

NEWS IN *brief*

Hang 'rate chart' of house rent : CPB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh yesterday demanded hanging "rate chart" of house rent in every intersection in the city and implementation of the house rent law to stop frequent increase of house rent by the owners.

In this regard, CPB distributed leaflets and organised street meeting at Kakrail, Shilpakala Academy, Segun Bagicha Bazar and Paltan Tower.

CPB will also hold a rally and send memorandum to Dhaka City Corporation mayor on March 9 demanding implementation of the DCC's house rent laws.

Speakers at the street meeting said the people are in double trouble due to uncontrolled house rent and price hike of commodities.

Among others, CPB leader Sekandar Hayat, Murshidul Islam Shimul, Nasrin Akhter, Didar Hossain, Nasrin Sultana Munni, Shimul Khan and Joly Shikder, addressed the meeting.

'Reckless driving causes accidents'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reckless and rash driving is behind the road accidents and impunity culture make drivers desperate, said Families United Against Road Accident (Fuara), an organisation of road accidents' victim families.

The organisation yesterday also expressed condoled the tragic death of Abu Taher, additional secretary, caused by a rashly driven city bus on February 25, says a press release.

They made a set of recommendations for checking road accidents.

The recommendations include amendment and reframing of the section 304(B) of the Bangladesh Penal Code, amendment and modification of Bangladesh Motor Vehicle Act, activating national road safety council, strengthening BRTA and deployment and strengthening of highway police and traffic police.

DU calls interview for Gha-unit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some vacant seats of various departments under Gha-unit will be filled up through second interview following the results of First Year Admission Test 2010-2011 at Dhaka University, says a press release.

Interview of qualified science students of Gha-unit, whose merit positions are between 975 to 1500, will be held on March 6 from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Interview of commerce students whose merit position 298 to 700 will be held on March 7 from 9am to 12pm while students of humanities group will face the interview from 12:00pm to 2:00pm on the same day.

Admitted students will not be able to change their respective department.

Students are requested to bring admit card, two attested photos, mark-sheets of SSC and HSC examinations.

DU film festival ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A film festival on Bangla movies observing the historic month of February ended yesterday at Teachers Students Centre (TSC) in Dhaka University (DU).

The four-day-long festival titled 'Amar Bhashar Choloচিত্রা 1417' was organised by DU Film Society (DUPS), says a press release

A total of 16 movies were shown in the festival that began on February 24.

DUPS is working with Good Trend Movie Movement with the slogan 'Sustha Chalochitra, Sustha Darshak'.

Dhaka College reunion in March

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A reunion of Dhaka College, 1975 batch, will be held in March, says a press release.

Students willing to participate in this programme may contact Brigadier General (retd) Jamal (01732461767) or Riaz (01711523158) or Aga Mahmud (01711160138).

Last day of registration is March 17.



PHOTO: STAR

Keeping the ongoing ICC Cricket World Cup in mind, a bookstall at Amar Ekushey Boi Mela yesterday collects autographs of its buyers on a replica of a cricket bat while decorating the background with a cricket ball and stumps.



Iqbal Sobhan Jalil Bhuyian

Jalil Bhuyian led panel wins in BFUJ polls

BSS, Dhaka

Metro Page in-Charge of The Daily Star Abdul Jalil Bhuyian led panel has won the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) poll-2011 held in all its 10 units on Saturday.

Former Editor of recently laid off The Bangladesh Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury was earlier elected unopposed as its president.

According the election commission, Jalil Bhuyian was elected Secretary General of the BFUJ by defeating his contestant Molla Jalal with a margin of 330 votes. Bhuyian bagged 879 votes while Molla Jalal secured 549 votes.

Meanwhile, Ataur Rahman of BSS was elected Treasurer by defeating Kuddus Afrad of Daily Purbakon, Dhaka Bureau with a margin of 56 votes. Ataur Rahman secured 728 votes while Kuddus Afrad bagged 672 votes.

Dr Utpal Kumar Sarkar of Jalil Bhuyian panel was elected Vice President in Dhaka Division by defeating Farazi Azmol Hossain of Molla Jalal panel and independent candidates NA Karim alias Bidyut Chowdhury, Shamsur Rahman and Mahbub Alam.

Mustaq Ahmed was elected Vice President from the Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ), Chitta Ghose from Rajshahi Division and Sajed Rahman from Khulna Division.

