

NEWS IN brief

Concern over assault on bauls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote yesterday expressed concern over the assault on baul (mystic singers) in different places of the country and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the perpetrators.

At a protest rally at its office at city's Wari, the leaders of the organisation said repressing the bauls is not an isolated incident it is rather a planned move, says a press release.

A communal harmony is prevailing in the country and a quarter is engaged to destroy the harmony, they said, this quarter should be punished.

They said the baul community is practicing a culture for the sake of the people. "So there is no scope to undermine the baul community," they added.

The leaders demanded of the government to arrest the people who are involved in the unruly activities and ensure punishment.

Presided over by Jote President Salauddin, the rally was also addressed by Jote's Acting General Secretary Afsar Rahman, actor Khalequzzaman, Shwadhin Bangla Betar artiste Malay Kumar Ganguli, baul Alam Dewan, Babul Sarker and Jahan Ara.

UGC officers' assoc installation held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fifth installation ceremony of UGC (University Grants Commission) Officers' Association was held at UGC auditorium in the city on Tuesday.

UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam was present at the programme as the chief guest, says a press release.

Members of UGC Prof Dr Abdul Hakim, Prof Dr Tajul Islam, Prof Amena Begum, Prof Athful Hay Shibly and Prof Dr M Muhibur Rahman were present on this occasion.

The newly elected executive committee members of UGC Officers' Association are President: Md Kamal Hossain, Vice president-1: Md Omar Faruque, Vice president-2: Mauli Azad, General secretary: Dewan Golam Sarwar, Joint secretary: Md Jalal Ahmed, Treasurer: Md Abdul Mannan, Organising secretary: Md Jamal Uddin, Sports and cultural secretary: Md Mustafizur Rahman. Executive committee members are Mohammad Masud Hossen, Md Mostafizur Rahman and Mohammad Ziaur Rahamn.

Red Crescent lottery draw today

UNB, Dhaka

The draw of the 19th lottery of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society will be held at Holly Family Red Crescent Medical College auditorium in the city at 10:00am today.

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique will chair of the programme.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over a cheque for loan from Expatriate Bank to a youth after inaugurating the bank at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

Expatriate Bank begins operation

BSS, Dhaka

The widely talked about Expatriate Bank kicked off its operation yesterday with Tk 100 crore as paid up capital in a mission to finance intending migrant workers of the country and ensure safe transaction of their remittances.

"The bank will completely be dedicated to provide services to Bangladeshi citizens living abroad," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said while inaugurating the bank at Sonargaon Hotel in the city.

The specialised bank was opened coinciding with the beginning of two-day fourth ministerial-level consultation meeting of the Colombo Process, a forum of 11 worker exporting Asian countries.

"We expect the Expatriate Bank to benefit about 76 lakh Bangladeshi

expatriate workers currently staying in some 100 foreign countries around the globe," Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan told BSS earlier.

He said the bank was being established initially with a paid up capital of Tk 100 crore, of which Tk 95 crore came from Expatriate Welfare Fund and rest Tk 5 crore from the government exchequer.

There is a provision to increase the fund of the bank up to Tk 600 crore as the paid up capital not adequate considering expatriates' contribution in the national economy as well as the huge size of overseas workers, he added.

The expatriate welfare secretary, who is also the chairman of board of directors of the bank, said they would open branches of the

bank at all major Bangladesh manpower recipient countries within next six months. "We will open more than one branch in the countries like Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Malaysia where large number of Bangladeshi labourers are working," he said.

The bank, marked as one of the major success of the present government in ensuring welfare of the expatriates, will provide loans to the intending overseas workers on the basis of mortgage against job. After starting function of the bank, none would need to sell or mortgage their homes, lands and assets to go abroad for jobs, Dr Zafar said.

Besides, the expatriate bank will provide various facilities to the Bangladeshis, presently employed in the foreign lands, in a package including loans.

"They would be brought under a

safety circle through this bank so that none of them are deceived abroad," he said, adding. "The bank will help channeling remittance in a single but safe way to stop all possible means of deceiving the expatriate workers."

Moreover, ex-expatriate workers could take loan from the bank to start their new business in the country after coming back from overseas, which will help sustaining the economic solvency of the expatriate workers.

The government at a cabinet meeting on May 24 last year approved the draft of the Expatriate Welfare Bank Act-2010 with an objective to provide financial assistance for the people intending to go abroad for jobs.

Dr Jafar Ahmed Khan was appointed chairman of the board of directors of Expatriate Welfare Bank on February 7 this year.

CJ falls sick, hospitalised in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

Chief Justice A B M Khairul Haque was admitted to Khulna Abu Naser Specialised Hospital (KANSH) after he fell sick due to heatstroke yesterday morning.

