

NEWS IN *brief*

CJ flies to London

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday left Dhaka to attend an international conference of jurists for judicial reforms to be held in London on June 21 and 22.

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

Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, a High Court judge and a member of ICJ, will also attend the conference and present a paper titled "Contribution of the Supreme Court in enabling the progression of democracy and rule of law in Bangladesh".

The conference is organised by ICJ with support from Bar Council of England and Wales.

Indian army chief arrives today

BSS, Dhaka

Indian Chief of Army Staff Vijay Kumar Singh arrives here today on a five-day official visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of his Bangladesh counterpart General Mohammad Abdul Mubeen.

General Singh, who will be accompanied by his wife Bharti Singh and four senior army officers, will call on President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, an ISPR release said yesterday.

He will also meet chiefs of the three services and senior officers of Bangladesh Armed Forces, including the principal staff officer.

Hartal in N'ganj tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatri Odhikar Sangrakkhan Forum (Commuters Right Protection Forum) will observe a half-day hartal on Monday in Narayanganj protesting the hike of bus fare.

The forum called the hartal on June 11 from a protest rally, says press release.

Youth commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth allegedly committed suicide by hanging from a ceiling fan with curtain on Friday afternoon at his residence in the city's Mirpur failing to realise money from his mother to buy drugs.

The deceased was identified as Waliul Ali, 22, son of Shahen Ali of Kalyanpur of Mirpur.

Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of Mirpur police station, said Waliul used to take sedatives.

Police recovered the body around 4:00pm from his residence.



Sangkhudha Janatar Udyog forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding a stop to extrajudicial killings.

PHOTO: STAR

Gen Harun meets Lord Carlile

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH, London

Visiting Lt Gen (ret'd) M Harun-Ar-Rashid, secretary general of Sector Commanders Forum, met Lord Carlile of Berriew QC, vice chair of UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Genocide Prevention and Crimes Against Humanity, at House of Lords on June 16.

Harun told Lord Carlile of the long struggle to seek justice for victims of Bangladesh's War of Liberation in 1971.

He sought the UK's assistance for Bangladesh war crimes trial. Carlile said Britain was aware of the trial and the alleged war criminals of 1971 hiding in the UK.

Mutual talks to ease political instability, say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The political instability in the country must be mitigated if the political parties hold mutual discussion on issues of conflict, speakers at dialogue said yesterday.

All issues of conflicts, worth being talked about inside parliament, should be debated there, said State Minister for Women And Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury.

Dhaka city Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka said the responsibility does fall only on the two major political parties.

He said civil society members and the conscientious quarters of the society must come forward with their ideas and formulas.

Panel members and the participants also talked about unemployment prob-

lem and freedom of judiciary in the dialogue.

The BBC hosted the programme Jubo Sanglap at the city's Bangladesh Administrative Service Association (Biam) auditorium yesterday.

Barrister Sara Hossain, one of the four panelists, said the executive wing of the government should not interfere in the internal affairs of judiciary.

On unemployment problem, she suggested people migrating abroad for jobs terming the world a global village.

In a reply, Mayor Khoka blamed unplanned population growth for unemployment problem and urged the government to make effective policies against the crisis.

Shirin Sharmin indicated at industrialisation, extension industrial arena,

emerging of private sectors, and improved policies to solve job crisis.

She said Information Technology (IT) sector should be given priority for creation of job.

Sara Hossain said IT facilities should be increased outside the capital and laid emphasis on the development of the sector across the country.

Shirin Sharmin said the government is already set to build the country as a digital Bangladesh and it will provide the people with laptops at low prices soon.

Gausul Alam Shaon, managing director of Grey Advertising Bangladesh, attended Jubo Sanglap as another panel member.

BBC's Sabir Mustafa moderated the dialogue preceded by screening of a short film.

Over 300 RMG workers fall sick after taking lunch

UNB, Savar

Over 300 workers of Sed Fashion, an Indian-owned readymade garments unit here, fell sick after taking lunch served by the factory authorities yesterday afternoon.

They were admitted to different hospitals and clinics in Ashulia and Savar.

A general holiday was declared at Sed Fashion following the incident for indefinite period yesterday.

About 300 workers, out of 3,000, fell seriously ill with severe stomachache and vomiting soon after they had lunch (bhat-dal-dim) supplied by Turag Traders at about 2:00pm.

Sed Fashion in Beron area blamed the food suppliers for supplying toxic food that caused mass sickness at the factory.

Quality cables for safety stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday urged electricity cable manufacturers to produce standard and high quality cables for safety and security of life and property.

They also stressed the importance of following Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) principles and mandatory use of copper in producing the cables, says a press release.

They were speaking at a workshop titled "Importance of producing quality electricity cables for safety of life and assets" organised by BSTI at its office in the city.

BSTI Director General AK Fazlul Ahad, speaking as the chief guest, said there is no alternative of unadulterated copper in producing quality cables.

Prof Saiful Islam of Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology addressed as the special guest.

Obituary

BSS, Dhaka

Wing Commander (Retd) Saidur Rahman Mirza, who was a director and chief coordinator of Bangladesh refugee camp in India during the Liberation War, passed away at Toronto city in Canada yesterday due to old age complications at the age of 83, says a press release.

He left behind his two sons and one daughter.

Saidur was a brother-in-law of Planning Minister Air Vice-Marshal (Retd) AK Khandaker.

Nat'l Fruit Fair ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of people have got introduced with about 150 different fruits from home and abroad at the three-day National Fruit Fair that ended in the city yesterday.

A dozen varieties of homegrown mangoes, among other fruits, were showcased for the visitors. Harivog, Batasha, Langra, Bou Vulani, Rang Bahari, Maharaj Kumari, and Sundory are some of many more mango varieties.