Meanwhile, Saiful Islam Talukder of Jalil Bhuyian panel was elected Joint Secretary General from Dhaka division, Asif Siraj from Chittagong division, Mahtab Chowdhury from Rajshahi division and Mozammel Haque from Khulna division.

Four Executive Committee members were elected from the Dhaka Union of Journalists in Saturday's election. They are-Akram Hossain Khan of Dainik Ittefaq, Khairuzzaman Kamal and Madhusudan Mondal of BSS and Rafiqul Islam Sabuj of Daily Samakal.

Besides, Anu Mostafa and Kazio Gias of Rajshahi Union of Journalists, Ataul Karim Khokon and Sultan Uddin Khan of Mymensingh Union of Journalists, Anwarul Islam Kajol and Mamun Reza of Khulna Union of Journalists, Kamolesh Mohonta Shanu and G M Sajal of Bogra Union of Journalists, Kamal Uddin Khokon and Tapon Chakraborti of Chittagong Union of Journalists, Kamrul Huda Helal and Ratan Sing of Journalists Union of Dinajpur and Zahidul Kabir Milton and Gopinath Das of Jessore Union of Journalists were separately elected as executive committee members.

Population, housing census from March 15

UNB, Dhaka

The 5th Population and Housing Census will take place from March 15 to 19 to enumerate the households, families and population across the country.

The last census was held in 2001. Population census is carried out every ten years.

The results from the census will help to formulate benchmark information for all kinds of planning, formulating sampling frame for different surveys and other census, preparing database for determining the election constituency as well as preparing database for the national resource allocation and quota determination.

Of the estimated budget of Tk 252.59 crore, the government will provide Tk 152.86 crore while the European Union will provide Tk 99.73 crore through UNFPA in the form of project assistance.

Digital enumeration map and computerised geo-coding system would be used to process the data in the shortest possible time and disseminate results simultaneously in hard and soft formats, as well as on the web page.

"There would be around 2,800 zones across the country for the supervision of the census process with the BBS officers and staffs acting as zonal officers. The zonal officers will look after the supervisors while some 6-7 enumerators will work under a supervisor," said Statistics Division Secretary Riti Ibrahim.

TAX EVASION CASE

Koko's counsel asked to submit 'HC order'

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked lawyer of Arafat Rahman Koko, youngest son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, to submit by March 20 an order of the High Court (HC) if it gives, in a tax evasion case.

The court also said if the lawyer fails to submit the HC order, charge will be framed against Koko.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after Koko's lawyer, Taherul Islam Towhid, submitted a petition seeking an adjournment of the charge hearing.

In the petition, lawyer said they had earlier filed a writ petition with the HC challenging the legality of the case. The HC then, without giving any stay order on the case proceeding, issued a rule asking the government to explain why initiation and continuation of the proceedings of the case should not be declared illegal.

But the hearing on the writ petition is pending. So, they prayed for adjournment of the hearing, the lawyer added.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) on March 1 last year filed the case against Koko for evading income tax for fiscal years from 2002-2003 to 2006-2007.



PHOTO: STAR

BID TO REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN CITY

'Introduce multi-storied parking garages'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reconditioned vehicle importers yesterday demanded that the government introduce multi-storied parking garages in the capital to reduce congestion.

"Thirty percent traffic congestion can be reduced using parking garages," said President of Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers and Dealers Association (Barvida) Abdul Mannan Chowdhury at a press conference held at the Jatiya Press Club.

The Barvida leaders also suggested that "My Car's Weekly Holiday" be introduced to reduce traffic jams.

The Barvida president said it

requires only 625 square foot of land to set up a multi-storied parking garage where 50 vehicles can park.

He said the cost of building such garages would be around Tk 2.45 crore excluding the value of land. The government can lease land to private entrepreneurs for this like the previous government has done for setting up CNG filling stations, he added.

After the leasing out of land, it would take three to five months to build the parking garages, he claimed.

The garages will be automated and a car can get in and out of it in under two minutes.

The government should make such parking system compulsory for commercial buildings, educational institutions, hospitals and shopping centres that do not have enough parking space, Mannan said.

On "My Car's Weekly Holiday" Mannan said if a car owner does not take his or her car out onto the street one day, of one's own choice, a week, it would reduce traffic on the street by 20 percent.

Abdul Hamid Sharif, secretary general of Barvida, said there could be colour coded stickers on cars telling law enforcers which day of the week the car should not be on the street.



