

NEWS IN *brief*

Housemaid commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 12-year-old housemaid allegedly hanged herself at a police official's house in the city's Mollartek yesterday.

Dead is Taposhi Akhter, daughter of late Mofiz Uddin of Pangsha of Rajbari.

Her body was recovered from the house of Golam Azam, a sub-inspector of Airport Police Station, around 8:00am.

The girl had been serving the house for last one year. Azam could not say anything why she committed suicide.

Sub-inspector Jaherul Islam of Dakkhinkhan Police Station said they suspected the incident as suicide, but could not ascertain the cause immediately.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

PM donates \$2m to Japan

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday handed over a cheque for US\$ 2 million to Japanese Ambassador in Dhaka Tamotsu Shinotsuka as contribution to the reconstruction of Japan wrecked by recent earthquake and tsunami.

While receiving the cheque at Gono Bhaban in the city, Ambassador Shinotsuka expressed his gratitude to the prime minister for Bangladesh's support to Japan's reconstruction.

He also hoped that the existing excellent relationship between Bangladesh and Japan would strengthen further in the future.

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni was present on the occasion.

Govt-run crop purchasing centres demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Krishok Samity, an organisation of farmers, yesterday demanded introduction of government-run crop purchasing centres at union parishad level to buy rice directly from farmers.

At a news conference at the city's Mukti Bhaban, the organisation also demanded rice price be fixed at a minimum of Tk 800 per mound (40kg) to ensure just price.

Krishok Samity president Morshed Ali and general secretary Sajjad Jahir Chandan spoke at the

Man shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants shot a 50-year-old man at Rathkhola in Sutrapur of the city yesterday.

Mohammad Hanif, the bullet-hit man, was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital after he was shot in the right leg around 3:00pm.

Hanif lives in Bandar area of Narayanganj.

PM leaves for Geneva today

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka for Doha en route to Geneva on a 13-day official visit to Switzerland, Canada and France.

A Qatar Airways flight carrying the premier and members of her entourage will take off Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport today for Doha.

Health Minister Dr A F M Ruhul Haque, Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, PM's Health Adviser Dr Syed Modasser Ali, State Minister for Environment and Forests Dr Hasan Mahmud, Ambassador-At-Large M Ziauddin, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, MP, Principal Secretary M A Karim, Foreign Secretary Mohamed Mijarul Quayes and Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad will accompany the prime minister during her visit.



Agriculture scientists and analysts share views at a discussion on "Innovation in Crop Production and Sustainability", organised by The Daily Star at its office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

GPA-5 achiever murdered in Bandarban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A boy, who went missing six days ago, was found dead at Bandarban town yesterday.

The boy Himel Das Supam, 15, son of Sunil Das, a former railway officer, and Papia Sen, lived with his family in city's Dewanhat area under Double Mooring Police Station.

Mentionable, Supam achieved GPA-5 from Chittagong Government School in this year's SSC examinations.

Police arrested two people -- Mahmudul Islam, brother-in-law of Supam's friend Sohel, and Mahmudul's friend Nazrul -- on alleged involvement of kidnapping and killing Supam.

Papia, a primary school teacher, said Mahmudul invited Supam over phone on May 8 to visit Meghla in Bandarban with their friends. Supam knew Islam through Sohel, she added.

Supam's cousin Sujon Das Partha said Supam last contacted Papia on May 9 saying that he was in Bandarban. When she could not make any contact, Papia lodged a general diary with the police station on May 11.

Sub-Inspector Sekandar Hossain of the police station said Mahmudul only informed that he, Supam and some others went up to Meghla Parjatan Kendra in Bandarban on May 9. Police however did not disclose what happened later.

"We are trying to find another person Sagor whom Mahmudul mentioned was present," he said, adding that they probably killed Supam as he recognised them.

Sekandar said they recovered Supam's sim card and moneybag from Mahmudul.

PM for quick disposal of cases

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the Supreme Court Judges to take steps for quick disposal of all pending cases.

"Please take initiative to dispose all sorts of cases quickly," she told the judges at a function after laying the foundation stone of the Judges' Complex for the judges of the Supreme Court.

