

NEWS IN *brief*

'Stop breaking toxic ships'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 40 national and international organisations yesterday called on the prime minister for necessary measures to stop dumping and breaking of hazardous and toxic ships in the beach to protect environment and natural resources.

NGO Shipbreaking Platform, a global coalition of the organisations, through a letter, asked for proper intervention against irresponsible ship breaking practices, says a press release.

'Tighten security at temples'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hindu communities yesterday demanded tightening securities of temples across the country, says a press release.

Mahanagar Sarbojaneen Puja Committee formed human chains countrywide including the city yesterday to make the demand.

Adv Subrata Choudhury, Adv Rana Dassh Gupta, and Biresh Chandra Saha spoke at the human chain among others.

Robbery in Malibagh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed robbers looted cash and gold ornaments from an Awami League leader's house at Chowdhurypara in the city's Malibagh yesterday.

Around 150 tolas (1,750 grammes) of gold ornaments and Tk 70,000 in cash were looted, the family members told Rampura police.

Hospital joins World Cup festivities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital will provide free health services as a part of festivities of upcoming World Cup Cricket.

The two-month long services will start in the Homestone Chanel 1 Adivasi fare in Cox's Bazaar to be held on January 14.

Doctors will spread messages such as a fit body can help win the world cup or prevention is the main cure among visitors.

Debate competition held

METRO DESK

United Nations Development Programme and Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies held a debate competition at Dhaka University.

The Academia School was declared champion while Md Tausif Amin Khan and Mastura Tasneem were declared as the best speakers.

The champions will represent Bangladesh in Saarc Debate to be held in Delhi in February 2011.

SUST classes start Jan 24

UNIVERSITY CORRESPONDENT

Classes of the newly admitted students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) of 2010-2011 sessions in Sylhet starts on January 24.

"This decision came during academic council meeting on Sunday," said Dr Abdul Gani, a council member.

'Ties with Bangladesh excellent'

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Denmark Ambassador in Dhaka Svend Olling yesterday said Bangladesh was recognised as a model nation in mitigating and adapting to climate change at the Copenhagen climate change summit last year.

He said this when he called on Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni at her office.

Ambassador Olling said his government viewed relations with Bangladesh as excellent.



A mother wraps a shawl over her child to keep them warm in the cold during a rickshaw ride in front of Curzon Hall at Dhaka University yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 8th death anniversary of former minister M Mansur Ali, says a press

release.

On the occasion, M Mansur Ali Smrity Sangsad will organise a discussion and doa mahfil tomorrow at 4:15pm at Satkhira Jana Samity Office in the city's Panthapath.

Friends, relatives, and well-wishers are invited to attend the function.

Mansur who was cabinet minister in 1979 died in 2003 at the age of 75.

Ziaur Rahman

METRO DESK



Today is the second death anniversary of Md Ziaur Rahman (Rubu), a

renowned cricketer of the 1960s, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani will be held at House No 8, Block A, Pallabi Extension, in Mirpur of the city today.

Rubu's relatives, friends, and well-wishers are requested to pray for the departed soul.

Daniel Corraya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 8th death anniversary of Daniel Corraya, former president of Bangladesh Christian Association, says a press release.

On the occasion, a mass will be held at 6:15am at Holly Rozary Church in the city's Tejgaon.

Leaders of Bangladesh Christian Association will place wreaths to his graveyard there at 8:30am.

Dhaka, Thimphu trade to go up to \$100m, hopes Bhutanese PM

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting Bhutanese Prime Minister Jigmi Y Thinley hoped that bilateral trade could go up to US \$ 100 million from current US\$ 30 million in the next few years.

In an interview with the news agency at his Sonargaon Hotel suit on Tuesday night Thinley said, "We both the sides see the possibilities of very rapid expansion of bilateral trade going up to US \$ 100 million within next few years."

"We are also looking at trade in services."

Thinley said Bhutan can also take advantage of Bangladesh's human resources-professionals, skilled and semi-skilled people to develop their

infrastructure, industries and information technology.

Asked how many doctors Bhutan is planning to recruit from Bangladesh, he said it would be nice if 25-30 doctors could be recruited on yearly basis for the next three years. Some of these doctors will be highly specialised and some general doctors with 5 years' experience.

Asked whether the theory of Gross National Happiness (GNH) can be applicable for Bangladesh as well, Thinley said many of the programmes of the Bangladesh government are creating conditions for pursuit of happiness and enabling people to be happy.

BSS Adds: The Bhutanese premier said the geographic



Jigmi Y Thinley

features that made his country landlocked would not obstruct Thimphu's connectivity or cooperation particularly in energy sector with Bangladesh.

He told the state-run news agency in the interview with the private news agency.

