'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.

FNB leaders welcomed the allotment of Tk 8.3 crore to 25 NGOs. But regular monitoring is needed to ensure that the funds are used accordingly, says a press release.

They raised concern on how the NGOs were selected, and hoped that the organisations will implement the proposed projects efficiently.

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.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque upheld its chamber judge's order that stayed the HC order halting the process for holding election to the municipality.

In response to a writ petition, the HC on December 6 last year also issued a rule upon the Election Commission to explain why the voter list of the municipality should not be declared illegal

The apex court yesterday also directed the HC to dispose of the rule by January 23. It passed the order after disposing of a petition for

vacating its chamber judge's order that stayed the HC order. Following a petition filed by Monirul Islam, a mayoral candidate, the chamber judge of the

Appellate Division on December 15 stayed for six weeks the HC order. Abdul Halim Gazi, a voter in the municipality

filed the writ petition with the HC challenging the voter list.

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.

Bangladesh Teachers' Association President Sajeda Begum, Bangladesh Shikkhok Karmochari Sangrami Oikya Parishad Chief Coordinator Nazrul Islam Roni, College Teachers' Association President Prof Manjurul Amin Shekhor and Assistant Teachers' Association Secretary General Bashiruddin in a joint statement placed the demands.

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.

They are assistant surgeon Dr Enayet Ullah, medical officer Dr Sazzad Hossain, Dr Shaila Sharmin and Dr Anika Newar Sadia of Upazila Health Complex, Bhuapur of Tangail and Junior consultant (ENT) Dr Mostafa Kamal of Gazipur Sadar Hospital.

The ministry on Monday issued five notices to take the action against the doctors.

'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.

Zillur made the call when a four-member delegation from American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), led by its vice chancellor Dr Carmen Z Lamagna, called on him at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.



Cold wave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Sandwip, Sitakunda, Comilla and Noakhali and it may continue in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Weather may remain dry over the country with partly cloudy sky over northern

part of the country, Met Office said. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins of the country during

midnight till morning.

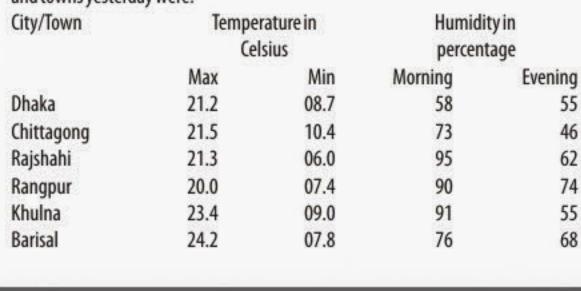
Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:35pm today and rises at 6:43am

Country's highest temperature 24.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at

Patuakhali and lowest 05.5 degrees Celsius at Ishwardi and Chuadanga. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities

and towns yesterday were: **Humidity** in City/Town Temperature in Celsius percentage Evening Max 21.2 08.7 58





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

DEFAMATION CASE **Prof Yunus** gets bail in Mymensingh OUR CORRESPONDENT,

A Mymensingh court yester-

day granted Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus bail against a Tk-5,000 bond in connection with a defamation case filed against him. Nazrul Islam Chunnu,

Mymensingh

City

joint secretary of Mymensingh unit Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), filed the case on January 21, 2007 Yunus criticised politicians.

Chunnu quoted Yunus as saying in an interview, "They [politicians] are only after money. Their politics has nothing to do with ideology.'

The lawsuit referred to an interview with international news agency AFP at the head office of Grameen Bank on January 17, 2007. The plaintiff in the case said the interview was published in different newspapers the following day.

Yesterday, the microcredit guru appeared before the cognisance court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Rozina Khan in Mymensingh at 11:30am.

A legal defence team led by advocate AHM Khalequzzaman sought bail for Yunus.

Granting him bail, the court asked him to appear before it on February 20. However, the magistrate excused Yunus from appearing before the court in the flesh after his lawyers appeal to the court.

Talking to newsmen, Prof Yunus said he was happy on getting bail.

Judicial Magistrate Jahangir Hossain had conducted a judicial enquiry into the case and submitted its report to the court in December last year.

District unit president of Ganatantri Party Prof Atiqur Rahman, JSD secretary advocate Sadik Hossain, secretary of Workers Party of Bangladesh Sujit Barmon and advocate Abdul Motalab Lal, among others, gave their statements to the enquiry body, according to a source.

The court on December 19 summoned Yunus to appear before it on January 18.

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.

She left behind her one son and two daughters.

She was buried at the Banani Graveyard. Her Qulkhwani will be held at her Dhanmondi residence after Maghrib prayers tomorrow.

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

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.

Addressing as the chief guest at a reunion of Bijaya 2010 at the Supreme Court Bar Association, the chief justice said the lawyers' job is to protect the honest people and resist the evil.

"But, are you doing this? No, you are not doing so, which is very sad," he told the lawyers.

