

## NEWS IN *brief*

### 5 agencies' registration cancelled

BSS, Dhaka

The Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry has scrapped registration of five travel agencies as they failed to renew it within the deadline, an official statement said here yesterday.

The agencies are Maisa Trade International, MSN Tours and Travels, J & M Travels Agents, Lam Yea Air Service and Manama Travels and Tour Agency.

### Call to allocate more for disadvantaged children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aparajeyo-Bangladesh, an NGO working with disadvantaged children, formed a human chain yesterday demanding more allocation for the disadvantaged children in the upcoming budget.

At the programme held in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city, the speakers said although children account for 47 percent of the total population, only 0.66 percent of the budget was allocated for them in the last fiscal year which is inadequate, says a press release.

They also said the government allocated 14.12 percent of the budget to the social safety net, but a major portion of the allocation was not spent.

Many children are seen begging on roads, they added.

Wahida Banu, executive director of Aparajeyo-Bangladesh, Aminul Islam, Amina Khatun and Mustafa Rahman spoke at the event.

### Programming contest for varsity students starts June 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Collegiate Programming Contest - 2011 will be held on Dhaka University campus on June 3, says a press release.

Department of Computer Science and Engineering of Dhaka University will organise the programming contest.

The contest is participated by teams and each team consists of three student programmers and a coach.

Since its inception in 1998, the competition has been trying to foster programming skills among university students.

Last date of team registration for this year's competition is May 14.

### Zahirul president, Halim general secretary of CSB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A seven member executive committee of Chevening Society of Bangladesh (CSB) was formed on Saturday with Lt Gen (ret'd) ATM Zahirul Alam and Barrister Abdul Halim as president and general secretary respectively.

The members were the awardees of Chevening Scholarship offered by British High Commission in the past, said a press release.

The committee was formed at British Council with the presence of British High Commission representative Helen Sargent.

### RU journalism department's 20th anniversary on July 9-10

METRO DESK

Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ) department of Rajshahi University will celebrate its 20th anniversary on the campus on July 9-10 this year.

MCJ department and Journalism Alumni Forum of Rajshahi University (Jafu) will jointly organise the event, said a press release.

The alumni have been requested to contact at 01712233625, 01730328048 or 01712101274 for registration.

### Language hero Karzon Ali dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Karzon Ali Sarker, a language movement veteran and Liberation War organiser, passed away at a hospital in the town yesterday due to old age complications. He was 81.

He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and host of relatives.

Karzon Ali was a founding member of Awami League, NAP, Gonotantri Party, Krishak Samity and Chhatra Union. He was an adviser of Gonotantri Party. He was also involved in anti-British movement.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held on Shaheed Miner premises while second janaza on Dariyapur High School ground and last janaza at his village home at Uttar Kholahati of Sadar upazila.

Aziz Uddin Ahmed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aziz Uddin Ahmed, a former official of the United Nations and leader of the Rotary movement, passed away due to cardiac arrest at a city hospital yesterday, says a press release.

He left behind his three brothers, two sisters, one son, one daughter and wife.

### Wazed Miah's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Dr MA Wazed Miah, an eminent nuclear scientist of the country and husband of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Dhaka city unit of Awami League has chalked out daylong programmes to mark the day.

Recitation from the Holy Quran and special prayers will be held after Asr prayers at the Awami League's central office in Bangabandhu Avenue.

Recitation from the Holy Quran will also be held at Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi residence at Sudha Sadan and special prayers will be offered after Maghrib prayers at Gono Bhaban, says a press release.

Fatema Khatun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Fatema Khatun, a former government official and social worker, says a press release.

She established Fatema foundation, which is running several organisations like Fatema Law College, Fatema Pre-cadet School, Bahon Sahitya Basor, Pakkhik Bahon, Bahon cinema.

### Help save life of a teacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Assistant Prof Sufia Khatun of DM Degree College in Shaikhpura, Jhenidah

has spent what she earned and saved by teaching following a serious renal failure.

She lost both kidneys. Her family, to keep their child alive till today, already fell into huge debt.

Doctors in Bangladesh and India said Khatun needs immediate transplantation of at least one kidney, which entails a medical cost of Tk 15 lakh.

This amount is impossible for her family to bear. Khatun, with no way out, therefore, resorts to well-off people of the country to help save her life.

The ailing college teacher is now under treatment of Prof Dr Harun-ur-Rashid at Kidney Foundation in the city, says a press release.

Any assistance can be sent to savings account no. 1501202079054001, Brac Bank, Gulshan Branch. Her family can be contacted at 01712734301 or 01725789432.



Award recipient mothers of renowned personalities with guests at Azad Products Award "Ratnagarva Ma" at Osmani auditorium in the city yesterday marking Mother's Day.

PHOTO: STAR

## Boat procession to save Karnaphuli

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A sampan (boat) procession was held in the river Karnaphuli yesterday to create awareness in saving the river from pollution and grabbing.

Karnaphuli Sampan Majhi Kalyan Samiti (KSMKS) and Chatragram Anchalik Sanskritik Academy (CASA), an organisation preserving local culture and heritage, organised the event participated by 300 boats decorated with banners and festoons. Their slogan was "We are the boatmen living on the banks of the river Karnaphuli and we have pledged to save the river".

