

NEWS IN

brief

Newspaper holiday on Feb 21

UNB, Dhaka

The members of Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) will observe Monday (February 21) as a holiday on the occasion of Amar Ekushey (Shaheed Dibash-International Mother Language Day).

However, NOAB members desirous of bringing out their publications may do so under special arrangement, says a NOAB press release.

CU postpones teachers' recruitment after 'HC order'

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) authority yesterday postponed teacher recruitment process of Zoology Department after receiving a fax from a High Court (HC) lawyer saying that the HC gave a stay order on the issue on Thursday.

“The stay order of the High Court has not officially reached us. A lawyer informed us about the High Court direction through fax and for this reason we postponed today’s (Saturday) examination,” said CU acting Registrar Prof Dr Shafiul Alam.

A total of 27 candidates were expected to participate in the oral test, scheduled to be held at CU administrative building, against two posts, sources said.

Amir Hossain, a candidate, in a press conference, said he submitted a writ-petition to the HC against the recruitment process, showing disparity between rules of the education ministry and the university’s rules in the process.

Hearing the writ-petition, the HC postponed the test for two months. Having four first classes in one’s education life, most of students are not getting a chance to be a university teacher, he added.

JS body chief urges LDCs to focus on dev governance

BSS, New Delhi

Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Foreign Affairs A H Mahmood Ali, MP has called upon the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to attach greater focus on developmental governance by subsuming good governance and the rule of law, and by resorting to decentralisation and devolution.

Addressing the ministerial meeting of LDCs on “Harnessing the positive contribution of South-South Cooperation for development of Least Developed Countries” here on Friday, he said that LDCs will have to reverse the process of inequality so to create an enabling situation for national integration, and durable peace.

Indian External Affairs Minister S M Krishna inaugurated the two-day long conference.

Russian team due tomorrow to discuss energy issues

BSS, Dhaka

A high-powered Russian delegation will arrive in Dhaka on February 21 to discuss energy issues with Bangladesh, especially accelerating the ongoing drilling activity of Petrobangla, said a top official of Petrobangla yesterday.

The 15-member team comprising policymakers and technologists will sit with top officials of the energy sector, Petrobangla officials and Adviser to the prime minister Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury to fix up the modules of cooperation.

"This agreed draft modules would be placed to the policymakers of both countries to ink a final deal in energy sector cooperation," a senior official of the energy ministry told the news agency yesterday.

He said during Foreign Minister Dipu Moni’s proposed visit to Russia on April 6, both countries would finalise it, paving the way for concluding a deal with Moscow to develop our energy sector.

Russian team will visit Feni and Narsingdi on February 23 and 24 and it will also visit Sundalpur gas field, he added.



WEATHER  
TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:57pm and rises tomorrow at 6:28am.

Country's highest temperature 31.5 degree Celsius was recorded today at Cox's Bazaar and lowest 12.5 degrees at Rangpur.

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	28.3	16.6	59	50
Chittagong	30.4	19.8	78	46
Rajshahi	26.6	14.6	84	68
Rangpur	25.0	12.5	74	52
Khulna	28.3	18.3	67	58
Barisal	28.3	17.5	72	74
Sylhet	29.5	14.6	63	48



President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina clap during the inaugural ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 match between Bangladesh and India at Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in the city's Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

TORTURE ON SONIA Family finally files case against her employer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Nine-year-old housemaid Sonia’s father Nobab Ali filed a case with Boalia Police Station in the city yesterday, accusing wife of an army officer for barbarously torturing his daughter.

The accused is named in the case as Koli, wife of the officer of Rajshahi Cantonment, said OC Shahadat Hossain of the police station confirming filing of the case.

In the case, Nobab Ali alleged that his daughter Sonia was frequently tortured over minor faults, forced to overwork, and fed once in two days since she had been employed at Koli’s house at Tk 500 per month in late November, said the OC.

The OC said Koli used to tear apart hair from Sonia’s head often and recently Sonia was forced to have shaved off her hair from to erase signs of the torn hair.

The accused also punched on Sonia’s face leading her to bleed, and the victim was never let to take any first aid and was forced to eat her own blood, the OC quoted the complaints as saying.

On February 12, her employer became angry witnessing Sonia sleeping wrapping a blanket meant for the use of her employer.

Sonia was then dragged out from sleep and beaten up barbarously with iron rod, spoon, shoes and bread making roller.

Later Sonia was kept confined in a bathroom for three days while she was given rotten food twice.

On the night of February 15, Maj Ashfaque called Sonia’s parents to his house and asked to take Sonia home.

