

NEWS IN brief

DU peace and conflict studies dept's anniversary today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The 12th founding anniversary of Department of Peace and Conflict Studies of Dhaka University (DU) will be celebrated today.

On the occasion, seventh foundation day speech will be held in the conference hall of Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of DU.

At the Programme, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique will be present as the chief guest while Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh Svend Olling will deliver speech styled "Current State on UN Climate Change Negotiations".

Biman awarded by Changi airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Changi airport authorities of Singapore have awarded "growth incentive scheme" to Biman Bangladesh Airlines for transporting more passengers in 2010 than the previous year on Dhaka-Singapore-Dhaka route.

The amount of the award money is 81,288 Singaporean dollars.

Biman operated 192 flights and transported 34,080 passengers and 232 tonnes of cargo in 2009-2010.

Now, Biman Bangladesh Airlines operates its flight to Singapore five days a week.

Formalin mixed grapes destroyed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday seized and destroyed 50 kg of grapes treated with formalin from three different shops at Hatirpool kitchen market in the city.

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI) with the help of district administration and Rab-2 conducted the drive, which was led by Executive Magistrate Mohammad Al-Amin, says a press release.

BSTI sought cooperation for their ongoing drive against adulterated foods.

Expatriate murder: 3 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police on Monday night arrested three people in connection with the killing of American expatriate Nurul Alam on May 30.

They are Mujibur Rahman alias Mujib, 22, son of Alam's brother-in-law and caretaker of his residence, Mujib's friends-Babul Barua and Jewel Barua.

Police said the arrestees confessed that victim's relative Mujib with the help of his friends killed Alam for looting money.



The barge and the salvage ship towing the sunken oil tanker, not seen as still under water, to the Karnaphuli's northern bank to beach it yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Engr Md Imdadul Haque Jasim, a former lawmaker, passed away at his residence at Baily Road in Dhaka yesterday due to cardiac arrest at the age of 69, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son, one daughter and host of relatives to mourn his death.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at Dhaka Cantonment and second namaz-e-janaza on Austagram Bangalpara High School premises after Zohr prayers.

He will be buried at his family graveyard at Bangalpara village of Austagram upazila today.

Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid condoled his death.

Azizunnessa Khatun

METRO DESK

Azizunnessa Khatun, wife of late Nasiruddin Ahmad, former director general of Bangladesh Post Office, passed away due to old age complications on June 3 at the age of 90, says a press release.

She left behind her two sons and three daughters to mourn her death.

Azizunnessa was principal of Anandamoyee Girls' School, Kamrunnessa Muslim Girls, and Lake Circus Girls' School.

Khataman Ara Begum

UNB, Dhaka

Educationist Khataman Ara Begum, former headmistress of Gul-e-zar Begum Girls High School in Chittagong and wife of former additional secretary of Education Ferdous Khan, passed away at Lalmatia City Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 88.

She left behind her husband, five sons and four daughters to mourn her death.

She will be laid to rest at her family graveyard at Pathantuly in Chittagong.

Naleni Prova Datta

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Srimati Naleni Prova Datta, mother of Sanjiti Kumar Datta, managing director of New Generation Company and adviser of Bangladesh Puja Udgapan Committee, passed away yesterday due to old age complications at the age of 93, says a press release.

She left behind her three sons and three daughters.

Presidents and general secretaries of Bangladesh Puja Udgapan Parishad and Mahanagar Sarbajanik Puja Committee condoled her death.

PM firm on e-voting in next parliament polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her firm determination to introduce electronic voting system and strengthen the Election Commission in a bid to hold the next parliamentary elections in a free, fair and credible manner.

"Electronic voting system will be introduced to ensure one person one vote," she said while addressing a discussion at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital. E-voting system is in operation in South Asia except Bangladesh and Pakistan, the premier added.

On the much-talked-about caretaker government system, she said lawmakers can't make it legal when the Supreme Court declared it illegal.

Ruling Awami League organised the

discussion marking the Six Point day with party presidium member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury in the chair.

Hasina also asked her political arch-rival BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia why she is so crazy about caretaker system. She reminded Khaleda that the last caretaker chief Fakhruddin Ahmed, president Iajuddin Ahmed and the then army chief Gen Moeen U Ahmed were close to her, but she had to go to prison and her sons had to leave the country after being beaten up.

"Did you [Khaleda] forget what happened after 1/11? Iajuddin, Fakhruddin and Moeen Uddin were your men, not ours. Even after that you were put in jail," Hasina said.

The premier added the leader of the opposition does not accept anything including the highest court's verdict.

"She only aspires for power so that she

could continue her earlier habit of resorting to corruption," Hasina added.

