

NEWS IN brief

Youth Leadership Summit begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-day Youth Leadership Summit begins tomorrow with a view to spurring young groups to become skilled leaders. Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre (BYLC), a non-government organisation, will host the conference. The BYLC has been giving leadership training to the students of English medium, Bangla medium, and Madrasa since 2009. During the summit, about 200 participants will get opportunity to network and exchange ideas with 50 leading professionals, entrepreneurs, and leaders in the public sector. BYLC founding president Ejaj Ahmed said, "We have divided our country in terms of social status and political views, in which we should bring change." Ahmed was addressing a news conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

Teenager kills himself

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage boy allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan at Gendaria in the city yesterday as his father refused to buy him a motorbike.

The deceased, Rezwan Islam Rizvi, 19, was the son of Abul Kalam, a cloth trader of Satish Shankar Road.

Nazma Begum, Rizvi's mother, found her son hanging from the ceiling fan of his bedroom at about 3:00pm.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead. Rizvi was pressing us to buy him a motorbike for the last few months but failed to convince his father, said a tearful Nazma Begum.

The eldest of three siblings, Rizvi stopped attending school since ninth grade and had fallen into bad company, she added.

Police sent the body to DMC morgue for autopsy.

Two JCD men arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested two former ward level Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders on Monday night on allegation of exploding bombs and torching vehicles on the eve of February 7 hartal.

The arrestees were Sohel Khan, 27, former president of 52 no ward unit JCD and Mahbubur Rahman Bappi, 25, a former vice president of the same unit.

Police arrested them in the city's New Market area at about 10:00pm.

They were produced before a press briefing yesterday at the DB headquarters, where DC DB North Monirul Islam told reporters that as per the directives of city JCD high command, the arrestees torched vehicles in front of Roads and Highway office and New Market intersection in the city.

Terming them 'political criminals' Monirul said the arrestees commit such crimes during different political programmes like hartal to create panic among the city dwellers.

Bangla College students open web

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Mirpur Bangla College have opened a Bangla website that hosts different information on the liberation war incidents which took place in the college in 1971.

Killings during the liberation war, depositions of witnesses, description of student's movement, and video clippings will be found on the site, says a press release.

The website is dedicated to freedom fighter Rumi, son of Jahanara Imam.

The students also have demanded construction of a memorial monument immediately at the mass grave of the college and called for trial of war criminals.

The web address is www.banglacollege.com

Mintoo stands by Prof Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's one of the top business leaders yesterday came down heavily on the government for its attempts to move Prof Muhammad Yunus out of his brainchild Grameen Bank.

Abdul Awal Mintoo, a former president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), the country's apex trade body, in a statement said: "The finance minister's comment that Prof Yunus should step down from the post of managing director of Grameen Bank is unwanted and ill-intended." Mintoo urged the prime minister to stop propagating against the Nobel laureate and not to file cases to harass him.

The comments from Mintoo, an opposition linked businessman, came a day after Bangladesh Bank, in a letter to the finance ministry, said Nobel laureate Yunus, 70, has passed retirement age of 60, and had to go.

'Arrest Mili's killers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan) demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killer of Shahida Akter Mili, a member of the organisation who was killed on Monday in Sylhet.

Sujan President Prof Mozaffer Ahmad and Secretary Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar in a statement also condoled her death.

UTTARA MODEL TOWN 3RD PHASE Plot handover starts finally

Govt plans 54,000 new flats in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After about 12 years since announcing the name of plot winners Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) started handing over plots of Uttara Model Town third phase yesterday.

Around 20 plot winners have got the positions of their plots yesterday in the first day. Housing and Public Works Minister Abdul Mannan Khan inaugurated the process.

Around 20 plot owners will get their positions everyday from a total of 1,856 plots in sector 15 of Uttara Third Phase project, said an official of Rajuk.

Rajuk from March 9 will also start handing over plots of Purbachal New Town Project.

A total of 1,335 plots, out of around 24,697, will be handed over this phase, said another official.