Speaking at a rally held on the occasion at Abhoymitra Ghat at Firingi Bazar, speakers and boatmen of the river urged the government to take necessary steps to regularly dredge the river to maintain free flow of its current.

Industrialists and influential quarters are grabbing portions of the river's banks while traditional boatmen are losing their rights on the ghats, they said.

Chittagong University Prof Dr Abul Kashem; Chittagong College Prof Idrich Ali; Business leader Hakim Ali; Chowdhury Farid; KSMKS President Payar Ali and CASA Director Aliur Rahman also spoke.

## Rickshaw-van parishad thretens strike on May 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Rickshaw-Van Chalok Malik Mistri Shramik Oikyo Parishad yesterday threatened the government to go for dawn to dusk rickshaw and rickshaw-van strike on May 23, if their five-point demands are not met by May 22.

Member Secretary of the oikya parishad, SM Haidar placed their demands at the Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Their demands are stopping of importing private cars totally, stopping making leak of rickshaw wheels and snatching seat of the rickshaws, increasing the number of legal rickshaws from 79,547 to 1,50,000.

## Businessman's body found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the decomposed body of a businessman from his own office at Purba Goran in the city yesterday two days after he went missing.

The victim was identified as Nur-e-Alam Siddiqui Bablu, 31, the owner of Swapnapuri Foundation Limited located in the area.

On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body after breaking open the shutter of his office at about 1:30am.

The shutter was locked from the outside, police said.

Victim's brother Mohsin said Bablu went out of his Purba Goran residence on Thursday morning and since then he was missing.

"We informed police on Saturday as bad smell was coming out from his office," said Mohsin, brother of the victim.

Helal Uddin, officer-in-charge (OC) of Khilgaon Police Station, confirmed the incident.

Mohsin claimed that Swapnapuri Foundation Limited is a real estate company while police told The Daily Star it is a microcredit lending company.

The carcass of a fishing cat killed by villagers of Dhakdhol in Nature on Saturday night. It was caught and strangled when it entered a local poultry farm. According to Bangladesh Wildlife Preservation Act, torturing or killing a wild animal is strictly prohibited.

PHOTO: STAR



## JSbody asks ministry to recover forests

BSS, Dhaka

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Planning Ministry yesterday asked the environment and forests ministry to take measures for recovering grabbed forests.

The committee also asked the ministry to submit a report by mentioning how many forests have so far been illegally occupied and what steps have been taken by the ministry to recover these.

The decision was taken at the 33rd meeting of the committee held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban here with its Chairman Dr Oli Ahmed in the chair.

Members of the committee Nowab Ali Abbas Khan, Hamida Banu Shova

and ANM Shamshul Islam attended the meeting, said an official release of Parliament Secretariat.

The members of the committee suggested taking necessary steps to sprinkle seeds from helicopters in the remote forests where people cannot go easily.

The committee also emphasised framing a policy for checking any other activities excepting agriculture at cultivable lands.

The committee made recommendations to the defence ministry for taking steps after consultation with the Chief of Army Staff so that the exercises of army are conducted one to two kilometres inside from human habitation in future.

The committee was informed that a school building at Bazalia under Satkania upazila was fully demolished by a shell during an exercise of Bangladesh Army.

It also suggested the defence ministry taking necessary measures after consultation with the Chief of Army Staff for modernising the Central Combined Military Hospital (CMH) at Dhaka Cantonment, including setting up separate cardiac, kidney and diabetic wings.

The committee expressed dissatisfaction at the slow progress of projects of the textiles and jute ministry. It also asked the ministry to investigate the allegations of various irregularities in one of its projects.



### Rally

Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance will arrange a rally. Venue: In front of National Press Club, Time: 10:30am.

### Roundtable

Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh will organise a roundtable. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

### Discussion

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will hold a discussion. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Time: 10:00am.

### Gender fair

Democracy Watch will organise a gender fair. Venue: Institution of Diploma Engineers auditorium, Time: 10:00am.

### Matchmaking event

Embassy of Denmark and Norwegian embassy will organise a matchmaking event. Venue: Westin Hotel, Time:

## 22 CHT leaders to receive training in Australia

METRO DESK

Twenty two community leaders from Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) will receive a two-week long course in Perth, Australia specifically to build their leadership capacity.

They will travel to Perth this week, said a press release.

Australian High Commissioner Justin Lee welcomed the training programme at a function at his residence in the city on Saturday.

The leaders represent different organisations, including the government, local government, NGOs, CHT women's network organisations and community representatives. The course includes components on leadership skills, participatory programme development planning, women's empowerment and a visit to an Australian indigenous community.

The course is funded and managed by AusAID.



Twenty two community leaders from Chittagong Hill Tracts, who will attend a two-week long course in Perth, Australia, pose for photograph at the Australian High Commissioner's residence in the city on Saturday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

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### Slight rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 6:31pm and rises yesterday at 5:19am.**

Country's highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 21.5 degrees at Rangpur.

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	35.0	27.0	73	59
Chittagong	32.0	25.5	68	74
Rajshahi	33.7	22.6	80	70
Rangpur	33.3	21.5	72	66
Khulna	35.0	25.0	70	58
Barisal	34.6	24.5	69	65
Sylhet	32.9	23.1	91	65

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