

NEWS IN *brief*

New CJ takes oath today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain will be sworn in today.

President Zillur Rahman will administer the oath at Bangabhaban in the morning, said Anisur Rahman, an assistant registrar of Supreme Court, yesterday.

Justice Muzammel Hossain, a senior judge of the Appellate Division, will be the 20th chief justice of the country. He will retire on January 16, 2015.

The new chief justice succeeded Justice ABM Khairul Haque who went into retirement yesterday.

BNP leaders exchange views with Buddhists

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition BNP exchanged views with members of the Buddhist community on the occasion of Buddha Purnima.

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir attended the meeting as the chief guest at the party chairperson's Gulshan office.

Assistant Religious Affairs Secretary Dipen Dewan presided over the meeting.

Former Dhaka University vice-chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, BNP Joint Secretaries General Amanullah Aman and Barkatullah Bulu, Assistant Law Affairs Secretary Nitai Roy, Assistant Religious Affairs Secretary Joyonta Kumar Kunda and Buddhist community members of different professions spoke at the function.

Int'l jute council session ends

BSS, Dhaka

The two-day 12th session of the council of the International Jute Study Group (IJSG) ended at its secretariat here yesterday.

Rita Menon, chairperson of the council and textiles secretary of India, presided over the session.

The council, the highest authority of the IJSG, discussed establishment, administrative and financial matters of the group.

A series of important issues including membership of the group, development of market for jute products, assessment of world jute situation and other related matters were discussed during the session.

In the session, Rita Menon was re-elected chairperson, and Andrew Barnard, first secretary, the delegation of European Union to Bangladesh, was elected vice-chairman of the IJSG council for 2011-12.

All members of IJSG - Bangladesh, India, Switzerland, and European Union representing its 27 member states - attended the session.

Representatives of associate members from Bangladesh and India were present at the meeting, while representatives of FAO, Cirdap, Unido, Saarc Agricultural Centre, China, Nepal, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam also attended the session as observers.

Dhanmondi community police executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nazmul Hasan and Kazi Morshed Hossain Kamal were re-elected as the president and general secretary respectively of the executive committee of Dhanmondi Community Police.

A 25-member committee of the community police was formed a few days ago with the presence of commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, says a press release.

Other members of the committee are Sultana Kamal, Rabeya Bhuiyan, Prof Nazrul Islam, Col (ret'd) Abu Osman Chowdhury, Kamal Ahmed, Hashem Ali, KM Hasan, Md Rafiqul Islam, Md Zakir Hossain Swapan, Syed Akhlak Hossain, Sohail Chowdhury, Abdul Kayum Thakur, Dr Rauf Sardar, Dr Khaleda Khanam, Sarkar Firoz Uddin, Atiqul Habib, Dr Mahbubul Islam and Cap (ret'd) AKM Humayun Reza.



Angered at environmental damage, locals set fire to "Imam Metal", as a Department of Environment (DoE) team was conducting drive in the factory at West Khanda village in Sreepur upazila, Gazipur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Factory evicted for pollution in Gazipur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday evicted a factory and instantly realised Tk 7 lakh as compensation for polluting the environment at Kewa West Khanda village in Sreepur upazila, Gazipur.

DoE Director (enforcement) Munir Chowdhury led a drive and seized eight tonnes of different pollutant materials from "Imam Metal" and arrested the factory's owner Imam Ali.

Rab-2 members accompanied the team

during the drive, which was conducted following news reports telecast in an electronic media on Monday, says a DoE release.

Imam Metal was set up over one acre of farmland surrounding fruit gardens without permission of the DoE.

Since its inception, the factory has been discharging toxic gas into the air, polluting an adjacent area of some 1,600 acres.

The inhabitants alleged that their crop production become halved due to the toxic gas release. It also causes different diseases including breathing complications.

Children seek helpline connection

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children at a human chain programme yesterday demanded of the government to connect the child helpline number 1098 with all mobile phone operators.

They demanded the facility so that underprivileged children and children from well-off families can receive help from this toll-free child helpline if they face oppression.

Aparajeyo-Bangladesh, a non-government organisation working for the disadvantaged children, organised the programme in front of the Jatiya Press club in the city marking World Telecommunication and Helpline Day, says a press release.

Speakers at the event said government and Aparajeyo-Bangladesh jointly inaugurated the helpline, which is now operating in eight upazilas in the country, but the service is only available from BTCL phones.

WTO chief lauds Sheikh Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

World Trade Organisation (WTO) Director-General Pascal Lamy yesterday appreciated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's leadership to give Bangladesh a strong base for economic development.

He termed Sheikh Hasina a great leader under whose leadership Bangladesh would be able to achieve sustainable growth in all aspects.

Pascal Lamy made the comments while having a meeting with Hasina at her hotel suit.

Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed on the meeting.

Hasina told the WTO chief that Bangladesh has failed to achieve its expected development in the last 40 years in the absence of uninterrupted democracy.

She said the present government is working relentlessly for the overall development of the country.

