

NEWS IN *brief*

Boy found dead in water tank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered body of an unidentified teenaged boy from an underground water tank of a dormitory of Bangladesh Institute of Glass and Ceramic in city's Tejgaon Industrial area yesterday. Mahbubur Rahman, sub-inspector of Tejgaon Shilpachal Police Station, said they recovered the body from the water reserve tank of the Kazi Nazrul Islam Hostel about 6:00pm. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy. The body bore marks of injury, Mahbubur said.

Two commit suicide in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenaged domestic help and a mason allegedly committed suicide in in city's Dhanmondi and Pallabi area yesterday. Police said Rokhsana Akter, 14, daughter of Mahmudul Haque of Lalmohan of Bhola, committed suicide by hanging from a ceiling fan with scarf at Dhanmondi in the city around 12:30am yesterday. Police recovered her body from the house of Rafiqul Islam, a businessman, at Road No # 5 in Dhanmondi yesterday afternoon. Later, her body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy. Meanwhile, Pallabi police recovered body of a mason identified as Fatik Mia, 37, from his residence at Section 7 in Mirpur. Police said he committed suicide by hanging from a ceiling fan with rope yesterday.

VoIP equipment seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized voice over internet protocol (VoIP) equipment worth around Tk 50 lakh from a house in the city's Naya Paltan yesterday and arrested two people in this regard. The arrestees are Belal Hossain, 34, and Mohammad Russel, 28. The law enforcers seized one receiver, dish antenna, over 1500 SIM cards and other machineries from the spot.

TORTURE ON WIFE

Detective faces arrest

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against a sub-inspector of Detective Branch in connection with a case filed against him for torturing his wife for dowry. Judge (in charge) Nur Mohammad Jahangir Sarkar of the Fourth Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression passed the order. The court also directed officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station to submit report by July 24 on execution of arrest warrant against SI Golam Rasul Mollah. On May 9, Poppy Akhter Brishti, wife of the accused, filed a criminal case with the tribunal on charge of torturing her for dowry. After the hearing, the tribunal recorded statement of the complainant and sent the case to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka for a judicial inquiry into the complaint. Following the order, Metropolitan Magistrate Asaduzzaman Nur recorded statements of five witnesses, including complainant of the case and left the matter up to the tribunal for taking the next course of action. The prosecution alleged that Golam married Brishti on January 24 this year settling Tk 7 lakh as alimony. However, two months into their marriage, Golam took Tk 2.10 lakh from the victim as dowry. The accused demanded Tk 2 lakh more from Brishti saying he needed the money for his promotion. Failing to realise the money, the accused brutally tortured his wife on May 5, claimed the prosecution.



Bangladesh Water Development Board demolishes illegal structures on both sides of Mohammadpur Beribadh road in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

RELIGIOUS MINORITIES
Hunger strike on July 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Religious and indigenous minorities of Bangladesh will observe a dawn-to-dusk hunger strike on July 2 protesting the parliamentary special committee's recommendations on constitutional amendments. The leaders of the communities termed the recommendations "religiously discriminatory." They said they would forge a tougher movement if the proposed amendment is passed in parliament keeping "Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim" and Islam as the state religion. Leaders of Bangladesh Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad, a platform of religious minority groups and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, a forum of indigenous people, announced this at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity. Maj Gen (retd) CR Dutta and Sanjib Drang, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum spoke at the press conference.

Judiciary ensures rule of law in Bangladesh

Chief justice tells London conference

SYED BADRUL AHSAN, from London

Chief Justice Muzammel Hossain, stated in London on Tuesday that the judiciary had been playing a significant role in ensuring the rule of law and democracy in Bangladesh. Speaking at an international conference of jurists on the theme of judicial reforms, Justice Hossain referred to some recent landmark judgements by the higher judiciary in the country, with particular reference to the striking down of the Fifth Amendment to the constitution, and observed that such moves were a reflection of the popular desire to prevent any unconstitutional seizure of power in future by forces opposed to democracy. The conference has been organised by the International Council of Jurists and has been academically supported by the Bar Council of England and Wales.

Bringing together a number of legal luminaries from various countries, the seminar deliberated on a diversity of judicial issues, notably, accountability and judicial reforms; role of corporate governance in strengthening the economy; human rights and terrorism; bribery and corruption; relationship amongst judiciary, legislature and executive; arbitration and mediation. Justice Hossain, part of a two-member team from Bangladesh that includes Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, narrated the various measures which have of late been taken to ensure the independence of the judiciary in Bangladesh. For his part, Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury acquainted participants at the conference with the constitutional provisions in Bangladesh relating to a separation of powers among the judicial, legislative and executive branches of government.

He noted the steps which the judiciary has recently taken in the country to ensure smooth functioning of the legal system as well as of broad society, adding that such measures have had the support of the legislature and the executive branch of government. One of the more dramatic moments of the conference came when Toby Cadman, a British lawyer, questioned the legalities of the process involved in the projected trial of war criminals in Bangladesh. His argument that the measures initiated by the Bangladesh government in carrying the trial process forward left a number of loopholes that needed to be filled in through bringing in internationally accepted standards of justice was roundly protested by a significant number of Bangladeshi as well as British-Bangladeshi lawyers present on the occasion. Among those who registered their protest and clarified the legal

