

NEWS IN *brief*

Construction worker electrocuted

UNB, Savar

A construction worker was electrocuted at Ananda Plaza of Savar bus stand area yesterday.

The deceased is Yusuf Ali, 18, from Boalkhali village of Hatiya upazila of Noakhali.

Witnesses said Yusuf was killed on the spot when he came in contact with a live electric wire while he was working at the plaza.

UP polls: 26 jailed for seven days

UNB, Bandarban

Mobile court yesterday sentenced 26 people to prison for seven days for trying to influence voting in Bolipara union parishad scheduled for today.

The law enforcers who held them said all young men they came from Bandarban town and adjacent areas to manage votes for their favourite candidates in the election.

It was suspected that the young men from outside were hired by some candidates.

Call to increase budgetary funds for local govts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A platform of 35 non-government organisations yesterday demanded increase in budgetary allocation for the local governments.

Speakers at a press conference organised by Governance Advocacy Forum made the demand.

They said though the budgetary allocation for the local governments has been increasing during the past few years but the real increase is very low.

They also demanded implementation of district budget immediately which was pledged by the finance minister in his budget speeches in the past two years.

Prof MM Akash read out a written statement at the press conference. Governance Advocacy Forum Coordinator Mohsin Ali and Bangladesh Upazila Parishad Association President Harun Ur Rashid Hawladar were present on the occasion.

Prof Akash said the allocation in the proposed budget for local government is "insufficient" that can not strengthen it.

Mohsin Ali said they have long been urging the government to take "specific steps" for strengthening the local government and formation of a decentralisation commission. The implementation of district budgets could be part of that process, he added.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Shacheton Nagorik Parishad will organise a discussion; Venue: Hotel Abakash; Time: 10:45am.

Seminar

Russian Centre of Science & Culture, Dhaka will hold a seminar; Venue: its Dhanmondi premises; Time: 5:00pm.

Premiershow

Brac will organise a premier show on a documentary; Venue: ICCDR, B; Time: 6:00pm.

Reception

ADD International will accord a reception; Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity; Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will hold a discussion; Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Economic Reporters' Forum will organise a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Milad mahfil

Barisal Bibhag Sangbadik Samity, Dhaka will hold a milad mahfil; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

Bangladesh Pathanatak Parishad will organise a seminar; Venue: Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy; Time: 11:00am.

Roundtable discussion

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies will hold a roundtable discussion; Venue: Flambe Restaurant, Gulshan 2; Time: 4:00pm.

Memorial lecture

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will organise a memorial lecture on Poet Sufia Kamal; Venue: Biam auditorium, Gulshan 2; Time: 4:00pm.

Convocation

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University will hold its convocation; Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Nagorik Udyog will organise a discussion; Venue: Cirdap auditorium; Time: 10:30am.

Workshop

Department of Environment will hold a workshop; Venue: its Agargaon premises; Time: 2:00pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:12am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.0 degrees Celsius at Cox's Bazar.

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	32.8	25.0	81	74
Chittagong	31.3	24.7	80	81
Rajshahi	31.6	24.9	100	89
Rangpur	32.6	26.0	78	74
Khulna	31.6	26.1	89	92
Barisal	31.6	25.4	89	86
Sylhet	36.0	26.7	80	69
Cox's Bazar	32.5	24.0	97	84



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Cars parked on the footpath in front of Hotel Super Star Ltd on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the city yesterday force pedestrians to walk on the thoroughfare, posing a risk of accident anytime.

NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FIRST MEET

PM for all modern facilities in villages

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has directed all officials concerned to ensure best coordination in their works for maximising development of the country.

The directive came when she was presiding over the first meeting of National Rural Development Council at her office yesterday morning.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Planning Minister AK Khandaker, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam, Home Minister Sahara Khatun, Social Welfare Minister Enamul Hoque Mostafa Shaheed, Information Minister Abul

Kalam Azad, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, Communication Minister Syed Abul Hossain, Land Minister Rejaul Karim Hira and Health Minister Dr AFM Ruhal Haq, among others, attended the meeting.

The high level meeting has decided to turn the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Poverty Alleviation Training Complex into an autonomous institution and introduce National Palli Unnayan Padak [national rural development award].

