

NEWS IN brief

3 European envoys meet FM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government will make Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) independent, accountable and an international standard institution to ensure promotion and protection of human rights and freedom of the people.

This was stated by Foreign Minister Dipu Moni during a joint call on by Ambassador of Switzerland Urs Herren, Ambassador of Sweden Ms Anne Margareta and Ambassador of Denmark Svend Olling at the foreign ministry in the city yesterday.

Official sources said the ambassadors went to brief about the upcoming conference of the National Human Rights Commissions across the world to be held in Geneva on May 23-28.

The envoys informed that Bangladesh's human

CU BCL man arrested

CU CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Chittagong University (CU) unit on Saturday from university area.

The arrested is Md Sumon alias Mamun, a student of Political Science Department of CU.

Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge (OC) of Hathazari Police Station, said, "We arrested Mamun as there is a case against him with Hathazari Police Station on charge of his involvement in a clash on the university campus on March 9."

Amit Chakraborty, a second year student of Philosophy Department, also a CU unit BCL activist,

Compensation for launch accident victims demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some NGOs activists yesterday demanded compensation for the family members of the victims of MV Bipasha launch accident, which occurred in Meghna River in Brahmanbaria on April 21 that took 33 lives.

They also demanded punishment of the responsible ship surveyor of Narayanganj office of the Department of Shipping (DoS) for giving fitness certificate to the unregistered launch.

They placed the demands at a human chain organised by the Safe Waterway Implementation Movement in front of the National Press Club in the

Domestic help commits 'suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housemaid allegedly committed suicide by jumping from the roof of a six-storey building at Uttara in the city yesterday.

The deceased is identified as Mukta Akhter, 18. She worked at one Nasima Hafiz's house at sector no-3 of Uttara.

Two youths, Vutto Sheikh, 32, and Monir Hossain, 25, brought her to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) around 11:00am where duty doctors declared her dead.

DMCH camp police detained the youths.

The youths claimed themselves as employee of a real state company.

Nasima told them that Mukta jumped from roof-top around 9:00am, the detainees told police at primary investigation.

When contacted, Nasima told police that Mukta had been working there since last five years and she

British, US missions closed tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The British High Commission in Dhaka, its office in Sylhet, and DFID Bangladesh will be closed to the public tomorrow (Tuesday) on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, says a press release.

US mission

Meanwhile, another press release says, the American Embassy, including the consular section and the American center with the Archer K Blood American center library and the student advising center will be closed tomorrow, observance of Buddha Purnima, a

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Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Day temperature may rise slightly 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 37.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessor and lowest 21.4 degrees Celsius at Bogra.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.3	24.4	61	69
Chittagong	33.2	26.2	72	76
Rajshahi	37.4	24.8	73	67
Rangpur	32.7	23.5	76	74
Khulna	36.2	28.0	83	69
Barisal	35.4	27.5	80	72

Instant energy, Instant recharge

AL hails SC verdict on constitution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League (AL) yesterday hailed the Supreme Court Verdict that upheld the High Court Verdict declaring the seventh amendment to the constitution illegal.

"We hail the highest court judgment and all including Ershad should accept the verdict," AL Presidium Member Obaidul Quader said in an immediate reaction to The Daily Star.

Replies to a query, the AL policymaker said it is the parliament that would take decision about the punishment to Ershad in light of the verdict.

Meanwhile, AL Presidium Member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury will act as the president of AL as the party chief Sheikh Hasina, also the prime minister, yesterday left for Switzerland.

Student kills himself in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A class eight student of the city's Dholaiapar High School committed suicide yesterday evening as his mother rebuked him due to poor performance in exams.

Victim Mohammad Manik, 14, hanged himself from a ceiling fan at his residence at East Dholaiapar around 7:00pm.

Manik was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Victim's father Mohammad Hanif said Manik committed suicide as his mother got anger on him for poor performance in his first term examinations.



Bangladesh Ambassador to Switzerland Mohammad Hannan along with his wife receives Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Geneva International Airport in Switzerland yesterday evening. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: PID

MOVE TO ENSURE QUALITY EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS

BTV to air class lectures of Dhaka schools from May 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As part of its effort to ensure quality education, the education ministry will broadcast class lectures of some reputed schools of Dhaka city for rural students through Bangladesh Television (BTV) from May 22.

