

NEWS IN brief

Bombs hurled at VC's residence

DU CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants hurled two handmade bombs at Dhaka University vice chancellor's (VC) residence around 12:00 noon, during hartal hours, yesterday.

Shahbagh police along with a team of Detective Branch (DB) defused the bombs and a general diary (GD) was lodged with Shahbagh Police Station.

VC Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said the bombs were hurled to create panic.

CJ to attend London conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain is likely to attend an international conference of jurists for judicial reforms to be held in London from June 21 to 24.

International Council of Jurists (ICJ), a UK-based organisation, invited Justice Muzammel to preside over two of its sessions, Supreme Court sources said.

The conference is organised by ICJ and Bar Council of England and Wales. Justice Muzammel, vice president of ICJ, recently received the invitation letter from Dr Adish C Aggarwala, one of its three presidents.

Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, a member of ICJ, is also expected to attend.

Everest conqueror Muhit hailed

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Tourists' Society (DUTS) yesterday accorded a warm reception to MA Muhit, the second Bangladeshi to conquer the Everest at DU TSC auditorium.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique was present as the chief guest with eminent bird researcher Dr Enam al Haque and DU teachers Prof Masuda M Rashid Chowdhury and Dr Anwarul Islam as the special guests.

DU soil science dept's 60th anniversary June 24, 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) Department of Soil, Water, and Environment will celebrate its 60th anniversary on June 24 and 25.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique would open the celebration on June 25 while the department's Prof Dr AHM Mostafizur Rahman was made convener of the celebration committee.

The department's present and former students are requested to contact the department office for registration within June 20.



Flouting Dhaka City Corporation rules, its garbage truck carries waste during the daytime and without any covering at Kamalapur in the city yesterday, spilling waste and spreading stench all around.

PHOTO: STAR

Total lunar eclipse tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Onusandhitsu Chakra, a national science club, will organise 21 observation camps across the country to observe total lunar eclipse tomorrow, says a press release.

The central camp equipped with optical and radio telescopes will be held at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novo Theatre in the city from 4:00pm.

The camp will be open to all and will continue for the whole night. Details, photographs and live video of the eclipse will be available at www.astronomylive.com.

Tomorrow's total lunar eclipse is the first of two total lunar eclipses in 2011. The second eclipse will occur on December 10.

The total eclipse is a relatively rare central eclipse where the moon passes in front of the centre of the Earth's shadow.

The last lunar eclipse closer to the centre of the earth's shadow was seen on July 16, 2000. The next total eclipse will occur on July 27, 2018.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Q M Zaman, a producer, director and cameraman, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his ancestral residence of Shaheb Bari in Hajiganj after Asr prayers.

Zaman was the first chief cameraman of Film Development Corporation of the then East Pakistan.

As a cameraman, he shot 70 films including the country's first commercial movie "Mukh-o-Mukhosh".

Mohiuddin Ahmed

METRO DESK

Today is the death anniversary of Chowdhury Mohiuddin Ahmed Tara M i a o Dattapara, Madaripur, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at Dattapara Jam-e-Masjid after Asr prayers.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the milad mahfil to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

PRICE HIKE OF ESSENTIALS

JS body to oversee market trend

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliamentary standing committee on commerce ministry will visit city's major kitchen markets tomorrow to oversee market trend regarding price of different essential commodities.

The move was taken for a firsthand experience on the market trend ahead of upcoming Ramadan, committee sources said.

The committee will enquire whether price of daily commodities including oil and sugar are sold as per the government's fixed price. The committee will then submit its observation report to the commerce ministry.

"The committee will also submit its

recommendations on how to keep prices of essentials stable during Ramadan," Iqbal Bin Matin, a committee official told The Daily Star.

The parliamentary committee wants to ensure that price of essentials do not increase ahead of Ramadan, a common trend every year causing suffering of general people.

ABM Abul Qasem, chief of the committee, leading the visits, will also check the price gap between wholesale and retail kitchen markets, said the committee source.

Karwan Bazar, Mohammadpur Town Hall market and Newmarket are among the spots to be visited.

Among those participating in the visits are secretary to the commerce ministry; chairman of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh; president of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and director general of Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute.

