

NEWS IN *brief*

20 young painters awarded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty Bangladeshi young painters received awards at the award giving ceremony on Friday for the "World Children's Art Exhibition in Kanagawa, Japan".

Japanese Embassy in Bangladesh and Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) jointly organised the ceremony at the residence of the Ambassador of Japan, says a press release.

Tamotsu Shinotsuka, ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, and Dr Takao Toda, chief representative of Jica, congratulated the young painters on the occasion.

Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad attended the ceremony as the chief guest while Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Director General Liaquat Ali Lucky as special guest.

10 DU students get gold medal

UNB, Dhaka

Ten meritorious students of mathematics department of Dhaka University (DU) were given AF Mujibur Rahman Foundation Gold Medal for their outstanding academic performances.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique handed over the medals and cheques for stipend to the recipients at a ceremony at the department yesterday.

The recipients are Rakib Hossain, BSc (hons, 2008), Kajol Chandra Saha (BSc hons, 2009), Kamruzzaman, (MSc, 2007), Prosenjit Gayen (MSc, 2008), Farhana Ahmed (MSc, 2007), Syeda Fahmida Ferdousi (MSc, 2008), Animesh Adhikari (MSc, 2007), Touhid Hossain (MSc, 2008), Mohammad Rokonzaman (MSc, 2007) and Rajib Arefin (MSc, 2008).

Australian team meets VC

UNB, Dhaka

A five-member delegation of City Council of Australia called on Dhaka University (DU) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique at his office yesterday.

Lord Mayor C John Chedid led the delegation. During the meeting, they discussed matters on mutual interest.



Winners of the National Film Award 2009 pose for photograph with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the award giving ceremony at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

MOVE TO SAVE COASTAL BELT  
Two lakh saplings planted in one hr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Around 7000 families of the coastal areas from Teknaf to Mirsarai in Chittagong yesterday took part in a one-hour tree plantation programme and planted about two lakh saplings to save the embankment and coastal belt.

State Minister for Environment and Forests Dr Hasan Mahmud and former adviser to a caretaker government Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman inaugurated the event.

Bangladesh Poribesh Forum (BPF), Chittagong chapter in association with the local government representatives arranged the tree plantation programme under the project 'Coastal Tree Plantation-2011' with a view to protecting the life, biodiversity and the embankment and creating mass awareness on global warming and climate change.

Dr Hasan said through the event consciousness will be created about climate change among the people of the country.

Saplings of various species including fruits, woods and medicinal trees were planted around 200 miles of the most vulnerable coastal embankment, where 79 union parishad chairmen, eight ward councillors, 711 ward members from Teknaf, Ukhia, Pekua, Chakaria, Kutubdia, Banskhal, Anwara, Sitakunda, Mirsarai and other coastal areas took part in the tree plantation.

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Manjur Alam, lawmaker Abul Kasem, Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Joydul Bari, Prof Idris Ali, RSRM Chairman M Rahman, Human Rights Bangladesh Chairman Masuda Bilki, BATIC Human Resource Director Sayad Intiaz Faruque, BPF General Secretary Aliur Rahman planted saplings at the event.

The organisers expected the event will be recorded in Guinness Book of World Record as the event broke two records of planting largest number of trees simultaneously and in one hour.

Emergency helpline saved 87 children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A round-the-clock emergency helpline for lost children launched in April has helped 87 children return their homes or find a childcare service.

The helpline run by Aparajeyo-Bangladesh, an NGO, also offered information and advice and saved many children from abuse.

"Anyone can dial 1098 from a land phone and seek for help", said Mosharrat Jahan, a child rights officer at Aparajeyo-Bangladesh.

Chowdhury Mohammad Mohaimen, project director of the service, yesterday urged Imams to inform the residents of their local neighbourhoods of the helpline in children related emergencies, a press release said.

He spoke at a discussion between mosque Imams and child rights activists at Haji Abdul Gani Community Centre in Old Dhaka.

A total of 35 Imams and Khatibs from different mosques from 20 wards in the city took part in the meeting organised by Aparajeyo-Bangladesh and Dustha Swasthya Kendra (DSK).

SHAMSUNNAHAR HALL INCIDENT  
Students demand fair investigation

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different students organisations yesterday demanded proper investigation into the police assault on female students at Dhaka University's Shamsunnahar Hall on July 23, 2002 and demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits.