Briefing reporters after the meeting, PM's press secretary Abul Kalam Azad said necessary law and policy would be formulated to make the

Bangabandhu Training Complex an autonomous institution and introduce the national Palli Unnayan Padak.

It was said the BNP-Jamaat government had kept inactive the Bangabandhu Poverty Alleviation Training Complex.

The prime minister said her government has taken up to implement a master plan in all upazilas with the coordination among all relevant organisations for overall development of the country. She stressed the need for developing every village for welfare of the people. They should be provided with every facility that the urban people get to live a modern life.

Hasina reiterated the government's thinking to build every village in a planned way so that the people enjoy modern living facilities. She listed various development projects being implemented by the present government for rural development.

She said her government has been implementing "One House, One Farm" "Ashrayan Project" and "Palli Abason Project."

Hasina recalled that her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman used to dream that every village would be well planned and modern. "By fulfilling his dream, we can build his Sonar Bangla," said the prime minister.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at a seminar titled "Manipulation on capital market and the interest of small investors", organised by pro-BNP organisation Sammilito Peshajibi Parishad in Engineers Institution auditorium in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: BNP

UZ CHAIRMAN'S WRIT
HC rule on govt to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain within four weeks why it should not be directed to compel the officials of different departments of upazila to act as per instructions of its chairman.

An HC bench of Justice Farid Ahmed and Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif issued the rule following a writ petition filed by Anwarul Haque Bablu, chairman of Akkelpur upazila, in Joypurhat.

Bablu filed the petition yesterday saying that officials of different departments concerned of his upazila don't take any instruction from his office in discharging their duties, although the government has issued a notification on December 31, 2009, directing them to do so.

Petitioner's counsel Yousuf Ali told The Daily Star that the officials of at least 13 departments including education, agriculture, fisheries and health are bound to take opinions from the upazila chairman to take any decision as per the government notification.

But, none of the departments are complying with the conditions of the notification, which is a violation of the government decision, he added.

Secretaries to the cabinet division, president's secretariat, prime minister's office, ministries of LGRD, establishment, health, agriculture, fisheries, food and disaster management, social welfare, education, women and children affairs, sports, and housing and public works have been made respondents to the rule.

2004 CTG ARMS HAUL

CID completes investigation: Officials

BSS, Chittagong

Criminal Investigation Department has completed its extended investigation into arms haul in 2004 when a 10-truck loads of weapons reportedly destined to hideouts of India's separatist United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), officials said yesterday.

"We are now set to submit the supplementary charge-sheet based on our (extended) investigations within the stipulated deadline June 29," a senior CID official told BSS.

He said Public Prosecutor (PP) Kamal Uddin gave consent to the Memorandum of Evidence (ME) okaying the report while the case documents were being sent to CID headquarters in Dhaka for vetting in next two days.

The extended investigations were carried out under a court order as the case was initially brought for trial before the Metropolitan Sessions Judge of Chittagong on February 12, 2008.

But the deadline for submission of the charge-sheet was delayed as the CID required extended time for unveiling the "revealing facts" behind the abortive weapon smuggling as the court extended the deadline for 17 times on prayers by the investigators.

CID officials said they would seek indictment of now detained former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar, former industries minister Matiur Rahman Nizami, ULFA leader Pares Barua, ex-director general of National Security Intelligence (NSI) retired

brigadier general Abdur Rahim and former Director General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) ex-major general Rezaqul Haider Chowdhury.

The other suspects were former additional secretary of the Industries Ministry Nurul Amin, former managing director of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) Mohsin Talukdar and its former director general (administration) Enamul Haque, former NSI director retired wing commander Shahab Uddin, former NSI deputy director retired major Liakat Hossain and its field officer Akbar Hossain Khan.

Of the 11 suspects, nine are now in jail to face the trial in person while Pares Barua and Nurul Amin are on the run to evade the justice and CID has sought INTERPOL assistance to arrest Pares Barua.

Earlier, former industries secretary Dr Shoeb Ahmed, former Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation chairman retired major general Imamuzzaman, former commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police S M Sabir Ali and several other intelligence and security officials gave their statements before a magistrate on their knowledge and idea about the haul.

"Their statements revealed astounding information relating to the involvement of several high-profile people including Babar in the haul," a CID official familiar with the developments said.