Thinley, who earlier assured Hasina of extending

cooperation in the hydropower sector, said his country expected to reach a deal "as soon as possible" on energy cooperation but right this moment it was "over capacitated" with its pledges to India in exporting electricity.

Asked about the trade or business relations, he said the two sides already have identified many tradable goods, as "there are so many complementary items."

"For instances, I can tell you Bangladesh can export vegetables to Bhutan during winter months (when extreme cold hampers production in Bhutan) while we can export vegetables to your country in summer months," he said.

The Bhutanese premier

also suggested the tour operators of the two countries to attract western tourists to visit the mountainous kingdom and Bangladesh under a single trip.

Thinley called Bangladesh's offer to Thimphu in using its port facilities as a gesture of "largeness of heart and sympathy" for the landlocked "smaller neighbour" like Bhutan and said "it would be extremely useful" for his country.

"We will be sending a team of experts to study how best Bhutan can avail the facilities immediately and in future," he said.

He also stressed exploring more trade routes between the two countries beyond the existing only route through Fulpur frontier.

Save birds from extinction

Sheikh Rehana urges all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sheikh Rehana, youngest daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, yesterday called upon all to save birds saying a number of bird species of the country is becoming extinct day by day.

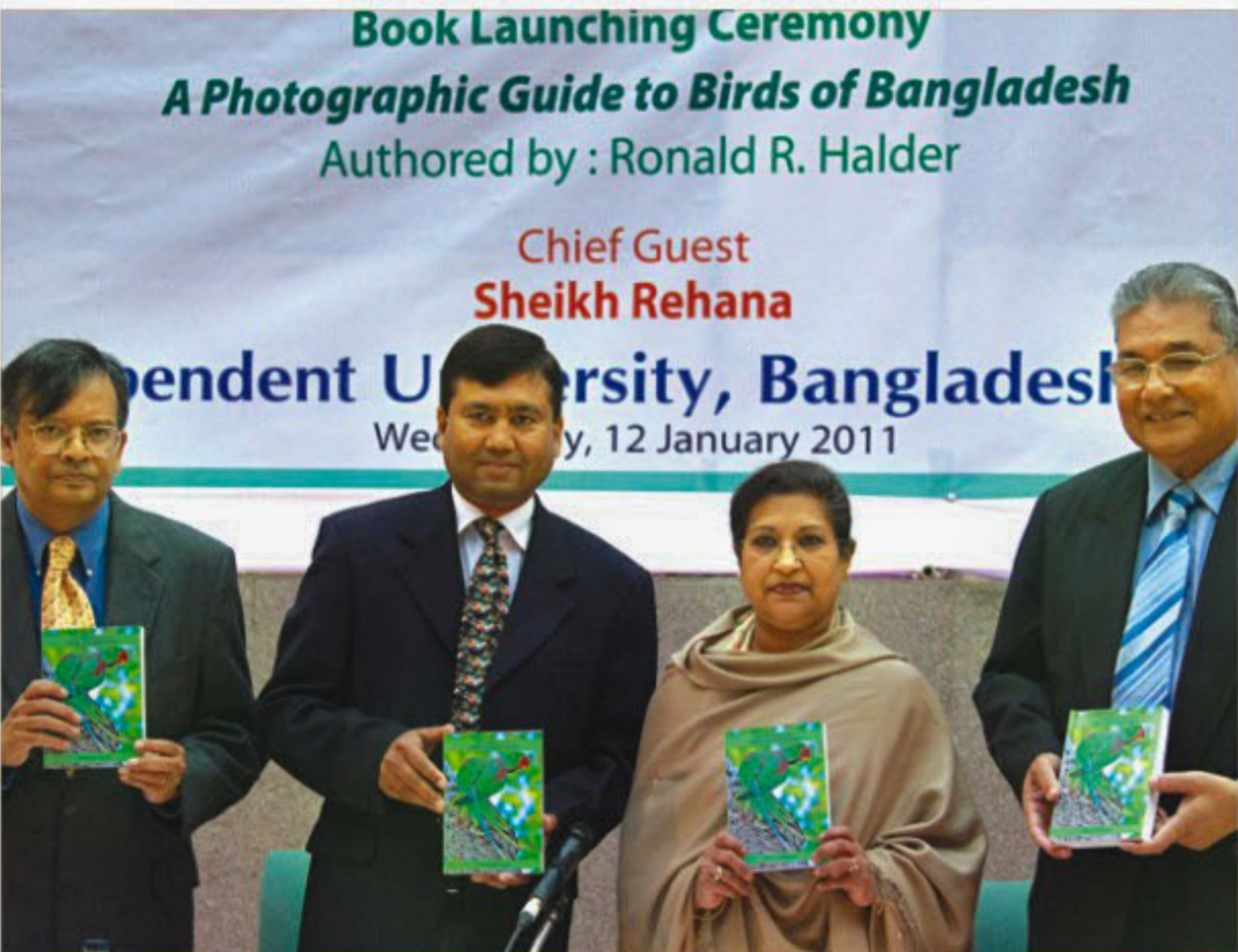
"We all should care more about birds and grow more affection for the independent but weak creature," she told a launching ceremony of a book titled "A photographic guide to birds of Bangladesh" written by Ronald R Halder.

