

NEWS IN *brief*

'UP polls atmosphere improves'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The atmosphere of the Union Parishad election has improved and the entire picture was calm and disciplined.

This was told by BROTEE, an election monitoring organisation, which observed election of 54 unions in the country.

They said they observed that the election management was organised and the environment in 2003 election was not like that.

Voters cast their votes standing in queues since 8:00am.

They said around 100 incidents of violence occurred during pre and post election period where four people were killed and 801 injured.

Two alleged muggers held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective police yesterday arrested two alleged muggers who shot two employees of a car showroom in broad daylight at Bijoy Nagar in the city on March 29 and snatched Tk 11 lakh.

A team of Detective Branch (DB) of Police arrested Ramzan Ali alias Daku Ramzan, 39, and Hasanur Rahman Rubel, 23, from Siddhirganj of Narayanganj around 4:00am, DB officials said.

According to their information, they recovered Tk 1.73 lakh from Ramzan's house at Gobinpur slum in the city's Sutrapur area, said Golam Mostafa Russel, a senior assistant commissioner of DB.

On March 29, eight armed criminals on four motorbikes shot two employees -- Kamal Khan and Momin Pathan -- of Bless Car Corner in their legs around 3:30pm near the Kakrail branch of Shah Jalal Islami Bank and took away the money.

RU debate begins today

RU CORRESPONDENT

A four-day national debate competition and career-planning seminar begins at Rajshahi University (RU) today.

RU's Business Studies Faculty Debating Forum (BFDF) organises the programme titled "bdjobs.com-BFDF 2nd national debate competition and career planning seminar."

BFDF, at a press conference on the campus yesterday, said 32 public and private universities from across the country will take part in the debate competition and around 800 students will join the career-planning seminar on the first day.

Achintya Sen no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Achintya Sen, a veteran journalist and a permanent member of Jatiya Press Club, passed away at Labaid Hospital in the city yesterday. He was 64.

He had been suffering from various complications including heart and kidney problems.

He left behind his wife Dipa Sen and a host of friends and admirers to mourn his death.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia expressed shock at the death of the journalist.

In a statement, the BNP chief said Achintya Sen was a fearless warrior in all movements against autocracy.

Jatiya Press Club President Kamal Uddin Sabuj and General Secretary Syed Abdal Ahmed also expressed shock at the death of Achintya Sen.



Spanish Ambassador to Bangladesh Arturo Manuel Perez calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

BNP STANDING BODY MEETS TODAY

Secy general post to top agenda

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The national standing committee of BNP, the party's highest policy-making body, sits today to discuss about a number of vital issues including filling up the vacant post of secretary general and possible anti-government agitation programmes.

The issues related to the government's move to amend country's constitution and the recently okayed women development policy will be raised in the meeting as part of its discussion on the latest political scenario of the country, said the party insiders.

They also said related matters regarding formation of party's most important but crisis-riddled Dhaka city unit committee may also come up in the discussion as the senior leaders think it is really tough to run the party activities in the city without any specific committee.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, who returned home on Sunday after a 10-day visit to Saudi Arabia, earlier said she would announce agitation programme after the Cricket World Cup, as Bangladesh is a co-

host of the big event.

Maruf Kamal Khan Sohel, press secretary of Khaleda Zia, said the meeting will be held at night at the chairperson's Gulshan office.

Asked about the agenda, the party's standing committee member Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman said a number of important issues have been pending for discussion and hoped these will come up in today's meeting.

"Party is suffering as there is no committee for Dhaka city unit for a long time and the issue should be discussed in the meeting," he said, adding the committee will also discuss about the agitation programme as per chairperson's earlier announcement.

Another member of the standing committee hinted that the issue of secretary general might come up for discussion, as the post is vacant due to the death of Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir is now carrying out the activities of the secretary general following a verbal instruction of the chairperson.

Mufti Izharul gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Mufti Izharul Islam Chowdhury, president of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), in a case filed for abducting a homeopathic physician on September 4, 2003.