Chairman of Bangladesh Tariff Commission; director general of Directorate of Consumer Rights Protection and members of law enforcement agencies will also be present.

The decision of the visit came during the committee's meeting on May 29.

Mujahidul Islam's mother passes away

DU CORRESPONDENT

Ummayhani Khanam, mother of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, passed away at a city hospital yesterday.

She was 86 and suffering from old-age complications, says a press release.

Khanam left behind one son, seven daughters, and a host of well-wishers.

Her first Namaz-e-Janaza was held at Baitus Sala Jame Masjid in the city. She was laid to rest at her family graveyard after second Namaz-e-Janaza at Genda in Savar.

The CPB, Bangladesh Students' Union, Bangladesh Krishok Samity, Bangladesh Jubo Union, Bangladesh Khetmajur Samity, and Kendrio Khelaghara Asar condoled the death.

Different organisations condoled her death, conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family, and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

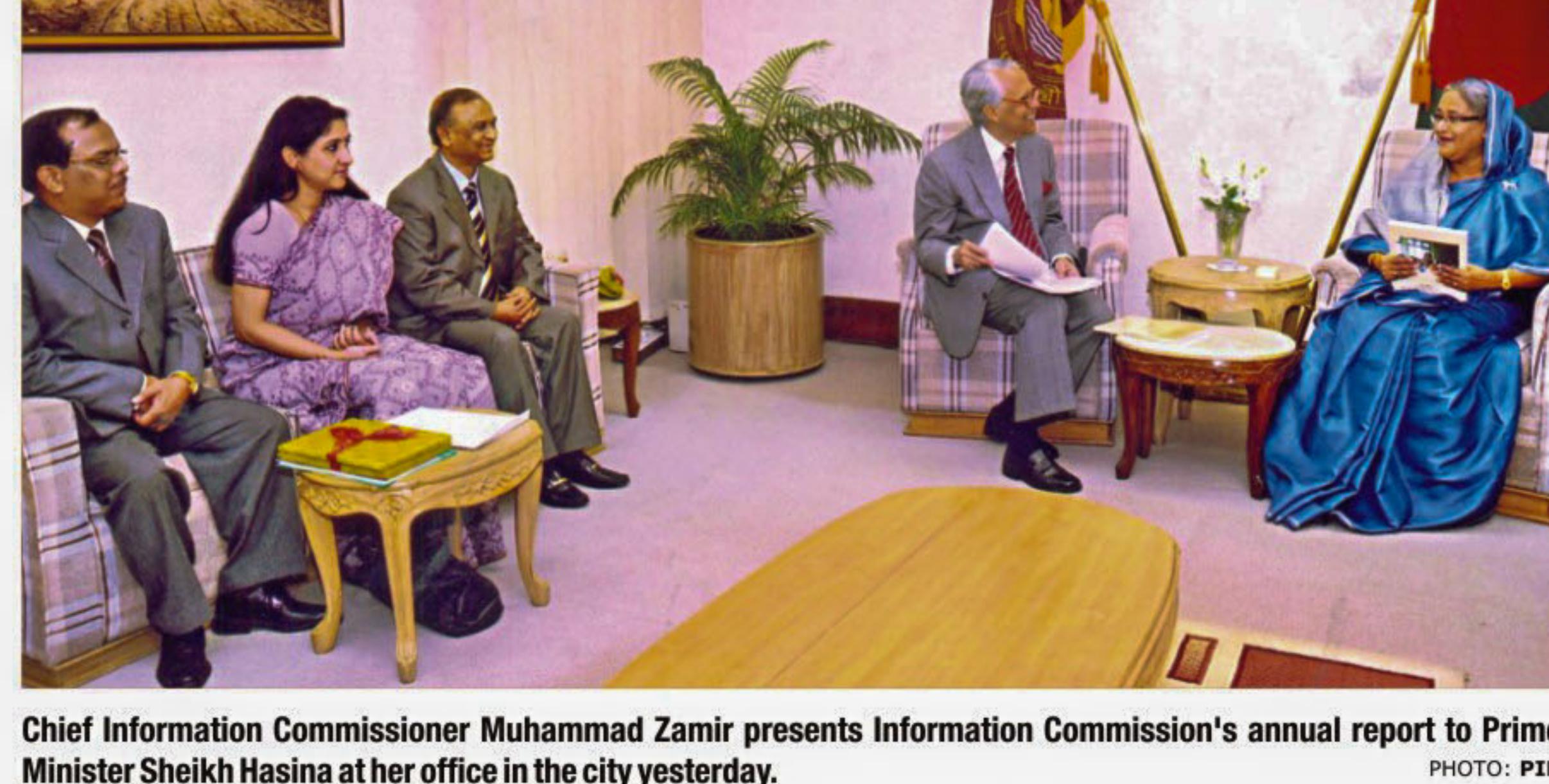
Iffat Ara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Iffat Ara, nicknamed Farida, wife of Md Serajul Islam, former chief engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), passed away at a city hospital Sunday at the age of 68, says a press release.