Referring to the by-polls, city corporation, municipality and Union Parishad elections held under her government, Hasina said those elections were held in a free and fair manner. She added AL does not aspire for grabbing power under any circumstances. "We have trust on people and they will vote anyone to power whom they [people] choose."

AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam urged BNP to return to parliament for a dialogue on the caretaker government system.

AL leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzaq, Matia Chowdhury, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Abdul Latif Siddiqui, Mahabubul Alam Hanif, among others, also spoke.

Tanker partially salvaged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The sunken oil tanker in the Karnaphuli was pulled to the river's northern bank and was beached on a sandbank yesterday afternoon.

Three ships including Kandary-10 of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and two other rescue barges of a private salvage firm were used in the salvage operation.

M Sirajuddin, proprietor of the tanker's owning firm Eastern Bunker Services, said officials of Bangladesh Navy and CPA supervised the rescue activity.

OT Moon, the tanker that sank near Dolphin Jetty No. 5 on Saturday night, is still under water, said Abul Kalam Azad, proprietor of the salvage firm Hiramoni Salvage Ltd.

Azad hoped the tanker would be completely pulled up from water by today.

He also said they removed oil from inside the tanker.

CPA Secretary Syed Farhad Uddin Ahmed said the tanker was taken to the northern part of the river to clear the Dolphin Jetty No. 5 (on southern bank) and the port channel.

Vessels could be berthed at the jetty from today, he said.

Nursing skills dev course begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A K Khan Healthcare Trust has launched its Nursing Bridge Programme at Ibrahim Cardiac and Research Institute in the city yesterday to increase knowledge and skills of the nurses.

At a press briefing yesterday at the Ibrahim Cardiac, the organisers said that the Healthcare Trust, established in 2010, has already expanded the programme at Birdeem, National Heart Foundation and Chittagong Ma O Shishu Hospital.

American Higher Education Global Healthcare Inc. has been supporting the programme under which nurses receive a yearlong course to enhance their skills.

Some 25 nurses will receive the course under the programme.

Prof A K Azad Khan, president of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB), was present as the chief guest. Sayef Uddin, secretary general of DAB, Prof Dr M A Rashid, senior consultant of cardiology of Ibrahim Cardiac and Ganga Bhabani, associate nursing director of Nursing Bridge Programme were also present.



Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao makes a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence of Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

FEAR OF THREATS

Traders switch off cell, land phones

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many traders in Old Dhaka switched off their cell and landline phones yesterday fearing threats from the accomplices of 'Dakat Shahid' following the killing of an Ansar member at a CNG filling station in Jatrabari Monday night.

Several businessmen, preferring anonymity, said they normally avoid filing complaint with police over extortion attempts as it goes in vain.

A crime ring, claiming themselves to be the accomplices of listed criminal Dakat Shahid, attacked the staff of City Overseas Filling Station. It left 24-year-old Saidur Rahman dead.

Primary investigations have revealed Dakat Shahid's gang is involved in the murder, said Mazharul Islam, operation officer of Jatrabari Police Station.

The law enforcers would also interrogate some employees of the business, he mentioned adding, they would also try to dig out whether any of the six owners of the business is involved in the offence.

Members of Rapid Action Battalion-10 detained a youth yesterday in connection with the incident, according to Azharul Islam Dhali, one of the owners of the CNG refuelling station.

He also claimed criminals killed Saidur as they failed to extort money from the owners.

LACK OF INFORMATION

Azad blames officials' negative mindset

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad yesterday said negative mindset of the officials regarding making information available by their own initiative is a major challenge in implementing the right to information (RTI) act.

People's unawareness about their basic rights, poverty and no access to internet, lack of trained manpower and system for preserving information digitally and on the web at the government and non-government organisations are also the major setbacks to ensure RTI act and its use to the public, the minister said in parliament replying to lawmakers query.

He said as mass awareness at grassroots level has not been increased, it is a major challenge for the government to implement the RTI act properly.

The use of RTI has been in primary stage, Azad said adding that the government would consider amendment in it in the future after reviewing its effectiveness and consequences.

Replying to another query, Azad said the mass media must act in a responsible way since it creates bridge between people and the government. The mass media can protect its accountability by publishing positive news and doing constructive criticism to the government.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thunderstorms 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 Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Mild heat wave is sweeping over the regions of Jessor, Kushtia, Rajshahi and Pabna and it may continue.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 6:45pm today and rises at 5:10am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 37.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessor and lowest 24.4 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	28.2	79	63
Chittagong	33.4	26.7	73	96
Rajshahi	36.5	27.8	78	64
Rangpur	34.5	25.5	72	57
Khulna	35.2	27.5	70	72
Barisal	31.0	27.6	92	77