



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presides over the cabinet meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat in the city yesterday.

Child drowns in city tank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three and a half year old child drowned in a reserve water tank at the city's Kalabagan on Sunday.

Victim Sazib is the son of a garment company employee Enamul Haq, resident of Green Road. Family sources said Sazib fell into the open tank in front of their house while playing in the morning. They searched for him and found his floating body at night.

Police said that on information they recovered the body yesterday and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy. Morgue sources said that the kid died from drowning.

An unnatural death case was filed with Kalabagan Police Station.

PM for global help to tackle climate impacts

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the developed countries to come up with stronger role in helping the countries, which are vulnerable to climate change, to make their adaptation activities a success.

She made the request while speaking as chief guest at the formal inauguration of the 'Fifth International Conference on Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change' at Hotel Sheraton in the city yesterday morning.

Hasina said though the development partners of Bangladesh has promised \$100 million fund to help the country to face the climate change impacts, it will need several billion dollars to successfully tackle the issues.

"The situation is so critical that Bangladesh, with its meager resources, is not capable to tackle the climate change crisis. The fund promised by the developed nations is so little," she said.

The developed countries are mainly responsible for the global warming and the climate change, as they use fossil fuel in large quantity for their high industrialisation, the premier said.

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BDR CARNAGE CASE Hearing on charge framing starts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday started the hearing on charge framing against 850 members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) for the February 25-26 carnage at the Pilkhana Headquarters in 2009.

Chief counsel for the carnage case Anisul Huq read out the First Information Report (FIR) before the court which fixed April 12 for completing the hearing and charge framing.

Metropolitan Sessions Judge of Dhaka Mohammad Zohurul Haque adjourned the proceedings till April 12 after defence counsels told the court that they are yet to get necessary documents on the 26 accused who were

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DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Deshpremik Jonogoner Mancha will hold an open discussion. Time: 3:00pm, Venue: Gono Sangskriti Kendra, Shahbagh.

Roundtable

Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) will hold a roundtable. Time: 11:00am, Venue: Cirdap auditorium.

Conference

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) will organise an international conference. Time: 7:00pm, Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Exhibition

Bangladesh Furniture Exporters Association will arrange an exhibition. Time: 11:00am, Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Launch

International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B) will hold a launching ceremony. Time: 3:00pm, Venue: ICDDR, B auditorium.

Workshop

Ubinig will hold an international workshop. Time: 9:00pm, Venue: Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban.

Unveiling Ceremony

United Nations Children's Fund

Move against tobacco farming Industries minister urges all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Industries Minister Dilip Barua yesterday said a social movement is required to save farmers from the curse of tobacco cultivation that harms both health and economy.

A number of farmers have lost everything by cultivating tobacco, and a lot of arable land has been destroyed, he said.

"We need to work together to create mass awareness against tobacco farming."

Barua said this while inaugurating a two-day international workshop at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

A policy and action research organisation, Ubinig, will host the workshop on impact of tobacco cultivation and policy advocacy for shifting to food and other crops.

Former adviser to a caretaker government, Dr Akbar Ali Khan, said individuals may find themselves benefited by farming tobacco, but the social loss of the cultivation is huge.

So the society and the government have a right to ask those individuals not to farm tobacco, which is harming the country a great deal, he said.

Prof Quazi Quamruzzaman, chairman of Dhaka Community Hospital, presided over the inaugural session.

The workshop, to be attended by delegates from Kenya, Malawi, Vietnam, and India, will be held at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, Dhaka University today and tomorrow.

AL presidium meet today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) Presidium, the highest policymaking body of the ruling party, sits at 7:00pm today to discuss the country's latest socio-economic and political situation.

The meeting will be held at Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's official residence Gono Bhaban in the city. Hasina, also the president of AL, will chair the meeting.

The meeting of AL Advisory Council, the party's think tank, will also be held at the same and same time on April 2.

AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam has urged all the members of the two bodies to attend the meetings in time.

15 drug stores, shops fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen drug stores and shops were fined and Tk 1.03 lakh were realised from them in the city yesterday, as they sold medicines with expired date and products without price label.

National Consumer Rights Protection (NCRP) Department under the commerce ministry realised the amount in a drive in Mohakhali kitchen market and Wireless gate area.

NCRP Director Mohammad Abu Taleb led the team accompanied by representatives from the department of fisheries and Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB).

Shyamoli Drugs, Confectionary 1 and 2 of Hossen Bakery, and Shayan Departmental Store of Wireless gate area were selling some food items and drinks without price tag.

It goes against the Consumer Rights Protection Act 2009 if products without

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Libya returnees' dreams shattered

NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN

Dreaming of a better life, they had gone to Libya taking loans from relatives and neighbours. But they are now back home with their dreams shattered.