situation relating to the war crimes trial were Barrister Anis Rahman, OBE, and Sonia Zaman Khan, a lawyer currently working towards her Ph.D in the United Kingdom. In his own remarks on Cadman's statement, Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik noted that the British lawyer had not only made grave insinuations against the legal process in Bangladesh but had also chosen the wrong forum to express his views on the war crimes trial in the country. Justice Chowdhury explained in detail the legal procedure adopted in the trial of the war criminals and made it clear that all steps had been taken toward ensuring a trial process based on internationally accepted standards. Mr. Cadman's remarks were subsequently expunged from the proceedings of the conference. The conference of jurists drew to a close with awards being conferred

upon some of the participants. Justice Muzammel Hossain received the international jurists award 2011 'in recognition of his sterling contribution to the machinery of dispensation of justice.' Among those taking part in the conference were Justice Hassan B. Jallow, chief prosecutor for the United Nations International Crimes Tribunal for Rwanda and former justice minister of Gambia; Vijay Jawahar Darda, member of India's Lok Sabha; Adish C. Aggarwala, President, International Council of Jurists and Chairman, All India Bar Association; Sir Justice Gavin Lightman, Vice President, International Council of Jurists and retired judge of the High Court of England; Sir Desmond de Silva, QC, former Chief Prosecutor of War Crimes Tribunal for Sierra Leone; and Rt. Hon. Lord Phillips, President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom.

VK Singh takes salute of BMA cadets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visiting Chief of Indian Army Gen Vijay Kumar Singh yesterday attended the passing-out ceremony of Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA) Long Course at Bhatiyari in Chittagong and distributed trophies and awards to the outstanding cadets. He reviewed the smartly turned out parade of 64 BMA Long Course and 35 BMA Special Course and took salute as the chief guest on the occasion, says a press release of Inter Services Public Relations. VK Singh's participation in the President's Parade is reciprocal. In 1998 former chief of Bangladesh Army late Gen Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman was invited to review the passing-out Parade of Indian Military Academy at Dehradun. He is supposed to leave Bangladesh today. Ninety-seven cadets including 14 females from 64 BMA Long Course and four Gentlemen Cadets from 35 BMA Special Course formally passed out on completion of their courses. Five of the cadets from 64 BMA Long Course were commissioned to Palestine Army while the rest were commissioned to Bangladesh Army, says the press release. Earlier, Chittagong area commander and General Officer Commanding (GOC) of 24 Infantry Division Maj Gen Mohammad Ashab Uddin, GOC of Army Training and Doctrine Command Maj Gen Anwar Hussain and the Commandant of the academy Brig Gen Md Anisuzzaman Bhuiyan received the chief guest at the BMA Parade Ground.



UK's Minister of State for International Development Alan Duncan makes a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

STAR: PID

UK assures £150m to climate fund

BSS, Dhaka

The UK has assured Bangladesh of increasing its contribution to climate change resilience fund to 150 million pounds from the current 75 million pounds. Alan Duncan, UK minister of state for international development, gave the assurance in a meeting with State Minister for Environment and Forests Hasan Mahmud at his secretariat office yesterday. Talking to newsmen after the meeting, the state minister said the support to the Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF) would be additional to British government's support of \$1 billion in various sectors of Bangladesh. Hasan said they discussed various issues relating to mutual interests, and development programmes, global climate issues and Bangladesh's impending challenges to cope with the impacts of climate change. British High Commissioner in Dhaka Stefan Evans and country representative of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) Christopher Austin were present at the meeting.

Cancer screening of slum dwellers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AK Khan Healthcare Trust yesterday launched a screening programme of cancer and non-communicable diseases at city's Korail Slum which experts said would help to benefit a significant number of poor and vulnerable women. "Women's Cancer and other Non-Communicable Diseases Screening, Early Detection, Treatment and Awareness Programme" offers cervical cancer screening and treatment and breast cancer and oral cancer screening. The programme will also cover diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, stroke symptoms and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease screening. Valerie Taylor, founder and coordinator of Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed, speaking as the chief guest, appreciated the programme. She also inaugurated the signature collection campaign on World Cancer Declaration's Bangla Version. AK Shamsuddin Khan, chairman of AK Khan Group; Prof Syed Akram Hussain; Prof Sulatan Razia Begum; Dr Bimal Dey; Dr Eyal Attar of Harvard Medical School, USA; Dr Nazmul Karim; and Dr Dewam Shamul Alam; also spoke.

RU STUDENT MURDER Verdict on bail petition today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fixed today for delivering a final verdict on a bail petition filed by three detained Jamaat-e-Islami leaders in connection with Rajshashi University student Faruk Hossain murder case. The Jamaat leaders are its Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojaheed and Nayeb-e Ameer Delwar Hossain Saydee. A single member HC bench of Justice Hasan Foyez Siddique yesterday fixed the date for verdict after concluding hearing on the petition.

Correction

The Daily Star in its news story headlined "Rita, Mita recovering in hospital" published on June 21 inadvertently mentioned Elina Khan as the Executive Director of Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) from where she had resigned in September, 2009. She actually heads Bangladesh Human Rights Foundation. We regret the error.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alhaz Jahed Asgor, chairman of Shezaad Group, passed away yesterday due to cardiac arrest at the age of 72, says a press release. He left behind his wife, two sons and 4 daughters. His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Gulshan Azad mosque after Zohr prayers today.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over all the seven divisions in 12 hours till 6:00pm today. Moderately 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 6:49pm today and rises at 5:13am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 35.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and Ishwardi and lowest 24.0 degrees Celsius at Rangamati. 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	34.0	27.1	69	76
Chittagong	30.0	26.2	88	81
Rajshahi	35.5	26.6	86	77
Rangpur	33.6	26.2	83	78
Khulna	33.0	25.3	88	81
Barisal	32.3	26.3	84	84
Sylhet	32.2	27.0	86	94