

NEWS IN *brief*

Indian navy chief arrives

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief of Naval Staff of Indian Navy Admiral Nirmal Verma arrived in Bangladesh yesterday on a five-day visit at the invitation of his Bangladeshi counterpart Vice Admiral Zahir Uddin Ahmed.

During his visit, Admiral Verma is expected to call on the president and prime minister, meet senior officers of Bangladesh Armed Forces and visit Chittagong, Mongla and Khulna, says an Indian High Commission press release.

On the occasion, Indian Naval Ship AIRAVAT will be on a goodwill visit at Chittagong from April 3 to 7.

President returns home today

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman will return home today after completing his six-day visit to Singapore for medical check-up at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital.

The president will arrive at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 10:40 on Monday night by a regular Singapore Airlines flight, a message received from Singapore here yesterday said.

The doctors at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital said Zillur is in good health.

The president left Dhaka on March 28.

Dipu Moni leaves for UAE, Russia

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday left here for UAE to attend the first general assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency, the inter-governmental organisation dedicated for promoting the adoption of renewable energy worldwide.

The two-day assembly, which will begin today, is expected to gather more than 90 high-level ministers, 800 delegates, business leaders and non-governmental organisations from more than 150 nations.

According to a foreign ministry press release Dipu Moni will go Moscow from UAE on a three-day bilateral visit to Russia on April 6 to 8.

She is expected to have a bilateral meeting with the Russian foreign minister in Moscow.

Prof Shafi Trust Fund established

UNB, Dhaka

The Prof Dr Mohammad Shafi Trust Fund was established at Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

Prof Dr Mohammad Shafi's youngest son handed over a cheque for Tk 2 lakh to the chairman of DU Fisheries Department Prof Dr Dewan Ali to set up the 'Prof Dr Mohammad Shafi Trust Fund'.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, Treasurer Prof Dr Mizanur Rahman, Dean of the Faculty of Biological Sciences Prof Dr Shahid Akhter and Registrar Syed Rezaur Rahman were present on the occasion.

RMG factory shut for workers' unrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sweater factory was shut at Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) in Savar on Saturday for an indefinite period fearing possible workers' unrest.

Sources said some 2,300 workers of Softex Sweater Limited started demonstrating Saturday afternoon for pay hike. The authorities decided to shut the factory in the night to avoid any untoward incident.

Police said the workers came to know about the closure yesterday morning and again started demonstrating in front of the factory in protest at the decision.

Law enforcers drove the workers away from the DEPZ, he added.

CPB president hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Manjurul Hsan Khan is now under treatment at the Birdem Hospital in the city.

He was suffering from Morbid Obesity, a disease related to body fat, says a press release.

CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim and other leaders of the party yesterday visited him and prayed for his recovery.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the new airbase of Bangladesh Air Force in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

COX'S BAZAR AIR FORCE BASE OPENS

Work for greater interest: PM

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged all to work unitedly, keeping aside political affiliation and opinion, for the greater interest of the nation.

"I urge all to be united and work for building the country, keeping aside the political affiliation for the greater interest of the nation," she said while inaugurating the Cox's Bazar Air Force Base yesterday.

She formally raised the flag of the first ever flying base in the country. She also signed the relevant order and offered munajat.

Hasina said the importance of Cox's Bazar is immense considering the geo-strategic position. "As the country's land resources are becoming scarce with the passage of time, everyone's eye is now on the sea. Apart from transporting cargo, there are vast resources of fish, gas and other minerals in the vast area of sea."

Strict vigilance is needed for protecting such resources, Hasina said, hoping that the Cox's Bazar air force base would play an effective role in providing economic security to the country's vast maritime area, conducting relief operations during natural calamities, and above all in ensuring national interest.

She said it is indispensable to have a strong, professional and modern air force to consolidate the security of a country from the viewpoint of military strategy.

The PM said to upgrade the air force, the government has taken steps to replace the old planes and helicopters, and to bring the whole country under the radar network. "For this, work is on hand to set up and replace radars in different areas of the country including Cox's Bazar."

Earlier, on her arrival, Hasina was received by air chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman and base commander Group Capt M Mortuza Kamal.

The PM inspected a guard of honour presented by a smartly turned out contingent of air force personnel and took salute. She also witnessed a spectacular fly-past by the air force officers.

MEDICAL COLLEGE

Earlier, Hasina laid the foundation stone of a medical college in Powerhouse area in the sea resort town of Cox's Bazar.

After laying the foundation, she asked the authorities concerned to complete the construction works of the medical college as soon as possible.

NURJAHAN MURDER

Arrestees on 3-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted three days remand of the three persons arrested in connection with the Friday's killing of septuagenarian Nurjahan Begum at the city's Mirpur.

Police produced the three arrestees to the court seeking ten day's remand, says Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Shah Ali Police Station Anisur Rahman.

The arrestees are domestic help of the deceased, Salma Begum, 22, construction worker of her building Darar Miah, 30, and a tenant Rezaul Islam.

Police recovered the slaughtered body of the victim from her Mirpur, Section-1 residence early Sunday.

The deceased, Nurjahan Begum, 75, lived alone in her residence.

Family members suspected known persons in guise of guest entered her house and committed the crime.

The Daily Star - BSRM DEBATE ENDS

NSU, Elementary School champions

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

North South University (NSU) and Bangladesh Elementary School won the championship of The Daily Star-BSRM English debate competition in their respective groups here yesterday.