As Sonia’s condition deteriorated at home, she was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital a day later in critical condition.

“Her condition has started improving, but still she is not out of danger,” said Dr Gopen Acharya, in-charge of One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) for tortured child and women at RMCH.

A four-member medical board headed by Orthopedics professor Dr BK Dam has been formed for required treatment to the minor girl.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 11th death anniversary of freedom fighter Kazi Akram Hossain, former president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, says a press release.

On the occasion, his family will hold a series of programmes including commemoration ceremony at House #27, Isha Khan Avenue in Uttara #6.

Kazi played a mentoring role in the movement against autocracy in 1975, after the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15.

Govt needs trusted bureaucracy: Muhith

BSS, Dhaka

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the country needs a dedicated bureaucratic system to bring dynamism in the government to implement the Vision 2021.

“A politically dedicated civil service is needed to execute the political pledges of the democratic government,” he said while addressing a reunion of the government officials trained under Managing at the Top (MATT) project at BICC in the city.

The finance minister opined that the development and service oriented political pledges of the democratically elected government are not implemented in a proper way without trusted bureaucracy.

The minister laid importance on regular training and recruitment in Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) to have an efficient administration.

Prime Minister’s Adviser HT Imam attended the function as a special guest while Establishment Secretary Iqbal Mahmud was in the chair.

Cabinet Secretary Abdul Aziz, British Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka Nick Low and MATT project’s national coordinator Abu Bakar Siddiqui, spoke among, others on the occasion.

Laying importance on a bureaucracy with political mindset, Muhith said the ministers should have political adviser or secretary to bring dynamism in the administration.

3,500-tonne jute seed to be imported from India

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh will import about 3,500 tonnes of high yielding jute seeds from India for the coming season as growers show more enthusiasm to cultivate the “golden fibre” this year.

“A total of 840 seed traders have applied for permission to import Indian jute seed named JRO-524 variety (Tosha) which called as Nabeen seed in that country,” said Moksudur Rahman, deputy director (quarantine) of plant protection department.

The seeds will be imported under private sector initiatives while the government will play the supervisory role, he said.

The national seed committee headed by agriculture secretary will examine the applications filed for importing and will give permission, added Moksudur.



(From right) Mujahidul Islam Selim, Rashed Khan Menon, Abdul Jalil and Tofael Ahmed, second from left, at the launching ceremony of a book “Bangladesher Chhatra Andolaner Otit Bortaman O Bhabishyat” written by Mahmudur Rahman Manna, third from left, on Swaparjita Swadhinata Chattar beside Teacher Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University yesterday. (Story on Page 3)

PHOTO: STAR

7 killed, 2 injured in road crashes Agitating people barricade highways

METRO DESK

Seven people were killed and two others injured in separate road accidents in Pabna, Sylhet, Dinajpur, Benapole, Brahmanbaria and Bogra yesterday.

Our correspondent from Pabna reports: A passer-by, Md Saim Uddin, 35 son of Makai of village Char Ashutoshpur, was killed as a motorcycle hit him from behind in a world cup cricket motorbike rally at Ananta Bazar of Sadar upazila yesterday. Two motorcyclists also received injury and admitted to Rajshahi medical College Hospital.

Staff correspondent from Sylhet adds: A motorcyclist was killed when a speedy truck hit him on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Sheoratala in Bahubal upazila.

The deceased is Shahinur Islam Sohel, a joint convener of the Bahubal upazila unit of Awami Jubo League.

After the accident agitating locals set fire to the truck and barricaded the road.

Our correspondent from Dinajpur says: A motorcyclist, Md Mamun Ur Rashid, 35, son of Sadek Ali village Shibpur, was killed in a road accident when a speedy truck hit him at Phulbari upazila early yesterday.

After the accident the angry villagers blocked the Dinajpur-Phulbari highway protesting the accident.

Our Benapole correspondent says: A rice trader, Hassan uz Zaman Mintu, 48, was killed in a road accident when a speedy truck knocked him down on Jessore-Bepapole road at Samolgachi yesterday. Police seized the truck.

Our correspondent from Brahmanbaria reports: A motorcyclist, Md Akkas Ali, 40, son of late Nabalok Mia of Dakkin Poiratala village, was killed in a road accident when a Comilla-bound truck knocked the motorbike from opposite direction on by-pass road at Punnyout turning point yesterday.

Staff correspondent from Bogra adds: Two unidentified persons died early yesterday after falling from a running night coach at Bethgari area, outskirts the city.