Abdul Mannan Khan at the function said the residents of Dhaka will see a new Dhaka city by 2013 as the government has taken a plan of constructing 54,000 flats in Dhaka city.

Mannan said 22,000 plots will be constructed in Uttara Third phase, 20,000 plots in Purbachal and 12,000 flats in Jhilmil Residential area.

He said 46,000 more flats will be constructed by Rajshahi Development Authority, Khulna Development Authority, Chittagong Development Authority and National Housing Authority.

Around 20 plot owners will get their positions everyday from a total of 1,856 plots in sector 15 of Uttara Third Phase project

The Uttara third phase is situated on the west of the second phase project. The project area include Diabari Bauniya, Deul, Bailjuri, Chandalbhog and Nalbhog.

Purbachal New Town Project is situated at Rugganj of Narayanganj and Kaliganj of Gazipur district in between river Balu and Sitalakhya at a distance of 16 km from zero point of Dhaka. The project implementation period is July, 1995 to June 2012.



KNOWLEDGE CORNER



BENGALI LITERATURE:

Bengali literature is literary works written in Bengali language particularly from Bangladesh and the Indian provinces of West Bengal and Tripura. The history of Bengali literature traces back hundreds of years while it is impossible to separate the literary trends of the two Bengals.

Charyapada is the oldest known Bengali literature in written form. It is actually a collection of poems. It was written on 9th century and Harprashad Sastri discovered Charyapada in the Nepal Royal Court Library in 1907. It is a palm leaf manuscript. Charyapada's language is referred to as Alo-Andhari (light and shadow), meaning twilight language. The manuscript has 47 verses, written by 23 poets namely Sarhapa, Shabarpa, Luipa, Dombipa, Bhusukupa, Kahnapa, Kukkuripa, Minapa, Aryadev, Dhendhanpa, probably lived between the 9th and 11th centuries AD & came from various regions of Bengal, Orissa, Assam and Bihar.

Michael Madhusudan Dutt emerged as the first epic-poet of modern Bengali literature. Dutt, a Christian by conversion, is best known for his Ramayana-based masterpiece, "The Slaying of Meghnadh," (in Bengali "Meghnadh Bodh Kabbo"), which essentially follows the poetic tradition of Milton's Paradise Lost. Michael Madhusudan Dutt is also credited for the introduction of sonnets to Bengali

literature. Dutt can also be credited to be a pioneer of the blank verse in Bengali literature. His style was deemed as "Amitrakhar Chhanda".

Possibly, the most prolific writer in Bengali language is Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Tagore dominated both the Bengali and Indian philosophical and literary scene for decades. His 2,000 Rabindrasangeets play a pivotal part in defining Bengali culture. He is the author of the national anthems of both India and Bangladesh. Other notable Bangla works of Tagore are Gitanjali, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913, and many short stories and a few novels.

Kazi Nazrul Islam, the National Poets' (he had been suffering from dementia and aphasia since 1942) work transcended sectarian boundaries. His work includes 3,000 songs. He is frequently called the rebel poet mainly because of his most famous and electrifying poem "Bidrohi" or "The Rebel", and also because of his strong sympathy and support for revolutionary activities leading to India's independence from the British rule. He wrote poems that light the fire against inequality or injustice and at the same time is known for his poignant romantic poems as well. He wrote a lot of Islamic Ghazals and Shyama Sangeet (songs for the Hindu Goddess, Kali). Nazrul was not only a poet; he was writer, musician, journalist and philosopher. He was sent to jail several times for his literary works

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PHOTO: STAR

Aranyak artistes perform on the opening day of weeklong Street Theatre Festival 2011 organised by The Daily Star and Bangladesh Pathanatak Parishad at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

EMBEZZLEMENT OF TK 2 CRORE

RDA cashier suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Development Authority (RDA) yesterday suspended its cashier Ekhlas Uddin for alleged embezzlement of Tk 2 crore by forging bank cheques.

Ekhlas had been serving RDA since 1982 and he was due for leave prior to retirement (LPR) by end of this year, RDA officials said.

