

NEWS IN *brief*

Indian citizen killed in BSF firing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) killed an Indian national inside Bangladeshi territory at Char Sonaikandi frontier under Poba upazila in Rajshahi yesterday.

The dead was Alamgir Hossain, 30, son of Deraj Hossain of Banshgara village in Indian Murshidabad, as identified by his Bangladeshi relative Aleya Begum, said police.

Alamgir was shot when he, along with some others, was taking cattle from India to Bangladesh around 12:00am, said Rajpara Police Station Officer-in-Charge Anisur Rahman quoting Border Guards of Bangladesh (BGB) officials and relatives of the dead.

Alamgir was hospitalized around 1:00am and he succumbed to his injuries around 1:30am, said sources at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Protest against women policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Andolon Bangladesh (IAB) held a rally at Mukhtangon yesterday demanding cancellation of the Women Policy terming it as "anti-Quran" policy and in protest of "attempts to ban fatwa."

While they were moving for Bangabhaban to submit a memorandum to the president, police barricaded the procession in front of Dainik Bangla Crossing. They sat on the both sides of the road.

Later, a delegation went to Bangabhaban and handed over the memorandum to the personnel on duty at its gate.

The sit-in by the processionists and road blockade by police for about one and a half hour from 12:45pm created a huge traffic jam in the area.

Directive to college teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry yesterday issued an official directive asking the teachers of government and non-government colleges to remain present at the institutions regularly.

The direction came following allegation, often proved by the ministry's own investigation, that some teachers are not attending at the colleges regularly.

"It is noticed few teachers of different government colleges are not staying at workplaces except class hours and often remaining absent without permission", reads the directive.

"It has turned into a regular habit of these teachers." This behaviour goes against the government rule, it said.

This illicit behaviour has been noticed in some of the teachers of the non-government colleges too, which disrupt teaching and overall managerial activities badly, it said.

In the directive the managing authorities and head of the institution were asked to take necessary measures as per law against the teachers for their unapproved absence without any delay for the interest of ensuring administrative discipline.

'Share practices to root out crimes'

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday called for sharing of best practices and mutual cooperation amongst developing and developed countries to root out corruption and related trans-boundary crimes.

She also reiterated strong determination of the present government to strengthen every institution and legislation aimed at combating corruption for effective implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

Dipu Moni said this to an eight-member delegation from the governments of Iran and Paraguay and the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) while they met her yesterday afternoon, said a foreign ministry release. The team is visiting here as part of peer review mechanism for assessing status of implementation of the convention by Bangladesh.



Boys and girls of Rakhain community splashing water on each other at Naba Pandit Bihar at Katalganj in Chittagong city yesterday to celebrate 'Jalkeli Utshab.'

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Road crashes kill 3 in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people were killed in three separate road accidents in the city yesterday.

An employee of a construction company, Abdur Rashid Chowdhury, crashed under wheels of a private car at the city's Chairmanbari of Banani. The vehicle hit him when he was trying to cross road.

The victim was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where duty doctors declared him dead.

Meanwhile, a rickshaw van puller, Jahangir Hossain, 32, was killed on Kuril Bishwa road as an unknown vehicle hit his rickshaw from behind.

In another accident, police recovered an unidentified body of a youth, 30, in front of Balaka Bhaban on Airport road around 3:30am yesterday, who was killed by an unknown vehicle.

276 wait at Tunisia

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

No Bangladesh nationals from Libya afresh entered Tunisia or Egypt on Monday, but many families contacted the foreign ministry seeking advice to return back home.

As of now, 276 Bangladeshis await repatriation at Ras Jdir border point in Tunisia, said the foreign ministry press release yesterday.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday brought back 306 Bangladeshis from Tunisia. No flight schedule is yet announced to repatriate the remaining 276.

Meanwhile, the ministry's consular team at Ras Jdir continued to receive calls from many Bangladeshi families in different Libyan cities who want to return to Bangladesh.

The consular team advised them to take safe routes to Ras Jdir and coordinate their time of entry with the available flights, the press release said.

In Greece, the eight Bangladeshis at Corfu Port of Crete Island are yet to complete their identification process, following which Bangladesh Embassy in Athens will arrange their repatriation, the press release added.

Besides, one Bangladeshi still remains missing at Hania in Crete Island.

A total of 129 flights have operated since beginning repatriation of Bangladesh nationals from Libya. Of these, 112

FACTORY FIRE IN CITY Girl electrocuted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A minor girl was electrocuted as a high voltage electric wire tore down on her during a fire that burned down a crab-processing factory in the city's Uttara last night.