While visiting the houses of some returnee workers in Hinganagar village of Delduar upazila in Tangail, it was seen that they were either depending on their relatives for family expenditure or spending the small amount of saving they could make in the north African country.

Worried about their future, they now want interest-free loans to start life anew.

Babul Sarkar, who went to Libya selling off his tailoring shop and taking loans, is depending on his relatives for the survival of his five-member family.

Forty-year-old Babul shares a 14-decimal piece of land with three of his brothers, and lives in a tiny tin-shed house with his wife, one son and two daughters.

"I had to spend Tk 2.6 lakh to go there [Libya]. I collected the money taking loans from friends and neighbours. But I could stay there only for about nine months and could not earn that much to pay all the loans back," Babul said.

Previously, he used to earn Tk 12,000-13,000 a month from his tailoring shop at Silimpur Bazar in Delduar upazila. A manpower agent tricked him promising of a brighter future in Libya where he would be able to earn about Tk 40,000 a month.

Babul went to the African country on April 16 in 2010 and was employed in a restaurant for a pay of Tk 13,500 a month.

"I could not save anything to repay my loans. People who gave me loans are pressuring me every day to pay back their money... My relatives are now helping me although they are not that much financially sound," said an utterly frustrated Babul.

"While in Libya, at one stage I decided not to return to Bangladesh. I was worried about what shall I do on return home and how shall I



Ananda Sutradhar

pay the loans. Even I thought of committing suicide. I lost one year of my life this way," Babul said wiping his tears.

Another returnee from Libya, Ananda Sutradhar, who worked as a foreman in a Korean Construction Company, recalled the horrifying situation there.

Ananda said the worst thing they had to face is that young

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CASE AGAINST KOKO Hearing deferred till April 17

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred the hearing of the money laundering case against Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, and Ismail Hossain Saimon, son of former shipping minister late Akbar Hossain, till April 17.

Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge Court-3 passed the order after prosecution submitted a petition on grounds that no prosecution witnesses appeared before it yesterday.

Earlier, on January 4 and 19 the court recorded the depositions of five witnesses, including complainant Mohammad Abu Sayeed, deputy director of the ACC, against the defendants.

The duo has been charged with the laundering of Tk 23 crore to Singapore.

In the case statement, the anti-graft body said the accused had laundered money received from China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd and Siemens for helping them win government contracts.

Tiger population rises by 20pc in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The tiger population in India has gone up by 20 percent over the last five years, according to the latest official census of the big cat released yesterday.

There are now 1,706 tigers in India, 295 more than in the last count in 2006, says the census released by Environment and Forests Minister Jairam Ramesh at an international conference on tiger in the Indian capital New Delhi.

The census indicates that the Sundarbans has 70 tigers, Shivalik Gangetic plains has 353, central India and Eastern Ghats 601, Western Ghats 534 and the northeast hills and Brahmaputra floodplains 148.

The conference, being attended by senior officials of 13 countries, including Bangladesh, will discuss challenges, plans and priorities for implementing the Global Tiger Recovery Programme (GTRP) which aims at doubling the wild tiger population by 2022.

The last census in 2006 had shown a sharp fall in tiger population, at 1,411 tigers in the wild. India was home to about 3,000 tigers around two decades ago.

Numbering more than 1,00,000 at the turn of the last century, tigers have lost more than 97 percent of their population and 94 percent of their home range in just 100 years. They live in increasingly isolated habitats in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam.

The GTRP marks the first formalised international initiative to save the species from extinction.



Royal Bengal Tiger

BALI CONFERENCE BEGINS TODAY

Emphasis on combating human trafficking

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister (FM) Dipu Moni will lead a four-member Bangladesh delegation at the 4th Ministerial Conference of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime.

The Bangladesh delegation includes Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs Abdus Sobhan Sikder, Director General (United Nations) of Foreign Ministry Saïda Muna Tasneem and Private Secretary to the FM Jishnu Roy Choudhury, said foreign ministry sources.

The two-day conference beginning today brings participants together to work on practical measures in helping combat human smuggling, trafficking in persons

and related transnational crimes in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

The conference will hold consultations on regional cooperation on law enforcement and border security including intelligence and information sharing.

Dipu Moni will deliver a statement at the conference on the measures taken by the government, including administrative and legislative arrangements. She will brief on the draft law entitled Human Trafficking Prevention Act 2011.

Officials said she is expected to highlight some issues of undocumented migration in the region.

She is also scheduled to attend a breakfast meeting with foreign ministers of some participating countries at the invitation of her Australian counterpart.

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