

NEWS IN *brief*

School lecture aired on BTV

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry yesterday started broadcasting class lectures of some reputed schools of Dhaka city on Bangladesh Television (BTV) to facilitate the rural students with modern classroom teaching.

English lecture of class IX of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College was broadcast on the first day yesterday.

Mathematics lecture of Government Laboratory School would be aired today and chemistry lecture of Rajuk Uttara Model High School tomorrow.

English, Mathematics, and Chemistry classes would continue to be aired every Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday every week from the next week, said

Dipu Moni starts China visit today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Seeking assistance for construction for deep-sea port, trade deficit as well as trade and economic cooperation will dominate talks during Foreign Minister Dipu Moni's eight-day visit to China beginning today.

The foreign ministry sources said Dipu Moni, who leaves here early hours today, will hold official meeting with Vice President Xi Jinping, her Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi and other Chinese leaders and high officials when she will seek Chinese assistance for establishing a deep-sea port in the country.

Prof Anwarul made CUV

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Anwarul Azim Arif has been appointed the vice-chancellor (VC) of Chittagong University for next four years.

An education ministry circular announced his appointment yesterday.

His appointment order will remain effective until the university senate elects a VC from a three-member panel, said the circular.

Prof Anwarul, a teacher of management department of CU, will take charge from Dr Mohammad Alauddin, who was discharging duties as the acting VC.

Man kills wife in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man allegedly strangled his wife at Adabor in the city early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Momtaz Begum, 25, an employee of a private clinic at Link Road of Shyamoli.

Police arrested her husband Babul Akhter, an ex-



Dhaka University students form a human chain at Aparajeyo Bangla on the campus yesterday demanding immediate arrest of Syeed Hasan Sumon, who inhumanely tortured her wife Rumana Manjur, a teacher of the university. Inset, black ribbons round the heads of the statues symbolise shock at and protest against the cruelty.



Rumana flies to India with hope to get eyesight back

DU CORRESPONDENT

After nine days of anguish and trauma, the barbarously assaulted Dhaka University teacher Rumana Manjur was flown to India yesterday for better treatment.

An assistant professor of international relations (IR) department, Rumana left for India with the hope of regaining her eyesight, said Prof Dr Delwar Hossain, chairman of the department.

She will be treated at Sankara Nethralaya, a medical research foundation in Chennai, India, he said.

Rumana's husband Syeed Hasan Sumon allegedly assaulted her following a quarrel on June 5 at her father's house in the city's Dhanmondi. She was admitted to hospital on the same day. On Monday, she told the media, for the first time, the horrifying tale of torture.

Meanwhile, DU teachers and students demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the accused.

They placed the demands at two human chains following a silent procession organised separately by IR department and Dhaka University Teachers' Associations (Duta) at Aparajeyo Bangla on the campus.

At IR's programme, DU students demanded of the home ministry to arrest Syeed Hasan within 72-hour. They also called upon the DU authorities and the government to bear the medical expense of Rumana.

The students threatened to continue their protest unless the accused is arrested in the given time and criticised the university administration for delaying in taking steps in this regard.

At Duta's human chain, Prof Gitira Nasreen, chairperson of mass communication and journalism department, emphasised security of Rumana's family.

Prof Muhammad Akteruzzaman of Islamic history and culture department also spoke at the programme among others.

Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity, in a statement, condemned the incident.

One in four children faces mental disorder: Study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around one-fourth of children in Bangladesh is suffering from some forms of mental health problem, says a study of National Institute of Mental Health.

The survey, conducted with financial assistance of WHO, Bangladesh, says children growing up in rural areas are more prone to mental health problems than their urban counterparts.

Lower level of education of parents, history of mental illness in the family and past head injuries have been identified as the reasons behind the mental health problems.

The report (2009) on 'Survey measuring the rate of mental illness, retardation, epilepsy and drug addiction among children' was revealed at the institute conference room in the city yesterday.

Some 4,700 children, between the

age of five and seventeen, from 38 upazilas under 15 districts have been selected as the respondents of the study.

It says around 24.2 percent of the surveyed children act and behaves in ways that are unusual compared to 95 percent of the population.

As much as 17.5 percent of the children suffering from mental health problems are from rural areas while 14.3 percent from cities, says the survey.

"The problems include autism, severe depression, bipolar mood disorders, communication disorders, lack of attention, hyper activity, unintentional urination, conversion disorder and irrational fears," said Prof Dr Golam Rabbani, director of National Institute of Mental Health.

"These problems are rising in the country as we are going through rapid

social and economic change along with increased family problems, violence and poverty," warns Dr Rabbani, also principal researcher of the study.

Two percent of the surveyed population is suffering from epilepsy, 3.8 percent from intellectual disability, 0.8 percent from drug addiction and 18.4 percent from various forms of mental health problems, reveals the study.

The report also highlights a lack of awareness about mental health problems in the country, which it says may make a child unproductive and burden to their family.

Another WHO report says 9.5 percent to 29 percent of children in most of the countries are suffering from various mental health problems.

A study (2005) found that 16.1 percent of Bangladesh's adult population are suffering from some forms of mental health disorder.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poet and novelist Meherun Nahar Chowdhury, mother of Zakaria Kajol, city editor of the daily Inqilab, passed away due to diabetes and kidney diseases at a hospital in Kolkata on Monday at the age of 70, says a press release.

Meherun, wife of former deputy secretary Abdul Quayum Bhiyan, left behind her three sons and four daughters.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at Kadamtala Sangsad Balur Math at Basabo in the city at 8:30am today.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 14th death anniversary of Shamsul Alam (Nana Bhai), a veteran

politician and former general secretary of Bangladesh Jewellers Samity, says a press release.

