

NEWS IN *brief*

Police intercept procession

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday barred a protest procession of National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports from going to Shyamoli in the city.

The committee, protesting the government signing a product sharing contract with ConocoPhillips, an American oil company, held a rally in front of Mohammadpur Town Hall and tried to move towards Shyamoli.

Police also snatched their banner and detained two of the committee leaders for sometime before releasing them. The committee called a half-day hartal on July 3.

JNU to open PhD programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jagannath University will introduce MPhil and PhD programme for the session 2011-12, says a press release.

The decision was taken at the academic council's syndicate meeting yesterday.

The council also decided to open "the Faculty of Life and Earth Science", which would incorporate into it the departments of botany, biology, pharmacology, microbiology, biotechnology, psychology, geography, and environment.

Schoolboy drowns in Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolboy drowned in the river Buriganga while taking bath with some of his friends at Farashganj Ghat yesterday.

The deceased Akash Sarkar, 12, son of late Dular Sarkar of the city's Banglabazar, was a class VI student of Jubilee High School.

"I didn't want to let him go, as Akash didn't know how to swim. But he insisted," said his mother Beauty.

As Akash went under water, the other boys started screaming. Locals rescued and took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 3:00pm. Akash died shortly afterwards.

JCD procession foiled

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday foiled a procession of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) when the student wing of BNP tried to enter Dhaka University (DU) campus.

Around 200 JCD activists brought out the procession in front of the Public Library at the Shahbagh intersection around 11:00am and started marching towards the campus to submit memorandum to the DU Vice-chancellor demanding name of an under construction dormitory after Khaleda Zia.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

US rights officials for global standard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two senior officials of International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), a US-based human rights organisation, hoped that trial of 1971 crimes against humanity will be held up to international standards.

ICTJ Director (Asia) Patrick Burgess and Prosecutions Programme Director Marieke Wierda expressed the optimism while talking to reporters after a meeting with the prosecutors dealing with cases relating to the war crimes charges at their office at Old High Court Building in Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

"We hope that trial of the crimes committed during the liberation war of Bangladesh will be held maintaining transparency, neutrality and international standards, as the international community has attention to this trial," said Patrick Burgess.

He did not make any specific comment on the process of ongoing trial of war crimes charges, saying that the trial process is still now at the primary stage.

Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Areeff Tipoo, however, said that the visiting ICTJ representatives have expressed satisfaction over the law, rules and ongoing process for holding trial of the war crimes charges.

Earlier, the ICTJ officials met the members of agency probing the allegations of the crimes against humanity.

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:14am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 33.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and lowest 24.5 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	30.5	26.0	87	75
Chittagong	29.8	24.8	89	92
Rajshahi	31.2	25.8	97	99
Rangpur	31.5	26.2	79	93
Khulna	31.6	25.7	90	89
Barisal	31.0	26.2	93	96
Sylhet	29.3	25.5	97	96
Cox's Bazar	30.5	25.4	94	94



For the Women By the Women Forum forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday demanding exemplary punishment to Hasan Sayeed Sumon who tortured and blinded his wife Rumana Manzur, a Dhaka University teacher.

PHOTO: STAR

Gayoom for accelerating regional ties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former president of the Maldives Mamun Abdul Gayoom yesterday urged the South Asian leaders to find new ways of accelerating regional cooperation for achieving the goals of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc).

"We have to be practical and have to cordially understand what potentials we have and how best we can utilise the potentials," he said.

The leaders of Saarc should not have such dreams and ambitions that cannot be realised, he said, adding that they must be practical.

The former president of Maldives was speaking at a press conference at a city hotel organised by

University of Science and Technology of Chittagong (USTC).

Mamun Abdul Gayoom arrived here on Sunday on a four-day visit at the behest of USTC. During his visit, he will attend the university's fourth convocation to be held at Bangabandhu International Convention Centre on June 29.

The former president said the Saarc countries have not been able to achieve the goals of Saarc yet because of many problems.

"We set very high goals of ourselves and we have been able to achieve some of the goals not all because of many resources and other technical problems," said Gayoom.

But, he said, that does not mean

Saarc has failed. "It [Saarc] is going ahead," he said, hoping that the regional cooperation will have a great future.

About the ways to strengthen the regional cooperation, he said that the top leaders of Saarc have to have more commitment and dedication to accelerate the regional cooperation.

He said the private sectors of these countries have an important role to play in this regard.

"There must be more cooperation among the private sector of the Saarc countries," Gayoom added.

The former president gave a picture of educational situation of Maldives and also spoke about the issues like climate change, man-

power, and his foundation named Mamun Foundation that focuses on higher education, health care, environment, empowerment of women and promoting Islam.

