

NEWS IN *brief*

Bomb hoax call at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An anonymous caller over telephone threatened to destroy Arts Building of Dhaka University (DU) using bombs, prompting a frantic search inside the building, but finally proved to be a hoax.

DU Proctor Dr KM Saiful Islam Khan said, "After two threats at the university's telephone exchange, we immediately contacted police."

He said a bomb disposal unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police rushed to DU campus and conducted a one-hour search in the building but did not find anything.

Dr Saiful said scheduled classes and examinations in the building were not hampered during the search.

Press enjoying full freedom: FM

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said the press in Bangladesh is enjoying complete freedom.

"Bangladesh sets an example of free media and press, playing an instrumental role in shaping the country's politics," she said while talking with a foreign media delegation at the foreign ministry.

Twenty journalists from nine countries are now on a weeklong visit to Bangladesh under foreign ministry's "Visit Bangladesh Programme" to familiarise with country's history, culture and development.

Tk 9.50 lakh fined for flouting laws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI) yesterday fined Tk 9.50 lakh to two chemical factories and a fruit shop in Farmgate and Mohammadpur area for selling chemicals and chemical mixed fruits.

The team found selling ethophen giving false information on the bottle of the chemicals of National Agri Care Ltd in Concord Centre at Farmgate and Sark Bangladesh at Tajmahal Road in Mohammadpur.

The team fined Tk 2 lakh each to three managers of the National Agri Care Ltd Abdul Awal, Altafur Rahman, and Kamrul Ahsan. The team also fined Tk 1.50 lakh each to the owner of Sark Bangladesh Abdur Rob and manager Toslimur Rahman.

The team also fined Tk 50,000 to Bismillah Fal Bhandar at Tajmahal Road in Mohammadpur for preserving and selling mangoes mixed with chemicals.

Woman beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was allegedly beaten to death by her husband following an unspecified family feud in Kadomtoli of the city yesterday.

Police sent body of Halima Begum, 35, to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy. Halima was wife of Nazrul Islam of Shyampur Dhaka Match Factory area.

The victim's brother Alamgir Hossain said Nazrul beat up his sister in closed-door and went absconding leaving her dead.

13 houses for hajj pilgrims

UNB, Dhaka

The government has rented 13 houses in the holy city of Makkah to accommodate Bangladesh's hajj pilgrims during hajj season this year.

As many as 7,000 pilgrims will be accommodated in those houses. The houses are located near the Har'am Sharif. The rate of rent for each house is minimum 3,700 Saudi Real (SR) and minimum 5,000 SR.

Kamal Uddin Ahmed, joint secretary to the Religious Affairs Ministry, informed this at a press conference at Secretariat yesterday afternoon.

10,000 people to get food security help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Food Programme (WFP) and LG Electronics (LG) will help boost the resilience to disasters and household food security of more than 10,000 people in Patharghata upazila of Barguna district.

All the beneficiaries will receive a varied food ration (rice, pulses and vegetable oil) and cash wages, said a press release yesterday.

City

First community radio on air

Lokobetar's test run starts in Barguna

ABDULLAH MAMUN

The country's first community radio named Lokobetar has begun test transmission in the district town of Barguna to build public opinion on development issues like democracy, good governance, human rights, anti-corruption, health and women empowerment.

Mass-Line Media Centre (MMC), a development organisation, with financial and technical support from Unesco, set up the radio station, which has been on trial since May 27 and is expected to go for full-fledged transmission by mid-June.

MMC officials will operate the radio while local community will star in the programmes.

Tarek Mahmud, acting head of Lokobetar, said the radio equipment costs stand at about Tk 10 lakh.

The radio now broadcasts programmes for an hour daily, which would be increased gradually, said MMC officials.

Musical programmes are being transmitted with some social messages on issues such as public health, education, women oppression, child marriage, and dowry. Weather and



Acting head of Lokobetar Tarek Mahmud with community radio station.

