

NEWS IN *brief*

Mohadev Saha gets award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent Poet Mohadev Saha has got Saadat Ali Akhand Literature Award 2010 for his contribution to Bangla poetry.

Bangla Academy yesterday gave away the award to him, says a press release. Mohadev Saha has written many books on literature include Ei Greha Ei Sannas, Manob Asechi Kachhe, Tomar Payer Sabda, Dhulomatir Manush and Kee Sundar Ondha.

Boy killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

A minor boy was killed on the spot after being hit by a truck as he was crossing road with his father at Baluadanga bus stand in the district town on Monday night. The boy is Obaidul Haq, 12, son of Mozammel Haq Bisu of village Uttar Bohola Mollahpara of Biral upazila. Bisu was injured critically in the accident.

Robbers loot Ctg factory

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A gang of robbers looted 350 metres of valuable cables from warehouse of Bangladesh Steel Rolling Mill (BSRM) at Kadam Rasul of Sitakunda in the port city yesterday.



Industrial toxic wastes from Kadamtala of Shyampur in the city flowing into the Sitalakhya river. This photo was taken from a narrow rail culvert in the area yesterday.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

PRESS CLUB POLL

New body prays for vacating stay order

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The newly elected executive committee of the Jatiya Press Club (JPC) yesterday submitted a petition to a Dhaka court for vacating its stay order imposed upon them not to continue their function.

But the judge fixed January 13 for full hearing on the petition.

Judge Sheikh Muzahidul Islam of the Fourth Assistant Judge's Court on Monday stayed their function till the disposal of the case filed against 12 members of the new committee.

The court also asked the new committee to hand over the charge back to the previous committee within seven days of the order.

Golam Sarwar and Saiful Alam filed a case against Mohammad Zakaria Pintu, chairman of the JPC election commission, and 11 others.

JSC, JDC EXAMS

Students failed in two subjects can enrol in class IX

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The class VIII students who failed in two subjects in the maiden Junior School Certificate (JSC) and Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) examinations can enrol in class IX this year.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid made the announcement at a press briefing at the secretariat yesterday, saying the advantage can be enjoyed only this year.

"The students failed in any two subjects are now allowed to get enrolled in class IX only for this time. But, they have to pass in those subjects in the next JSC or JDC exams scheduled for November 1, 2011."

"If they fail again in those subjects, their admission in class IX will be cancelled." He said the unsuccessful students will be allowed to get registered in class IX only upon passing in the two subjects.

Nahid explained, "A large number of students who failed in the exams may feel discouraged to continue their study and might get dropped out. We want to retain them so they can continue their studies."

He said the students had no experience and instance of a public exam either, as the exams were held for the

first time.

A total of 10,20,047 students -- 8,22,275 from schools and 1,97,772 from madrasas -- passed the examinations. Some 13,96,599 students of both the general schools and madrasa took the exams.

The minister said most of over three lakh students who came out unsuccessful failed in English and Mathematics.

Dhaka Board Chairman Prof Fahim Khatun said

If they fail again in those subjects, their admission in class IX will be cancelled

around 3,82,918 students failed in English and Mathematics in JSC examination alone. Some 58,136 students failed in Science. In JDC about 28,431 students failed in these two subjects, she said.

The education minister said the students failed in more than two subjects will sit for the next JSC or JDC exams as irregular examinees. His ministry will investigate to find out the reasons behind the failure, he added.

Ex-MP Golam Rabbani passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Golam Rabbani, former member of parliament from Joypurhat, passed away due to cardiac arrest on Monday night. He was 57.

Rabbani was buried at his family graveyard at Komorgram village of Joypurhat Sadar upazila.

His wife and two children survive him.

Md Sekandar Alam

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Md Sekandar Alam, father-in-law of senior staff photographer Rashed Mahmud of the Daily Prothom Alo, passed away at his own residence at Chandgaon in the port city yesterday at the age of 65, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son, two daughters, son-in-laws and relatives to mourn.

He was buried at his family graveyard after his namaz-e-janaza on Nazirbari Mosque premise at Chandgaon yesterday.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 18th death anniversary of artist Ostad Hasan Ali Khan,

a former composer and music director of the Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television, says a press release.

He was also a former teacher of Bulbul Lalitakola Academy, Suravi Sangeet Niketon and Jahangirnagar University Music School.

On the occasion, a discussion and a milad mahfil will be held at his village home in Brahmanbaria.

Ostad Hasan Ali Khan Smriti Sangsad will distribute foods among the destitute.

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

Shahbuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Mohammad Shahbuddin,

an organiser of Liberation War and former teacher of Motijheel Govt Boys High School, says a press release.

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

Thinley says people now 'economic animals'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bhutanese Prime Minister and Saarc Chairman Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley yesterday insisted that the people in today's world have become "economic animals."

He said all development activities have become tools for attaining economic and materialistic growth, and are doing little to keep the people happy.

As a result, the nations are trying to increase their GDP and economic growth, he said.

"But these are lives of misery. They are not happy," said Thinley.

The Bhutanese premier was delivering a lecture on "Gross National Happiness" at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban in Dhaka University (DU).

Many developing countries have high GDPs and well off citizens. But they also have high suicide rates, he said.

He said an alternative and a more holistic approach are needed in this regard, which

can be achieved by the Gross National Happiness (GNH).

Bhutan is the only country in the world that has accepted happiness as a national agenda. And the rest of the world is also realising the importance of collective happiness in a country, he said. In the chair, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said the GNH is a quantitative measure of human happiness. So, it reflects the well being of a nation in a more holistic manner, he added.

