



NEWS IN *brief*

Danish envoy calls on Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka
Danish Ambassador Svend Olling called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office yesterday.

During the meeting, matters of bilateral cooperation between Bangladesh and Denmark were discussed, party sources said.

BNP Vice-chairman Shamsur Mobin Chowdhury and Khaleda's advisers Reaz Rahman and Sabihuddin Ahmed were present.

Two die in sunshade collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two construction workers were killed and two others injured when a sunshade of an under-construction semi pucca building collapsed at Abul Kasem colony adjoining Kalurghat BICIS industrial area in the port city yesterday.

The deceased were Saheen, 30, and Abdul Mazid, 25. Injured were Nazrul Islam and Kamrul.

'UPDF attacked PCJSS'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti (PCJSS) in a statement yesterday claimed that United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) attacked on PCJSS supporters on Friday.

PCJSS Assistant Information and Publicity Secretary Sajib Chakma also refuted any "gunfight between PCJSS and UPDF" on that day as was reported in the media.



Cold wave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Mymensingh, Tangail, Madaripur, Sandwip, Sitakunda, Rangamati, Comilla, Satkhira, Jessore, Kushtia and Barisal and it may continue for next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met office said. Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:38pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 26.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Feni and lowest 06.2 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	23.5	12.0	67	52
Chittagong	23.6	12.0	77	71
Rajshahi	23.0	07.7	96	75
Rangpur	22.4	08.6	95	68
Khulna	24.3	10.6	85	60
Barisal	24.0	09.4	89	78

Prothom Alo wins Gold Standard Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Prothom Alo, a leading Bengalee daily, won the Gold Standard Award in Corporate Social Responsibility 2010 for outstanding programmes against acid violence in Bangladesh.

The Gold Standard Awards is a Hong Kong based organisation that recognises global excellence in the field of Asia Pacific-related public and corporate affairs every year.

The awards were presented at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Hong Kong on January 20.

A press release yesterday said around 140 entries in 14 categories participated in this year's competition.

In the corporate social responsibility category, Hill and Knowlton (Hong Kong), The Environmental Protection Department of the Hong Kong Government, The Bhutan HPV Vaccine Program: the Royal Government of Bhutan, Merck (MSD) and the Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation (ACCF) and Syngenta Asia Pacific PTE Ltd: Syngenta Connections Programme also participated.

Last year Care Bangladesh won the award for NGO engagement.

Jute worker suffers burn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A man suffered burns in a fire at a jute depot in Paba upazila of the district yesterday.

The victim, Mosharraf Hossain, 30, is a worker of Rahman Jute Mills Limited.

The fire originated around 1:30pm and soon the place was full of smoke. Fellow workers found Mosharraf lying unconscious inside the depot and took him to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Seven firefighting units were trying to douse the fire till filing of the report at 6:45pm.

1,984 more students awarded on concluding day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day prize giving ceremony among the students for reading books ended in the city yesterday.

Biswa Sahitya Kendra organised the programme at Ramna Batamul to award 5,181 students from 100 schools in the city who achieved success in the book reading competition.

A total of 1,984 students from 31 schools received awards on the concluding day yesterday.

Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, the founding president of Biswa Sahitya Kendra, Matiur Rahman, editor and publisher of the Prothom Alo, Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, writer Imdadul Haque Milon, Shafiq Al Mehedi, secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and Khairul Alam Sabuj, an actor, distributed prizes as the guests at the function.

Hundreds of winners of the competition started gathering at the venue since afternoon.

Elated with receiving the prizes, the youngsters chanted "We will read books, we will build enlightened nation."

Biswa Sahitya Kendra has been arranging the programme for the last 14 years with a view to building an enlightened nation.

Prof Abudullah Abu Sayeed in his speech said, "We would definitely achieve success if the good citizens unite against the odds."

He hoped that the good people would come forward to build a beautiful and prosperous Bangladesh through their works.

Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman said the Biswa Sahitya Kendra has proved itself as the best institution through its activities. He said "We have to build the country loving it like mother."



International Cooperation Minister of Canada Beverley J Oda pays a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban in the city yesterday. PHOTO: PMO

Municipal polls were most peaceful in history: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has described the recently held municipal polls as the most peaceful in the history of Bangladesh.

She said the results and environment of the municipal elections substantiated the present government's commitment to ensuring people's right to free, fair, neutral and peaceful vote.

The premier made the remarks when visiting International Cooperation Minister of Canada Beverley J Oda paid a courtesy call on her at Gono Bhaban yesterday evening.

Hasina told the Canadian minister that after taking the office, the present government has made the Election Commission completely independent.

Whenever Awami League took charge of the government it gave its best efforts to establish people's democratic rights, she said. "We always work to establish the power of the people," the premier was quoted as saying by her Deputy Press Secretary Nazrul Islam.

Empowerment of the mass people would ultimately accelerate the national endeavour towards achieving rule of law, good governance, transparency and accountability, observed Hasina.

The Canadian minister praised the visionary leadership of Sheikh Hasina, saying that she has been impressed to see Bangladesh's progress in socio-economic sectors.

She assured Hasina of the Canadian government's continued assistance to Bangladesh in all development sectors especially child and maternal healthcare.

Thanking the Canadian government for its cooperation, the prime minister discussed with Oda the present government's various programmes to ensure quality healthcare facilities for every citizen and achieve universal food security.

On the impact of climate change, Hasina said the government is implementing a 134-point action plan to save the people from the disastrous impacts of global warming.

Besides, she said green belts are being created in the coastal areas of the country.

PM's Adviser Gowhar Rizvi, Ambassador at-Large M Ziauddin and Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka Robert McDougall were present.

10 fibre-reinforced plastic boats for 50 fishermen in Savar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) yesterday in Savar handed over 10 boats, made of fibre-reinforced plastic, to 50 fishermen, one for five men, of the southwestern districts.

FAO delivered the boats as a part of its project -- 'Support to Assist Landless, Marginal and Small Farmers to Overcome Soaring Input and Food Prices in Impoverished Areas of Bangladesh', with the financial support of European Union Food Facility Fund.

Fisherman Yousuf Hawladar of Mehendiganj in Barisal, in his reaction, said he would not need to share his catch with the 'mohajons' (money lenders) as he could now sail his own boat.

The boats come with a 16 horse-powered engine, three fuel tanks, two life buoys, two anchors, two rudders, a compass, a radio receiver, a torch, sailcloth and a set of navigation bulbs.

El Zein El Muzamil, FAO senior emergency coordinator, said, "Unbreakable and unsinkable, the boats will last 25 years if properly maintained."

Department of Fisheries Director General Mahbubur Rahman Khan, FAO Representative Ad Spijkers and EU in Bangladesh Section Chief Koen Duchateau were present at the programme.

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