About higher education, he said education is the basis of all development as it is not possible for any country to be developed without it.

"Higher education is a must for us, for our development and to be able to face the challenges of twenty first century and globalisation and to solve socio-economic problems," he added.

About climate change, Gayoom said it is a global problem and thus the solution is also global.

"We must address the real causes of climate changes," he said.



Mamun Abdul Gayoom, former president of the Maldives, pays a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Rural dev division to run fair price shops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rural Development and Cooperatives Division (RDCD) under LGRD and cooperatives ministry will run eight fair price sales centres in the capital instead of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

The ministry sources said the eight shops will be handed over to RDCD before the month of Ramadan to ensure fair prices of essential commodities.

The decision was taken at a meeting held in the ministry's conference room on Sunday with State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanok was in the chair.

The government has a plan to start such kind of shops at 100 places across the country gradually. It has also a plan to set up a shop in each ward of the Dhaka City Corporation, said the ministry sources.

During the last caretaker government, 11 shops were run in the city to control the prices of essential under the "Operation Dal Bhat" initiative of the then BDR.

Location of the eight shops are Pallabi, Jatrabari wholesale market, Uttara wholesale market, Darussalam colony area, Mohakhali T&T colony, Manik Miah Avenue, South Side of Sangsad Bhaban and beside Shahinbagh colony.

The main goal of the initiative is to bring goods from farmers directly and sell it to the people to ensure fair prices of essential commodities.

\$75m ADB loan for Khulna Wasa

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday signed a loan agreement of 75 million US dollar (approximately Tk 524 crore) with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to expand access to potable water in Khulna city.

Economics Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan and ADB country director Thevakumar Kandiah signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides at NEC-II in the city.

The assistance will improve and extend water distribution network and water sources management in Khulna city and ensure professional and sustainable corporate management of Khulna Wasa.

The project will improve the access to the piped network from 23 percent in 2010 to 62 percent by 2018, benefiting about 710,000 persons in Khulna city.

The project will expand the access to water supply services by building a surface water treatment plant and extending the distribution network to cover the whole city.

"The project will contain water-borne diseases and improve the overall health condition in the city," said ADB Country Director Thevakumar Kandiah. "It will also reduce the drudgery of women who spend a daily average of 90 minutes managing water for the whole family."

He said after the project completed in 2017, the entire population of Khulna city will benefit from improved access to clean water round the clock.

Punishment to torturer husband demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a human chain programme yesterday demanded quick trial and exemplary punishment to Hasan Sayeed Sumon, who tortured and blinded his wife Rumana Manzur, a Dhaka University teacher, to stop recurrence of such an incident.

They also appealed to the government to ensure women's safety by implementing existing laws relating to women's rights.

For the Women By the Women Forum organised the event in front of Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Dhaka Development Forum, Jatiya Konna Shishu Advocacy Forum, Aparajeyo Bangladesh, ActionAid Bangladesh, Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition and Shachetan Nari Samaj expressed solidarity with the programme.

Rumana, an assistant professor of Department of International Relations and a postgraduate student at University of British Columbia in Canada, lost her eyesight as Sumon pushed his fingers into her eyes on June 5. He also gnawed Rumana's nose, cheek, and throat.

They said Rumana did not tell others about past incidents of torture by Sumon as she loved and trusted him very much.

Citing the example of Sutapa, a DU student allegedly killed by her in-laws, they said women very often do not get justice as the culprits go unpunished.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Krishi Bank, has been suffering from Aplastic Anemia, a blood related disease, for last three years.

He is now under treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

Doctors advised his bone marrow transplantation which requires Tk 60-70 lakh.

Unable and with no way out, his father appealed to the well-off people to provide financial aid for saving Mizanur's life.

Any contribution can be sent to: Nur Nabi, savings account no. 5630, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Karwan Bazar corporate branch, Dhaka.

Mizanur's family can be contacted at 01711190151 or 01726461440.



Discussion

Jumia Literature Young Society will organise a discussion; Venue: RC Majumder Auditorium, Dhaka University; Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Press Institute will hold a discussion; Venue: its seminar room; Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

Medicinal Plants and Herbal Products Business Promotion Council will organise a seminar; Venue: Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh; Time: 9:00am.

Discussion

Prakrishi Samanay Committee will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

Human chain

Bangladesh Indigenous Lawyers Association will organise a human chain; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Reunion

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha will hold a reunion; Venue: Chhayanaut Auditorium, Dhammudi; Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Agricultural Reporters' Forum will organise a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Deshpemil Jonogoner Mancha will hold a discussion; Venue: Gono Sangskriti Kendra, Shahibagh; Time: 3:00pm.