Farida left behind her husband and four sons. After namaz-e-Janaza at Gulshan Azad Mosque, she was buried at Banani graveyard.

Her qulhwani will be held on June 17 at Gulshan Azad Mosque after Asr prayers.



Chief Information Commissioner Muhammad Zamir presents Information Commission's annual report to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

PM receives info body report-2010

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government believes in free flow of information as it consolidates democracy.

The prime minister said this when the information commissioners led by

Chief Information Commissioner Mohammad Zamir handed over the Information Commission Report of 2010 to her at her office.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told journalists that the prime minister mentioned during the meeting that her government enacted the

Right to Information Act and formed the information commission to ensure the people's right to information.

Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr Toufiq-E-Elahi Chowdhury, Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad and Information Commissioners Abu Taher and Prof Sadeqa Halim were present.

Lao keen to help in agriculture

UNB, Dhaka

Newly appointed Lao Ambassador to Bangladesh Thongphanh Syackaphom presented his credentials to President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban yesterday.

During the meeting, the new envoy said Laos is keen to extend its cooperation to the agriculture sector of Bangladesh.

He lauded the role of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is working for development and peace in the international arena.

Ambassador Syackaphom informed that his country would positively consider supporting Bangladesh as one of the observers for ASEAN.

Welcoming the envoy to Bangabhaban, the president said Laos can import many world-class products from Bangladesh especially jute and leather goods, leather and leather goods, ceramics and pharmaceuticals.

President Zillur assured of all-out support to the new ambassador in carrying out his new assignment in Bangladesh.

DEATH THREAT
Murad Jong asked to explain

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked Awami League lawmaker Murad Jong, his mother, brother and two others to explain by July 20 why they should not be directed to give a bond for the next eight months for threatening to kill a stamp vendor.

Additional District Magistrate SM Mahbubur Rahman passed the order after stamp vendor AKM Azad Rashid filed a criminal case against Murad, his mother Lutfor Nessa Jong and his brother Lagon Jong, and 11 others.

Bela in its petition said one Abdul Wadud has set up Dattapara Bricks and Company in 2009 on the agricultural land adjacent to private and public offices, including a school in violation of laws.

The offices of deputy commissioner and department of environment at different times in 2010 directed the brickfield owner to stop its operation and to relocate it to stop environment pollution, the petition said.

Pollution: HC orders to shut brickfield

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the owner of Dattapara brickfield in Laksmipur to stop its operation for next three months to prevent pollution in the area.

The court passed the order in response to a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) on June 9.

The bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore also issued a rule upon the government and owner of the brickfield to explain within four weeks why setting up of the brickfield should not be declared illegal and should not be directed to relocate it from Dattapara.

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The offices of deputy commissioner and department of environment at different times in 2010 directed the brickfield owner to stop its operation and to relocate it to stop environment pollution, the petition said.

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna and Dhaka divisions in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy rain is also likely at places over southern part of the country, met office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:47pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 22.9 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	34.5	27.0	66	63
Chittagong	32.9	26.6	70	93
Rajshahi	36.5	26.2	83	65
Rangpur	34.0	26.2	85	59
Khulna	34.5	26.5	74	70
Barisal	33.5	26.5	74	70
Sylhet	33.5	26.5	88	68