Independent University, Bangladesh organised the function on its Bashundhara campus in the city.

Ronald R Halder said the lives of two birds of every eight birds in the globe are at stake and destruction of birds' habitat is the main reason behind their extinction.

The book is first of its kind in the country to recognise birds through illustration. It contains photographs of 472 main species birds in Bangladesh, said the organisers.

IUB Governing Council Chairman Towhid Samad; Vice Chancellor (in charge) Prof M Omar Rahman; IUCN Country Representative Dr Niaz Ahmed Khan; Ornithologist and Bangladesh Bird Club President Enam Ul Haque and environmentalist Enam Talukdar also spoke.



Sheikh Rehana, second from right, holds a copy of the book on birds of Bangladesh at its publication ceremony on Baridhara-Bashundhara campus of Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) in the city yesterday. On her right are Ronald Halder and M Omar Rahman and on her left is Towhid Shamad.

PHOTO: STAR

People lose confidence in admin

Says CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday said the people are losing confidence in the civil administration day by day, as it has become biased and a great deal.

He also emphasised restoration of the confidence while addressing to the government officials, candidates, and others at Nabiganj Upazila Parishad auditorium in Habiganj.

Reunion

METRO DESK

The reunion of alumni association of Motijheel (Central) Government School will be held on January 21 on the school premises, says a press release. All concerned are requested for registration at the school by January 17.

25 arrested for illegal registration of SIM cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a massive drive at different places in the city during the last two days arrested 25 people for selling subscriber identity modules (SIM) of different mobile operators using fake identities and photos for registration.

Rab personnel also seized 437 SIM cards of different mobile operators, 120 fake national identity cards and over 500 fake photos from their possession.

Rab officials said they launched the massive drive to curb various crimes through the illegal use of cell phones.

According to Rab and police, extortion demands, threats to high-profile people and harassment of women over cell phones are going unabated, especially in the capital.

Police can hardly trace perpetrators as many of the SIM cards used in the crimes are unregistered or their registrations are based on false information.

Rab official sources said Rab-1 personnel arrested 8 people from Mohakhali and seized 115 SIM cards with fake registration from their possession. Rab-2 personnel

arrested 6 people from Adabar and seized 120 fake national identity cards, 150 fake passport size photos and 690 subscriber's forms from them.

Accordingly, Rab-3 members arrested 3 people from Moulana Bhashani Stadium area and seized 49 SIM cards with fake registrations, Rab-4 personnel arrested 4 people from Shah Ali Plaza in Mirpur and seized 93 SIM cards with fake registrations, 104 forms and 350 fake photos and Rab-10 members arrested 4 people with 64 SIM cards with fake registrations.

Earlier on March 10 last year, the government introduced fresh measures tightening the registration process of SIM cards following a rise in the use of cell phone for criminal activities.

A 10-member committee headed by BTRC chairman was also formed for recommendations regarding curbing of cell phone crimes.

According to sources, 15 lakh SIM cards have so far been blocked for irregularities in registration process or their abuse by subscribers.



Obituary

METRO DESK

Mohamm-ad Abdul Halim, former director of technical education, passed away in the city on Monday at the age of 80, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and three daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was the principal of polytechnic institutes of Chittagong, Dhaka and Rangpur and an expert teacher at Islamic University of Technology.

He will be laid to rest at his family graveyard at Harinkata, Shenbag in Noakhali today.



Cold wave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Severe and mild cold wave is sweeping over several parts of the country and it may continue for next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Severe cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions the regions of Tangail, Jessore and Kushtia and mild cold wave is sweeping over the rest of the Dhaka and Barisal divisions and the regions of Srimongal, Rangamati, Chandpur, Feni and Khulna and it may continue.

Weather may remain dry over the country. Moderate to thick fog may occur over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Rangpur and Sylhet 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 5:31pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 23.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 04.5 degrees Celsius at Jessore.

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening		Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	17.1	08.5	87	68	Khulna	17.7	08.0	93	76
Chittagong	20.0	11.4	91	62	Barisal	21.8	08.0	97	76
Rajshahi	16.1	05.0	93	84	Sylhet	20.9	11.7	90	85