Sources said, the chief justice along with his family members is paying a three-day visit to Khulna. He fell sick because of heatstroke in the morning when he was travelling Karamjal area in the Sundarbans.

He was rushed to Mongla Health Complex and later shifted to KANSH for better treatment. A medical board, comprising specialist physicians, was formed to treat the CJ.

Hospital sources said the CJ is suffering from diabetes and blood pressure. Dr Mizanur Rahman, head of the Cardiology Department of the hospital, said the board is looking after the CJ.

Call for constitutional recognition of indigenous people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged all not to lose sight of constitutional recognition of indigenous people's fundamental rights amid debates on how to constitutionally recognise indigenous communities.

Apart from including the term "adivasi" in the constitution, the rights of these people including equal opportunities, decision-making power and rights to land and other natural resources should also receive constitutional recognition, they said.

The opinions came at a discussion titled "Constitution amendment: constitutional recognition of indigenous people and its relevance" jointly organised by Kapeng Foundation and International Labour Organization (ILO) at CIRDAP auditorium in the city.

"There is no question that indigenous people would receive constitutional recognition. The debate is in how will they be recognised," said Pramod Mankin, state minister for Cultural Affairs, speaking as the chief guest.

The government is reluctant to recognise indigenous people as "indigenous" as it questions ethnicity of the country's native Bangalees, said Mankin.

Syed Abul Maqsud, Kapeng Foundation Chairperson Rabindranath Soren, human rights activist Barrister Sara Hossain, Chief of Chakma Circle Barrister Raja Debasish Roy, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum Organisational Coordinator Shaktipad Tripura and ILO National Coordinator Avilash Tripura also spoke.



Rubbish from different areas being dumped right at the middle of the main road at Dholakhal in the city, clogging the street and resulting in traffic congestion. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Shortage of hospital supplies leaves burn patient begging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young housewife, with burn injuries on her chest, back, hands and legs as her gambler husband allegedly set her on fire, begs for money for treatment at Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Lying on a bedstead on the first floor verandah of the unit with 20 percent of her body burnt, Ambia Begum, 22, a cook at a brick kiln, extended her hands towards this correspondent around 2:15pm yesterday.

DMCH staff admitted that the unit has been recently facing a shortage of cream and bandage needed for burn patients. The unit Chief Coordinator Dr Samanta Lal Sen, however, said the supply shortage has been met.

On the occasion, recitation from the Geeta, Kirtan, discussion and a prayer session will be held at his village home at Nayakandi Bajitpur under Rajoir upazila in Madaripur district.

She said she had Tk 1,000 from her weekly wage but needed it to buy a fan for her two

year-old baby girl.

The lights went out at one stage of the altercation and Rezaul lighted a lantern. She fell asleep but suddenly awoke to find her clothes on fire and saw Rezaul run out of the house at Amin Bazar Barodeshi area, Ambia said.

Sensing that her child was about to catch on fire, she threw her outside the house, injuring her. Neighbours rushed to her aide, doused the flames on her body and the house and admitted her to DMCH.

Locals caught Rezaul around midnight just as he sneaked into the house to steal the money, gave him a good beating and handed him over to police.

Officer-in-Charge Mahbubur Rahman of Savar Police Station said during interrogation, Rezaul denied the accusation of setting her on fire but admitted to the attempt to steal the money. Police produced Rezaul before a court that sent him to jail.

Ambia said her child was now with neighbours and no relative yet visited her at DMCH.

Bangladeshi freed from Indian jail after 12yrs

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Delhi High Court yesterday ordered immediate release of a Bangladeshi youth, languishing in Tihar jail for nearly 12 years following his conviction in a murder-cum-robbery case, after finding that he was a juvenile delinquent when he committed the crime.

A division bench of Justices BD Ahmed and Veena Birbal ordered the release, pointing out that as per the law, a juvenile (below 18) convicted for committing a crime is not liable to be detained beyond three years.

"On the date of the incident, that is, on May 7, 2000, the appellant was below the age of 18 years and was a juvenile as per the provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000," the bench said.

The bench ordered the release accepting a report of the board of doctors from All India Institute of Medical Sciences about the age of the juvenile convict.

"The medical board was of the considered opinion that the bone age of the convict was 25 years to 28 years. This means that on the date of the incident, the appellant was between 14 and 17 years old," said the bench.

The court gave its order on an appeal by the Bangladeshi migrant challenging his conviction and entailing life term as punishment in the case. The court, however, dismissed his plea against his conviction.

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Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over all the seven 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 6:22pm today and rises at 5:32am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 20.0 degrees Celsius at Tangail, Srimongal and Bogra.

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	33.3	20.2	63	63
Chittagong	32.0	26.5	85	80
Rajshahi	34.2	21.2	76	53
Rangpur	31.5	23.0	70	61
Khulna	34.1	26.6	73	86
Barisal	33.5	23.0	68	98

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