

NEWS IN *brief*

PM to lay foundation of Asian University for Women Apr 26

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will formally lay the foundation of Asian University for Women (AUW) on its Chittagong campus on April 26.

The Asian University for Women is being built to groom women as skilled and innovative professionals, service-oriented leaders in the businesses and communities in which they will work and live, and promoters of inter-cultural understanding and sustainable human and economic development in Asia and throughout the world.

Apart from laying the foundation in the morning, Hasina will attend several other programmes at the university.

During her visit to the port city, she will also inaugurate the new building of Chittagong Divisional Passport and Visa office. Hasina will have opinion-exchange meetings with senior leaders of Chittagong unit of Awami League and high government officials at the Circuit House.

352 IUB students awarded

METRO DESK

The Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) distributed academic awards to 352 students for the academic year 2010. The Vice Chancellor (In charge) Prof M Omar Rahman gave away the awards at a programme held at the university's permanent campus at Bashundhara in the city yesterday.

The awards were given in five categories. The students in the vice chancellor's honour list received Tk 10,000 each and those in the dean's honour list got Tk 5,000 each for purchasing books.

British HC, DFID closed on Apr 24

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The British High Commission in Dhaka, its office in Sylhet, and DFID Bangladesh will be closed to the public on April 24, for Easter Sunday, says a press release.



PHOTO: STAR

Two people were arrested with 30 statues at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the city yesterday.

30 statues seized, 2 held at airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials seized 30 statues including six made of touchstone and arrested two Bangkok-bound passengers at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the city yesterday.

The rest of the statues were made of metal and terracotta, airport sources said.

However, the archeological value and age of those statues could not be known immediately, they said.

Most of the statues were replica of Hindu god and goddess, they added.

Arrestees Abdul Jalil, 55, of Comilla and his companion Mohammad Islam, 45, of Feni were scheduled to fly to Bangkok by a Thai Airways flight at 1:30pm.

Assistant Commissioner Shahjahan Kabir of airport customs said, on information, they took the two men and their two luggages out of the scheduled aircraft for checking.

They recovered the statues from the luggage, he said.

With experts help, it was detected that six of the idols were made of touchstones weighing around 15 kg worth around Tk 3 crore, said Kabir. Of the six, three were idols of Hindu god Ganesha, he added.

Earlier in December 2007, two 1,500-year-old terracotta Vishnu statues of National Museum, bound for an exhibition at Guimet Museum in Paris, were stolen from Zia International Airport.

Tk 7 CRORE EMBEZZLEMENT OF RDA FUND

Accounts of 2 staff, family members frozen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank (BB) froze bank accounts of 10 people including a cashier and a sub-assistant engineer of Rajshahi Development Authority (RDA) and their family members for one month as per anti-money laundering act.

BB yesterday issued a letter to all banks instructing to send all information about those accounts in three days.

The accounts were in the name of cashier Ekhlash Uddin, his first wife Merina Parvin, second wife Chahatun Khatun, his son Tariqul Islam, daughters Sohana Parvin and

Sonia Parvin, his brother-in-law and sub-assistant engineer Shahidul Islam, Islam's wife Nusrat Jahan Mala and Islam's two daughters Sabiha Islam and Antara Raisa.

Our Rajshahi correspondent adds: RDA suspended Ekhlash on March 1 for allegedly misappropriating around Tk seven crore of its fund by forging bank cheques.

RDA Chairman Abdur Rahim said a seven-member committee with RDA's authorised officer Abul Kalam Azad as convener, formed to investigate the matter, primarily found the allegations true.

RDA officials said Ekhlash was employed at RDA for the last 29

years and scheduled to go on Leave Prior to Retirement at end of this year.

The authorities in late February found a suspicious Tk 80 lakh additional expenditure in January. They found Tk 2 crore embezzled from 2009-10 to 2010-11 and over Tk 5 crore from 2004-05 to 2008-09 fiscal years, said Rahim.

When asked for details of January's expenditure, Ekhlash fled with his family to Dhaka on February 23. Ekhlash returned Tk 2 crore on March 3. The authority took his undertaking to return the rest of the money, he said.

