

NEWS IN *brief*

Shirin Sharmin reelected chairman of CGPAMG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, state minister for women and children affairs, has been elected chairperson of the Commonwealth Gender Plan of Action Monitoring Group (CGPAMG) for the second consecutive year.

She chaired the eighth session of the CGPAMG in New York on Saturday, says a press release.

Representatives from commonwealth countries attended the meeting.

Man hacked to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was hacked to death by his brother at Chonpara in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj yesterday.

Shah Alam, 35, a factory worker and his sister Sahara Begum who was also injured while resisting the attack, were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared Alam dead around 5:00pm.

Sahara told journalists that Alam was constructing a bathroom on the premises of their paternal homestead at noon. Her younger brother Sekander obstructed Alam that led a scuffle and at one stage, Sekander hacked Alam.

Cancer diagnosis machine set up at Mitford hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An ultra-modern SPEC-CT machine has been set up at the Nuclear Medicine and Ultrasound Centre of Mitford Hospital.

State Minister for Science and Information and Communication Technology Architect Yeafes Osman inaugurated the machine yesterday.

The machine has been installed at a public sector hospital in Bangladesh for the first time while another machine was set up in a private diagnostic centre. It is used to diagnosis spread of cancer in human body.

Boy burnt himself on Valentines Day dies at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 18-year old boy, who had set fire on himself before his 'beloved' who refused him on Valentines Day, died last night after six days of undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Md Ripon, who was a resident in city's Islambagh was a helper of an ambulance works in DMCH area, did the act just as his claimed 14-year old 'beloved' reached the spot with her father, an employee of a drug store near the DMCH.

Call for mass awareness on cancer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cancer experts at a seminar called upon the government to launch a mass awareness programme to save people from the 'silent killer' disease.

They made the call at a seminar organised by Centre for Cancer Prevention and Research (CCPR), an NGO, at Nachole upazila auditorium of Chapainawabganj on Saturday, says a press release.

Dr Habibullah Talukder, associate professor and head of epidemiology department at the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital, said early detection of cancer can save thousands of lives every year.

Dr Khorshed Alam, assistant professor of the institute and Nachole Upazila Chairman Sirajul Islam also spoke at the event while UNO Toufik Imam in the chair.

After the discussion, four doctors conducted a free cancer screening camp. More than 60 patients received the treatment, it said.

WEATHER TODAY

Slight rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Khulna and Barisal divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

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

Night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:57pm and rises tomorrow at 6:27am.

Country's highest temperature 32.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazaar and lowest 12.6 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	28.1	20.0	46	46
Chittagong	29.0	19.2	60	45
Rajshahi	26.6	16.0	79	71
Rangpur	26.4	12.6	71	53
Khulna	26.5	20.4	68	64
Barisal	27.5	19.5	78	52

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROJECT

World Bank to donate Tk 250cr to Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank will provide Tk 250 crore to Bangladesh as a grant for financing the strengthening of regional cooperation for wildlife conservation project.

Supported by the World Bank, the project, which is the awaiting nod of the Planning Commission, will be implemented by four countries including Bangladesh. The three other countries are India, Nepal and Bhutan.

Of the total project cost of Tk 271 crore for the Bangladesh part, the World Bank would provide Tk 250 crore.

The World Bank vice president for sustainable development Inger Anderson revealed said this while making a courtesy call on the State Minister for Forests and Environment Hasan Mahmud at his office yesterday.

Under the project, there will be exchange of knowledge and skills among the regional countries on wildlife conservation and management, creating opportunities for institutional management relating wildlife conservation, checking illegal trade and trafficking of wildlife as well as to protecting their habitat through a coordinated effort.

He also informed that the World Bank would finance a project titled 'Dhaka Environment Workers Project' aiming to control pollution of rivers surrounding the capital, setting up a control room at the Department of Environment (DoE) as well as setting up cluster ETP in the industrial zones.

Anderson said the World Bank will also assist Bangladesh in a Carbon Positive Agriculture Development project which will check emissions of carbon cemented in soil.



Bangladesh Krishak O Khetmojur Sangathan Samuho forms a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding to ensure proper preservation of this year's potato production and just price to the farmers to protect their interests.