The deceased was identified as Suraiya Akhter, 7, daughter of a vegetable vendor Abu Musa.

Police said the girl became victim although she was standing around 200 yards away from the fire spot.

Fire Service and police said the fire was originated from an electric short circuit around 7:30pm.

Two units of fire fighters doused the fire after two hours of efforts.

PM okays amendment to constitution: Suranjit

UNB, Dhaka

A day after the meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Suranjit Sengupta, co-chair of the parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment, yesterday said the PM has given the go-ahead in amending the constitution.

The special committee on constitutional amendment had a lengthy meeting with the premier at her official residence on Monday night, said Suranjit at a briefing at the media centre of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

In reply to a question, he said time has not come yet to disclose the contents or outcome of discussion with the prime minister.

Suranjit said the committee has discussed overall matters with her, and further discussion will take place.

Asked whether the PM has agreed with the special committee on tenure of the caretaker government, he said there is nothing to hide whether the tenure of the caretaker government will be 90 days or six months.

It will be revealed in due time, he said, adding that a bill for constitution amendment will be introduced in parliament and then, everybody will come to know about it.



Rally

Karmojibi Nari (KN) will hold a rally on women policy. Time: 11:00am, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Memorandum

Shikkhak Karmachari Olkya Jote will hold a rally on nationalisation of their job and submit a memorandum. Time: 11:00am, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Seminar

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) will organise a seminar on economy. Time: 10:00am, Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Sit-in

WBB Trust will stage an anti-smoking sit-in. Time: 11:00am, Venue: Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University.

Chaitra Sankranti

Nitya Uphar will organise a poem recitation ceremony. Time: 4:30pm, Venue: Aziz Super Market, Shahbagh.

WOMEN DEVELOPMENT POLICY 'Protesters' activities anti-Islamic'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Gausul Azam Maizbhandari Parishad yesterday blasted Islami Ain Bastabayan Committee (IABC) for creating anarchic situation in the country on April 4 in the name of protesting the women development policy.

The organisation leaders at a press conference at the city's Jatiya Press Club said anti-Islamic behaviour of Mufti Fazlul Haq Ammini and other leaders of IABC (Islamic law implementation committee) were revealed on the hartal day as they caused sufferings to the country's people.

"Through looting and oppression, they have [leaders and activists of IABC] established themselves as the followers of an inhuman and anti-Islamic character Ejid," Syed Saifuddin Ahmed Maizbhandari, secretary general of Maizbhandari parishad told the briefing.

RIGHTS ACTIVISTS
Meanwhile, women's rights activists yesterday criticised fundamentalists for opposing the women development policy.

They blasted the protesters at a memorial meeting organised by Steps Towards Development (Steps) on the first death anniversary of Bela Nabi at Chhayanat Sanskritik Bhaban in the city.

Saving a hill on their own

FROM PAGE 20

villages) to refrain from jhum cultivation in hills. Karbaris (village chiefs) under the mouja and some other people rallied behind him.

At the beginning, it was quite difficult to make the indigenous people aware of the negative impact of the cultivation on environment, said Shu, as jhum was in their tradition.

Jhum is an age-old, rain-fed cultivation method, practiced by indigenous people on the hills and slopes. This system involves clearing a piece of land by setting fire or clear felling and using the area for growing crops of agricultural importance. After a few cycles, the land loses fertility and a new area is chosen.

Shu has chosen Kra U Dong, locally known as Deem Pahar, since the hill had long been worshipped by locals.

The vast forest on Kra U Dong and adjoining hills were once havens of wild animals and birds that have been wiped out due to jhum cultivation, said the headman.

A number of large trees and shrubs also were burnt and cleared by farmers, Shu said.

The headman added they managed to stop jhum cultivation at Kra U Dong three years ago and decided

to hold a festival to worship the hill every year.

On Saturday morning, over 60 people, mostly of Mro and Marma communities from seven faraway paras, gathered at the bottom of the hill to join the annual worship.

People of all ages, from eighty-year old Chang Lai to four-year-old Myem Plang, arrived there after crossing hilly distances on foot.

Tanza, 13, who came with his farther Maung Pro to attend the ceremony, said it was still dark when they left home and the journey to the hill took three hours.

Without taking any food, they had to wait there till afternoon for the headman who was late as the vehicle carrying him went out of order on the way.

But they could show no sign of tiredness as a fifteen-member flute ensemble was busy keeping them cheerful.

