

Tremor jolts country

UNB, Dhaka

A mild tremor jolted the capital and its adjoining areas yesterday.

The Meteorological Department said the tremor measuring 4.1 on the Richter scale shook the areas at 6:58 am. The epicentre of the quake was 183 kilometres north-east of the Met office.

There was no report of casualties.

Reconsider clemency to death row convict: BNP

UNB, Dhaka

The opposition BNP demanded yesterday "the government reconsider the clemency" to AHM Biplob, a death row convict in BNP leader Nurul Islam murder case.

BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed said they are requesting the government to reconsider the clemency to Biplob, the main accused in the case for killing Laxmipur district leader Nurul Islam.

BNP's demand came from a news conference organised by the opposition lawmakers of greater Noakhali at Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

The key BNP leader also said human chain will be formed in greater Noakhali district on July 28, protesting the clemency.

Barkatullah Bulu MP, Abul Khayyer Bhuiyan MP, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie MP, and Ashrafuddin Nizan MP also present.

Confce on psychology begins at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

A four-day long international conference on educational and counselling psychology began at Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the conference at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban on the campus attended by professional psychologists from the UK, India and the USA, and representatives of various public universities and organisations.

BARISAL JOURNOS' ASSOC Abdur Rahman president, Elias general secretary

BSS, Dhaka

A 35-member executive committee of Barisal Division Journalists Association was formed yesterday with Joint News Editor of the Daily Jugantor Elias Khan as its president and general secretary respectively.

Other officer bearers are Vice-presidents- Mizanur Rahman Khan (Prothom Alo), Alimuzzaman Harun (Shirsha News), Abdullah Ferdous (Inqilab), Aminul Islam Mirja (BSS) and Asaduzzaman Samrat (Amader Somoy), joint secretaries-Shafiqul Islam (Amader Somoy), Sheikh Mamunur Rashid (Jugantor), Mamun Abedin (Bhorer Kagaj), Abu Saleh Akon (Naya Diganta) and Moniza Rahman (Janakantha), finance secretary- Zahirul Haque Rana (BSS), Organizing Secretary-Kishor Kumar Sarkar (Jai Jai Din), office secretary-Khondakar Kawsar Hossain (Bhorer Kagaj), publicity secretary- Haralal Roy Sagar (Bangladesh Somoy), information and research secretary- Nizamul Haque (Ittefaq), social welfare secretary- Nafiza Dowla (Rtv), sports secretary-Shafiqul Islam Shamim (Diganta TV) and cultural secretary Mehedi Azad Masum (Desh Bangla).



Founding of a multi-storied building in front of Tejturi Bazar Rail Gate in the city's Tejgaon is being done without any safety measures while keeping construction materials on the road blocking the footpath. The photo was taken yesterday.

7 parties to join AL-led alliance

Says IOJ leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Islami Oikya Jote yesterday claimed that at least seven of 13 political parties, now vehemently against the government for the 15th amendment to the constitution, could jump ship and join the ruling party alliance soon.

A faction of the Islami Oikya Jote and a 12-party alliance of mostly religion-based parties led by Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish have been protesting the removal of the words "absolute faith in Allah" from the country's charter.

Mesbaur Rahman Chowdhury, chairman of Bangladesh Islami Oikya Jote, which supports the Awami League-led grand alliance, at a press conference claimed leaders of the ruling party assigned him to negotiate with those parties to get them onboard the ruling alliance.

Mesbaur said he had preliminary discussions with those parties and seven of those gave him positive response.

The parties have placed some demands for joining the grand alliance and the ruling party leaders will sit with them on July 25 to discuss, he said.

However, Organising Secretary of Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish Humayun Kabir said they had no discussion with Bangladesh Islami Oikya Jote leaders.

Man strangles pregnant wife in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man allegedly strangled his pregnant wife in the city's Kamrangirchar last night.