PHOTO: STAR

Adulterated food-making factory busted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court supported by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday busted an adulterated food-producing factory in the city's Jatrabari area and fined the owner of the factory.

The court led by executive magistrate AHM Anwar Pasha fined the owner of 'Evan Food and Chemical' Kamal Hossain, 50, with Tk 1.5 lakh and sentenced him to three months jail in default.

The court also burnt down the illegal products, which they seized during the drive, Rab sources said.

Magistrate Anwar Pasha said the court accompanied by Rab-2 personnel raided the factory situated at a tin shed house at Baganbari of Shanirakhra at about 12:00pm and found fake cards, saline, milk powder, glucose and soft drinks.

The factory had license to produce glucose and soft drinks but they used to make the products using labels of other companies, he said.

The court also seized huge amount of labels and empty boxes of different products, he added.

Kamal Hossain had been running the factory for last 15 years and used to sell the adulterate products at different shops in the western part of the country, Anwar Pasha told the correspondent.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Rabeya Khatun, wife of late Bakte Jamal Patwary and his son Nazrul

Haque Patwary of Sadar upazila chairman of Lalmonirhat and Badrul Haque Patwary, vice president of Phoenix Finance and Investments, passed away on 12 February, 2011 at a clinic in Rangpur, says a press release.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held at Lalmonirhat Zila School field and buried at the Lalmonirhat Poura Graveyard.

AL, BNP fail to fulfill peoples' expectations

Says language veteran Abdul Matin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

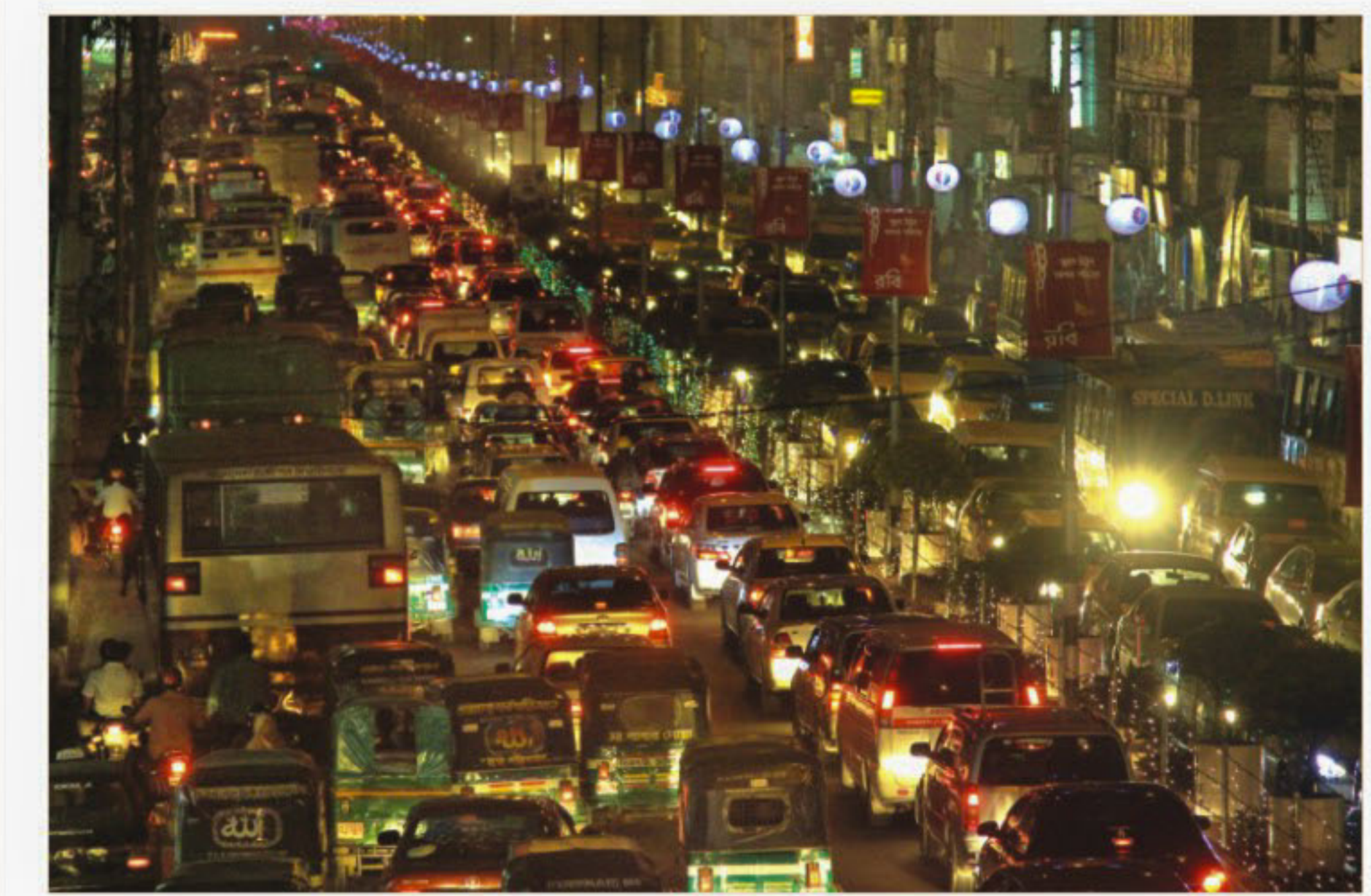
Language veteran Abdul Matin yesterday said people are tired of the mud-slinging culture by the two main political parties-- Awami League and BNP.