Rahima Khatun, metropolitan agricultural extension officer of Gulshan branch, said most of the domestic species of mangoes came from Rajshahi division.

Banison, Apple Mango, and Avocado are fruits from Thailand and Singapore. These foreign fruits also drew attention of the visitors.

Krishibid Institute organised the fruit fair at Khamarbari in Farmgate with 45 stalls having showcased various fruits and agro-products.

"This fair aims to encourage people to cultivate more local fruits on rooftops and yards, as those fruits can meet the demand of nutrition and vitamins of human body", said horticulturist Kabir Ahmad.

Some fruits like Peech, Rambutan, Bread Fruit, and Traugon, which are now produced in Bangladesh, also got place at the fair.

Hundreds of domestic fruits like pineapple, tamarind, blackberry, papaya, karambola, wood apple, guava, lemon, orange, lychee, date, jackfruit, banana, and green coconut were displayed.

Tungo Kala Chakma of Khagrachhari brought a very rare and uncommon fruit locally named Pilegulo at the festival. A medium sized fruit like Pumpkin, Pilegulo is very popular among the indigenous people.

Besides display of fruits, several small entrepreneurs came to the fair with their products like mushroom, mushroom jelly, mushroom pickle, honey, reserve bottled fruits, olive pickle, apple jam, guava jelly, soya sauce, chili sauce, and tomato sauce and the like.

Directorate of Bangladesh Agricultural Extension, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation, Agriculture Information Service, Safe Agro Food, Fame Enterprise, and Horticulture Export Development Foundation showcased their products at the fair among others.



Varieties of different fruits showcased in the three-day National Fruit Fair that ended at Khamarbari in the city's Farmgate yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

'Tagore works sway lives of Bangalee'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Influence of literary works of versatile poet Rabindranath Tagore over the lives of Bangalees is indispensable, said speakers at a function yesterday.

Tagore has enriched Bangla literature with his works on almost all branches of literature. He has thought about education, human being, and environment too, the discussants observed in the inaugural session of a two-day seminar in the city.

Bangla daily the Prothom Alo and Brac Bank has jointly organised the seminar styled "Rabindranath Ei Somoye" at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, marking Rabindranath Tagore's 150th birth anniversary.

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, former chief adviser to a caretaker government, inaugurated the seminar.

Justice Habibur said the great poet was not in favour of restricting himself within a particular matter rather he had worked on different branches.

Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiur Rahman said the seminar aims to find out how the great poet is present in Bangalee's realisation and to observe if new paths can be found out from Rabindranath's thoughts during crises of society and state.

Prof Anisuzzaman will play the role of convener in the programme.

Prothom Alo Managing Director Sazzad Sharif, and Brac Bank Chief Executive Officer Syed Mahbubur Rahman, among others, spoke at the programme.

Three alleged abductors arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested three people for allegedly trying to abduct an expatriate from Saudi Arabia at Gabtali in the city yesterday evening.

Victim Kismat Ali, 30, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Witnesses said a group of six people tried to abduct Kismat making him unconscious pushing an injection at about 7:00pm at Gabtali. Locals held three of them while others managed to flee.

Kismat at DMCH said he returned to Bangladesh three days ago and went to Fakirerpool in the city to take Tk 1.15 lakh from a friend.

Abdul Malek, officer-in-charge (OC) of Darussalam police station, quoting the arrestees said Kismat took Tk 5 lakh from them for sending them to Saudi Arabia.

'Education gets less budgetary funds than in developing states'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Budgetary allocation for Bangladesh's education sector is insufficient compared to developing countries of the world, said speakers at a meeting yesterday.

They urged the government to appoint competent people to vacant posts in the education sector for smooth implementation of National Education Policy.

They were speaking at a meeting on "Strengthening monitoring activities in the education sector: Context National Education Policy-2010" at Dhaka Residential Model School and College auditorium in the city.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, speaking as the chief guest, said only 2.3 percent of Bangladesh's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is allotted for education sector while developing countries of Africa use 30 to 40 percent.

Referring to Kenya using 31 percent and Senegal using 40 percent, he said they realised the necessity of improving the education sector to strengthen their overall development.

"We are trying to frame a separate payscale for teachers, upgrading position of government secondary school teachers to second-class gazetted officers," he said.

Education Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Additional Secretary SM Golam Faruk also spoke with Prof Noman-ur-Rashid, director general of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, in the chair.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over all the seven 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 5:12am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 23.9 degrees Celsius at Feni.

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	27.4	24.8	96	90
Chittagong	27.5	24.8	83	95
Rajshahi	28.2	25.5	96	96
Rangpur	29.2	25.4	97	80
Khulna	29.2	25.5	98	97
Barisal	26.2	25.0	98	98
Sylhet	34.0	26.5	85	83
Cox's Bazar	26.0	24.5	96	

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Bangladesh National Museum will organise a seminar. Venue: Museum auditorium, Time: 11:00am.

Meeting
Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association will hold a meeting. Venue: Brac Centre Inn, Mohakhali, Time: 10:00am.

Seminar
Bangladesh Sammlito Peshajibi Parishad will organise a seminar. Venue: Engineers Institution, Bangladesh auditorium, Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion
Trust Tele-Media Limited will hold a discussion. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar
Urban Development Directorate will arrange a seminar. Venue: Bangladesh Institute of Planners auditorium, 13/A, Sonargaon Road, Time: 9:30am.

Celebration
Jica, Koica and North South University Earth Club will jointly celebrate the International Earth Day. Venue: NSU campus, Time: 11:00am.

Seminar
Community-based Dairy Veterinary Foundation will organise a seminar. Venue: Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council, Farmgate, Time: 10:00am.