Ekhlash went into hiding from

March 7 and the authority, from March 15, was publishing advertisement in newspapers for information on his whereabouts, he said.

Rahim said they requested the home ministry and Bangladesh Border Guards to stop Ekhlash from fleeing abroad.

Ekhlash was not available when contacted on his cell phone. His son Tarikul Islam on March 1 said his father was admitted to Square Hospitals in Dhaka.

"The allegations arose as my father had a feud with the RDA chairman over several official matters. He will make everything clear on his return," Tarikul said.



Cardinal Tauran due in city April 25

METRO DESK

Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, head of the Pope's Commission of Inter-religious Dialogue in Rome, will arrive in Bangladesh on April 25 on a five-day visit.

During his visit, the cardinal would meet President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia, says a press release signed by Rev Fr Kamal Corraya from Archbishop's House, Dhaka.

During his stay, he would deliver his speech on building relationships and brotherhood and peace among different religious communities.

He will attend a seminar organised by Department of World Religion of Dhaka University in the campus on April 26.

On April 27, he will deliver his keynote speech in a conference on Inter-religious Dialogue at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre where Foreign Minister Dipu Moni will be present as the chief guest.

The cardinal joined the Council for Public Affairs of the Church in Vatican in 1983 and represented the Holy See at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for many years.

Glaxose WEATHER TODAY
100% GLUCOSE

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Mild heat wave is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Sayedpur, Satkhira, Jessore and Kushtia and it may continue, Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:23pm today and rises at 5:32am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 37.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 20.8 degrees Celsius at Srimongal and Mongla.

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	34.1	24.2	75	76
Chittagong	31.8	25.2	83	71
Rajshahi	37.6	24.0	74	44
Rangpur	35.5	23.0	83	44
Khulna	35.5	22.2	81	67
Barisal	34.9	22.5	81	74
Sylhet	34.0	23.2	76	60
Cox's Bazar	34.2	26.2	69	76

Instant energy, Instant recharge

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Romendra Kumar Saha Chowdhury, former chemistry teacher of the Karotia Saadat University College, passed away at a clinic in Tangail on Sunday at the age of 73, says a press release.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the third death anniversary of Syed Jahur Ali, a former police officer, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Block-E, Road No-3, House No-73 at Shahjalal Upashahar in Sylhet.



Jatiya Mahila Sangstha forms a human chain in front of the Chittagong Press Club in the port city yesterday demanding implementation of the Women Development Policy. (Story on Page 5)

PHOTO: STAR

Boy run over by train

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A six-year-old boy sustained critical injuries after being run over by a train at Khilgaon in the city yesterday.

The minor, while crossing the railway lines at Khilgaon along with his grandfather, fell on the tracks and met with the running train around 11:00am.

The boy, Mehedi Hasan Asif, was the only son of a buying-house businessman Mohammad Sumon of Bagicha.

Asif was returning home from Bangladesh Ideal School in Khilgaon where he studied in class-1.

"Asif returned home everyday holding my hands. But today, he ran forward leaving me behind," said his 55-year-old grandfather Mohammad Mamun.

"Everything happened within a moment and I had to witness the tragic incident, but I could not do anything to save Asif," he added.

Witnesses said a train had just passed when Asif ran forward and did not see another train on an adjacent track approach. He fell down on the tracks and stood up but the train ran over the lower portion of his body, severing one leg, they added.

Asif was first rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and then shifted to Pongu Hospital. Considering his critical condition, he was later shifted to Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital in Dhanmondi.

Asif has been taken to the operation theater from Intensive Care Unit, doctors said last night, adding that his remaining leg might have to be amputated.

দলবল

**talk to everyone in your group
for 29 paisa/min.**

**149 taka connection | 700 minutes free talktime
10 MB GPRS | 30 second pulse**

- To join Dolbol, type D and send to 7353 (for both new and old prepaid subscribers)
- To join a particular group type, 'join<space>university code' and send to 7353 (eg DU, CU, NSU, etc)

For details turn to page 4

airtel

