indomitable spirit to acquire knowledge and urged people not to bear narrow attitude towards the visually impaired.

Prof Shawkat Ara, supervising Sarwar's education, said he is the first visually challenged person to write a research-based book.

IOJ splits again

Dissident leaders float new party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) faction led by Misbahur Rahman Chowdhury yesterday split into two following internal disputes over party activities.

Following the break up, dissident leaders Nurul Islam Khan and Maulana M a s h u d u r R a h m a n announced formation of a new party, Ganotantrik Islami Oikya Jote, at a meeting at its temporary office at Motijheel in the capital.

The meeting formed a 55-member committee with Nurul Islam and Mashudur Rahman as convener and member secretary.

The new faction has set independence, spirit of Liberation War of 1971 and Madina Charter as its motto.

The new leaders alleged that IOJ Chairman Misbahur Rahman was serving the interest of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Misbahur did not allow intra-party democracy, and failed to win support of Islamic scholars, they claimed.

IOJ has another faction led by Mufti Fazlul Haq Amini, which is an ally of BNP-led four-party alliance.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shahana Khatun, mother of Prof Dr Syed Humayun Akhter of geology department of Dhaka University passed away yesterday at the age of 83.

Prof Syed, also an earthquake expert, said his mother died from a massive heart attack around 9:00am at her third daughter's residence in Dhaka Cantonment.

The body of Shahana was taken to her hometown Kushtia in the afternoon for her burial beside the grave of her husband Dr Fazley Rob.

She left behind three sons, four daughters, and a host of relatives to mourn the death.

Kabori, Polash sue each other

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Awami League lawmaker Sarah Begum Kabori and Sramik League leader Kawzar Ahmed Polash stand against each other over the Tuesday's violence at Fatullah and Aliganj of the district.

The loyal groups to the two leaders filed three cases against each other on Tuesday night over the violence and held separate rallies at Fatullah and Aliganj yesterday.

Speakers at Kabori's meeting at Fatullah demanded arrest of Polash on charge of attacking the lawmaker's motorcade and opening fire.

The supporters of Polash announced Kabori's PS Sirajul Islam Sentu persona non grata in Fatullah.



PHOTO: PTD

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks to UN Commission Member on Limits of the Continental Shelf Dr Harald Brekke during a courtesy call at her office in the city yesterday.

BULK ELECTRICITY TARIFF BERC accepts PDB's appeal

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) yesterday accepted an appeal of the state-owned Power Development Board to raise bulk electricity tariff.

In the petition, PDB proposed 25 percent annual rise in bulk power tariff until 2013.

The BERC will hold public hearing on January 27 on the issue to hear the opinions of the other stakeholders in the power sector, including consumer right groups.

The PDB proposal on bulk tariff is not applicable for retail electricity consumers. But a similar proposal now remains pending with the BERC.

After the disposal of the bulk tariff enhancement proposal, the retail tariff enhancement proposal will come for public hearing.

As per present proposal, the bulk tariff will be increased twice a year. This rise will be 12 percent each time every six months.

Last time, the bulk power tariff was raised by 16 percent in October 2008.

If the present proposal is approved by the BERC, the average bulk tariff rate will go up to Tk 2.65 per unit from the present Tk 2.37.

Within six months, as proposed, the tariff will increase to Tk 2.97 in July 2011, Tk 3.33 in January 2012, Tk 3.72 in July 2012, Tk 4.17 in January 2013 and Tk 4.68 in July 2013.

After accepting PDB's proposal, BERC Chairman Syed Yusuf Hossain asked all the stakeholders in the power sector, including consumer right groups, to place their opinions on the proposal by January 16.

BANGSHAL MURDER Two friends of Sajid held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested two friends of murdered trader Sajid Anam Masud for their suspected link to the killing a day before in the city's Bangshal.

A Dhaka court granted a three-day remand following the arrests of Jewel and Siraj from Siddiqbazar in Bangshal.

On Tuesday, criminals stabbed Sajid to death and dumped the body near a tin-roofed house of one Hossain Mollah on Bangshal Lane.

Sajid's wife Nur Jannat Begum filed a murder case accusing anonymous person with Bangshal Police Station that day.

Officer-in-charge Jamiruddin Ahmed said the arrestees had an internal feud with Sajid. Police were examining their involvement in the killing, he added.

Sajid had the conflict with Jewel and Siraj 16 days back, said police.

CLAIM ON BAY OF BENGAL Final scrutiny of draft report begins

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Ahead of submitting Bangladesh's claim on the Bay of Bengal's outer continental shelf area, foreign ministry yesterday began final scrutiny of the draft survey report.

UN Commission Member on Limits of the Continental Shelf Dr Harald Brekke, providing various technical advices to Bangladeshi expert's panel, began examining the report yesterday to prepare one that accurately protects Bangladesh's interest.

Bangladesh has to submit a report to the United Nations (UN) over its claim in the Bay by July 26 this year, which the ministry plans doing so well before the deadline.

To establish the claim, Bangladesh has already lodged cases with International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) regarding disputes with India and Myanmar.

Side by side, Bangladesh also needs to submit a report to UN under Article 76 of 'United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea' (UNCLOS), 1982 to establish the claim beyond 200 nautical miles.

Foreign ministry sources said the report would be placed before the Cabinet for final nod after examination by Harald. Bangladesh invited Harald, a Norwegian nation, to review the draft and he had earlier advised in this matter including in the seismic survey conducted in the Bay.

Meanwhile, Harald called on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday and discussed on the draft report.

According to UNCLOS, any coastal country is firstly entitled to 12 nautical miles from its baseline as territorial sea, the next 24 nautical miles as contiguous zone and the following 200 nautical miles as its exclusive economic zone (EEZ).



WEATHER TODAY

Mild cold wave sweeping

UNB, Dhaka

Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Sitakunda, Srimongal, Rajshahi, Pabna, Sayedpur, Dinajpur, Jessore and Kushtia and it may continue in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

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

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins of the country and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning.


Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:26pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 26.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 08.1 degrees Celsius 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	23.0	13.0	82	70
Chittagong	23.2	12.4	93	72
Rajshahi	22.4	09.6	96	68
Rangpur	23.7	10.3	89	70
Khulna	23.5	12.0	76	74
Barisal	24.5	11.0	91	86
Sylhet	26.2	13.8	100	84



DHAKA TODAY

Seminar

Health Reporters Forum will organise a seminar. Venue: DRU, Time: 9:30pm.

Roundtable

Bangladesh Enterprise for Development and Security Studies will arrange a roundtable. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 4:00pm.

Seminar

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

Roundtable

Bangladesh Youth Forum will arrange a roundtable. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 10:30am.

Seminar

Bangladesh Bank will arrange a seminar.