The deceased Fatema Begum, 22, eight months into her pregnancy, was strangled by her husband Mohammad Shaheen, an ice-cream factory employee of the area, at her father's residence near Lohar Bridge in Kamrangirchar, said Sub-Inspector Arafat Jahan Chowdhury of Kamrangirchar Police Station.

The motive could not be known immediately, he said.

Toxic fish feed may cause human death

Say scientists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Consumption of fish which has been fed toxic food and reared in polluted waters can cause serious health hazards, sometimes even leading to death.

Chief Scientific Officer of Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) Dr Yahia Mahmud said this yesterday while presenting a key-note paper at a seminar titled "Safe Fish Cultivation to Protect Public Health".

BFRI organised the seminar at Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council auditorium in the city.

Pathogen produced from unhygienic sanitation and untreated poultry faeces causes cholera, diarrhoea, dysentery and typhoid while heavy metals in untreated effluent can even lead to cancer, blindness and deafness, said Dr Yahia.

Fish farmers use different types of harm-

ful chemicals including insecticides and antibiotics in rearing fish that could cause tumor, cancer and physical and mental disabilities. Such chemicals also hamper the normal breeding process and growth of fish, said Dr Yahia.

Dhaka University Zoology department Prof Dr M Niamul Naser said Farmers feed fish with metronidazol, a medicine used to cure gastroenteritis (stomach inflammation due to bacterial infection) in humans. When this fish is consumed, the bacteria in that person's body becomes resistant, making the medicine ineffective when administered later.

Speaking as the chief guest, Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury stressed the need for proper implementation of existing laws to ensure safe fish farming, enabling the country to earn foreign currency and its people to stay healthy.

RU MCJ dept celebration begins today

RU CORRESPONDENT

A two-day long programme of Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ) department of Rajshahi University (RU) begins on the campus today to celebrate its 20th founding anniversary.

The department has chalked out an elaborate programme, including rally, seminars, photo exhibition, blood donation, raffle draw, cricket match and cultural soirees, marking the day.

MCJ department and Journalism Alumni Forum of Rajshahi University (Jafru) are jointly organising the event.

Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandoker will inaugurate the programme at RU Senate Bhaban at 9:00am as the chief guest.



Private Internet service providers install overhead cables on utility poles in the city's Motijheel yesterday with complete disregard to a crackdown conducted by Dhaka Electric Supply Company and Dhaka Power Distribution Company against overhead Internet and cable TV wires on city thoroughfares from Shahbagh to Uttara on December 12 last year.

Stop cutting trees on hills

Demand four environmental orgs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of four environmental organisations yesterday demanded the government to stop cutting hills and trees on hills and a ban on lifting sand from streams on hills across the country.

The demands came at a rally organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), Green Voice, Puraton Dhaka Paribesh Unnayan Forum and Seba in front of Jaitiya Press Club in the city.

Pointing at the landslide on July 1 that killed 17 people, they said cutting hills is the main cause of landslide which causes the death of many people during heavy rains every year.

They also demanded a ban on construction of houses on hills for non-indigenous people, a stop to planting alien trees and appointing a corruption-free body to protect, use and develop forests on hills.

Bapa Joint Secretary Zakir Hossain presided over the rally where Citizen Rights Movements Secretary General Tushar Rehman, Seba Executive Director Dr Md Nuruddin, the forum Convener Ashraf Amir Ullah and Bapa Executive Member Prof Mahbubur Rahman also addressed.

Antibiotics import for poultry mullied

UNB, Dhaka

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas has said the government is considering import of essential antibiotics to sustain the growth of poultry industry in the country.

"Essential antibiotics are needed to protect poultry from diseases... the government is considering lifting the ban on import of antibiotic for poultry," he said at a function on Thursday night.

Biswas was speaking at the 'Installation Ceremony 2011-12' of the World Poultry Science Association-Bangladesh Branch (WPSA-BB) at Hotel Ruposhi Bangla in the city.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque, Fisheries secretary Ujjwal Bikash Dutta and WPSA-BB President Moshir Rahman, among others, also spoke on the occasion.