The premier also urged them to carry out their responsibilities impartially rising above all sorts of fear, anger and emotion as the court is the last resort for the mass people.

"The sacred constitution and the existing laws of the land should be the guidelines for the judges," she said.

Quoting noted philosopher Plato that "Justice means minding one's own business and not meddling with other men's concerns," the premier said it is the duty of all judges to uphold this spirit.

She said the democratic process of the country

was undermined following repeated military rule. It was the Awami League with support of people of all strata that restored democracy through strong movements.

The process is underway to amend the country's constitution and her government is determined to ensure good governance through establishing rule of law in the country, Hasina said.

She said justice will certainly be ensured if the judge's conscience is strong. In this regard, she quoted Mahatma Gandhi that "there is higher court than courts of justice and this is the court of conscience and it supersedes all other courts."

Mentioning the adage "Justice delayed justice denied," the PM suggested the judges and lawyers to dispose of over 20 lakh cases, pending in the apex court and lower courts, in order to ensure that the justice-seekers do not lose everything.

For quick disposal of pending cases, she said the pending civil and criminal cases should be

categorised in way so that the older cases are disposed first according to importance.

The present government in line with its election pledges has already taken necessary steps to digitalise the country's judicial system for ensuring quick justice, the PM added.

The Supreme Court Judges' Complex, high-rise Residential Tower and Entertainment Centre, will cost Tk 140.56 crore and the project is scheduled to be implemented by 2013.

The Public Works Ministry is the implementing agency of the project and the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry the initiating authority.

Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haq, Law Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed, State Minister for Law Advocate Quamrul Islam, State Minister for Housing and Public Works Advocate Abdul Mannan Khan and lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon, among others, spoke on the occasion.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offers prayers after laying the foundation stone of the Judges' Complex for the judges of the Supreme Court at Kakrail in city yesterday. On her right are Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haq and Law Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed.

PHOTO: PID

Protect environment for sustainable dev

Says Prof Wahid Uddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (BAPA) Vice President Prof Wahid Uddin Mahmud yesterday said protecting the environment should be a key element of sustainable development in a disaster-prone country like Bangladesh.

If loss of environment is calculated in economic terms, the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) may reduce from six percent to four percent, he said while addressing a press conference.

BAPA organised the press conference titled "Want environment-friendly budget, want transparent use of allocated fund" at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city.

Prof Mahmud said sources of environmental loss are decline of land fertility, traffic congestion, river pollution and forest and bio-diversity loss and warned of huge eco-

nomical losses in future if proper steps are not taken.

Prof Mahmud said different complications and obstacles are hampering projects related to environment.

He said the government initiatives to control river pollution so far has been weak while due importance was not given to provide arsenic-free drinking water, says a press release.

Another BAPA Vice President ASM Shahjahan said due importance will be given to environment in the next fiscal year's budget. Giving proper allocation in environment is indeed essential for protecting existence of human beings, he added.

Shahjahan stressed on transparent use of funds allocated to protect the environment.

BAPA General Secretary Mohammad Abdul Matin said sufficient fund should be allocated for the rehabilitation of cyclone Aila victims.

DHAKA TODAY

- Discussion**
USAID will hold a discussion on local government. Time: 10:00am, Venue: Brac Centre Inn.
- Roundtable**
United Nations Information Centre will hold a roundtable discussion. Time: 11:00am, Venue: IDB Bhaban.
- Competition**
Brac University will arrange a robotic competition. Time: 5:00pm, Venue: The university's indoor-games room.
- Meeting**
Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) will hold a view exchange meeting on right to information. Time: 10:30am, Venue: Information Commission.
- Meeting**
Gano Forum will hold its central committee meeting. Time: 5:30pm, Venue: Gano Forum office.
- Ceremony**
UNDP and the Supreme Court (SC) will hold a signing ceremony. Time: 3:30pm, Venue: SC Judges' lounge.
- Discussion**
Sushasoneer Jonny Procharavizan (Supro) will hold pre-budget discussion. Time: 3:00pm, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.
- Rally**
Mirapad Naupath Bastabayan Andolan will hold a protest rally. Time: 11:15am, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.
- Rally**
Citizens Rights Movement will hold a rally on constitutional amendment. Time: 10:30am, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

100% GLUCOSE

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:34pm today and rises at 5:16am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 20.3 degrees Celsius at Chandpur.

