

NEWS IN

brief

'Stop forced disappearance'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Odhikar, a human rights body, yesterday expressed concern over "forced disappearance" in the country. The NGO also urged the government to ratify the international convention for the protection of all persons from forced disappearance. Sixteen people fell victim to forced disappearance in 2010 and three in 2011, said Farhad Mazhar, an advisor of Odhikar, quoting reports of different dailies. He said this at a workshop organised Odhikar with the help of the Embassy of Switzerland at Brac Centre Inn in the city.

Boro farmers incurring loss: KN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Karmojibi Nari (KN), a rights body for women, yesterday said farmers are already incurring losses by selling boro rice at prices lower than the production cost, as the government delays in procurement. The organisation cited an estimation of the agriculture ministry as saying that production cost of per kilogram paddy this boro season stands at Tk 15 while farmers are selling paddy at Tk 500-600 per maund (Tk 13-15 per kg) in many north and northwest districts. KN chairperson Shirin Akhter and general secretary Sharmin Kabir in a joint statement also demanded the government immediately starts purchasing paddy from farmers.

25pc adults suffer from hypertension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Hypertension Committee of the National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh held a rally and a seminar in the city yesterday marking the World Hypertension Day. It held a rally in front of Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium that ended at National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute. A seminar was also held at the auditorium of the hospital with Dr Arun Bhadra Thapa, World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Bangladesh, was present as the chief guest. Prof R K Khondoker and Prof KMHS Shirajul Haque of the Hypertension Committee, National Professor Brig (ret'd) Abdul Malik and Dr M Shirajul Islam spoke among others at the seminar. In Bangladesh, 20 to 25 percent of the adult population have been suffering from high blood pressure. Every year 17th May is observed as the World Hypertension Day globally.

'Reduce prices of essentials'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Gano Forum yesterday demanded of the government to reduce the price of electricity, fuel and essential commodities. Addressing a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city, they said the government frequently raised price of electricity and fuel, impacting on price of essential commodities and transport fares. Commander (ret'd) Abdur Rouf and former whip Abdur Rouf also spoke.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia meets US Congressman Joseph Crowley, second from left, at the Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday.

PHOTO: BNP

NEXT JS POLLS


Civil society favours caretaker system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The next general elections should be held under the caretaker government system considering the existing political culture in the country, said civil society representatives yesterday. Because of political conflict, the oppositions have very little confidence in a political government. So, anarchy will be created if the next national elections are held under the political government, said the speakers at a roundtable meeting. Sushasaner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan), a civil society platform working for good governance, organised the roundtable styled "Debate on caretaker government and relevant thoughts" at the Jatiya Press Club. Sujan President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said the caretaker government system was introduced because of non-democratic attitude of political leaders. Due to political distrust, biased administration and "toothless" election commission, it is better to hold the general elections under a caretaker government, he added. Presenting a keynote paper, Sujan Secretary Badiul Alam Mazumder said besides a neutral election commission, neutral administration and law enforcement agencies are essential for holding a fair and acceptable national election. Prof Moniruzzaman Mia, a former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, said he fears that any attempt to hold the next general polls under the political government can cause violence. He said parliament has to enact a law to hold the national polls under the caretaker government system as it has been cancelled in a Supreme Court verdict. A caretaker government may be formed comprising nominees of political parties' alliances, justices, newspaper editors and vice-chancellors of public universities, said Moniruzzaman. Awami League leader Suvash Singha Roy said the political parties need to be more democratic to hold a free and fair national election. Barrister Rafiqul Haque suggested formation of the caretaker government with some lawmakers from the two big political alliances. ASM Shahjahan, Justice Kazi Ebadul Haque, Prof Emaz Uddin Ahmed, Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Syed Abul Maqsood, Prof Ajoy Roy and Asif Nazrul also spoke.

Obituary

METRO DESK



Motahar Uddin Ahmed, former company secretary of Bengal Foods Ltd, passed away due to cancer at a city hospital on May 22. Motahar left behind his wife, two daughters, one son and a host of well-wishers. On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his residence at 35/A, Lake Circus, Kalabagan of the city after Asr prayers today.

Dr Hafezur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Hafezur Rahman, a professor emeritus at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and former unit commander of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad (BMS), passed away on Tuesday at the age of 67. He left behind his wife, a son and two daughters to mourn his death, says a press release.

Qulkhwani of Pilu Momtaz today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qulkhwani of noted pop singer P i l u Mom t a z, daughter of U s t a d Momtaz Ali Khan, would be held at Baridhara DOHS mosque in the city after Maghrib prayers today. Ustad Momtaz Ali Khan Music Academy will also hold a qurankhwani and milad mahfil at the academy premises after Asr prayers, says a press release. Pilu died on Sunday at the age of 52.

Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chehlum of Alhaj Abdul Aziz Bagmar, an organiser of the War of Liberation and a veteran politician, will be held at his Banani residence in the city today. All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul, says a press release.