DU Pro-VC Prof Harun-or-Rashid and Treasurer Prof Dr Mizanur Rahman, among others, were present.

After a four-day visit, the Bhutanese prime minister will leave Dhaka on Friday.

The concept of GNH was coined by Bhutanese former King Jigme Singye Wangchuck in 1972 to define an indicator that measures quality of life or social progress in more holistic and psychological terms than gross domestic product (GDP).



Bhutanese Prime Minister and Saarc Chairman Lyonchhen Jigmi Y Thinley calls on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

More victim support centres to be established

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Police is going to establish seven more victim support centers outside the capital in a bid to reach victims living in remote areas.

A memorandum of agreement (MoA) was signed at Police Headquarters in the capital yesterday between Bangladesh Police and the authorities of ten NGOs on establishment of the victim support centers raising the total to eight.

Police Reform Program (PRP) UNDP provides monetary help for the victim support centers, which gives legal aid to women and children and gives them rehabilitation assistance with the help of partner NGOs.

The first victim support center, an all female police run project, was setup at Tejgaon Police Station in the capital and the other seven will be setup in Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Chittagong and Rangamati.

Assistant Inspector General of Police Sibgat Ullah and representatives of the concerned NGOs signed the MoA. Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandaker and National Project Director of

PRP (UNDP) additional IG Mukhlesur Rahman and others were present at the signing.

IGP Khandaker said that a strategy based on the social cultural context should be formulated for providing supports to the victims in such centers.

He also urged that police reduce the dependency on PRP funds and conduct the centers on their own.

National Project Director of PRP (UNDP) Mukhlesur Rahman said if police are not let to do good it would be impossible for the department to do so. He further urged for reforms in the police to this effect.

The partner NGOs include Ain O Shalish Kendra, Aparajeyo Bangladesh, Acid Survivors Foundation, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association, Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Marie Stopes Clinics, Association for Community Development, Association for Correction and Social Reclamation.

The victim support center in the capital launched in 2009 has provided support to 828 victims.

CHARGHAT MUNICIPAL POLLS

Housewife in the spotlight

M ABUL KALAM AZAD, from Natore

Nargis Khatun is still a housewife. She is a leading political figure either. Nargis did not think of politics even two months ago. She is now a mayoral candidate in Charghat municipality.

As the lone female contender in Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions, Nargis Khatun is now in the limelight for her unlike fashion of convincing the voters.

Wife of local Awami League leader Rahenul Haq, Nargis said she runs in the polls not because of her husband's legacy, but for the demand of the voters and local AL leaders and activists.

"Education of my two sons was the only concern of my life before the announcement of my candidature last month; but it was love and respect of the people, which plunged me into the electoral race."

On Monday night, Nargis told The Daily Star that she came across a string of criticism from the rival contenders in the last one month of campaign, yet she did not give in to that.

"I told them the prime minister is also a woman who runs the entire country whereas my responsibility will be a small municipality."

A graduate who showed no wealth in her affidavit, Nargis launched her campaign marathon to reach every voter in the municipality, day or night.

"When all the candidates are giving countless promises, I just told my voters that I will try to do something good for them if elected," she said.

Dilapidated roads, lack of drinking water, and unemployment are the main problems in Charghat municipality.

"I along with the locals will first ensure drinking water for all and then will try to improve road communication," Nargis said.

The other mayoral candidates in the municipality are AL rebel candidate Mohammad Akhteruzzaman, BNP-nominated Yunus Ali Talukder, and incumbent Mayor Zakirul Islam Bipul.



Nargis Khatun

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Mild to moderate cold wave and severe cold wave is sweeping over several regions and it may continue for next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Severe cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Srimongal, Syedpur and Kushtia and mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping elsewhere over Khulna, Rangpur, Dhaka, Barisal and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Sitakunda, Comilla and Noakhali and it may continue.

Weather may remain dry over the country. Moderate to thick fog may occur over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the river basins of the country and light to moderate for may occur elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:30pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 24.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 06.3 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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 | 18.3 | 08.4 | 79 | 72 |
| Chittagong | 20.5 | 12.6 | 65 | 64 |
| Rajshahi | 18.0 | 08.0 | 87 | 79 |
| Rangpur | 16.5 | 07.8 | 93 | 88 |
| Khulna | 15.8 | 09.0 | 93 | 88 |
| Barisal | 16.5 | 07.4 | 96 | 83 |

HARASSING WOMAN

Army officer beaten

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mob beat up a serving army officer in plain clothes for allegedly abusing a woman verbally at Mouchak in the city last night.

The officer was handed over to on-duty police near the spot. Police then sent the officer holding the rank of lieutenant colonel to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, as he was drunk. Later he was taken back to Ramna Police Station from the hospital after washing his stomach.

On information, some army officials in civil dress along with some uniformed soldiers rushed to the police station to rescue the officer. Following hour-long discussion with army officials, police handed over the lieutenant colonel with minor injuries.

The victim woman's husband gave a written complaint against the army officer, which Ramna police took as a general dairy, said Officer-in-charge Shiblee Noman.

DHAKA TODAY

Hunger strike

Bangladesh MPD Banchita Shikkhak Forum will hold a hunger strike. Venue: In front of Shikkha Bhaban, Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

BIDS will organise a seminar. Venue: BIDS

conference room, Time: 11:00am.

Art competition

British Council's Resource Centre will organise an art competition. Venue: 5, Fuller Road, Time: 11:30am.

Memorial meeting

A memorial meeting on Saba will be held.