Judge Mohammad Zahurul Haque of Metropolitan Session Judge's Court passed the order upon a bond of Tk 25,000 with two guarantors after his appeal against the lower court rejection order was submitted.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 15th death anniversary of M A Haque, an ex-minister and writer, says a press release.

On the occasion, qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at the residence of his eldest daughter's house at Banani in the city.

Besides, MA Haque Foundation will arrange a milad mahfil and discussion.

Gulshan Akhter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the third death anniversary of journalist Gulshan Akhter, an assistant editor of the Daily Jugantor and writer, says a press release.

She was the vice president of Bangladesh Mahila Sangbadik Forum, treasurer of Dhaka Union of Journalists, senior vice president of Bangladesh Music Journalists Association and vice president of Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad.

71 more Bangladeshis flee Libya

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Influx of Bangladesh nationals through the Libyan borders continued as seventy-one more crossed over to Tunisia on Monday.

According to the foreign ministry, 68 Bangladeshis crossed over to Ras Jdir border point in Tunisia on Monday. About 900 Bangladeshis now await repatriation there.

Three others escaped to Al Salloum border checkpoint in Egypt on Monday.

The ministry's consular team arranged for repatriating the three from Cairo airport by a commercial flight to be coordinated by International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Meanwhile, Biman Bangladesh Airlines will operate three flights from Djerba on April 6, 8 and 10 to bring back rest of the Bangladeshis stranded in the Libya-Tunisia border.

Since beginning repatriation of Bangladesh nationals from Libya, a total of 125 flights have operated till date.

As of now, 34,198 Bangladeshis who were employed in Libya have been repatriated to Bangladesh.

Of these, the return of 3,831 persons was arranged by their employers while some returned on their own arrangements, and 27,010 were repatriated under the coordination of IOM.

One Bangladeshi still remains missing at Hania, Crete in Greece.

Tk 2,663cr projects approved

Plan to procure 10 dredgers

UNB, Dhaka

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) yesterday approved nine development projects involving Tk 2,663 crore, including one to procure 10 dredgers to restore navigability of rivers.

The approval was made at its meeting presided over by Ecne Chairperson and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the NEC conference room in the city's Sher-e-Banglanagar.

"All of the nine projects will be implemented with funds from the government exchequer," said Planning Minister AK Khandker while briefing reporters after the meeting. Planning Division Secretary M Monzur Hossain was present.

The procurement of 10 dredgers, crew boat, tug boat, officer houseboat, crew houseboat, and other accessories and machineries project will be implemented at a cost of Tk 746 crore.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), under the shipping ministry, will implement the project scheduled to be completed by June 2013.

Under the project, the dredgers will be purchased to enhance the dredging efficiency of the BIWTA, develop the navigability of the rivers, and meet the fast increasing dredging demand.

12 'Shibir men' held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested 12 suspected activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir and recovered four petrol bombs from a house in Mohammadpur of the city last evening.

Harun-ur-Rashid, additional deputy commissioner (ADC) of Tejgaon division, said they raided the house at Road-9 of Baitul Aman Housing around 7:00pm and made the arrests.

The molotov cocktails were found inside a car parked on the ground floor of the building, said the ADC. The car belongs to a Shibir member who is also a bank official, he added.

Rashid said the third floor of the house raided is a mess where the Shibir men had been residing for carrying out their activities.

PM seeks green tech from Spain

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought cooperation from Spain with green technology in producing solar energy, wind power and help tapping various sources of renewable energy.

She sought the cooperation when the Spanish Ambassador to Bangladesh Arturo Manuel Perez paid a courtesy call on her at her office in the city.

During the meeting, they discussed wide range of bilateral issues including further expansion of trade and business between the two countries.

The Spanish ambassador highly praised the prudent and able leadership of prime minister for her relentless efforts to achieve economic progress of the country. He also handed over a letter of prime minister of Spain to Sheikh Hasina during the meeting.

