

NEWS IN *brief*

DMP ban on movement

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) imposed restriction on movement of people, except examinees, within 200 yards of examination centres on the occasion of SSC examinations in the city.

SSC, SSC (Vocational) and Dakhil examinations under the Dhaka Education Board will begin at different city centres on February 1.

In an announcement, DMP Commissioner Benazir Ahmed imposed the restriction for peaceful holding of the examinations.

The restriction will remain effective during the examination hours.

Prime Bank distributes blankets

METRO DESK

Prime Bank recently distributed blankets to the winter-stricken people at Domar upazila, Dimla upazila of Nilphamari and Boda upazila of Panchagarh, says a press release.

Abu Raihan Miah, UNO of Domar upazila, Shahidul Islam, principal of Women Degree College, NK Alam Chowdhury, ex-lawmaker, UNO of Boda upazila Md Sarwar Alam, Shamsuzzaman, chairman of Jholoi Shalshiri union parishad and Md Afzal Hossain, vice president of the bank were present.

Body of youth found in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the decomposed body of an unidentified youth from the city's Demra last evening.

Demra police said locals at Amolia first saw some fingers of the body concealed under the soil and on information they dug out the body digging around three feet soil.

Sub-Inspector Abu Sayeed of the police said the youth might have been killed at anywhere and later he was dumped under the earth.

Abu Sayeed's birthday today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 89th anniversary of birth of former president Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury.

To mark the occasion, Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury National Memorial Council will distribute stipends and certificates among meritorious students soon, said a press release.

Justice Chowdhury was born on January 31, 1921 at Nagbari, Tangail. He resigned from the post of vice chancellor of Dhaka University on March 15, 1971 in protest of the killing of two students by Pakistani occupation forces.

He had played a significant role in mobilising world opinion for the cause of Bangladesh as special envoy of the provisional government. In 1985, he was unanimously elected chairman of UN human rights commission.

Justice Chowdhury authored four books -- 'Prasashe Muktiyuddher Dinguli', 'Manobadhikar', 'Human Rights in the Twentieth Century' and 'Muslim Family Law in the English Courts.'



PM returns home today

UNB, London

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returns home today ending her five-day visit to the United Kingdom.

She left London at 8:00pm (local time) yesterday and would have a two-hour stopover at Dubai International Airport.

Meanwhile, Hasina passed her last day in London giving audience to expatriate Bangladeshis living in the United Kingdom.

A large number of expatriates including women and children met the prime minister at her Hotel Hilton suit and exchanged pleasantries.



WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, and Kushtia in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

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

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 5:44pm today and rises at 6:40am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 29.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 07.6 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	26.5	13.6	56	55
Chittagong	27.1	13.7	58	49
Rajshahi	24.2	11.7	82	84
Rangpur	24.0	12.0	77	71
Khulna	26.5	14.3	60	63
Barisal	27.0	12.5	65	71



Preparations for the month-long Ekushey Book Fair at Bangla Academy in the city are going on. The fair will begin tomorrow. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

LIBERATION WAR MUSEUM

Construction of bldg begins in Feb

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Construction work of the permanent building of the Liberation War Museum will start by the next month at the city's Agargoan and it will take more than two years to complete, said the museum trustee Mofidul Haque.

A total of Tk 100 crore will be needed for the museum while the government will provide Tk 25 crore and the rest Tk 75 crore will be collected from the people, he said.

Mofidul Haque told the financial assistant receiving ceremony at the Liberation War Museum in the city's Segunbagicha yesterday.

Till now over Tk 24 crore have been deposited to the fund, while another Tk 10 crore are awaiting as per the promise of different section of people, he said.

Speaking as the chief guest, Finance Minister Abdul Maal Abdul Muhit assured of cooperation to construct the museum.

The museum will be constructed on 0.82 acres of land, said Dr Sarwar Ali, another trustee of the museum.

Cultural personality Ramendra Majumder, lawmaker AKM Rahmatullah, among others, were present at the function.

2,600MW power plant being built with Indian help

UNB, Bagerhat

A 2,600-megawatt coal-fired power plant is being built with India's assistance in Rampal upazila to reduce nagging power crisis in the country.

Bangladesh and India signed an agreement to build the country's biggest-ever power plant in Bagerhat district under a joint venture initiative.

Bangladesh's Power Development Board (PDB) and India's state-owned National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) are designated to implement the project by 2016.

Ministry of Land already gave nod to acquire land at Sapmari-Katakali and Koigordaskathi area in Rampal to develop land for implementing the project.

Mohammad Akram Hossain, deputy commissioner of Bagerhat, said 1,834 acres of land were acquired at Sapmari Katakali-Koigardaskathi area in the first phase of land acquisition.

Notices have been served to land owners for the second phase of land acquisition.

Project Director Engineer Mohammad Abul Kashem said the power plant would be built in three phases.

In the first phase, the land will be filled with soil and developed for setting up construction materials and building infrastructure.

In the second phase, structures will be built on the land and in the third machines will be stalled.

An 18-member delegation of Bangladesh will visit the power plant area today.