KNOWLEDGE CORNER



EVOLUTION OF ELECTRONIC GAMES

A video game is an electronic game that involves interaction with a user interface to generate visual feedback on a video device. The popular use of the term "video game" implies any type of display device. The electronic systems used to play video games are known as platforms; examples of these are personal computers and video game consoles. These platforms range from large mainframe computers to small handheld devices. Specialized video games such as arcade games, while previously common, have gradually declined in use.

The origin of video games lies in early cathode ray tube (CRT)-based missile defense systems in the late 1940s. The earliest known example was by Thomas Goldsmith Jr. and Estle Mann on a CRT, a missile simulator. The player had to control the CRT beam and position a dot on the screen, inspired by radar displays from World War II. More computer games were developed by the late 1950s and through the 1960s mostly on mainframe computers, gradually increasing in sophistication and complexity. Following this period, video games diverged into different platforms: arcade, mainframe, console, personal computer and later handheld games.

The first commercially viable video game was computer space in 1971, which laid the foundation for a new entertainment industry in the late 1970s within the United States, Japan, and Europe. The first major crash in 1977 occurred when companies were forced to sell their older obsolete systems flooding the market, resulted in a total collapse of the console gaming industry in the US, ultimately shifting dominance of the market from North America to Japan. While the crash killed the console gaming market, the computer gaming market was largely unaffected. Subsequent generations of console video games would continue to be dominated by Japanese corporations until the sixth generation, Microsoft Xbox. The handheld gaming market has followed a similar path, total domination by Japan. Currently only Japanese companies have major successful handheld gaming consoles from Sega, Nintendo and Sony, although in recent years handheld games have come to devices like cell phones and PDAs.

Starcraft was the first PC game to ever make it to space. It was sent aboard shuttle mission STS-96 on May 27th, 1999 by Daniel T Barry, an avid Starcraft fan supported by the fact that an average game player is 33 years old and has been playing games for 12 years. Happy Gaming!!!

HISTORY OF SCIENCE-MIDDLE AGE

Throughout the Middle Ages, scientific activities were carried out in diverse fields, like astronomy, medicine, and mathematics. The historical term "Middle Ages" developed as the "Greco-Arabic-Latin" science and natural philosophy of the time has been described as "a triumph of three civilizations". In the Middle Ages the Byzantine Empire, which had inherited the sophisticated science, mathematics, and medicine of classical antiquity fell behind the achievements of Western Europe and the Islamic world.

When the knowledge of Greek declined during the Middle Ages, the Latin West found itself cut off from its Greek philosophical and scientific roots. Around 800, Charles the Great, assisted by the English monk Alcuin of York, undertook a program of cultural revitalization and educational reform-Carolingian Renaissance. It concerned the study and teaching of astronomy, both as a practical art that clerics required to compute the date of Easter.

Around the year 1050, European scholars developed knowledge by seeking out ancient learning in Greek and Arabic texts translated into Latin. This period also saw the birth of medieval universities. Some of these were registered as institutions of international excellence by the Holy Roman Empire, receiving the title of Studium Generale. Most of them were found in Italy, France, England, and Spain.

In the Islamic world, the Middle Age is known as the Islamic golden age, when Islamic civilization and Islamic scholarship flourished. Muslim scientists placed far greater emphasis on experiment than had the Greeks. This significant progress in methodology was made, beginning with the experiments of Ibn al-Haytham on optics, in his Book of Optics Circa 1021. Muslim chemists and alchemists played an important role in the foundation of modern chemistry particularly Jabir Ibn Hayyan, for introducing an early experimental scientific method within the field, as well as the alembic, still, retort, and the chemical processes of pure distillation, filtration, sublimation, liquefaction, crystallization, purification, oxidation and evaporation. Muslim scientists also made significant advances in botany and agricultural science. In astronomy, Al-Battani improved the measurements of Hipparchus, natural philosophy was also separated from astronomy by Alhazen, Ibn al-Shatir etc. In mathematics, Al-Khwarizmi gave his name to the concept of the algorithm, while the term algebra is derived from his publication Al-Jabr. He recognized algebra

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SABBIR MURDER Hearing deferred till March 3

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred the hearing of the Humayun Kbar Sabbir murder case till March 3 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.

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



WEATHER TODAY

Change in temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary 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 6:01pm and rises tomorrow at 6:21am.

Country's highest temperature 33.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 12.4 degrees 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	30.2	17.8	45	41
Chittagong	33.0	18.2	57	—
Rajshahi	30.4	15.0	66	45
Rangpur	29.2	16.2	66	45
Khulna	30.0	16.5	57	58
Barisal	30.5	15.2	49	51