On the occasion Quranqhwani will be held at the Bangladesh Jewellers Samity office at 6 Baitul Mokarram after Zohr prayers and at the office of his nephew former lawmaker Kazi Sirajul Islam after Asr prayers.

**Kabul keen on deals
Afghan ambassador meets FM**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Afghanistan will strike several deals on bilateral cooperation in various fields, including trade and economic sector, cultural affairs, employment and welfare of migrant workers from Bangladesh, and mutual visa exemption for the officials and diplomats.

This issues were discussed when the newly appointed Ambassador of Afghanistan Abdul Rahim Oraz paid a courtesy call on her at the foreign ministry yesterday.

The Ambassador expressed his country's keen interest in early signing agreements/memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bangladesh on the issues.

In response to ambassador's request, Dipu Moni stated that the ministries concerned have already been requested to make drafts of these agreements/MoUs.

She noted that Bangladesh is ready to enhance bilateral cooperation in areas like empowerment of women, non-formal primary education, community healthcare, sanitation, human resource development, judicial system reforms and social and humanitarian programmes.

Bangladesh professionals, such as teachers, engineers, physicians, nurses, can provide a vital space for development in Afghanistan and contribute to the reconstruction endeavours of the Afghan government, she added.

**20 sued for damaging
Saber's car**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty people, including several BNP activists, have been sued for ransacking the jeep of Awami League (AL) lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury in the city's Khilgaon on Monday night.

Md Sahabuddin and Md Zahir, AL president and general secretary of Trimohoni union under Khilgaon Police Station, filed the case with the police station on Tuesday morning.

ASI Mahbubul Alam, also investigation officer of the case, told The Daily Star that 20 people, including Alamgir, Musha, Zahirul, Ariful, Tofazzal, were made accused in the case. None was arrested till filling of this report in the evening.

Talking to The Daily Star, Saber Hossain said he along with the union leaders went to visit the ailing mother of Zahir at her home in Trimohoni around 8:30pm on Monday after parking his car on the main road in Nasirabad area.

Locals informed him that around 10/12 men including some of identified local BNP activists, vandalised his jeep along with the car of Alamgir Chowdhury, AL president of Khilgaon thana unit.

**Small parties being sandwiched
between two major parties: CEC**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday asserted that the smaller political parties should institutionally strengthen themselves to flourish proper democracy.

The smaller ones are being sandwiched between two major political parties, from where they should come out for the development of democracy, he said.

Dr Huda said this at the dialogue with Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP) at the EC secretariat in the city as part of its ongoing dialogue with the 38 registered political parties till July 14.

About strengthening of the commission, he said, "We placed three-point recommendation to the special committee to review the constitution. But they have kept none."

Criticising the committee proposal to

appoint five commissioners, the CEC said it would create disagreement in the commission.

A seven-member delegation team led by NAP General Secretary Enamul Haque attended the dialogue while two Election Commissioners M Sahul Hossain and M Shakhawat Hossain, among others, were present.

In a separate dialogue with the Workers Party of Bangladesh led by its President Rashed Khan Menon, the CEC, indicating at BNP, hoped that the main opposition would join the dialogue.

NAP leaders gave support for the introduction of Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) in the next general elections, while workers party leaders opined for its introduction in phases.

Both the parties suggested providing electoral campaign instrument instead of giving money in cash from public fund.

Nahid wants govt to double edn budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid has demanded in parliament that the government double the allocation in education sector. "Countries around the world allocate at least six percent of their Gross Domestic Product for education sector, but in our country it is only 2.3 percent," Nahid said.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith on June 9 proposed Tk 19,837 crore in the sector for the next fiscal year.

Speaking on the budget discussion that began yesterday, Nahid said: "Even all the African countries allocate more than five percent of their GDP in education sector. Countries like Senegal and Kenya allocate 40 and 35 percent of their GDP for the sector."

The education minister said his ministry is working to make science education attractive to draw more students.

Expressing concern over the fall in numbers of science students in schools and colleges, he said building a modern society is impossible without the knowledge of science.

Nahid said his ministry has taken steps to set up multimedia system in 20,500 schools to ensure that the students learn through modern technology.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, State Minister for Public Works and Housing Abdul Mannan Khan, Awami League MP Reza Ali Khan and Jatiya Party MP Mujibur Rahman, among others, took part in the discussion.

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, 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 23.5 degrees Celsius at Mymensingh.

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	33.8	26.6	65	83
Chittagong	31.7	25.5	90	79
Rajshahi	36.2	27.4	78	96
Rangpur	34.7	26.8	77	92
Khulna	33.2	27.4	77	87
Barisal	32.3	27.0	77	88

Rally

Dhaka University will hold a protest rally. Time: 12:00pm, Venue: Aparajeyo Bangla.

Roundtable

Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will hold a roundtable discussion. Time: 3:00pm, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Seminar

Mass-line Media Centre (MMC) will hold a seminar. Time: 10:00am, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Roundtable

RTI Media Platform will arrange a roundtable discussion. Time: 11:00am, Venue: Jatri, TK Bhaban.

Workshop

Nari Maitree will organise workshop on HIV/AIDS. Time: 9:30am, Venue: Biom.

Meeting

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (Blast) will hold a view-exchange meeting. Time: 11:00am, Venue: YMC Bhaban.

Roundtable

Shushashoner Janyo Nagorik (Shujan) will hold a roundtable discussion. Time: 10:00am, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.