SUBSIDENCE IN NAKHALPARA

Firm, hospital blamed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The construction firm and authorities of proposed 14-storey Impulse Medical College and Hospital in the city's Nakhhalpara are equally responsible for the collapse of the soil retention walls, said chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakhya (Rajuk) yesterday. The 46-foot deep pit's wall was not adequately strengthened resulting in the collapse, said Rajuk Chairman Md Nurul Huda. He was talking to journalists at a press conference held by army engineering team at the site yesterday. Islamic Trading Consortium Ltd was doing the piling to build a three-layer basement car park for the hospital on a 2.9-acre construction site in Tejgaon Industrial Area. But the pit's retaining wall crumbled resulting in the cave-in and collapse of three corrugated iron sheet houses in the early hours of May 21. Part of a road subsided and cracks appeared on the adjoining structures including two five-storied residential buildings. Residents of the two buildings can now return, as the buildings are now stable while the road was repaired, he said. Speaking there, Colonel Abu Syeed said they handed the site over to Rajuk after the six-day earth-filling work was completed yesterday. But the hospital authorities would not be allowed to resume construction without compliance with Buet experts and approval of Rajuk, said Huda.

Khaleda talks on HR issue with US congressmen

UNB, Dhaka

US Congressmen expressed deep concern over the human rights situation in Bangladesh as well as that of the judiciary when they met visiting BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at the Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday. Khaleda Zia had a joint meeting with four US Congressmen--Joseph Crowley, Sheila Jackson, Hansen Clarke and Brad Sherman. Different issues including democracy and rule of law in Bangladesh were discussed in the meeting that lasted for one and half hours. BNP Vice-chairman Shamser Mobin Chowdhury, who was present in the meeting, told UNB over phone that the Congressmen said if democracy and rule of law are threatened in Bangladesh, the US Congress will take a serious note of this as it might make uncertain Bangladesh's access to the US Millennium Challenge Account. The US Congressmen told Khaleda that they are monitoring the evolving situation in Bangladesh and would brief the US administration. They recalled good relation of the Congress and the US administration with the past government of Khaleda Zia and hoped the relation would be strengthened. Khaleda, also leader of the opposition in parliament, invited the Congressmen to visit Bangladesh. A representative of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was present during the meeting. Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Senator John Kerry have expressed regret as they could not meet Khaleda.

Sabbir tried to kill Hasina

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Acting chief of Harkatul Jihad (Huji) Abdul Hannan Sabbir and his accomplices attempted to kill Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and her party leaders before the 21 August grenade attacks in 2004. CID SP Abdul Kahar Akond, also the case investigation officer (IO), said this after producing Sabbir before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Shahriar Mahmud Adnan with a seven-day fresh remand prayer. When Special Public Prosecutor Abul Kalam Azad made submissions supporting the remand prayer, no lawyer stood to defend Sabbir. The magistrate then granted four days.

Workshop on autistic children held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A joint initiative to help child therapists take better care of autistic children was taken by Centre for Neurodevelopment and Autism in Children and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). Under the initiative, a two-day workshop titled "Orientation Program on Interpersonal Skills in Counselling" concluded at BSMMU yesterday, says a press release. Thirty doctors, development therapists, psychologists and teachers from 10 schools for special children in the city participated at the workshop. They received guidance and training on how to communicate with autistic children and their parents and how to better care for them. Prof Shaheen Islam of Department of Psychology of Dhaka University conducted the workshop.



DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) will hold a discussion on proposed water policy. Time: 11:00am, Venue: Bapa, Lalmatia.

Seminar

Bangladesh University of Science and Technology (Buet) will hold a seminar on ship-breaking industry. Time: 3:30pm, Venue: Council Bhavan, Buet.

Rally

Bangladesh Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum will jointly hold a rally. Time: 3:00pm, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Rally

Sammilito Peshajibi Forum will hold a

rally on price spike of essentials. Time: 10:30am, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Seminar


Bangladesh Nagorik Samaj will organise a pre-budget seminar. Time: 10:00am, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Discussion


Bangladesh Mobile Phone Load Businessmen Association will hold a discussion. Time: 10:00am, Venue: Mukti Bhavan.

Convention

South Asian Association of Transfusion Medicine (SAATM) will hold an international convention. Time: 9:00am, Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.



Glaxose



WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over southern part and may rise slightly elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital at 6:40pm today and rises at 5:12am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 35.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 21.8 degrees Celsius at Satkhira. 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	34.4	24.5	70	59
Chittagong	30.8	24.2	81	80
Rajshahi	35.0	24.4	78	72
Rangpur	35.0	25.0	61	59
Khulna	34.5	24.0	84	78
Barisal	33.5	24.5	71	75
Sylhet	35.4	24.7	77	59
Cox's Bazar	32.5	24.0	76	76

Instant energy, Instant recharge



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সম্ভাহ জুড়ে ব্যস্ততা? তাই রবি কথাবার্তা উৎসব

আরও আছে সম্ভাহ জুড়ে

রবি কথাবার্তা

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