

**New cyclone shelter in Satkhira**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
A cyclone shelter-cum-training centre has been set up at Shyamnagar upazila in Satkhira district with grant assistance from Japan recently, says a press release.  
Second Secretary of Japanese Embassy in Dhaka, Yuichi Inagaki, inaugurated the multi-purpose centre of local NGO "Shushilan" under Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGHSP).  
Satkhira Deputy Commissioner Abdus Samad also attended the inauguration ceremony held Wednesday.  
Shushilan received the grant amounting to US\$ 89,480 for its project "Cyclone Shelter-Cum-Human Resource Training Centre."



**Natyakunju stages a drama named "Amader Satya Kotha" on the third 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.**

PHOTO: STAR

**Free nation from stigma of illiteracy, poverty: PM**

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the people to work unitedly to free the nation from the stigma of illiteracy and poverty.  
She said this while speaking at a seminar marking the historic March 7 speech of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.  
She said conspiracy by the anti-liberation forces is still on to foil the nation's endeavor towards development and prosperity.  
"But I am sure that the conspirators will be failed and the patriotic people will win like that in the 1971 liberation war," she said.  
Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Trust organised the seminar titled "Time-winning speech of March 7: An endless inspiration for the nation," held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium with Sheikh Hasina in the chair.  
"If we can march forward taking lessons from the March 7 speech, we can attain our cherished goals," she said.

She urged the people of all walks of life including AL followers to work with utmost sincerity and patriotism to fulfill the cherished dream of economic emancipation.  
Hasina recalled that her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was taking rest at home before he approached Racecourse Maidan (present Suhrawardi Udyan) to deliver the historic speech.  
"My mother had suggested my father not to pay heed to others, rather keep faith in his own mind and conscience in delivering his speech," said Hasina.  
Noted journalist Abul Momen presented the keynote paper at the seminar.  
Writer Selina Hossain, Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan, Bangabandhu Memorial Trust's Member Secretary Sheikh Hafizur Rahman, Curator of Bangabandhu Museum Siddiqur Rahman and Premier University Vice-Chancellor Anupam Sen also spoke at the seminar.

**'Three out of 10 get married before 15'**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The State of the World's Children 2011 published by the Unicef yesterday revealed that three out of 10 adolescents get married before the age of 15 in the country, which is one of the reasons for high maternal mortality and morbidity.  
The report titled "Adolescence: An Age of Opportunity" showed 3.39 crore people, at present, in Bangladesh are adolescents (aged between 10 and 19), which is one fourth of the total population.  
At the report's launching ceremony at a city hotel, it was also said that a significant number of adolescent girls are suffering from malnutrition while 35 percent of them are underweight.  
The report said strong investments during the last two decades have resulted in enormous gains for young children up to the age of 10. Yet only one in every five of them does not go to school, it added.  
Besides, the adolescents are victims of child marriage, childhood pregnancy, drop-out from schools, child labour, sexual abuse, and many other problems due to socio-economic conditions.

Carel de Rooy, Unicef Bangladesh representative, said only 0.66 percent of the total allocation of the government's social safety net programme goes to the children directly. But the government should invest more on them.  
"We need to focus more attention now on reaching the adolescents, especially the girls -- investing in their education, health and other measures to engage them in the process of improving their own lives," said Unicef Executive Director Anthony Lake.  
Dr Shirin Sharmin Choudhury, the chief guest, said adolescence is given special importance at the National Children's Policy. Adolescents' club will be formulated soon to create platform for the children to communicate their problems, views, and needs.  
Information Secretary Hedayetullah Al Mamoon and Unicef Communication Manager Arifa S Sharmin also spoke on the occasion.