He told a discussion meeting, organised by BNP, at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the city to mark International Mother Language Day, with city Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in the chair.

Matin said both the parties have failed to fulfill people's expectations. "People including me expect better."

He said the left-leaning parties also failed to fulfill peoples' expectation because none can understand people's attitude and expectations if voted to power. "They remain busy with themselves. They love to give importance only to their own opinion."

He said people always want a good government and both the leaders -- Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia -- have some positive and negative sides.



The city faced severe traffic congestion yesterday as offices opened after a three-day government holiday. In addition, traffic was barred from entering Dhaka University for smooth movement of the people towards the Central Shaheed Minar on the occasion of Amar Ekushey. The photo was taken from Farmgate in the city at 7:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Form human rights commission in S Asia Urge speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday said a regional human rights commission should be formed to watch over human rights violations in South Asian countries.

Human rights violations like extra-judicial killings, political prisoners, border killings and abuses are taking place in the countries including Bangladesh, they said, adding that such commission could be a step towards a solution in this regard.

The press conference at city's Jatiya Press Club marked the end of a three-day 5th General Forum of Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy (SAPA), a regional advocacy group on human rights for the countries.

Each of the countries should also form national human rights commissions just like Bangladesh, the speakers said.

The forum calls for release of all political prisoners, trade union activists and human rights defenders in the region, they said.

Specific charges must be brought against political prisoners and legal

procedures should be followed, said Jemina Joy Chavez from Focus on the Global South, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) working in Thailand, the Philippines and India.

Talking about the killings in the borders between India and Bangladesh, speakers said it is worrying that Indian authorities remained silent after a young Bangladeshi girl was killed and left hanging on a barbed wire fence.

They said these killings are more than just border issues and need to be discussed among the neighbouring countries.



KNOWLEDGE CORNER

ASTRONOMY: DISCOVERING THE UNIVERSE

Astronomy is an age old science and involves the exquisite study of celestial objects. The detailed study of the stars, planets, galaxies and comets are applied in the understanding of the cosmic background radiation that takes place consistently beyond the atmosphere of the Earth. The revelations have largely affected and influenced man's understanding of evolution, meteorology and the laws of physics. The movements observed have enabled scientists to gain a deeper understanding of the celestial objects as part of and the origin of the development of the universe.

Previously, the Earth was believed to be the center of the universe and was studied as the 'geocentric model' of the universe. Nicholas Copernicus is a famous Polish astronomer who is well known for his Copernican theory, which states that the sun is the center of the universe and the earth revolves around it and completes one revolution in a year. Tycho Brahe was a Danish astronomer who is supposed to have made the most accurate astronomical observations about measurements of the solar system and over 700 other stars.