Latif Biswas informed that the government has taken an initiative to register each and every poultry feed mill of the country to ensure quality of poultry feeds and the registration process will begin soon.

"Since the independence, the country's poultry industry has achieved significant growth both in terms of production and quality," he said.

He said now about one crore workforce along with 15 crore consumers are related with this industry.



Human chain

Bangladesh Sammilito Peshajibi Parishad will organise a human chain; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Workshop

Aparajeyo-Bangladesh will organise a workshop; Venue: IDB Bhaban Auditorium; Time: 9:30am.

Procession

Communist Party of Bangladesh will hold a procession; Venue: Mukti Bhaban, Comrade Moni Singh Road; Time: 10:30am.

Seminar

South Asian Institute of Advanced Legal and Human Studies will organise a seminar; Venue: Judicial Administration Training Institute auditorium; Time: 9:30am.

Launching ceremony

The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies will hold a launching ceremony; Venue: Brac Centre Inn; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad will organise a discussion; Venue: Cirdap auditorium; Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

Mukta Akash will hold a discussion; Venue: Bangladesh Institute of Planners; Time: 10:45am.

Discussion

World Watch Society will organise a discussion; Venue: Cirdap auditorium; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Nagorik Forum will organise a discussion; Venue: Jaitiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Bangladesher Biplobi Workers Party will hold a discussion; Venue: Jaitiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Human chain

Save The Environment Movement will organise a human chain; Venue: in front of Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University; Time: 11:00am.

Sugar, edible oil prices still high

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

Sugar, edible oil and gram are selling in retail markets of Chittagong at much higher prices than that the government fixed to curb price hike of commodities ahead of Ramadan.

The retailers are blaming the wholesalers for not being able to maintain the government rates.

Frustrated and being the usual victims, consumers here are now calling the government step to check price hike a mockery.

On Wednesday, the government fixed Tk 65 for a kilogram of sugar, Tk 109 for a litre of loose soybean oil and Tk 99 for litre of loose palm oil for the retail market. The Chittagong district administration on Thursday fixed the wholesale price of moderate quality of gram at Tk 55 while the retail price at Tk 58.

But visits to Khatunganj and Chaktai areas revealed a completely different picture. Retail price of sugar at Karnaphuli CDA Market in Choumuhani, Karnaphuli Complex in Sholoshahar, Reazuddin Bazar and Kazir Dewry Bazar is between Tk 70 and Tk 75 per kg while different kinds of gram are selling at between Tk 65 and Tk 80 a kg.

Meanwhile, supply of soybean oil has drastically declined in the retail market while its price is hovering between Tk 120 and Tk 124 a litre.

Abul Bashar, proprietor of M/s A Bashar Store at Karnaphuli CDA Market, said he bought sugar from Khatunganj wholesale market at Tk 67.50 a kg on Wednesday and the purchase cost rose to Tk 70 a kg with the transport, labour and packaging expense.

Bashar was found selling sugar at Tk 72 a kg.

"How can I sell it at government-fixed rate when I can't even buy it at Tk 65 from the wholesale market," he complained, adding that he may now have to stop business in the face of discontent from consumers and mobile courts.

The retailers of edible oil and gram spoke of the same reason in defence of the price hike of these two items.

Contacted Deputy Commissioner (DC) Foyez Ahmad said they have already started monitoring the city markets through mobile courts.

বসুন্ধরায় ২১০০ বর্গফুটের বিলাসবহুল এপার্টমেন্ট

প্ৰস্তুত রাখা *৫০% খোলা জায়গা *সেন্ট্রাল মসজিদের সন্নিকটে *অত্যাধুনিক সুবিধাসম্পন্ন *সিস্টেম ইউনিট *দেশের শীর্ষস্থানীয় ষ্ট্রাকচারাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ার কর্তৃক উচ্চ মানের ভূমিকম্প সহনশীল ডিজাইন

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