**Effective PR stressed**

METRO DESK

Speakers at a function on Thursday underscored the need for effective public relations to promote image of respective organisation, says a press release.  
They were speaking at the concluding and certificate awarding ceremony of a two-week training course on 'Modern technique of public relations and communications' in the city. Bangladesh Institute of Journalism and Electronic Media (BIJEM) organised the function at its conference room.  
Asia Pacific University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Abdul Matin Patwari distributed certificates among the participants as the chief guest.  
Prof Patwari in his speech said role of public relations in the modern society is very important as it can promote image of different organisations. He said effective public relations strategy also can solve their management crisis. He urged the public relation officers to acquire more knowledge on information and communications technology.  
Dr Shahjada Basunia of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited, and Kazi Mansur-ul-Haq of Hamdard Laboratories (Waqf) Bangladesh were present as the special guests. BIJEM Executive Director Mirza Tarequl Qader presided over the function.

**Road crashes kill 7**

METRO DESK

At least seven people were killed and 14 others injured in separate road accidents in Chittagong, Pabna, Tangail, Noakhali and Netrakona districts yesterday.  
Our correspondent from Chittagong reports: Two women were killed and thirteen others injured when a microbus fell on a roadside ditch on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway in Jangalia area of Lohagara.  
Police identified one woman as Maya Rani Dey, 60, and another woman could not be identified immediately.  
Locals rushed the victims to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.  
Our correspondent from Pabna says: Two schoolchildren were killed in separate road mishaps at sadar upazila.  
The deceased are Abdur Rahim, 11, son of Fazlul Haque of village Jalalpur and Arifa Khatun, 10, daughter of Arab Ali of village Dapunia of sadar upazila.  
Police said the first accident occurred when a speedy truck hit Rahim, a student of Pabna Cadet Collegiate School, leaving him dead on the spot at about 12:00pm.  
Meanwhile, the second one took place when a speedy truck hit Arifa, a student of a local high school, while she was crossing the road in front of her school leaving her dead on the spot.  
Our correspondent from Tangail adds: A six-year-old boy was killed when a bus ran him over on Tangail-Mymensingh road in Dhopajan area at Ghatail upazila.  
The deceased is Mohammad Sazzad, son of Lal Miah of Nimuria village under Muktagachha upazila in Mymensingh.  
Our correspondent from Noakhali says: A seven-year-old boy Arifur Rahman, 7, a KG student of Shishu Kanon School of the upazila was killed and another injured when a bus hit the two boys while they were crossing Sonaimuri-Laksham highway in Sonaimuri upazila.  
The victim Arif's classmate Arman Hossain, 7, was rushed to the Noakhali General Hospital in critical condition.  
Hearing the news, agitating school students barricaded the highway for an hour.  
Our correspondent from Netrakona reports: A motorcycle rider was killed when a bus collided head-on with the motorcycle on Netrakona-Mohonganj road at Bangla under sadar upazila.  
The victim is Rubel Mia, 26, son of Bokul Mia of village Khurshimul under Mohonganj upazila.



**Gonotantrik Biplobi Party organises a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding immediate release of the party's general secretary Moshrefa Mishu.**

PHOTO: STAR

**Protect Royal Bengal tigers**

**Princess Anne tells Zillur**

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting British Princess Anne has lauded the development that has been taking place in the country's socio-economic sectors.  
"I'm very happy to see the changes in the socio-economic development in Bangladesh," she said while paying a courtesy call on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban yesterday.  
During the meeting, Princes Anne stressed the need for protecting the population of the Royal Bengal tigers in the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world, in order to help preserve the biodiversity.  
She said the United Kingdom is keen to provide support and assistance to Bangladesh to facilitate training in the edu-

cation and health sectors.  
Welcoming the princess at Bangabhaban, Zillur recalled the continued British support and cooperation to Bangladesh since the country's independence in 1971.  
"Bangladesh is committed to uphold democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the country," he said, adding that the country is also working to ensure world peace.  
Zillur said around half a million Bangladeshis are presently working in the United Kingdom and also playing a role in the British socio-economic sector. He thanked the UK for its humanitarian aids for the country's people with disabilities.  
President's daughter Tanima Rahman, High Commissioners of Britain, Australia, India, Sri Lanka and Canada were present.



Speakers at the scientific seminar on "Severe Acute Malnutrition" jointly organised by Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and Social Marketing Company in the city on February 27. Principal Prof Quazi Din Mohammad and DMCH Director Brig Gen Shahidul Hoque Mallick addressed the programme, among others.

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