

NEWS IN *brief*

Exotic bird exhibition begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tweets and chirps filled the atmosphere at Platinum Gym in city's Hatirpool yesterday as a unique collection of multi-coloured foreign birds were put up for exhibition.

Dr Abdul Oadud, general secretary of Bangladesh Wildlife Conservation and Rearing Association (BWCRA), organised the exhibition which would continue till Saturday.

He collected these birds from different countries such as Bourke's Parakeet from Australia and Kakariki from New Zealand since 1997.

Later at a discussion, organised by BWCRA, highlighting role of birds in the environment, Oadud placed his "Phycamolli Theory" in which he explained how bird watching, exercise and meditation could keep people healthy.

"If you do all these three it will keep you physically, mentally and spiritually healthy," he said.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud was present as the chief guest with Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique as the honoured guest.

Indian army chief due June 19

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief of Army Staff of India General VK Singh will pay a five-day official visit to Bangladesh from June 19 to 23, said a press release yesterday. A five-member delegation will accompany Singh and his wife Bharti Singh. Singh fought for the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971.

Two Tahrir men among 12 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested seven suspected robbers from Kafrul and three alleged associates of fugitive criminal Dakat Sahid from Dholaikhal in separate drives in the city yesterday.

Sharp weapons and 200 grammes of gunpowder were seized from the robbers while three foreign-made revolvers and seven rounds bullets were seized from Shahid's associates.

They Sarder Algir Hossain, Sabuj, Rajib, Billal, Anwar, Bakul, and Pintu Sikder. Shahid's associates are Erfan, Uttam and Shahin.

Meanwhile, police arrested two suspected members of banned outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh and seized some posters and books on Jihad from their possession in the city's Mohammadpur yesterday.

They are Md Salauddin Khan alias Panna, 28, who completed his studies from Dhaka University, and Khaled Zubaer, 32, a private tutor.

OMS launched for officials

UNB, Dhaka

The government has launched Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice for the officials and employees of Secretariat yesterday.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Abdur Razzak inaugurated the programme.

Bangladesh Secretariat Bahumukhi Samabaya Samity has been entrusted to run the activities of the programme.

Per kg rice will be sold at Tk 24 while the price of per kgatta has been fixed at Tk20.

Each recipient will be entitled to get 5 kgs of rice and 3 kgs of atta daily.

The OMS programme will be in operation until

Four hurt in oven blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Four workers were injured as an oven of a food factory blasted in Kalurghat BISIC area of Chandgaon in the port city yesterday.

The injured were identified as Binoy Chakma, Shuresh, Shohag, and Forkan.

Sources said the accident occurred as the oven of DSP food factory, owned by one Ajit, blasted due to excess heat.

The injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.



This park at Karwan Bazar under Dhaka City Corporation carries no sign to be a place of amusement as shop owners and others have occupied it for their use.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

DIALOGUE WITH ELECTION COMMISSION

Bikalpa Dhara favours CG system while JP opposes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) suggested holding general elections under the caretaker government while Jatiya Party has opposed the caretaker system.

The parties gave their opinion at a dialogue with the Election Commission at the commission's secretariat at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city yesterday as part of a series of dialogues with different political parties.

However, both the parties suggested not using electronic voting machines (EVM) in the general elections rather piloting its effectiveness and acceptance in smaller scale elections.

The dialogue started at 10:30am with Bikalpa Dhara while Jatiya Party attended the dialogue at 3:00pm.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad led a nine-member delegation while BDB President Dr AQM Badruddoza

Chowdhury led an eight-member delegation.

Ershad said there is no chance of holding elections under the caretaker government as the High Court has declared it illegal.

BDB said the political governments of Bangladesh do not have the ability to conduct elections in a free and fair manner so there is still the need of the caretaker system.

Dr Badruddoza said the EC cannot perform its duty independently since its "hands are tied."

He also said the election commission always remain under pressure from the big two parties.

Termining EVM a better method, the party said there is a lack of security in the system.

The delegation suggested using EVMs in the upcoming Dhaka City

Corporation elections and by-elections for piloting.

Jatiya Party also suggested reforms in the election system and party based elections rather than present candidate based elections in different constituencies.

Ershad said people will vote for parties not candidates and the parties will get seats in the parliament according to the percentage of votes they get.

Jatiya Party urged to cancel duties of deputy commissioners as returning officers replacing the officials of deputy secretary rank.

Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda, Election Commissioners M Sakhawat Hussain and Muhammed Sohul Hussain were present at the dialogue.

The EC on June 7 launched dialogues with the political parties.

Man killed just after denial of cop help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Armed "land grabbers" murdered a man, who just about one and half hours before the attack was denied police protection, in broad daylight in Haragram area of the metropolitan city Tuesday.

The assailants stabbed and beat up Abdul Kuddus, 46, a retail businessman, with sharp weapons and iron rods inside his house Tuesday noon. He succumbed to his wounds at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital around 6:00pm.