PHOTO: COURTESY

agriculture news are also on the list.

In 1998 MMC applied to the information ministry asking for licence for community radio. The government provided 14 licen-

ces in April last year.

About 17 kilometers circle of Barguna town will get the FM 99.2 radio frequency of Lokobetar while 12 lakh people have been targeted. The

programme can be listened on radio set or mobile handset.

Although the radio has been on test run, the operator has yet to set up a 100-feet high antenna structure. Rather, the antenna

has been set up on the rooftop of a house.

"So the targeted group will not receive the signal at the moment. The studio is also yet to be built," said Mahmud.

Nyma Nargis, project officer (communication and information) of Unesco, said, "We believe community radio will play a successful role in creating mass awareness on issues such as democracy, good governance, human rights, anti-corruption movement, health, environment, women empowerment, gender, youth and child rights, and non-formal education."

She said communities would be better prepared to accept the radio station and interested to engage in the activities related to community radio programming.

Unesco Dhaka office initially provided two community radio stations. The Centre for Communication and Development (CCD), a Rajshahi-based media organisation, will operate the other radio station that would come into transmission soon.

The government has a plan to establish a community radio on agriculture information services in Barguna.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



GM Yakub, a permanent member of the Jatiya Press Club and former senior sub-

editor of the Dainik Sangbad, passed away at his Mirpur residence in the city yesterday due to cancer at the age of 64, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, three sons and a daughter to mourn his death.

Yakub started his career as a journalist of the Dainik Sangbad on January 1 in 1971.

Asghari Akhtar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asghari Akhtar, mother of Ambassador Shahed Akhtar and mother-in-law of Dr Simeen M Akhtar, passed away at Apollo Hospital in the city on Sunday.

Delshad Ali

BSS, Chapainawabganj

Delshad Ali, a former professor of Chapainawabganj Government College passed away at his Ajaipur residence in the town yesterday due to cancer at the age of 74, says a press release.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 23rd death anniversary of Shaheed Jamil Akhter Ratan, a former president of Rajshahi Medical College unit Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri, says a press release. On this day in 1988, Ratan was brutally killed by Shibir, a fundamentalist students' organisation.

AFM Nurul Huq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 38th death anniversary of AFM Nurul Huq Hawlader, a former lawmaker and organiser of the Liberation War, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at her Dhanmondi residence while food will be distributed amongst the orphans.

Feroza Khatun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 1st death anniversary of Feroza Khatun, wife of former deputy secretary and finance adviser late Mohammad Nurul Huq, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at her Dhanmondi residence while food will be distributed amongst the orphans.

The plots will be allotted in three categories-- 5 katha, 3 katha and 2.5 katha, said a Rajuk official. Rajuk is

RAJUK HOUSING PROJECT IN KERANIGANJ

Jhilmil form distribution starts tomorrow

HELEMUL ALAM

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) tomorrow will start distributing application forms for some 1,200 plots under Jhilmil Residential Area project in Keraniganj.

For the first time, arrangements have been made so the applicants, who would not get a plot, will get their money refunded directly to their bank accounts within seven days of the declaration of the plot winners, said Rajuk Chairman Nurul Huda.

Previously, the applicants had to appeal to Rajuk for getting their deposit money back and it would take many years.

The chairman added August 25 is the last day for application submission and since then Rajuk will take three months' time to announce the names of plot winners. Plot winners will be picked through lotteries.

People can collect application forms from Rajuk branch of Sonali, Janata, and Agrani banks and Janata Bank Ltd in Mohakhali, Uttra and Ramna in exchange for Tk 1,000 or download the form and prospectus from Rajuk website www.rajukdhaka.gov.bd. In case of downloaded forms, the applicants have to deposit the money to any bank and submit the form with the payslip.

The plots will be allotted in three categories-- 5 katha, 3 katha and 2.5 katha, said a Rajuk official. Rajuk is

offering 2.5 katha plots to those who lost their land to the land acquisition for the project.