Announcing the initiative at a press briefing at the Secretariat, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said three classes on English, Mathematics and Chemistry of class-IX of three schools will be aired through BTV on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday every week from 9:10am to 10:00am.

The headmasters, other teachers and managing committees of the schools would make arrangement so that the students can watch the classes from the state-run television at that time, he said.

Initially, the education boards would

buy some televisions for some schools, the minister said, urging the managing committees and well-off people of the society to donate televisions to the schools for the sake of education.

English class of Viqarunnisa Noon School would be telecast on May 22 while Mathematics class of Government Laboratory School on May 23 and Chemistry class of Rajuk Uttara Model High School on May 24.

Later, broadcast time for next classes would be informed through BTV's announcement and scrolls.

"We have already recorded 12 classes and broadcast of the classes would start from May 22...we want to give the opportunity to all to watch and know classes of best teachers of the country as per the directions of the prime minister," said Nahid.

The minister said there might be some problems in the process initially

but they would try to overcome those after getting feedback from teachers.

"This initiative is first of kind in the country and we hope that the students and teachers of remote areas would be able to learn many things from the classes," he said.

Replying to a question, Nahid said most of the schools definitely don't have television sets. "Apart from the donation of well-off people, the managing committees would make arrangement to buy televisions for the sake of educating students."

Education Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury said this is a test basis programme and hopefully it would encourage not only students but teachers as well.

Kazi Abu Jafar Siddique, director general of BTV, said classes of entire curriculum would be broadcast part by part.

'Specify women's role in local govt institutions'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Elected women representatives suggested specifying and expanding their role in local government institutions for their political empowerment.

Responsibilities of the women vice chairmen of upazila parishads in education, health, and women affairs or in other development projects have to be specific, they added.

The recommendations came at a workshop on Saturday on strategies to apply in local government legislation and National Women Development Policy 2011, organised by USAid-aided project "Strengthening Democratic Local Governance" (SDLG) at Brac Centre Inn in the city.

A discussion on the workshop was held yesterday attended by elected women leaders from local government institutions, says

a statement of SDLG.

Elected women representatives of local government institutions should be provided with adequate training, while budgets of all local government institutions have to be made gender-sensitive, they recommended. State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said the recommendations would also be incorporated, after scrutiny, to the plan of action to implement Women Development Policy 2011.

USAid Director of Office of Democracy and Governance Alexious Butler, Meher Afroz Chumki, chair of the parliamentary standing committee on Ministry of Women and Children Affairs; SDLG Chief of Party Jerome Sayre; USAid Senior Democracy Adviser Dianne Cullinan; and SDLG Deputy Chief of Party Dr Zarina Rahman Khan also spoke.

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Another BDR mutiny accused dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A member of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), an accused in Pilkhana BDR Mutiny case, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) early yesterday.

Deceased havildar Motiur Rahman, 53, of BGB 24 Battalion, was arrested in July this year. Motiur hailed from Ullapara in Sirajganj was in Dhaka Central Jail.

A senior jail super of the jail Towhidul Islam told The Daily Star that Motiur fell sick on Sunday night following cardiac problems and the jail authorities sent him to DMCH for treatment.

Hospital sources said jail guards brought Motiur around 2:00am to DMCH where the doctor declared him dead.

Brother-in-law of the deceased, Shafuddin, said he talked with him on Sunday at the jail gate before he was taken to the BDR court. His physical condition was well there.

Motiur was a diabetic patient before he was arrested, but had no cardiac problem as far I know, he said. He had two sons and a daughter.

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

4 children drown in Tongi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four minor children drowned in a pond in Tongi yesterday afternoon.

The children drowned after they went to the pond nearby their houses in Pagar area after taking their lunch, said Shahin Ahmed, sub-inspector of Tongi Police Station.

Nobody was there when the children met the tragic end of their lives in the pond.

On information, police rushed in and recovered the bodies from the pond at about 5:00pm with the help of locals, said the SI.

The children drowned after they went to the pond nearby their houses in Pagar area after taking their lunch, said Shahin Ahmed, sub-inspector of Tongi Police Station.

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