Dristy Chittagong organised the debate competition at Theater Institute of Chittagong (TIC).

Islamic University of Technology (IUT) and Chittagong Collegiate School are the runner-up in university and school level respectively.

At the closing ceremony, BSRM Chairman and Managing Director Alihussain Akbarali, Prothom Alo Resident Editor Abul Momen, The Daily Star Bureau Chief AKM Raisul Huq Bahar, Dristy Debate Club Chairman Safia Gazi Rahman, and Dristy Chittagong President Masud Bokul handed over the awards to the debaters.

Alihussain Akbarali said one can change his life and society through debates.

He urged the debaters to practise the rich Bangla culture alongside learning English as it is necessary for international communication.

Abul Momen said though some memorable movements like 1971 and 1990 the countrymen could not able to enjoy a good democracy.

Lack of mentality to accept the criticisms and respect to others' opinions are the main causes behind this situation, he said adding that such debate competition can play a significant role to end such situation.

Twelve schools and twelve universities from Dhaka and Chittagong took part in the contest.

The competition developed in the parliamentary form was the first of its kind in Chittagong.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 12th death anniversary of Dr Ashiqul Alam (ret'd) Abul Kashem, a former member of Gonoparishad and member of parliament, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at Boro mosque of Pachlaish thana in Chittagong.

Dr Ashiqul Alam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



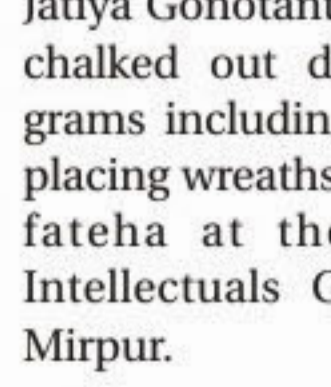
Today is the 14th death anniversary of Dr Ashiqul Alam, a politician and former

central president of Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners Association, says a press release.

Dr Ashiqul Alam Foundation, his family and Jatiya Gonotantik Front has chalked out different programs including discussion, placing wreaths and offering feteah at the Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard at Mirpur.

Salahuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 15th death anniversary of Salahuddin Ahmad, the first managing director of the Hotels International Limited, says a press release.

A doa mahfil will be held.

TARIQUE CASE

Hearing deferred till May 4

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred till May 4 the hearing on taking into cognizance the charges against BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman and his business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun in a money laundering case.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after the defendants' attorney, Taherul Islam, submitted a petition seeking adjournment of the hearing.

In his petition, Taherul mentioned that the Supreme Court (SC) had disposed of the leave-to-appeal petition earlier, as charges brought against the accused were not viable under the Money Laundering Act 2009.



Discussion

Hill Women's Federation will arrange a discussion. Venue: R C Majumder auditorium, Dhaka University, Time: 3:00pm.

Talk

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute will organise a talk on the political and security outlook for South Asia. Venue: House no-3A, Road no-50, Gulshan-2, Time: 3:00pm.

Meeting

Bangladesh Awami League will hold a meeting. Venue: House no-51/A, Road



Guests pose for a photograph with the winners of The Daily Star-BSRM English debate competition organised by Dristy Chittagong at Theater Institute of Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Shun vindictive politics: Faruk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan yesterday said there is no alternative to shunning vindictive politics to build up an accountable state and election system.

He was speaking as the chief guest at "Campus Parliament Debate" competition held at ATN Studio in Bashundhara City in the city, according to a press release.

Dhaka University's Aparajeyo Bangla team won the debate with the topic "Vindictive politics is the main obstacle to the country's development", defeating Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology team.

Vindictive politics thrive as some treasury bench and opposition lawmakers drag on past-oriented politics at discussions in Jatiya Sangsad, Faruk said. "We must come out of vindictive politics. Such politics not only hinders the growth of competent leadership but also development process".

Rokeya Khatun Ruby, Sajjad Alam Khan and Dr Nazneen Sultana acted as judges in the competition, attended by lawmaker Tanveer Shakil Joy.

PAHARTALI POND Prosecute developer DoE asks authority

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday asked the authority concerned to prosecute a developer for filling up a 300-year-old pond at Pahartali in Raozan in Chittagong.

DoE also directed to seize all equipment at the site used for filling up the age-old water reservoir situated by the Choumohoni Mosque.

Md Monir Chowdhury, director of DoE (enforcement), gave the instructions to the DoE director in Chittagong, said a press release. The copies of the order were also sent to the district commissioner (DC) of Chittagong, superintendent of police (SP), upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) and officer-in-charge (OC) of Raojan Police Station for taking immediate action against the perpetrator.

Earlier, on March 7, the developer Md Rokon Uddin was fined Tk 2.50 lakh for filling up the pond. He paid the amount and signed a bond promising to halt his activities.

But lately, he disregarded his own bond and continued filling up the pond for constructing a residential-cum-commercial structure named DN Plaza on the pond, the press release said.

Glaxose WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:15pm today and rises at 5:48am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 19.6 degrees Celsius at Sayedpur.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in		Humidity in	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.5	20.5	79	63
Chittagong	30.3	23.3	91	75
Rajshahi	34.5	23.0	89	69
Rangpur	28.8	21.7	91	79
Khulna	33.8	24.4	81	65
Barisal	32.5	23.1	81	69
Sylhet	32.7	20.8	66	61
Cox's Bazar	32.5	23.2	77	72

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