Lord Eric L Avebury, chairman of the standing committee on human rights of the House of Lords, calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite in London yesterday. (Story on Page 1)



PHOTO: PID

CHANDPUR MUNICIPALITY

Hold polls after updating voters' list: HC

Staff Correspondent

The High Court yesterday directed the Election Commission to hold Chandpur municipality polls after updating voters' list as early as possible.

The court also declared illegal the January 27 schedule for the municipality polls announced by the EC.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain came up with the verdict endorsing a writ petition filed challenging the legality of the schedule.

Monjorul Islam, a voter of the municipality, had filed the petition stating that there were anomalies in the list, since it was prepared before delimitation.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Abdul Mannan Miah, a former deputy secretary of establishment ministry and uncle of Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, passed away on Friday at the age of 70, says a press release.

He was a freedom fighter and a noted social worker. Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni condoled his death.

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

Zebunnesa Azman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zebunnesa Azman, mother of KM Mozammel Omar, a founding member Abahani limited, passed away at a city's hospital yesterday at age 88, says a press release.

She left behind her three sons and three daughters.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held at Dhanmondi Eidgah Mosque after Zohr prayers.

Directors, officials and sportsmen of Abahani limited condoled her death.

Rights of indigenous people on forest resources underscored

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) will ask the government to incorporate the rights of the indigenous people on the natural resources in the amended forest act.

"The act that got nod from the cabinet will not bring any welfare to these people," said NHRC Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman while addressing a national conference on forest conservation at the BIAM auditorium in the capital.

He urged Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA) and Chakma circle chief Debashish Roy to scrutinise the amended forest law.

The NHRC would recommend to the

government to incorporate different human rights' issues based on their analyses, Rahman added at the conference organised by Taungya, a local NGO in Rangamati.

The NHRC chairman also said the commission in its annual report to be submitted to the president by March 31 will recommend constitutional recognition of the indigenous people.

The conference was organised to discuss the success of a project titled consolidating community rights over natural resources for conservation of environment and sustainable development.

Rahman said through the project the rights of community people on

village common forests were established but there are some communities who are living inside the reserve and protected forest whose rights should also be protected.

Speaking as special guest Sanjib Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, said, "The indigenous people think that they belong to the forests but the state looks at the forest as a profit making tool without considering their presence."

NHRC member Nirupa Dewan and Association for Land Reform and Development chairperson Khushi Kabir also spoke at the conference with Chakma circle chief Debashish Roy in the chair.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Chairman M Hafizuddin Khan, Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman and Senior Fellow Wahid Alam come out of the Chittagong Court Bhaban yesterday after facing the court in two cases filed for demeaning the judiciary. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: STAR



Stock market: BNP reaction today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP will give its formal reaction today on the recent crisis in the capital market and other related issues directly linked to the economy of the country.

As per the directive of the party Chairperson Khaleda Zia, a group of party leaders yesterday in a meeting finalised a statement containing the party reaction.

The overall situation of financial institutions including capital market will be focused on the statement, party insiders said.

Senior leaders of the party would disclose the statement through a press conference at the chairperson's Gulshan office today, they said.

Former ministers MK Anwar, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, Osman

Not only capital market but also the financial institutions as a whole is in a crisis, BNP cannot remain silent in this situation

Farruk and Abdul Moyeen Khan are working to finalise the formal reac-

tion. Later they would send it to the chairperson for her approval, they added.

Talking to The Daily Star, Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, also an adviser to the chairperson, said, "We will place our views as people expect the opinion of the main opposition regarding the recent share market plunge."

He said not only capital market but also the financial institutions as a whole is in a crisis, and as a responsible opposition party, BNP cannot remain silent in this situation.

"It is a big issue and we cannot ignore it as thousands of investors have lost their capital," he added.

Bangladeshi peacekeeper dies in Sudan road crash

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladeshi peacekeeper Captain Md Iftekhar was killed and three others were injured in a road accident in Sudan yesterday afternoon.

The accident occurred when a jeep carrying four Bangladeshi peacekeepers turned turtle on way to Yambio town from Maradi at 1:45pm, an ISPR press release said.

Iftekhar received critical injuries in the accident and he, along with other injured peacekeepers, was immediately flown to Level-2 Hospital of Bangladesh in Juba. The doctors at the hospital declared him dead.

Injured three other peacekeepers including Captain Fakhru are undergoing treatment at the Level-2 hospital. They will be flown to Level-3 Hospital in Sudanese capital Khartoum if necessary, the release added.

Criminal shot in 'gunfight' with cops in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was bullet-hit during a "gunfight" between his associates and detective police at Milbarak Balurmath area in the capital yesterday.

Injured Abdul Karim, 30, of Jurain of the city's Kadamtoli is a listed criminal and accused in at least five cases including for murder and robbery, police claimed.

Ruhul Amin, inspector of Detective Branch (DB) of police, told The Daily Star Karim was the second-in-command of the gang of criminal Shahid, also known as Dakat Shahid.

According to him, Karim was involved in the killings of Dhaka City Corporation ward commissioner Ahmed Hossain and trader Prem Krishna in February last year in Dhaka.