

NEWS IN *brief*

**Climate scientists' meet ends**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day meeting between international climate scientists on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report ended Friday at Brac Centre in Savar.

Over 30 scientists from nine countries, including China, Russia and Japan participated in the meeting, says a press release.

The scientists include authors and editors from IPCC's Working Group II, which is tasked with examining the impacts of climate change.

"Bangladesh is the most vulnerable country to the effects of climate change because of its geography, population density and poverty.

We need scientific guidance to help us and this meeting is an exciting beginning," said the release signed by Dr Atiq Rahman, a development expert and executive director of the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies.

**HC asks gov't for SC judges' remuneration**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain within three weeks why it should not be directed to implement recommendations of the parliamentary sub-committee concerned to increase salaries and allowance of Supreme Court judges.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain issued the rule following a writ petition filed by two SC lawyers, Manzill Murshid and Asaduzzaman Siddiki.

A parliamentary sub-committee in January last year recommended making the salaries and other privileges for the chief justice Tk 1.52 lakh, for each of the Appellate Division judge Tk 1.20 lakh and for each of the High Court judges Tk 1.08 lakh per month, the petitioners said.

**Muggers snatch Tk 7.5 lakh**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers stabbed an employee of a furniture store and made away with Tk 7.5 lakh at Dholaipar of the city's Shyampur yesterday.

The victim Md Babul, 45, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

A gang of six on motorbikes stopped Babul and Emon when they were going to deposit Tk 7.5 lakh at a bank in Dholaipar around 2:15pm by a rickshaw and took away the money after stabbing Babul, said Mokhlesur Rahman, owner of Four Star Furniture at Mir Hazirbagh.

**Biman's flight for refugees**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh will operate one flight everyday from today to repatriate around 2,000 Bangladeshis stranded in Ras Jdir, border point of Libya-Tunisia.

Briefing reporters, Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes said initially Biman decided to operate flight on March 21, 23, 24 and 27. Each flight will carry 300 passengers.

He said some 424 Bangladeshi nationals are scheduled to return home yesterday and another 300 to return today. With this, he said the number of reported returnees from Libya would total 30,225.

**Pro-AL panel sweeps AIB poll**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-Awami League (AL) panel swept the election of Agriculturalist Institution, Bangladesh (AIB), securing all 27 posts of its central executive committee for 2011-12.

Former vice chancellor of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Science University Dr Nitish Chandra Debnath and AL Organising Secretary Agriculturalist AFM Bahauddin Nasima were elected as president and secretary general, bagging 4,940 and 5,340 votes respectively.

Other elected members of AIB are Senior Vice President Nazrul Islam, Vice Presidents Mobarak Ali and Sardar Abul Bashar, Joint Secretary Generals Saidur Sahman Selim and Dr Imran Hossain Khan, Organising Secretary Samir Chandra and Office Secretary MM Mizanur Rahman.

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Dry weather likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Sylhet Division and the regions of Tangail and Mymensingh in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:10pm and rises tomorrow at 6:01am.

Country's highest temperature 37.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 18.2 degrees at Sayedpur.

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	32.9	24.4	72	68
Chittagong	28.4	20.8	74	71
Rajshahi	37.0	24.5	79	52
Rangpur	30.6	18.5	87	71
Khulna	33.0	24.8	75	63
Barisal	30.6	24.5	75	71



Dhaka streets return to their former state after a three-day holiday ending yesterday. The photo was taken from Kakrail. PHOTO: STAR

**Khaleda leaves for S Arabia**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia left for Saudi Arabia last night on a 10-day visit during which she will have medical treatment and perform Umrah.

Before she left, she directed the party's Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, through her personal aide Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas, to carry out the responsibilities of secretary general. The post has fallen vacant due to the death of Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

"Madam [Khaleda] asked me to continue party activities as secretary general," Alamgir, also a former state minister, told The Daily Star last night.

Asked whether he will be the acting secretary general of the party, the BNP leader said there is no provision for acting secretary general in the party constitution.

Her younger brother Shamim Iskander, his wife Kaniz Fatema and personal staffs are accompanying her.

**Obituary**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alhaj Syed Solaiman, a former joint secretary and social worker, passed away on Saturday, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters and grandchildren.

His kulkhwani will be held at his residence at Mirpur in the city after Asr prayers on Friday.

**Nurul Haque**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AM Nurul Haque, father of late freedom fighter Khorshed Sarwar, passed away at a city hospital due to cancer yesterday, says a press release.

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Central Command Council Chairman Major Gen (retd) Helal Morshed Khan and General Secretary Emdad Hossain Motin condoled his death.

**Ahmuda Khanam**

METRO DESK

A h m u d a K h a n a m Chowdhury, wife of late Main Uddin Chowdhury, passed away due to old age complications in Sylhet on Saturday at the age of 86.

She was the mother of Helal Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director & CEO of Pubali Bank Limited, and Dr Kamal Ahmed Chowdhury, head of Sociology department of Shahjalal University of Science & Technology.

Ahmuda was buried in the graveyard on Hazrat Shahjalal Dargah premises after namaz-e-janaza yesterday.

**Road crashes kill 8**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage day labourer and two women workers were killed in separate accidents in the city on Saturday and yesterday.

In an accident, Mohammad Russell, 17, a worker of a mud-laden truck, was killed when the vehicle overturned around 6:30am near Confidence Tower at Mohammadpur.

In Rampura, garments employee Minara Begum, 35, was crushed under the wheels of a bus of Turag Paribahan around 10:00pm when she was crossing the DIT Road.

In Khilkhet, a bus crushed to death a housemaid Nargis Begum, 28, while crossing the road near Lotus Kamal Tower around 10:30pm on Saturday.