Police said the persons fall downed from the bus after hitting a tree bench around 2:30am, as they were travelling on the roof of the bus. They died on the spot.



KNOWLEDGE CORNER



BIRTH OF A TEST PLAYING NATION: BANGLADESH

A new era began for Bangladesh cricket on 10 November 2000 when the national team played their first test match against India at Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka. Bangladesh became the 10th member of the elite family of test playing nations in the world. Being a test playing nation was not as easy as it was thought to be. Bangladesh's cricketers had to face many obstacles on their way to achieving test status. Bangladesh's first official foray into international cricket came at the 1979 ICC Trophy in England, leaving the tournament with 2 wins and 2 defeats. Seven years later, on 31 March 1986, Bangladesh played in its first ODI match against Pakistan in the 1986 Asia Cup. Although football was the most popular game here for a long time, cricket gained momentum and soon surpassed football, especially after Bangladesh won the ICC Trophy in Malaysia in 1997. The year 1999 was a historic year for Bangladesh as it played its first World Cup in England. Bangladesh created an enormous upset by beating Pakistan by 62 runs during the 1999 Cricket World Cup in the group match at Northampton. Bangladesh managed 223/9 from 50 overs; in reply Pakistan could only manage 161 due to a few run-outs by wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud and some tight bowling by Khaled Mahmud, who took 3/31 from 10 overs. He was later judged man of the match. Bangladesh also beat Scotland in that tournament, although they did not qualify for the Super Six round due to defeats in three of their five matches. However, the win over Pakistan, who went on to become eventual runners-up to Australia in that World Cup, gave Bangladesh a head start in their quest to become a test playing country.

In 1997, Bangladesh became a regular ICC member with the right to play one-day internationals. But this was not the ultimate goal. After the success in the 1999 World Cup, the authorities of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) started their diplomatic offensive to gain Test status. Though countries like Australia, New Zealand and England strongly opposed this proposal, with the support of Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka and other countries, Bangladesh attained the status of a Test playing country on 26 June 2000.

In 2000, Bangladesh made their debut Test appearance, talking on India in Dhaka on November 10-13. Though they lost by nine wickets they put up a great fight and thus proved their worth. Veteran batsman Aminul Islam Bulbul scored 145 in the first innings of the match. Naimur Rahman captained Bangladesh in the first test match. Thus a new test playing nation was born.

THE GREAT EXPEDITIONS

The ever-longing thirst among people of conquering the world has always produced explorers who undertook daunting expeditions to learn and conquer. In the Early Age one such name was Hiu'en Tsang. He was born in China in 602 AD in the Tang period and became a Chinese monk at the age of 13. He is famous for his seventeen year overland journey to India where he studied many original scriptures of Buddhism.

Marco Polo (1254-1324) was another great explorer from Venice, Italy who, with his father and uncle, participated in an epic journey to China. He returned to Venice 24 years later and documented the details in his famous book "Il Milione". In China he met Mongol Emperor Kublai Khan and became his ambassador. The pioneering journey was the source of inspiration for many other explorers, including Christopher Columbus.

If there was someone more epical in appeal than Marco Polo, it was Ibn Battuta. This Muslim explorer travelled for 30 years in the fourteenth century over most of the Islamic Countries, North and West Africa, South and East Europe, Middle East, Central Asia, India and China. The distance he travelled surpassed all other records in his times. Born in Morocco, Ibn Battuta is considered one of the greatest travellers ever.

The Europeans did not have to wait long to find the sea route to India. The Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama became the first sailor to reach India by sea. He reached the city of Calicut in India in 1498 via the Cape of Good Hope in Africa. The last continent (except Antarctica) to be discovered by the civilized world was Australia. A member of the British Royal Navy, Captain James Cook, reached the eastern coastline of Australia in 1770 to complete the last significant expedition in the "Age of

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DU Prof Opola dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Opola Farhot Nobed, a professor of Bio-chemistry and Microbiology department of Dhaka University and noted Tagore song artiste, passed away on February 18 at a city hospital at the age of 54, says a press release.

She left behind her husband and one daughter.

Opola was the eldest daughter of the founder of Chhayanot and journalist late Wahidul Hoque and Sanjida Khatun.

According to Nobed’s wish her body will be donated to hospital for research.

In a statement Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep console to her family members.

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University AAMS Arefin Siddique condoled her death.

AKM Zahirul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Shikkhak Sammiti, passed away at a clinic in the city on Friday at the age of 70, says a press release.

He was buried at the Azimpur Graveyard.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at Abu Zor Giffari College at 11:00am on Tuesday.