The organisations placed

*Police entered Shamsunnahar Hall on July 23, 2002 at night, dragged the female students, called their names, and assaulted them*

the demands at their respective programmes on the university campus, marking the 9th anniversary of the Shamsunnahar Hall Tragedy Day.

On that day in 2002,

police entered the dormitory at night, dragged the female students, called their names, and assaulted them, leaving over 50 students hurt.

Police swooped on them as they were protesting illegal stay of some female leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), a pro-BNP student organisation.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) held a rally on the university campus following a silent procession demanding trial of the JCD men responsible for the July 23 incident.

BCL Shamsunnahar Hall unit organised a photo exhibition, inaugurated by Vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, at Aparajeyo Bangla on the campus.

Besides, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Biplobi Chhatra Moitri, and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front arranged separate programmes including procession, candle lighting, and photo exhibition.

SUICIDE OF SCHOOLGIRL IN CITY  
'Stalker' arrested in Dinajpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a youth from Dinajpur early yesterday on allegation of stalking the schoolgirl who committed suicide in the city on July 19.

A joint team of Motijheel police and Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police made the arrest of the youth Mohammad Selim Ahmed Prince, 19.

The victim's family sources said Selim and his friends used to stalk Sumaiya Akhter, 12, class-VI student of Motijheel Model High School, on her way to and from the school.

Sumaiya hanged herself at her house in Motijheel AGB colony Tuesday night.

Abdul Awal Kamrul, her maternal uncle, yesterday said they warned Selim not to stalk her but the boy kept calling Sumaiya over their land phone.

"Selim even called her over land phone on the very night she committed suicide", he said, demanding immediate arrest and punishment to Selim's friends.

Sumaiya's family filed an unnatural death case over her suicide but did not mention the name of the stalker or conveyed it verbally to police, said Awal.

Police learned Selim's name from news reports.

Awal said they would sue Selim and his friends in connection with Sumaiya's suicide.

Tofazzol Hossain, officer-in-charge of Motijheel Police Station, said Selim claimed during primary interrogation that he knew the girl and often talked to her. Sumaiya did not like him to call over phone and asked him not to call but he did not pay any heed to it, the OC quoted the arrestee as saying.

Selim used to work at a printing press in Arambagh of Motijheel. He quit the job two months back.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Dr AHM Mahmud Kabir, professor of Jahurul Islam Medical College and Hospital,

passed away at his Tajmahal Road residence in the city on Thursday night at the age of 75, says a press release.

He left behind his mother, wife and five children to mourn his death.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his residence at 25/4 Tajmahal Road in the city after Asr prayers on July 29.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the fifth death anniversary of Jolly Kabir, an organising secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Awami League and wife of Advocate Mohammad Humayun Kabir, president of Bangladesh Railway Sramik League, says a press release.

Following a road accident in 2006 Jolly Kabir died at the city's Apollo Hospital on this day.

On the occasion, doa and milad mahfil will be held at her residence at C/7, Shahjahanpur Railway Colony after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

COX'S BAZAR FLOODING IMPROVES  
Many areas still under water

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The flooding situation in Cox's Bazar has improved slightly as it stopped raining Friday after four days of incessant downpour that began on Monday and inundated at least three upazilas, leaving "2000 families" homeless, say officials.

Mohammad Joydur Bari, deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar, said 2000 families are estimated to have been homeless, but the total loss cannot be determined at the moment.

The weather office in Chittagong, however, failed to provide any information about how many people and areas are affected by the rain-triggered flooding.

Sources in the deputy commissioner's office said the water of the river Matamuhuri still continues to flow over danger level although the onrush of hilly water is decreasing. The marooned flood victims started returning home as the situation in Pekua, Chakaria, Teknaf, and other areas of the district sadar continues to improve, they added.

The sources said it will take a few days to get the normal situation back in the flooded areas as many areas of the district are still under water due to tidal waves.

Locals said communication between Cox's Bazar and Teknaf was disrupted due to the floodwater and standing crops were damaged. They also said many water-borne diseases like diarrhoea are spreading in the flood-hit areas.

