

NEWS IN brief

'Monitor climate change funds'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) yesterday urged the government to strictly monitor the projects that received funds for afforestation and climate change mitigation related activities.

SC clears way for Jhalakathi polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for holding election to Jhalakathi municipality scheduled for January 27.

Teachers' assocs demand MPO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Leaders of different teachers' associations yesterday reiterated their demands including monthly pay order, increase dearness, house, medical allowances, festival bonus and annual increment.

Five doctors suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The health and family welfare ministry has suspended five doctors for unauthorised absent from their workplaces and decided to file departmental cases against them.

'Establish permanent campus'

UNB, Dhaka
President Zillur Rahman has asked the private universities to ensure proper logistic support for the students along with establishing permanent campus to facilitate the higher education.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held a meeting with Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi, UAE yesterday. (Related story on Page 20)

DEFAMATION CASE Prof Yunus gets bail in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh
A Mymensingh court yesterday granted Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus bail against a Tk-5,000 bond in connection with a defamation case filed against him.

Lawyers not doing job properly: CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque yesterday said the lawyers are not doing their job properly in respect of protecting good people and resisting the evil people.

Train derails in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar
Compartment of a train derailed on Sylhet-Dhaka and Sylhet-Chittagong routes in Bargachh area near Bhanugachh Railway Station of the district yesterday afternoon.

INCIDENTS OF RAPE IN 1971 Collecting evidence tough Say investigators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Investigators of International Crimes Tribunal are facing hurdles in collecting evidences of rape offences committed during the liberation war in 1971, as the victims feel uncomfortable to expose.

Sister of an investigator of the tribunal, who had fallen victim to rape during the War of Liberation also denied to speak before the tribunal

She said Bangladesh should adopt special measures for the safety of victims who will speak to the investigators of the tribunal.

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ARSENIC IN BANGLADESH, WEST BENGAL

100m people face health hazards



Dhaka Community Hospital Trust Coordinator Professor Mahmuder Rahman addresses an international conference on arsenic poisoning at the hospital's auditorium.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Some 100 million people in Bangladesh and West Bengal of India are exposed to risk from groundwater arsenic contamination, according to experts from home and abroad.

senic health and water supply management: affordability and sustainability" at Dhaka Community Hospital (DCH) auditorium in the capital yesterday.

research on the poisonous chemical, said he found many women in West Bengal, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh suffering from lung cancer.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
NG Banu, wife of Osman Ghani Khan, passed away at the city's Square Hospital on Sunday at the age of 86, says a press release.

DIVISION TO FORMER MOTIJHEEL OC Court summons jail authorities to explain

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday asked the jail authorities to appear before it on January 24 to explain why first class division was provided to former Motijheel police chief, an accused in Kamrul Islam Momin killing case.

Kaler Kantha editor gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to the daily Kaler Kantha editor and its publisher in connection with a defamation case filed by Xenovalley Model Town against them.

increasing number of patients with arsenical skin damages. Arsenic is a serious problem in food chain, especially in rice and vegetables, he added.

Brac University Vice-chancellor Dr Ainun Nishat said, "I feel bad that this serious problem of arsenic is neglected. I don't know why."

Nishat, also a water expert, suggested highlighting the issue in the global forums for a clear understanding to the policymakers and donors.

DCH Trust Chairman Prof Quazi Quamruzzaman said the main source of drinking water in Bangladesh is tube wells.

As shallow tube wells are found lifting arsenic-contaminated groundwater, international agencies are suggesting for installing deep tube wells, he added.

On the other hand, very few are advocating for use of surface water saying the water contains bacteria and germs, he added.

"We however are in favour of using surface water, as filtering bacteria of surface water is easier than filtering arsenic from water."

Prof David C Christiani, Elkan professor of Environment Genetics, and Zuena Aziz, joint secretary of the LGED ministry, jointly chaired the conference.

DCH coordinator Prof Mahmuder Rahman, Prof David Bellinger of Harvard University, and Prof Ravi Naidu of University of South Australia also addressed it.

WEATHER TODAY logo with a sun and cloud icon.

Cold wave may continue

Table with weather forecast for various cities: Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal. Columns include Max/Min temperature in Celsius and Humidity in percentage.

DHAKA TODAY Roundtable, Meeting, Seminar, Protest rally, and Reception events listing dates, times, and venues.