Our Correspondent from Narsingdi adds: Five people were killed and 25 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Locals said two buses crashed into a bus after it hit another bus of Trisha Paribahan from behind at Baburhat at about 2:00pm.

Police said the accident occurred when the bus The bus of Trisha Paribahan plunged into a ditch beside road while it was overtaking another Dhaka-bound bus of Megalay Paribahan.

The two buses coming towards the same direction also hit the stationary one after Trisha fell down.

**19.42 lakh cases pending**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 17 lakh cases have been disposed of in two years of the present government while 19.42 lakh more remain pending at different courts, the law minister told parliament yesterday.

In reply to lawmakers' queries, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed said it would take about six years to resolve all cases that are now pending at the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

"If no new case is filed, it will take nearly four to five years to dispose of the cases pending at the High Court," Shafique said in a scripted answer.

**COL TAHER'S TRIAL Judgement tomorrow**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

High Court (HC) yesterday fixed tomorrow for delivering judgement on the writ petitions challenging the trial of Colonel Abu Taher and some other freedom fighters through a military tribunal in 1976.

The HC bench of Justice A H M S h a m s u d d i n Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh MD Zakir Hossain fixed the date after concluding the hearing of the petitions.

A military court in July 1976 tried Taher and sixteen others including politicians Sirajul Alam Khan, ASM Abdur Rab, Maj (retd) Zia Uddin, Hasanul Huq Inu, Sharif Nurul Ambia and Mahmudur Rahman Manna on mutiny and treason charges.

Taher's wife Lutfa Taher, his brother Anwar Hossain and Fatema Yusuf, wife of Yusuf Ali Khan, who was given life sentence by the military court, jointly filed the writ petition on August 22 last year.

On August 23 last year, the HC issued a rule asking the government to explain why the military regulation under which Taher was tried and executed should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Huq Inu and Vice President Rabiul Alam, Maj (retd) Zia Uddin and Abdul Majid, who were also tried and punished by the same military tribunal,

**10 hurt in gun attack on fair**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

At least 10 people were injured, with two sustaining bullet injuries, as criminals opened fire at a local fair in Ramgorh upazila of Khagrachhari Hill district Saturday night.

When denied tolls, a gang of criminals fired 10 to 15 rounds of bullet at a fair named 'Falguni Mela' held in the upazila's Ramsu Bazaar area around 11:30pm on Saturday, said police quoting the locals.

The fair's organising committee president Chehlapru Marma said, "Armed cadres of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) demanded a big amount of toll from us, and when we refused, they opened fire to spoil the fair."

Bullet-injured Kabari Marma, 30, of Battali area, and Ayub Ali, 60, of Zia Nagar in Manikchhari upazila, were admitted to a health complex.

Acknowledging the incident, Guimara Police Station Officer-in-charge Abdur Rab Howladar said locals caught two of the attackers, Mohanta Kumar Tripura, yesterday and handed them over to police.

**Don't dispose waste into rivers: Hasina**

BSS, Narayanganj

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the owners of industries not to dispose of industrial waste in rivers for the sake of protecting environment.

"Industrial waste is polluting our rivers. . . so you should remain alert so that waste of your industries does not pollute river waters," she said.

The prime minister was talking to the local elite and businessmen after formal inauguration of two rental power plants with a total capacity 202 MW and foundation laying of another 360-MW power plant here yesterday afternoon.

Hasina said her government has a plan to construct container terminals in the commercial towns and improving rail, water and road communications to facilitate smooth transportation of products.

She said her government has been working relentlessly for improving living standard of people in line with its election manifesto to build a happy, prosperous and peaceful Bangladesh.

In this context, she referred to various programmes undertaken by her government for ensuring overall development of the country.

She said it is a great success of her government that it added about 14,00 MW electricity to the national grid in last two years. She said the past BNP-Jamaat government could not produce a single megawatt of electricity during its five-year term.

**Build institutions outside capital Urges president**

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman has called upon the patrons of learning and industrial entrepreneurs to build institutions of education and industries outside the capital city, prioritising open environment and infrastructure facilities.

The president made call while laying the foundation stone of the University of Asia Pacific campus in the city's Green Road yesterday.

He said severe pressure has been created on the infrastructures of Dhaka city as the institutions of higher education, particularly the private universities and industrial factories are established in the capital that gives rise to many problems including traffic jam and shortage of gas, water and electricity.

Besides, he said many educational and business institutions being built in the residential areas have been spoiling the environment of the city and also disrupting the normal life. "It's not desirable for a beautiful and modern city."

Zillur said: "For this reason, I'll urge all concerned to give top priority to the issues of open environment, parking and roads before building such institutions including universities."

He said educational and industrial institutions should be built at the open places outside of the capital city.

The president noted the presence of private universities in Bangladesh in providing higher education for more than two decades and some of the universities have been playing vital role in providing quality education.

"But most of the private universities have shortage of own campus and infrastructures. Their research activities are also limited," he said.

Vice Chancellor of the University of Asia Pacific Prof Dr Abdul Matin Patwari and Chairman of the university's board of Trustees Engr M Abu Taher also spoke on the occasion.



Operators of open market sale (OMS) of white rice (atap) sit idle due to lack of customers, as people do not prefer this kind of rice. The photo was taken from Shaheednagar at Lalbagh in the city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Welcome to - **BANGLADESH**

**folk FESTIVAL**

on the occasion of ICC Cricket World Cup 2011

March 22, 2011  
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Green House  
Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka

Open for All

ICC Cricket World Cup 2011  
Bangladesh Tourism Board  
Proud Local Partner of the ICC CWC 2011