Stressing the need for reforming the Hindu law, he requested the people who are working to protect the rights of Hindu, to do something to reform the Hindu law.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council Abdul Baset Majumdar, among others, spoke at the programme.

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.

However, no casualty was reported in the incident.

Abdus Salam, stationmaster of the railway station, said the disruption occurred at about 4:45pm after a compartment of Sylhet-bound Paharika Express from Chittagong derailed at Bargachh area in between Bhanugachh and Shamsernagar railway stations.

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.

"They [rape victims] do not willingly come up with the specific allegation of rape, but talk about other affairs," said Muhammad Abdul Hannan Khan, an investigator of the tribunal. Giving example, Khan

said sister of an investigator of the tribunal, who had fallen victim to rape during the war also denied to speak before the tribunal saying their family will be spoiled if they do so. As the crimes like rape

had occurred 40 years back and many of the victims are now living in the society, the victims should tell their stories in front of cameras so that prosecutors can place those before the tribunal, he said. Khan was addressing a

workshop tiled "Repressed Women and International Crimes Tribunal" organised by the Liberation War Museum at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

Making a slide-show presentation, Laurel E Fletcher, a professor of Yale University in USA, said rape is recognised as crime against humanity by the international laws.

He said evidence collec-

tion of rapes during the liberation war of Bangladesh can be a tough task but not impossible.

The legal expert said trial of rape and other forms of sexual harassment can be delivered in the line of other crimes committed during the war.

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.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed, the chief guest, said there will be no shortage of evidences to probe crimes occurred during the war, as the investigators will receive them from several government and non-government sources.

LWM Trustee Mofidul Hoque moderated the workshop attended by several prosecutors of the tribunal, former diplomats, and representatives from different organisations.

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. PHOTO: COURTESY

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

Arsenic-contaminated water and food can cause various diseases including cancer, which may be a major problem in Bangladesh and India in future, they said. The health risks also include skin

lesions, respiratory problems, cardiac disease, nervous system disorders, reproductive defects, diabetes mellitus, and cancers of organs like skin, lung, kidney, and bladder.

The observations came at an international conference on "ar-

COURT CORRESPONDENT

SPP Rafiqul in his petition.

Kamrul Islam Momin killing case.

DIVISION TO FORMER MOTIJHEEL OC

Court summons jail

authorities to explain

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

Tribunal-4 passed the order after Special Public Prosecutor

(SPP) SM Rafiqul Islam submitted a petition challenging the

legality of giving division to ex-officer-in-charge (OC) of

OC Rafique's first class division is illegal as he is not in the

rank of people who are entitled to get the privilege, claimed

Motijheel Police Station AKM Rafiqul Islam in custody.

Judge Mohammad Rezaul Islam of the Speedy Trial

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

Harvard School of Public Health, Harvard University, USA; Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA; School of Environmental Studies (SOES), Jadavpur University, Kolkata; CRC Care, University of South Australia; and DCH organised it.

"Many people in the Ganga-Meghna-Brhammaputra basins will die in the long run due to cancer," said Dr Dipankar Chakraborti, director (Research) at SOES of Jadavpur University.

Chakraborti, who first discovered arsenic in India and did extensive

Kaler Kantha

COURT CORRESPONDENT

editor gets bail

granted bail to the daily

Kaler Kantha editor and its

publisher in connection

with a defamation case filed

by Xenovalley Model Town

Konika Bishwas passed the

bail order after the daily's

Editor Abed Khan and

Publisher Mostafa Kamal

Mohiuddin surrendered

before it and sought bail in

Metropolitan Magistrate

against them.

the case.

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

According to a research, he cited, 6.4 tonnes of arsenic has been deposited in soil from 320 irrigation tube wells over an area of 200 square kilometers in India.

"Similar or even more acute would be the situation in Bangladesh." The authorities, however, are still negligent to the issue, Chakraborti added.

He also cited a 2009 survey as saying about 16,000 patients were registered with different type of arsenical skin lesions after screening of 1.55 lakh people from affected villages in India.

The researcher said they find an

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 said. 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. Mahmuder Rahman, Prof David Bellinger of Harvard University, and Prof Ravi Naidu of University of

DCH coordinator Prof South Australia also addressed it.

A Dhaka court yesterday

Roundtable The Daily Prothom Alo will organise a roundtable. Venue: 100, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Karwan Bazar, Time:

63, New Eskaton, Time: 9:00am.

Gonotantrik Baam Morcha will organise

a protest rally. Venue: Muktangan, Time:

Seminar

Protest rally

10:30am. A national seminar on human trafficking

will be held. Venue: Biam auditorium,

A workshop on violence against women will be held. Venue: Sheraton hotel, Time: 10:30am.

Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul

Committee will organise a meeting.

Venue: TSC auditorium, Dhaka

University, Time: 3:00pm.

Reception

Workshop

Meeting

IUBAT will hold a reception