The economic condition of the country at present is better than ever although Bangladesh has faced the adverse situation during the recent economic recession, said Hasina.

Also discussed were issues of climate change, education, healthcare, food security, regional peace, regional cooperation, regional connectivity, vaccination, good governance, and information technology.

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, Ambassador-at-Large M Ziauddin, and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister MA Karim were present during the meeting.

Later, the prime minister had a meeting with the executive director of Global Fund and discussed AIDS, Malaria, Immunisation, and related issues.

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque and Prime Minister's Health Adviser Prof Dr Syed Modasser Ali were present during the meeting.



Aparajeyo Bangladesh forms a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city demanding introduction of helpline for distressed children on the occasion of World Telecommunication Day and International Child Helpline Day yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Drug peddlers active at 374 city points

UNB, Dhaka

More than 400 drug peddlers are running the illegal business at about 374 spots across Dhaka city, according to intelligence sources.

A number of godfathers, including two incumbent ward commissioners of Dhaka City Corporation and one listed absconding "top terror", control the whole chain of drug trade.

Drug addicts, mostly youngsters including both male and female gather at different drug sale points from afternoon till mid-night.

Despite law enforcers' routine and special raids, the drug trade situation virtually keeps unchanged as most of the arrested drug dealers resume their businesses after securing bails from courts.

According to court sources, the arrested drug paddlers came out of jail due to loopholes in police reports

produced in connection with the cases.

Department of Narcotics Control sources said the drugs seized amounts to only 10 percent of the total drugs being smuggled into the country.

Some one-lakh people are engaged in this illegal drug trade and 30 percent of those arrested on charges of drug peddling are women and children, added the sources.

Intelligence sources said most of the drugs, being sold in the drug dens, include heroin, cannabis, and phensidyl since addicts prefer those while Yaba is a "fashion drug".

Intelligence sources said the highest number of illegal drug spots have been identified in Jatrabari, Demra, Shyampur and Kadamtoli where 93 drug dens have been spotted.

Another 72 drug dens have been found in Dhanmondi, Hazaribagh, and New Market while 49 others are being

run in Pallabi.

Sources said seven points have been spotted in Ramna, 14 in Motijheel and Paltan, 12 in Lalbagh and Kamrangchar, 10 in Kotwali, seven in Sutrapur, 11 in Sabujbagh and Khilgaon, 20 in Gulshan, Badda, Khilkhet and Cantonment, six in Mohammadpur and Adabar, 10 in Mirpur, Shah Ali and Darus Salam, 22 in Uttara, Torag, Uttar Khan and Dakshin Khan, 15 in Biman Bandar and 20 drug points in Shahbagh.

One of most wanted "top terror" Trimoti Suvrata Bain, who is believed to be hiding in India, controls the drug den in Ramna.

Over 17 drug peddlers have been identified in Tejgaon who run the illegal trade at Kawran Bazar Road, Rail Line slums and others areas. Most of the drugs, especially phensidyle and cannabis, are being ferried there by trains.



President Zillur Rahman, second left, greets the members of Buddhist community at Bangabhaban in the city on the occasion of Buddha Purnima yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

President hosts reception for Buddhists

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman hosted a reception for the members of Buddhist Community at Bangabhaban yesterday afternoon on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the community.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua and State Minister for Religious Affairs Adv M Shahjahan Miah, among others, attended the reception.

The president welcomed the guests and exchanged greetings with them.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Begum Rawshan Ara Zobaidda Khanam, wife of Justice TH Khan, former minister and senior lawyer of Bangladesh Supreme Court, breathed her last due to old age complications at Holly Family Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 80, says a press release.

She left behind her three sons, one daughter, grand children, brothers and sisters.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at Minar Mosque, Tajmahal Road at Mohammadpur in the city after Zohr prayers today.

Rawshan Ara, mother of Afzal H Khan, former BNP lawmaker and former news editor of The Daily Star, will be laid to rest at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard.

BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir in a message expressed his deep condolence at the death of Rawshan Ara.

He also expressed sympathy to members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Md Nuruddin Zaglul, a former Companyanj correspondent of the Daily Prothom Alo and senior teacher of Madhyam Char Kakra Uchchya Bidyaloy.

On the occasion, family members and journalists organisations will arrange milad mahfil and offer special prayers today.

Qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of Sade-quzzaman Sumon, a diploma engineer and son of photojournalist Asaduzzaman Asad, will be held at his residence at 64-B/1, RK Mission Road, Gopibagh in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Sumon passed away on Sunday at the age of 25.

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WEATHER TODAY

100% GLUCOSE

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 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Mild heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi and Pabna and it may continue, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:35pm today and rises at 5:15am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 37.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 23.4 degrees Celsius at Sayedpur.

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	34.6	27.7	67	68
Chittagong	32.5	26.5	73	73
Rajshahi	36.4	27.0	78	65
Rangpur	32.4	25.1	96	73
Khulna	36.4	27.5	76	55
Barisal	35.6	27.0	70	71
Sylhet	34.3	25.2	75	67

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