

NEWS IN *brief*

IUBAT founding celebration today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 19th foundation celebrations of International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) will be held today. Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzak will inaugurate the programme on IUBAT campus in the city's Uttara at 10:30am. Dr M Alimullah Miyan, vice chancellor and founder of the private university, will chair event. A seminar on "Role of Higher Education in Social Development" will also be held at the inaugural session.

Call to protect domestic workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a human chain yesterday demanded formulation and full implementation of an effective policy to stop all forms of violence and discrimination against domestic workers and ensure their security and protection. The human chain was jointly organised by Nagorik Uddyog and Partnership of Women in Action (POWA) in front of city's National Museum, says a press release.

Arrest of robbers demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad yesterday demanded immediate arrest of miscreants who robbed Dhakeshwari National Temple on January 8 and beefing up security measures in the temple and other temples in the country. They placed the demands at a press conference on the temple premises in the city, says a press release. They also demanded recovery of the temple's properties illegally occupied by encroachers. The parishad President Subrata Chowdhury and General Secretary Mangol Chandra Gosh also spoke at the press conference.

'Release Mishu'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighteen women leaders and 12 left-leaning leaders yesterday demanded unconditional release of detained garment workers' leader Moshrefa Mishu. In a joint statement, the women leaders said violation of human rights occurred when Mishu was 'tortured' in police remand and they termed it an extreme insult to the woman leadership. The women leaders include Meghna Guha Thakurta, Sara Hossain, Dr Hamida Hossain, Khushi Kabir, Shirin Haque and Salma Ali while 12 left-leaning leaders are Badruddin Umar, Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Khalekuzzaman, Tipu Biswas, Saiful Haque, Zonaed Saki, Hamidul Haque, Mosharrif Hossain Nannu, Shibli Kaium, Badrul Alam, Matin Talukder and Masud Khan.

DBBL donates 30,000 blankets

METRO DESK

Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited donated 30,000 pieces of blankets to poor and floating people around the country. In this regard, the bank's Chairman Mohammed Sahabuddin Ahmed handed over a sample blanket to Food and Disaster Management Minister Muhammad Abdur Razaque at the minister's residence in the city yesterday, says a press release. Secretary Aslam Alam; Additional Secretary Atish Kumar Mukut Moni, the ministry Joint Secretary Abdul Wazed, Directorate of Relief and Rehabilitation Director General Zahirul Haque, Bureau of Disaster Management Director General Ashan Jakir, Disaster Management and Relief Division Joint Secretary Fazlul Haque and Assignment Officer to Prime Minister Manoj Kanti Baral were also present on the occasion.



Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda speaks at a discussion titled "Local government election: Expectation and mass media" at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University yesterday organised by the university's Mass Communication and Journalism Department Alumni Association. PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

LOCAL GOVT POLLS

Army deployment the last resort, says CEC

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday reiterated his position against deployment of army during any local government polls. Huda told a meeting that he is displeased as Election Commission (EC) decided to deploy army in municipal polls this time. "We don't want army in the election. It's our last resort. We should not call in army without any proper reason." He said army should not be thought of as an alternative to police and administration. It will not benefit the nation in the long run, he added. Huda stressed the culture of army deployment during elections must end; rather administration and police should have the capacity to conduct a poll. Mass Communication and Journalism Alumni Association of Dhaka University (DU) arranged the

meeting at Senate Bhaban.

Titled "Local government elections: People's desire and mass media," it was chaired by Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique. Huda said EC is satisfied with the overall situation of the polls to 121 municipalities and the turnout rate. "I can certainly say the voters were able to exercise their franchise in favour of their chosen candidates," he added. He also described the municipal polls completely free, fair, and neutral saying EC was successful in providing the voters with this climate. The CEC also congratulated Nargis Khatun, the lone lady mayor elected from Charghat municipality of Natore in Rajshahi. Awami League Joint Secretary Mahbub-ul Alam Hanif said the last week municipal election was one of the most fair, free, and neutral polls ever held.

He said the government believes the local government will be strengthened if honest and competent people are elected at local level. Information Commissioner Prof Sadeka Halim and TIB Executive Director of Dr Iftekharuzzaman attended the discussion as special guests. Prof Golam Rahman, Prof Jahida Rahman Khan, Prof Sheikh Abdus Salam, Associate Prof Robayet Ferdous, Dr Abul Monsur Ahmed, Senate member Subash Singha Roy, and Prothom Alo associate editor Sohrab Hasan took part in it. UNB adds: CEC said political parties do business in exchange of giving nomination to their candidates in local body elections. EC has made legal reforms in choosing honest and competent candidates, he said, adding that political parties should carefully nominate their contenders.

Journo Iqbal Rizvi passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist Syed Iqbal Rizvi, an associate editor of the daily Good Morning and member of the National Press Club, passed away in the city's Central Hospital yesterday at the age of 73, says a press release. He left behind his wife, 3 sons and 3 daughters. The managing committee of the National Press Club condoled his death. Santosh Mukherjee STAFF CORRESPONDENT Santosh Mukherjee, adviser of the Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad Central Committee, died of cardiac arrest on Tuesday night at the age of 70, says a press release. He left behind his wife and two sons. Puja Udjapan Parishad President Advocate Subrata Chowdhury and General Secretary Mangol Chandra Gosh condoled his death.