A gang of 7-8 armed people, who earlier issued a death threat to Kuddus, stormed his house around 12:00pm, said police, the victim's family members, and witnesses.

Sensing presence of the murderers, Kuddus and his brother Abu Bakar Siddik ran to Rajpara Police Station, some 50 yards off their house, and begged security directly from the officer-in-charge.

The OC, however, refused to give any protection, reasoning that providing personal security is not possible for police and said police would visit them the next morning (yesterday), according to Siddik.

As the two brothers being denied security returned home around 1:30pm, the armed people, who were still waiting near their house, swooped on them at the gate.

Some five other members of the victim's family including Siddik, his wife Merina Begum, Kuddus' wife Nazma Begum received wounds while trying to save him.

Nazma said none of the neighbours dared to come forward for saving Kuddus as the gang leaders were known in the locality as "ferocious land grabbers".

Siddik said Ekramul Hossain and his relative Liton, well known as land grabbers, suddenly arrived at their house months ago and asked them to leave it.

The land grabbers claimed that Kuddus' father Naser Ali sold the land before his death years ago, said Siddik.

On Monday, the grabbers threatened Kuddus and Siddik of murder unless they leave the house within three days.

Kuddus and Siddik went to Rajpara Police Station to file a General Diary (GD) Monday afternoon, but police did not record it, OC Mokarram Hossain admitted.

In a sharp contrast, police recorded a GD filed by Ekramul complaining that Kuddus was illegally occupying his (Ekramul's) land.

Hearing Kuddus' murder, police visited the victim's house.

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner M Obaidullah said Assistant Commissioner (Boalia zone) Shariful Islam was directed to investigate the allegations of police negligence.



Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a roundtable on reforms in civil administration organised by Shushashoner Janya Nagorik (Shujan) at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Director General M Hafizuddin Khan and on his right are columnist Syed Abul Maksud and Shujan secretary Dr Badiul Alam Majumder.

PHOTO: STAR

WEATHER TODAY

Rain 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, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions in next 12 hours till 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 6:48pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded today at Feni and lowest 25.0 degrees at Rangpur.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns today were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.0	27.4	82	68
Chittagong	34.2	26.4	67	85
Rajshahi	32.1	25.5	84	80
Rangpur	31.1	25.0	86	78
Khulna	33.5	26.5	91	76
Barisal	32.7	26.0	96	87

Rahman Boyati hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted folk singer Abdur Rahman Boyati, aged about 70, was admitted to the city's Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital yesterday evening.

Rahman is suffering from neurological problem, which requires an urgent operation for recovery, said Dr Towhid Muhammad Saiful.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the sixth death anniversary of Sajeda Islam, wife of late engineer Fakhru Islam, says a press release.



Give more budgetary funds for challenged

Protibondhi forum urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Protibondhi Forum (JPF) leaders yesterday said that the proposed budgetary allocation for the challenged people is not sufficient.

They demanded more budgetary allocation for education materials and stipends for the challenged children.

They made the demand at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) yesterday.

Many children with disability are also underprivileged and homeless, and they should be provided with special allowance and loans, they added.

Apart from the development of the disabled, the speakers also stressed the need for more funds in the health sector, which would allow more medical facilities and therapy for the challenged people.

The government should focus more on food security through Open Market Sale (OMS), VGD, VGF/TR, GR and FFW to eradicate poverty among the people with disability, they said.

JPF General Secretary Zowaherul Islam Mamun read out a statement at the event while its president Khandoker Zohurul Alam was in the chair.

4 diagnosed with anthrax

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Four more people have been diagnosed with anthrax at Kenai village in Faridpur upazila of the district yesterday, bringing the number to 14 during the last three days.

They are: Imran Hossain, 13, Nasrin Khatun, 35, Dolly Khatun, 32 and Hosne Ara, 30.

Dr Khalilur Rahman, upazila health and family planning officer, said the four detected infected two days after they handled raw meat of a diseased cow which was slaughtered on June 9, he said.

On June 11, ten people of the village contracted anthrax.

DHAKA TODAY

- Human chain**
National Garment Workers Federation will form a human chain. Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:00am.
- Seminar**
Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh will organise a seminar. Venue: 160/A, Kakrail, Time: 5:00pm.
- Roundtable**
Zia Parishad will arrange a roundtable. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 4:00pm.
- Dancing programme**
Nazrul Academy will organise a dancing programme. Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Time: 6:00pm.
- Memorial meeting**
Swadesh Chinta Shangha will hold a memorial meeting. Venue: Public Library auditorium, Time: 4:00pm.
- Fair**
Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (Rehab) will organise a summer fair. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Time: 11:00am.
- Discussion**
Sushasoneer Jonny Procharavizan (Supro) will hold a discussion. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 10:00am.
- Rally**
Bangladesh Federal Union of