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	33.7	21.8	67	63
Chittagong	31.5	22.9	76	75
Rajshahi	35.4	21.0	76	73
Rangpur	32.5	21.1	81	63
Khulna	35.7	23.4	74	62
Barisal	35.0	23.2	77	70

Prevent cholera thru' sanitation, not vaccine

Health experts urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should spend money to develop the sanitation system and ensure pure drinking water to prevent cholera instead of providing cholera vaccine, health experts under the banner of Health Rights Movement said yesterday.

At a press conference at Jatiya Press Club in the city, the experts said the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh is still giving trials of the cholera vaccine at city's Mirpur area.

It was found that efficacy of two doses of cholera oral vaccine is only 67 percent and for only two years. The vaccine was not applied on pregnant women and children, they said, adding that if the vaccine was administered on 5,000 people, only 10 would benefit.

Cholera is not the leading cause of children's death in the country. Furthermore, two doses of cholera vaccine costs US \$ 2, which would not be cost effective in a country like Bangladesh, the experts said.

They also said the health ministry on May 22 last year proposed to World Health Organisation to use the vaccine globally. The proposal titled "Control of Cholera and Prevention Strategy" was prepared hurriedly, without considering priority issues.

It would not be cost effective introducing cholera vaccine at the public health sector, said Prof Rashid E Mahbub, president of Health Rights Movement.

Bangladesh Pediatric Doctors Association Secretary General Dr Mesbah Uddin, Nitai Kanti Das and Milon Bikash Paul of Health Rights Movement also spoke.

SC's fatwa verdict to increase repression

Says Mahila Forum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samajtantrik Mahila Forum in a statement yesterday said the Supreme Court verdict that declared fatwa (religious edict) legal would increase repression on women.

The forum feared that the verdict might increase the misuse of fatwa when women and democratically minded people are demanding on it.

The statement is signed by the forum president Rowshad Ara Rusko and general secretary Syeda Parveen Akhter.

On May 12, the SC declared fatwa legal in "religious matters", but categorically said fatwa cannot be used to punish anyone.

Recruit more workers from Bangladesh

Dhaka urges Doha

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka has requested Doha to recruit more Bangladeshi workers on the occasion of World Cup Football to be held in Qatar in 2022.

Labour and Employment and Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Engr Khandakar Mosharrar Hossain made the request when he met Qatari Social Affairs and Acting Minister of Labour Nasser bin Abdullah Al Hemaidi in Doha last week.

"Tens of thousands of workers will be needed for construction and renovation of stadiums as well as other infrastructure on the occasion of World Cup 2022. Against this backdrop, we are hopeful that Qatar will recruit bulk of the foreign workers from Bangladesh," Mosharrar said.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of bilateral interests including expansion of Bangladesh's labour market in the oil-rich country.

Mosharrar, who returned home from Qatar yesterday after joining the 11th Doha Forum on Democracy, Development and Free Trade, also met with the ministers and representatives of different countries, who attended the forum.

Discussions were held on democracy and free trade as well as economical and infrastructural development at the forum constituted by the Qatar foreign ministry in cooperation with local and international research and study centres.

There are nearly 1.70 lakh Bangladeshi workers in Qatar, which is two percent of the Gulf country's total overseas employment.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



The third death anniversary of Nazmul Alam, former director general of Radio Bangladesh, was observed in a befitting manner yesterday, says a press release.

Nazmul Alam passed away on May 14 in 2008 at the age of 81. He retired as director general of Radio Bangladesh in 1986.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the second death anniversary of Mrinal Sen Gupta, younger brother of renowned journalist and politician Nirmal Sen, says a press release.

Various religious programmes have been arranged to observe the day at his village home at Dighirpar of Kotalipara upazila in Gopalganj.