'2 yrs not enough to judge govt'

BSS, Dhaka

Former home minister and Awami League central leader Mohammad Nasim yesterday said an elected government couldn't be judged in two years as much of its tenure lies ahead. "It is unwise to credit or discredit a government when it has passed only

two years of its five-year term," he said at a discussion held at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city. Bangabandhu Academy organised the discussion marking two years of Awami League government in power. Chairman of Bangabandhu Academy Hemayet Uddin chaired the

function, which was also addressed by Awami League Presidium Member Satish Chandra Roy and Israfil Alam, MP. Satish Chandra urged the home ministry to deal the organised crimes with iron hand and find the masterminds behind the acts of terrorism and other social crimes.



AAM Zakaria, managing director of First Security Islami Bank Ltd (FSILBL), third from right, gives out blankets to the destitute children of Aparajeyo-Bangladesh, an NGO that provides accommodation to needy children, in the city recently. PHOTO: COURTESY



Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd Chairman Mohammed Sahabuddin Ahmed hands over a sample blanket, from 30,000 for donation to the poor, to Food and Disaster Management Minister Muhammad Abdur Razaque at the latter's residence in the city yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY

Maiming Children Faruk on 5-day remand

BSS, Dhaka

The man arrested on charges of maiming child Niamul after abducting him from Kamrangirchar area was taken on a five-day remand yesterday. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Court granted the remand for accused Omar Faruk on a prayer by Kamrangirchar police. Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Faruk from Khulaura area near Keraniganj on Friday. Rab sources said he was arrested on charges of maiming children and forcing them into begging and engaging girls in prostitution. Faruk confessed his guilt in primary investigation, said sources.

WEATHER TODAY

Temperature may rise

UNB, Dhaka

Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Khulna divisions and the regions of Barisal, Satkhira, Comilla, Feni and Srimongal and it may continue as mild light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Tangail and Mymensingh in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

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

Night temperature may rise by 1-2 degrees Celsius over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions and it may rise slightly elsewhere over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:33pm today and rises at 6:44am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 29.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sandwip and lowest 07.2 degrees Celsius at Jessore.

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	22.8	09.8	95	74
Chittagong	23.7	10.6	85	60
Rajshahi	22.0	08.5	100	83
Rangpur	19.5	08.0	97	87
Khulna	24.5	10.0	97	74
Barisal	24.0	09.5	100	84

DHAKA TODAY

Debate
Sher-e-Bangla Cup Debate Championship-2011 will be held. Venue: Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University auditorium, Time: 4:30pm.

Seminar
South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal and Human Rights Studies will arrange a seminar. Venue: Brac Centre Inn, 75, Mohakhali, Time: 2:00pm.

Human chain
Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal will form a human chain. Venue: Mukhtangan, Time: 3:00pm.

Convocation
Eastern University will arrange its second convocation. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 11:15am.

Seminar
Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities of Dhaka University will

CITY AL LEADER MURDER Police still clueless

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are yet to unearth the reason behind the killing of the general secretary of Awami League ward-41 unit of Agargaon and the gun attack on the president of the same unit. But they said the back-to-back attack might have been triggered by a row over securing party backing in running for councillor post in the next Dhaka City Corporation polls. A sub-inspector of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station preferring anonymity told this correspondent that the ward-41 AL president, Noor Mohammad, and general secretary Fazlul Huq were aspirants for the post. The SI said police were investigating whether the incidents had any link to the race for the ruling party blessings to contest in the polls. Armed criminals shot dead Fazlul Huq on Friday, six days into shooting Noor Mohammad to injury. Meanwhile, Neela Huq, widow of Fazlul Huq, filed a case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police accusing six unidentified people. Rab, DB and police have conducted separate drives in and outside the city hunting for clues. Law enforcers are also looking into whether drug trade was behind the incidents. Noor Mohammad allegedly controls drug trade in Agargaon area. Locals say ward-41 is notorious for heroin trade that involves crores of taka and tender business in seven public hospitals in the area.



We Deeply Mourn

The Board of Directors and the employees of Garisan Etika (M) Sdn Bhd, Malaysia are deeply grieved at the demise of Late Rashed Mowdud Khan, the Country's most respected Industrialist and Country Representative of Garisan Etika Bangladesh (Pvt) Ltd., on 9th January, 2011 in the Apollo Hospital, Dhaka. He was 74.

Late Rashed Mowdud Khan was a Banker and served in the then United Bank, Pakistan. He was the Chairman of Bengal Fine Ceramics Ltd. and President of Bangladesh Ceramic Ware Manufacturers Association (BCWMA). He played a Pioneering role in the Housing and RMG Sector. He was also Former Vice President of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industries (BCI). He was honoured with Hossain Shahid Suhrawardi National Award 2001. He actively participated in formulating the Government Policy Guidelines for Enhancement of Private Investment in the Power Generation Sector (Commercial IPP). He was Member of the Executive Committee of Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights-BSEHR. He was associated with different Philanthropic Organizations and well known for his generosity. Highly professional approach, business with personnel touch, perseverance and patriotism have made Late Rashed Mowdud Khan successful not only as a business man but also as a Contributor to the Development of Bangladesh Industries, especially Power Sector.

We express our heart-felt condolences and sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and pray to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of the departed soul.

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