Applicants have to deposit Tk 1.50 lakh for a 3 katha plot, Tk 2.50 lakh for a 5 katha plot and Tk 1 lakh for a 2.5 katha plot.

Non-resident Bangladeshis will have to deposit \$2,100 for a 3 katha plot and \$3,500 for a 5 katha plot. The affected people who fall under this category have to deposit \$1,400 for a 2.5 katha plot.

As per the guideline, any person, who has a plot or house or flat in his/her name or spouse's name or his/her dependents' names, is not allowed to submit the application. If they submit applications, they will be disqualified.

People under 18 categories can apply for the plots.

The categories are freedom fighters 3 percent, journalists 2 percent (print media 1 and electronic 1), government job holders 28 percent, officials and employees of autonomous bodies 12 percent, armed forces 2 percent, businessmen and industrialists 8 percent, private job holders 10 percent, personalities of art/literature and sports 2 percent, remittance earners 10 percent, officials/employees of different ministries 0.05 percent, officials and employees of Rajuk 1.50, agriculturists 2, engineers 2, doctors 2, lawyers 2,

retired officials and employees 1, others 2 and reserved 10 percent.

Lawmakers, state ministers, ministers, judges, speakers, and deputy speakers will qualify for the plot directly if they apply, said Rajuk sources.

Jhilmil residential area is only five kilometres from the Zero Point at Gulistan. Project Director of Jhilmil Sheikh Jahid Hasan Faruqui said around 90 percent of land-filling and 45 percent of overall development work have been completed.

He said that if everything goes smoothly, they will be able to complete the work by next three years and hand over the plots without utility facilities.

Rajuk sources said Rajuk took up the housing project in 1997 beside the Dhaka Mawa Highway in Suvadda, Chunkatia and Tegharia Mouja's low land areas of Keraniganj to solve the housing problems of the city dwellers.

Jhilmil project was scheduled to be completed by 2001 but Rajuk failed to do this and extended the time twice.

For the plot allotment of Jhilmil project, Rajuk in 2001 and 2002 invited applications but did not get proper response. It allotted 525 plots among those who applied at that time but because of the delay in handing over plots, 140 applicants withdrew their deposit money.

Anniversary of Zia's death observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and workers of BNP and its front and associated organisations across the country observed the 30th death anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh Nationalist Party, yesterday.

President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated by a group of disgruntled army officers at Chittagong Circuit House on May 30 in 1981.

Party chairperson Khaleda Zia along with party leaders, activists and supporters placed wreaths at the grave of the slain president and offered special prayers. Then she attended a milad mahfil organised by Jatiyatabadi Ulema Dal on the mazar premises.

Later, she inaugurated a voluntary blood donation programme organised by Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB) accompanied by acting Secretary General of BNP Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, MK Anwar, Nazrul Islam Khan and Mirza Abbas among others.

She also inaugurated a three-day programme for food distribution among the destitute at the capital's Mohammadpur.

Meanwhile, milad mahfils were also held at Khaleda's residence and office in Gulshan after Maghrib prayers attended by party bigwigs.

World 'No Tobacco Day' today

UNB, Dhaka

The World 'No Tobacco Day' will be observed in the country as elsewhere in the world today.

Different organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes, including rallies, seminars and discussions, to mark the day with the theme "The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control".

According to WHO, Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death. This year, more than 5 million people will die from a tobacco-related heart attack, stroke, cancer, lung ailment or other disease.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the occasion of the day.

WEATHER TODAY

100% GLUCOSE

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over southern part of the country.

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:41 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11 am.

Country's highest temperature 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 23.6 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	33.0	25.6	79	63
Chittagong	27.7	25.0	96	85
Rajshahi	33.8	25.3	81	75
Rangpur	33.4	23.6	76	63
Khulna	34.0	26.0	74	76
Barisal	33.3	25.5	76	75
Sylhet	30.7	25.0	91	75

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