CU syndicate polls July 31

CU CORRESPONDENT

The elections to Chittagong University syndicate, academic council, and finance committee will be held on July 31.

CU teachers will elect four members to the syndicate, six members to the academic council, and one member to the finance committee.

Sources said pro-Awami League and left teachers will contest the polls under "Yellow panel" while pro-BNP-Jamaat alliance under "White panel".

Yellow panel nominated candidates for all categories while White panel did not nominate their candidates in lecturer categories for syndicate and academic council.

12,400 litres of stolen soybean oil seized, four arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Detective Branch (DB) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police recovered 12,400 litres of stolen soybean oil on Friday and arrested four people in this connection.

The arrestees are Md Abdul Halim, son of Ali Madan of Raozan; Md Nesar Nasir, son of Abdul Oaded of Lohagara; Md Rahim Uddin, son of Sirajul Isalm of Patiya; and Ahmed Nur, son of Abul Kasem of Patiya.

DB said Md Obayedul Haque, owner of M/S Haque Travel Agency, filed a case with Patenga Police Station on June 6 saying that a covered van the agency hired from M/S Jakir Cargo on June 1 had fled with 14,000 litres of soybean oil.

It was to carry the oil belonging to Anaf Trading Corporation of Tarabo in Rupganj of Narayanganj from Bay Shipping Oil Mill in Chittagong to Rupganj, said DB.

DB Assistant Commissioner Md Hasan Chowdhury said DB police led by SubInspector Md Aziz Ahmed conducted drives in Chittagong, Narayanganj and Dhaka and nabbed the four accused.

"On the basis of their information, we recovered the stolen soybean oil from a covered van from Kanchpur Bridge under Siddirganj thana in Narayanganj," he said.

Top security during Sonia's visit

UNB, Dhaka

Top security alert, code named Grade-1, has been issued in the capital to ensure foolproof security on the eve of Congress President Sonia Gandhi's visit to Bangladesh.

Sonia Gandhi arrives here tonight (Sunday) to attend an international conference on autism at the invitation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The two-day international conference will begin at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) tomorrow.

The security forces at the border have also been put on the highest alert, intelligence sources told the news agency.

In the capital, hundreds of plainclothes police and intelligence personnel have been posted at strategic points including Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, BSMMU, and Ruposhi Bangla Hotel where Sonia Gandhi will be staying during her nearly 24-hour visit.

A security camp has also been set up outside the hotel.

Prime Bank-NDDC debate contest ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Prime Bank-NDDC 23rd National Debate Competition 2011 ended amid festivities and cultural programmes yesterday.

Thirty-seven clubs of different educational institutions (schools, colleges, and universities) took part in the contest that began with the theme "divide and rule".

Notre Dame Debating Club (NDDC) hosted the competition where the debaters contested in three categories -- parliamentary, baroary, and sanatani.

At school level, two clubs of Motijheel Ideal School and College became champion and runner-up.

On the other hand, North South University clinched championship, defeating London College of Legal Studies in the inter-club contest (English).

In the inter-club contest (Bangla), Notre Dame College BLUE (NDC-BLUE) became champion winning over Residential Debating Society of Residential Model School and College.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Promod Mankin, founder of NDDC Father RW Timm CSC, and Deputy Managing Director of Prime Bank Ahmed Kamal Khan Chowdhury were present at yesterday's programme held in Notre Dame College auditorium and presided over by Father Bakul S Rozario CSC.

The winners and runners-up received awards from the guests. The Daily Star and ABC Radio were media partners of the competition.



Winners of the Prime Bank-NDDC 23rd National Debate Competition pose for picture with guests in the city's Notre Dame College auditorium yesterday. Sitting from left are Kamal Gomaz, Father RW Timm, Promod Mankin, Ahmed Kamal, and Father Adam S Perreira.

PHOTO: STAR

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in next 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 6:46pm today and rises at 5:25am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 33.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 23.1 degrees Celsius at Sandwip.

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	32.6	25.3	73	65
Chittagong	30.5	24.9	96	89
Rajshahi	32.0	25.8	81	63
Rangpur	32.5	26.2	81	75
Khulna	32.8	25.0	74	79
Barisal	32.0	24.6	78	75
Sylhet	33.1	25.4	83	75
Cox's Bazar	28.3	25.0	96	87