Galileo Galilei was an Italian physicist and an astronomer. His achievements include improvements to the telescope, noteworthy astronomical observations, and support for Copernicanism. Galileo has been called the "father of modern observational astronomy."

During the Middle Ages, astronomy was mostly stagnant in medieval Europe, at least until the 13th century. However, astronomy flourished in the Islamic world and other parts of the world. This led to the emergence of the first astronomical observatories in the Muslim world by the early 9th century. In 964, the Andromeda Galaxy, the nearest galaxy to the Milky Way, was discovered by the Persian astronomer Azophi and first described in his Book of Fixed Stars. The SN 1006 supernova, the brightest apparent magnitude stellar event in recorded history, was observed by the Egyptian Arabic astronomer Ali ibn Ridwan.

Galaxies are spiraling whirlpools of matter and energy, which are like small oases in the vast empty spaces of our universe. We live in one such galaxy, which we call the Milky Way. Black Holes form when stars much larger than our Sun run out of their fuel and collapse under their own gravity to zero volume, forming a hole in the fabric of space time. Pulsars are rotating neutron stars with huge magnetic fields, which emit electromagnetic radiation.

They are formed from the core of a star exploding in a supernova. Quasars (Quasi-stellar objects) were first mistaken to be stars, but later they were discovered to be galaxies. They have a very high redshift, which means that they are traveling at a speed close to the speed of light.

HERITAGE OF BANGLADESH

Bangladesh, being a small country, has its heritage and its rich culture, tradition, history and beauty which make up a rich civilization.

The Sompura Mahavihara, famously known as Paharpur Vihara, was one of the very first universities of the world. It was built by Dharmapala as an institution for education. It is indeed the largest vihara of the Indian subcontinent. A stupa in the middle surrounded by an 177- roomed Vihara at Naogaon district was declared a World Heritage Site in 1985.

Apart from Paharpur, we also have Shalvan Vihara (known as Mainamati) at Comilla. The Kantajir temple is one of the very famous Hindu symbols of architecture situated in Dinajpur district, with some of the finest terracotta works.

Another Mughal artifact is Lalbagh Fort. It is situated by the river Buriganga. It contains the tomb of Pari Bibi, audience room and Hammamkhana. In British times, the artifacts and heritage turned into different patterns. One of them is Ahsan Manjil. It is also situated by the river Buriganga. Nawab Khwaja Enayetullah named it. It played a very important part in our political movement.

In 1961, the famous architect Louis I Kahn designed one of the biggest structures in the world. It is our Parliamentary building, symbol of democracy and freedom. Situated on 200 acres of land, the building was inaugurated in 1982. It is considered as one of the top ten architectures of the 20th century.

Bangladesh is also rich in natural beauty. Cox's Bazar is the longest sandy beach in the world. About 125km long, this beach is the most attractive tourist spot of the country. It is named after Captain Hiram Cox.

The Sundarbans, the largest halophytic mangrove forest situated in the southern part of the country. Its area is 10,000 sq.kms, of which 6000 sq.km is in Bangladesh. The Ganges, Brahmaputra and many rivers surround the forest. Royal Bengal Tiger, crocodiles and deer are very famous in the region. UNESCO declared it as a WHS in 1997 and now it is one of the top 21 natural wonders of the world. We should be proud of our culture, tradition, and heritage and present them in that light before the world.

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SABBIR MURDER CASE

Hearing deferred till Feb 27

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred the hearing of the Humayun Kabir Sabbir murder case till February 27 against Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan Shah Alam's son Shafiat Sobhan Sanvir, and four others.

Judge Mohammad Rezaul Islam of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 passed the order after Special Public Prosecutor SM Rafiqul Islam submitted a petition seeking adjournment of the hearing.

The other accused are Sanvir's bodyguards Khairul Hassan Uzzal and Shamsuddin Ahmed, two guards Nure Alam and Humayun Kabir.

Of them, Uzzal and Shamsuddin, now on bail, were present in the court yesterday while three others including Sanvir have been absconding since the case was filed.

The court framed charges against Sanvir and four others on January 25 this year.

Sabbir, a director of Bashundhara Telecommunications Network Ltd, was brutally killed on July 5, 2006.