

NEWS IN brief

Nursing course starts at BSMMU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-year B.Sc in nursing course was inaugurated at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in the city yesterday.

A total of 20 students got admission in session 2011-2012 following a written and viva voce.

At the inaugural ceremony of the B.Sc nursing at Milton Hall in BSMMU the Vice-Chancellor (VC) Prof Pran Gopal Datta said from now on BSMMU would produce skilled nurses from the hospital.

These nurses would be able to provide international standard service, he said, adding that the university would try to get approval of the International Nursing Council for this nursing course.

Pro VC (administration) Prof Dr Mohammad Shahidullah, Pro VC (education) Prof Ruhul Amin Mia, Treasurer Prof Dr Moazzam Hossain, Dean of Nursing Faculty Shahana Akhter Rahman spoke at the programme.

Rickshaw-van puller murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rickshaw-van puller was stabbed to death by his cousin yesterday in the city's Motijheel area.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Ibrahim, 42, resident of Gulbagh.

Officer-in-Charge Tofazzal Hosain of Motijheel Police Station said the cousin, Babul, stabbed Ibrahim on the chest and abdomen in front of a tea stall near the victim's house around 3:00pm following a row.

Ibrahim died on the spot while his cousin fled the scene. Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy, he said.

Representative of sunken Korean ship arrives in Dhaka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A representative of North Korean ship MV Hyang Ro Bong, which sank in the Bay, arrived in Dhaka yesterday to hold a meeting with Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) tomorrow.

The ship MV Hyang Ro Bong, transporting 13,492 tonnes of rice imported from Pakistan for Bangladesh, began sinking at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port after it collided with a ship on April 6.

Captain Mohiuddin Ahmed, local representative of the ship, said the representative, Gong, would talk about salvaging operations.

CPA Secretary Sayed Farhad Uddin said after the meeting, the ship owners would take a decision.

Protest against 'harassment' of two female journos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shamajik Protirodh Committee, an alliance of 64 NGOs, condemned the incident of "harassing" two female journalists by the Islami Ain Bastabayan Committee on April 8.

Reporter of ATN Bangla and ATN News Shahana Begum and Reporter of Mohona Television Tamanna Farzana Khan went to cover the meeting of the Islami Ain Bastabayan Committee (Islami Law Implementation Committee) in Jessor.

But the organisers forced them to leave the place just for being female journalists, said a statement signed by the leaders of the alliance.

Shamajik Protirodh Committee was informed that the organisers and activists of the Bastabayan committee even shouted: "No woman can stay at the meeting of the Islami Ain Bastabayan Committee. Get them out."

Protesting such act, leaders of the Protirodh committee said that the incident was not only offensive; it hindered the women to perform their professional duties.

GlaxoSE WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessor, Kustia, Noakhali and Comilla in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with 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 at 6:18pm pm today and rises at 5:41am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessor and lowest 20.6 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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

City/Town	Temperature in		Humidity in percentage		
	Celsius	Max		Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.0	25.2	65	48	
Chittagong	30.3	22.6	78	71	
Rajshahi	36.3	21.4	71	42	
Rangpur	32.6	22.5	91	56	
Khulna	35.0	24.0	67	76	
Barisal	32.0	24.5	87	80	
Sylhet	32.5	23.0	57	64	

Instant energy, Instant recharge



This file photo, left, shows the collapsed nine-storey building of Spectrum Sweater Factory in Savar that killed 61 workers and injured 84 others on April 11, 2005. Two of the injured workers, right, participating in a rally at Muktangon in the city yesterday. National Garment Workers' Federation organised the event commemorating the tragedy.

PHOTO: STAR



SIX YEARS OF SPECTRUM SWEATER FACTORY COLLAPSE

No one knows fate of victims, families

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nure Alam still feels pain on his left hand, which had to be amputated due to the injury he suffered when the nine-storied building of Spectrum Sweater Factory Limited in Savar collapsed on April 11, 2005.

It feels as if blood is still gushing out from the wound, said Nure while walking at a rally yesterday, adding, "Doctors told me that the pain would persist until my death."

He was participating in a garment workers' rally organised by National Garments Workers Federation (NGWF) commemorating six years of the tragic collapse that killed 61 workers and injured 84 others.

With time, Nure realised yet another impact of his injury. Every joint in his body aches from time to time, sometimes becoming unbearable.

Mentionable, the owner of the factory, parts of which was built illegally, got acquittal long ago during the regime of the immediate past caretaker government.

Nure, however, is luckier than some of the others injured as he got the job of a time-keeper, keeping a tally of the time employees come and go, of a private office on special consideration for Tk 6,000 a month.

"In the last two months I purchased medicine worth Tk 3,500. I have to be on medication for the rest of my life as new

diseases are emerging with age," said a 45-year-old Nure.

Only 10 to 14 of the injured workers were rehabilitated like Nure but the fate of the rest remains unknown.

Even NGWF does not have any idea, neither about what happened to them nor the status of family members of the deceased.

Though the company gave primary compensation to both the injured and the deceased, Nure said compensation worth Tk 1 or Tk 2 lakh is inadequate for a life affected forever.

According to a NGWF's report, based on newspaper reports, 50 major accidents occurred since 1990, mostly of factory build-

ing collapse and fire breakouts, leaving 438 dead and over 3,000 injured.