As the headman with his fellows arrived there around 1:00pm, everybody stood up in cheers and Mro girls dancing to the melodious tune of flute welcomed him.

All the people led by the headman climbed to the Kra U Dong peak. They worshipped the imaginary godhead of the hill by offering fruits, foods, traditional drinks and money.

Afterwards, they took drinks, started dancing and vowed to preserve the hill.

Old Chang Lai, 81, who led the flute ensemble, said they would resist natural calamities if the hills are preserved.

Maung Pro, 33, karbari (village chief) of Rai Hing para, said he is so happy being part of the initiative. They would now try to convince those who are still engaged in jhum.

Seventy-year-old Sin Kran, who led the worship, said there was a large jhuri (water flow) at Kra U Dong decades ago to provide drinking water for animals, birds and humans but it dried up. He also alleged the hill has been cleared of its green trees.

The old man hoped the hill would get back its life and green look again if it is properly protected.

A nine-member committee titled Kra U Dong Hill Preservation Committee comprising the village chiefs, a local teacher, a trader and the local Union Parishad secretary has been formed with the headman as its president.

Shu said they took initiatives of making small fruit gardens in some areas to rehabilitate the farmers who are giving up jhum. He sought cooperation from the government and non-government organisations.

Turag set to lose

FROM PAGE 1

Bridge and west of Biswa Ijtema ground. An awareness raising programme was also organised on the Telephone Shilpa Sangstha ground.

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan told reporters after opening the programme that the boundary pillars are aimed at protecting five rivers in and around Dhaka city against powerful land grabbers.

The pillars will be installed along 220-kilometre long shorelines of the 110-kilometre long stretch of the rivers Buriganga, Shitalakhya, Turag, Balu, and Dhaleswari under a Tk 99 crore project, he said.

District administrations of Dhaka, Narayanganj, and Munshiganj area are expected to start installation of the pillars soon in conjunction with the public works department.

Shajahan Khan, however, turned down a ques-

tion from The Daily Star as to whether the river will be protected without the foreshores, saying, "No more question now, we will address it later."

According to the definition by port rules, foreshore is the soil lying between the low water mark and high water mark of normal tide during dry season and monsoon, which is vital for conservation, port operation and navigability of a river. The foreshores and the river bed are khas lands (government lands).

Md Rezaul Karim Hira, land minister, who attended the programme, said there are many kinds of private ownership documents for khas lands.

Exclusion of foreshores from a river area will not only accommodate private occupants of foreshores, but will also encourage fresh encroachment upon rivers, according to officials of BIWTA.

A High Court bench in 2009 directed the authorities concerned to survey the Dhaka rivers, demarcate those with pillars, and build walkways and plant trees on their banks.

Abdul Mannan Khan, state minister for public works, said an unscrupulous section of real estate developers grab rivers, canals, and wetlands, and publicise flashy advertisements to sell those public properties.

"Rivers and wetlands must be protected to save Dhaka from flooding, conserve the environment, and to ensure water sources," he said.

Quamrul Islam, state minister for law; Sanjida Khanom, a lawmaker of Dhaka; local lawmaker Jahid Ahsan Russel; Md Ajmat Ullah Khan; the mayor of Tongi Pourashabha; Shipping Secretary Md Abdul Mannan Howladar; and BIWTA Chairman Md Abdul Malek Mian also spoke.

Glaxose WEATHER TODAY
100% GLUCOSE

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Mild heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Faridpur and Rajshahi and it may continue.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:19pm today and rises at 5:39am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 37.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and Khulna and lowest 17.4 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	35.8	22.4	48	42
Chittagong	31.4	24.4	83	69
Rajshahi	37.3	21.8	60	50
Rangpur	32.6	22.0	67	54
Khulna	37.3	23.5	59	40
Barisal	35.7	21.4	75	71
Sylhet	35.0	21.2	56	54
Cox's Bazar	33.2	24.5	83	80

Instant energy, Instant recharge

Maiti Panchikta

The Daily Star-এর ২০ বছর পূর্তি উপলক্ষে
বাংলাদেশের সকল অঞ্চল থেকে
লোকগানের দল ও শিল্পীদের অংশগ্রহণে

লোকগানের উৎসব
মাইতি পঞ্চিকটা

পূনঃ প্রচার - ১লা বৈশাখ ১৪১৮, ১৪ এপ্রিল ২০১১
বৃহস্পতিবার রাত ১১:৩০ মি: থেকে দেখুন

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