

NEWS IN *brief*

Legal notice to save Patharia Beel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) yesterday served a legal notice on the secretary of environment and forest, fisheries and livestock, water resource and LGRD and cooperative ministries to save the Patharia Beel from pollution at Patharia in Savar.

Bela also served the notice on the director general of department of environment, Dhaka district administration, UNO and assistant commissioner (land) of Savar upazila in this regard.

Three sand traders penalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Dhaka district administration in a drive penalised three sand traders for earth filling of the river Turag in the city yesterday.

Led by Abul Bashar Md Fakhruzzaman, the court seized a truck and an excavator for auction, as the owner Sharfuddin was not in the scene. Later, the court sentenced one Humayun Kabir to one month in jail.

A truck used in sand trading in Diabari was also seized for auction, as its owner Jojmia fled the scene.

CJ attends SCBA lunch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Annual lunch of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), which is now dominated by pro-BNP lawyers, was held on its premises yesterday.

Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque attended it upon 'special request' of SCBA leaders despite the CJ's earlier refusal to the invitation, as the leaders fiercely criticised him over different issues.

Khairul Haque on January 30 refused to attend the lunch as SCBA President Khandker Mahbub Hossain and Secretary Bodruddoza Badal met him to invite, say sources.

The chief justice has finally decided to attend the SCBA lunch to show respect to the special and humble request of its leaders and some senior counsels, SC Registrar Ashrafur Islam told The Daily Star.

Private member places bill in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A private member's bill was placed in parliament yesterday proposing to enact a law to ensure maintenance of parents by their sons and daughters.

Jatiya Party lawmaker Mujib-ul-Haque placed the bill.

The provisions of the bill said son and or daughter cannot force their parents to live in a separate place or old home. If the parents live in separate place instead of living together, the son and daughter should visit the parents regularly and in this case they have to pay at least 10 percent of their monthly or annual income to the parents, said a provision of the bill.

BGB promotes 131 personnel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) authority, in its first move following the Pilkhara carnage, promoted 131 personnel to Junior Commission Officer yesterday.

Of them, 27 Subedars were promoted to Potential Subedar Major while 104 Naeb Subedars to Sobedar, says a press release of BGB. It also added that 263 more Habildars will be promoted to Naeb Sobedar next week and 3,000 personnel will be promoted this month.

'Punish those guilty of Hena's death'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ActionAid Bangladesh yesterday demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits, for whom 14-year-old Hena fell victim to fatwa in Shariatpur and was whipped to death.

It said in a statement that the High Court declared fatwas illegal as a crime, yet fatwas are being issued increasingly. It also demanded the government take steps to stop the crimes.

French MPs attend luncheon at Padma

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A four-member delegation of France-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship Group attended a luncheon hosted by Foreign Minister Dipu Moni in their honour yesterday.

Paul Giacobbi, MP led the delegation to the dining at State Guesthouse Padma in the city.

The French delegation arrived in Bangladesh on January 31. The visit is a follow-up to Dipu Moni's visit to France in June, 2010.

During her visit, the foreign minister met the members of the parliamentary friendship group and extended invitation to visit Bangladesh, said a press release.

Members of the friendship group, dean of the diplomatic corps, French ambassador in Dhaka, and senior government officials also attended the lunch.

During discussion with Paul Giacobbi, the foreign minister thanked the French delegation for the visit.

Dipu Moni also expressed the view that the visit would be a building block upon which relations with France in various key areas would be further expanded and developed.

She urged the French side to further explore and identify possible areas of mutual cooperation and highlight the need of more top-level visits between the two countries.

The other members of the delegation are Mme Chantal Bourrague, MP; Claude Birraux, MP; and Noel Mamere, MP.



A group of teachers and students of Dhaka University wearing shackles forms a human chain at the footstep of Aparajeyo Bangla on the campus yesterday demanding immediate trial of killers of four national leaders. Muktiyoddhar Shantanu, an organisation of freedom fighters' children, organised it.

PHOTO: STAR

POOR CONDITION OF ROADS

Communications minister faces volley of queries in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain faced a tough time yesterday to justify the delay in beginning conversion works of Dhaka-Chittagong Highway into four lanes, construction of Padma Bridge and poor condition of roads in different parts of the country.

He was replying to lawmakers' queries with his apparently habituated funny and jolly mood when the atmosphere suddenly changed as veteran Awami League lawmaker Tofail Ahmed took the floor to raise a supplementary question.

Citing his bitter experience during his recent visit to Brahmanbaria area, Tofail described the sorry state of roads

in the area.

"Due to bad condition of road for lack of repair works, I had to travel an extra 40 kilometres to reach an area though the actual distance was only seven kilometres," Tofail said.

Tender for four-lane Dhaka-Chittagong Highway was completed two years ago, but the work along with construction of Padma Bridge and elevated expressway has yet to begin, he said.

During question hour session, some treasury bench lawmakers also described the same situation in their constituencies and asked when those would be repaired.

Deputy Speaker Col (retd) Shawkat Ali, presiding over the sitting, said it is not Tofail's query, but of us all.

In response, the minister did not say anything about repairing of roads.