"Safe workplace is the right of a garment worker. Owners, the government and buyers must act responsibly to ensure this right," said lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha.

According to newspaper reports, most of the accidents took place in industries, which were non-compliant with existing rules.

"What happened to me is beyond compensation. Compensation has nothing to do with justice. I want justice," said Nure as he walked away with a black flag.

He knows that the factory owner already resumed operation in Savar in full swing.

PAHELA BAISHAKH Security tightened

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Security measures have been tightened for Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla New Year 1418 on April 14, 2010. Around 33,000 personnel from Rab, police and other intelligence agencies will wrap the country in a security blanket to ensure smooth celebrations.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Hassan Mahmood Khandker yesterday at a press briefing at his office said, "We hope the nation will be able to celebrate the festival without any fear."

Additional IGPs Zaved Patwary and Shah Jaman Raj, Director General of Rapid Action Battalion Mokhlesur Rahman and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Benazir Ahmed, among others, were present at the briefing.

Police headquarters sources said apart from setting up closed circuit televisions (CCTV) and archways, special drives will be conducted to catch criminals and sniff illegal drugs.

The law enforcers will remain on high alert to guard against militant activities, the IGP said.

Lucky new DG of Shilpakala

BSS, Dhaka

The government yesterday appointed cultural personality Liakat Ali Lucky as the new director general of Shilpakala Academy as his predecessor noted journalist and writer Kamal Lohani went on retirement on completion of his two years tenure.

"Noted theatre figure Liakat Ali yesterday took charge as the director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy," said the academy in a statement.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Suranjit seeks BNP opinion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Co-chair of the parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment Suranjit Sengupta yesterday urged BNP leaders to come before the special committee to give their opinions in amending the constitution in consensus.

"Come and talk to the committee anytime," Suranjit urged the main opposition leaders at a discussion at Bilia auditorium in the city organised by Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee.

He criticised BNP leaders who voice their concern on the constitution's amendment at different rallies, seminars and roundtable discussions but do not want to talk with the parliamentary committee.

Suranjit said they are working to bring necessary changes in the constitution based on reality and would recommend incorporation of some constitutional documents, which were initially not included.

Suranjit, also a leader of the ruling Awami League, however, did not give any clear answer to questions of whether the provision of secularism and rights of practicing religion based politics will be kept together.

Some discussants said keeping the two in the constitution would be contradictory and conflicting.

Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon said the present government assumed office with people's mandate to bring the constitution of 1972, written considering the spirit of War of Liberation.

Executive President of Nirmul Committee Shahriar Kabir said people want to get back the constitution of 1972 and it should be done according to court verdicts.

Keeping the two contradictory provisions together will be nothing but a kind of hypocrisy, he said, adding that it would not be acceptable to keep anything in the constitution in conflict with the spirit of War of Liberation.

Law Affairs Secretary of Nirmul Committee Dr Turin Afroz and Justice Syed Ameerul Islam spoke at the programme, presided over by National Prof Kabir Chowdhury.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khandaq Newazul Bari, court correspondent of The Daily Kaler Kantha passed away at the Holy Family Hospital in the city on Saturday due to cardiac arrest at the age of 42, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son and one daughter.

National Court Reporters Association condoled his death.

Saif Uddin Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chowdhury Saif Uddin Ahmed, an organiser of the Liberation War, passed away at his residence in Paltan yesterday at the age of 89, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son and one daughter.

National Court Reporters Association condoled his death.

Workshop

Integrated Community Based Arsenic Mitigation Project, Bangladesh will organise a workshop; Venue: Central Training Centre, 4/6, Block-E, Lalmaia; Time: 9:30am.

Ceremony

East West University will hold a certificate giving ceremony; Venue: the university auditorium; Time: 5:00pm.

National Consultation

South Asians for Human Rights will organise a national consultation; Venue: Senate Bhaban, Dhaka University; Time: 10:00am.

Rally

Citizens Rights Movement will organise a rally; Venue: in front of BGMEA building; Time: 11:00am.

Meeting

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry will hold a view exchange meeting; Venue: FBCCI auditorium; Time: 11:00am.

Exhibition



Health Minister AFM Ruhal Haque speaks at a function in Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday marking the 256th birth anniversary of Dr Samuel Hahnemann, the inventor of homeopathy.

PHOTO: STAR

Non-communicable diseases spreading fast

Say experts

BSS, Dhaka

Non-communicable diseases are spreading fast in the country, though the prevalence of communicable diseases is declining gradually.

This information was revealed in a workshop on Bangladesh's preparation for the forthcoming UN Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Summit 2011 at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

The conference will be held on

September 11 at the headquarters of the United Nations.

Organised by the Department of Health and the Health Ministry, Health Minister Dr AFM Ruhal Haque attended the function as the chief guest. Health Secretary Mohammad Humayun Kabir was present as the special guest.

The health minister said the grand alliance government is working relentlessly for the development of the health sector.

The government is trying to ensure free health services for the poor, insolvent and helpless people, including those in rural areas, he added.

He said the government has reached health care to doorsteps of the people by introducing community clinics across the country.

The health minister said the government is continuing its efforts to reorganise the health sector to improve quality of health services. He stressed the need