Ambassador At Large M Ziauddin, Secretary to the Prime Minister Office Molla Waheeduzzaman and Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad were present.



Help save visually impaired Mansura

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mansura Yeasmin, a visually impaired girl who earned her masters degree on political science from Dhaka University (DU), has been suffering from Hepatitis B. Her condition is worsening day by day.

Doctors say Mansura's medical expenses will stand at Tk 8-10 lakh that her husband Abu Taher, still in search of a job, is unable to afford. Taher graduated from Mirpur Bangla College.

Moreover, Mansura has a six-month-old baby who already started suffering visual complications. The little boy may lose eyesight unless he is given proper treatment.

Prof Shawkat Ara Husain, chairman of political science department of DU, requested well-off people of the society to come forward to assist the distressed girl.

Any donation or financial assistance can be sent to Mansura's account with Sonali Bank (DU Branch): savings account no. 12100369961, mobile phone no. 01920935343.



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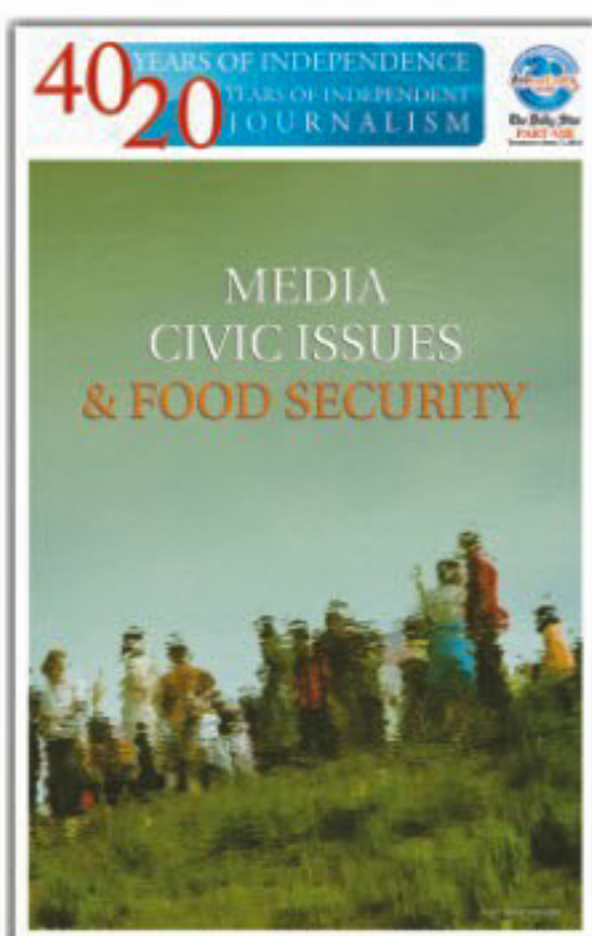
The 8th instalment will reach you tomorrow
Thursday, 7th April 2011

The theme of the 8th instalment is

MEDIA, CIVIC ISSUES & FOOD SECURITY

WRITERS

Professor Dilara Choudhury
Shahid Alam
Sanjida Sobhan
Dr. Zebun Nasreen Ahmed
Dr. Nizamuddin Ahmed
Dr. M. Zakiul Islam
Dr. Ishrat Islam
Salma A. Shafi
Anwar Iqbal
Quazi Shahabuddin
Dr. Md. Saidul Islam



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Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions 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 6:16pm today and rises at 5:46am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 33.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 17.2 degrees Celsius 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	30.4	20.8	76	59
Chittagong	32.0	23.6	64	55
Rajshahi	30.6	19.2	86	55
Rangpur	30.6	18.5	77	55
Khulna	31.0	21.5	85	67
Barisal	30.0	22.0	69	75
Sylhet	31.5	21.3	87	64
Cox's Bazar	33.4	24.0	65	62

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