On Dhaka-Chittagong Highway, he said tender process was scrapped twice and a Pakistani design consultant firm left the work incomplete, causing the delay.

On Padma Bridge, he said construction work would begin in July this year.

He said the construction work of elevated expressway is likely to begin within the next three months.

The minister claimed that the government achieved massive success in collecting funds of US \$1.3 billion and US \$2.65 billion for construction of elevated expressway and Padma Bridge respectively.

BDR CARNAGE CASE Ordeal to meet dear ones 801 accused face court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Distance, journey hassles and long hours of waiting could not deter relatives of BDR jawans, accused of BDR carnage case, to come see their dear ones. The BGB jawans, accused of murder, rape and massacre in the 2009 BDR carnage, are being tried at the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge set Alia Madrasa in the city. A total 801 of 824 accused were brought before the court amid tight security.

Hundreds of visitors thronged outside the playground of the madrasa, where the trial of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) charge sheeted BDR jawans is being held, to see the face of their beloved.

But their attempts were fruitless as none were allowed to meet the accused.

Nuruchchhafa laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Advocate Nuruchchhafa Talukder was buried at his family graveyard with full state honour at Sukbilash village in Rangunia upazila of the port city yesterday.

Earlier, six namaze-janaza was held.

Earlier his body was kept on the Chittagong court building premises for where his colleagues paid their last respect to the veteran lawyer and organiser of Liberation War.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 18th death anniversary of poet AM Sanaul Haque, says a press release.

He was also a former secretary and ambassador.

260 per 1 lakh cancer patients die a year Say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 260 in every one-lakh cancer patients die annually in Bangladesh while about 21-lakh people are suffering from the disease at present, experts said yesterday.

By the year 2050, the number of cancer deaths will rise to 1,150 in every one lakh, as infection of the disease is increasing alarmingly, they said.

On the occasion of World Cancer Day today, experts at different programmes stressed the need to increase social awareness to prevent cancer and non-communicable diseases.

The theme of World Cancer Day this year is "Teach children and teenagers to avoid ultra violet (UV) exposure by being Sun Smart."

A scientific seminar was held at an auditorium of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). Experts there said the country has less than 250 cancer specialists to attend a vast 21-lakh patients.

No rule of law in country Says Rafiqul Haque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Barrister Rafiqul Haque yesterday said there is no rule of law in the country.

"No one ever takes any steps to establish rule of law in the country," he also said while addressing a book launching ceremony at the Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Rafiqul Haque said the editor of the Daily Amar Desh and its special correspondent have established the freedom of press. "They have made history by establishing the fundamental rights of press."

The book titled "Ondhokar O Nipironer Karajibon" (Dark and repressive jail life) launched is written by journalist Oliullah Noman. BNP leader Moudud Ahmed and Amader Shomoy editor Nayeemul Islam Khan aslo spoke.



Math olympiad

IUB will arrange a math and science olympiad. Venue: IUB campus, Bashundhara R/A, Time: 9:30am.

Education fair

A three-day long creative and technical education fair will be held. Venue: Shilpakala Academy, Time: 11:00pm.

Reunion

Buet Alumni Association will organise a reunion. Venue: Buet premises, Time:

8:30am.

Human chain

Bangabandhu Academy will form a human chain. Venue: In front of National Press Club, Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

Janatar Prattasha will hold a discussion. Venue: DRU, Time: 11:00am.

Pitha utshab

National Press Club will organise a pitha

Doa mahfil

METRO DESK



be held at 144, Shantinagar Property Estate in the city today. He died on Jan 31.

A doa mahfil for Kazi Sharif Uddin Ahmed, an educationist, will

READERS

respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Thursday's The Daily Star news story headlined 'No airport against people's will'.

Nilufar Yesmin Biswas

Dear prime minister, please do not question people's foresight. It was people's foresight that brought you back to power. And it is the people who count every step of a government. But every party, while in power, forgets this truth.

MSiddique

I sincerely admire the prime minister's willingness to abandon this project, at least in this location.

Mahmud Koli, USA

I appreciate the decision of Sheikh Hasina. She has honoured the will of the people. This is democracy.

Khondkar A Saleque

There are so many other important and essential infrastructures required apart from a new international airport. Why was the feasibility study not done earlier prior to taking action for the airport at Arial Beel?

London Eye

Honourable prime minister has kindly taken an obvious commendable step. Good luck to local citizenry. We condemn the loss of life.

Saqib

Why do we need another airport?

SNH

We need an airport dedicated to the cargo services or airfreight but not for the interest of the 'name'. Why does she want to have a new airport?

Ali Taha

Thanks for the right decision.

Akhtar Shah

In a democratic country, people of Munshiganj left their homes in fear of police? What on earth is going on? The home secretary makes such profound and biased comments in favour of the police, as if to say they are completely flawless.

A Patriot

The idea of building another airport was bizarre to begin with. What for? If naming the airport was the major goal, my hat is off to them.

A Prohashi Bangladeshi

Just for a name, a multi-billion-taka project was planned while the people are hard pressed with rising food prices, shortage of power, stock market collapse and deteriorating law and order.

Kazi Salim

Every country needs an alternative airport to handle air traffic in the event of any natural calamity and warfare.

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