The misappropriation came into light after Ekhlas left for Dhaka along with his family on February 23 after he was asked to submit details of January's expenditure, they said.

Later, an investigation into the matter inferred out how he had allegedly misappropriated money through forgery.

Abdur Rahim, RDA's acting chairman said a seven-member committee was formed to scrutinize the matter with RDA's authorised officer Abul Kalam Azad as the convener of the committee.

'Introduce food rationing'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers' Party of Bangladesh yesterday demanded of the government to introduce food rationing and distribute everyday commodities at low cost across the country.

The party leaders also suggested for a price control authority that will check price hike of essential commodities and monitor the market regularly.

Workers' Party held a discussion at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) in the city yesterday also to recommend that the government fix food reserve at 20 lakh tonnes.

The speakers said the government should undertake measures to stop harassment and extortion during transportation of essential food products.

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon MP presided over the discussion while the keynote paper was presented by its General Secretary Anisur Rahman.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Reza A-Karim Chowdhury

alias Chunnan Mia, a Language Movement veteran, freedom fighter and former lawmaker, says a press release.

Reza actively participated in the Language Movement when he was a student of Dhaka College.

Azizur Rahman

METRO DESK



Today is the 11th death anniversary of Azizur Rahman Chowdhury, elder brother of eminent poet late Shamsur Rahman, says a press release.

On the occasion a doa and milad mahfil will be held at his son Abidur Rahman Chowdhury's residence at Bakshi Bazar in the city after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

13TH AMENDMENT

Long-pending hearing on appeal starts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday began hearing on a long-pending appeal against a High Court verdict that declared the thirteenth amendment to the constitution valid, which allowed general election under a caretaker government.

After a brief submission by the attorney general, the seven-member Appellate Division bench headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque adjourned the hearing till March 7.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told the court that the constitution has to be interpreted in a "broader way" following the SC verdict on the fifth amendment.

He sought some time for taking preparation to place submission in this case.

Following a writ petition, the HC on August 4, 2004 declared the thirteenth amendment to the constitution legal, and had observed that the changes through this amendment did not distort the basic structure of the constitution.

Advocate M Salimullah, the then general secretary of Association for Democratic and Constitutional Advancement of Bangladesh (ADCAB), filed the petition on January 25, 2000 challenging the thirteenth amendment.

After Salimullah died, advocate Abdul Mannan Khan, acting general secretary of ADCAB, appealed to the Appellate Division against the HC verdict.

HC summons two officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned additional deputy commissioner (revenue) of Dhaka, and an assistant commissioner (land) of Kotwali, on March 10 in connection with a contempt of court petition filed against them.

One Aiyub Siddiki, an owner of a residence at Nawabpur in Dhaka, filed the contempt of court petition with the HC against ADC Jonendra Nath Sarker and AC Land Mizanur Rahman for not complying with its directive.

An HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain also issued a rule upon these two officials to explain within four weeks why they should not be punished for committing contempt of court.

The HC on February 18 last year directed the officials to receive rents from Aiyub against his residence within 30 days.

He filed the contempt of court petition against them on January 31 this year.

WEATHER TODAY

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:02pm today and rises at 6:19am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 33.1 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 09.4 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	29.8	16.0	43	32
Chittagong	30.5	16.0	49	60
Rajshahi	30.4	09.8	52	46
Rangpur	29.2	13.5	65	48
Khulna	29.6	12.5	59	51
Barisal	30.3	11.5	50	50
Sylhet	32.3	14.7	60	43

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop
British Council and University Grants Commission will jointly hold a workshop.
Time: 10:00am, Venue: Sonargaon hotel.

Baul song
Unesco and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will jointly organise a Baul songs ceremony.
Time: 7:00pm, Venue: Sonargaon hotel.

Engineering product fair
Bangladesh Engineering Shilpa Malik Samity will arrange an engineering product fair.
Time: 10:50am, Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Meeting
Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal will organise a meeting.
Time: 4:00pm, Venue: National Press Club.

Musical soiree
Arshinagar Foundation will arrange a musical soiree.
Time: 4:00pm, Venue: