

NEWS IN *brief*

Bangladesh HR body made Asia Pacific Forum member

UNB, Dhaka

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Bangladesh has been made member of the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF).

The membership was given in the 16th annual general meeting of APF in Bangkok on September 6, said a press release of National Human Rights Commission Capacity Development Project UNDP, Bangladesh yesterday.

NHRC Chairman Prof Dr Mizanur Rahman reiterated Bangladesh government's commitment to protecting, upholding and promoting human rights in the country.

Charge framed against 5 Huji men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday framed charges against five members of banned Islamist militant outfit Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) in an assassination attempt case on the city Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran.

The accused Mufti Abdul Hannan, his brother Muhibullah alias Muhibur Rahman alias Mofizur Rahman, Mufti Abu Zandal, Sharif Shahedul Alam Bipul and Delwar Hossain Ripon were present during the charge framing.

The judge rejected a prayer by the accused for further investigation.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Abu Syed Dilzar Hossain set the date for starting the trial on November 23.

Admission test of renewable energy institute on Friday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The admission test for MS course (evening) in Institute of Renewable Energy of Dhaka University (DU) for the academic year 2011-2012 will be held at 10:00am on September 9 (Friday) at Karjon Hall on DU campus in the city.

The candidates for the test are requested to arrive at the exam hall within 9:45am, said a press release yesterday.

CAMBRIAN UNIVERSITY DEBATE Grand finale Sept 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Abdul Hamid Advocate will give away prizes to the winning team and debaters of the Cambrian University campus parliament debate competition following its grand finale at Bashundhara City on September 10, says a press release.

ATN Bangla Chairman Dr Mahfuzur Rahman will preside over the session of the final debate to be held on the title -- "the present government is going towards implementing its election manifesto". Debate for Democracy Chairman Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury will moderate the final session of the debate where 34 reputed universities of the country contested.

The debate topic was selected against the backdrop that the grand alliance government has passed its two and a half years in office and claims that it has been holding the trial of the war criminals, executed the verdict of Bangabandhu killing case, improved the power situation, achieved remarkable success in agriculture development, empowered women, developed information technology, and restored discipline in the public administration in line with its election manifesto.

On the other hand, the opposition blames the government for annulment of the caretaker government system, spiralling price of essentials, dilapidated condition of roads, repression of opposition leaders and workers, and extra-judicial killing.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, Commerce Minister Faruk Khan, State Minister For Home Shamsul Haque Tuku, Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque, Suranjit Sengupta MP, MK Anwar MP, Hasanul Haque Inu MP, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie MP participated in the discussions in different rounds of the debate competition.

Constitution expert Dr Shahdeen Malik, BNP leader Dr Khandker Mosharrar Hossain, Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, and lawyers' leader Advocate Khondker Mahbub Hossain and Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder were also present at the debate sessions.



Temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degrees Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:10pm today and rises at 5:43am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 33.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dinajpur and lowest 23.5 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	31.0	27.0	75	74
Chittagong	26.1	24.2	99	96
Rajshahi	31.8	26.0	82	84
Rangpur	32.8	26.0	76	78
Khulna	30.8	26.5	87	83
Barisal	29.3	26.0	95	89



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh places wreaths at potrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

I'm committed to signing Teesta deal: Manmohan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad and top brass of the 11-party alliance of left-leaning parties yesterday conveyed their displeasure to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and called upon him to sign the Teesta water sharing deal with Bangladesh soon.

Leaders of Jatiya Party and the 11 parties, also components of the Awami League-led grand coalition, made the urge separately as they called on the visiting Indian premier at the city's Sonargaon Hotel.

In reply, Manmohan assured the leaders of inking the Teesta water agreement soon. "I can assure you that the deal [Teesta water sharing] must be signed soon, as I am committed to doing so", said Manmohan Singh as quoted by JP presidium member Anisul

Islam Mahmud to The Daily Star.

"In fact, Manmohan Singh himself raised the issue of not signing the Teesta water sharing and assured that he is committed to inking the deal soon," said Mahmud, also a JP lawmaker.

Emerging from the meeting, HM Ershad told reporters that as a whole, Bangladesh has been benefited with the Indian premier's visit as we have inked several important deals with India.

Workers Party chief Rashed Khan Menon and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal chief Hasanul Haq Inu said they have informed Manmohan of the frustration of Bangladesh people for leaving Teesta water deal unsigned.

They also urged the Indian premier to ease the Indian visa process to increase contact between people of the two neighbouring countries.

DELHI BLAST Security beefed up at SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Security was beefed up at the Supreme Court (SC) area in the city after a deadly bomb blast took place outside the High Court in New Delhi killing at least 10 people and wounding many others yesterday.

SC Registrar AKM Shamsul Haque told The Daily Star that the police authorities have informed him that security measures around the apex court were tightened to avoid any unexpected occurrence in the area like the Delhi incident.

Krishna Pada Roy, deputy commissioner (Ramna Zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said additional security measures have been taken in the SC area and the law enforcers have been kept on alert there.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Monir Hossen Khan, vice-chairman of Dhaka district unit of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, passed away at a city hospital on Tuesday night at the age of 72.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society expressed deep condolence to the bereaved family members and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.



Human chain

Campaign for Good Governance will organise a human chain; Venue: in front of National Museum; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Jatiya Gonotantrik League will hold a discussion; Venue: beside Doyel Chatter; Time: 8:30am.

Seminar

Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed will organise a seminar;



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia calls on Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at his Sonargaon Hotel suite in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: COURTESY

REMARK ON FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE

Pro-AL lawyers warn Khaleda of legal action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-Awami League lawyers yesterday warned of legal action if BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia does not withdraw her statement about former chief justice ABM Khairul Haque in 15 days.

On August 31, Khaleda said at a city programme that the former chief justice had nullified the caretaker government system for money.

Bangladesh Bar Council Vice-chairman Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder said, "Khaleda Zia has to withdraw her adverse remarks about Justice Khairul Haque in 15 days. Otherwise, we will take tough course of action including legal steps against her".

Baset was addressing a press conference at Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday, organised by four pro-AL lawyers' associations -- Bangladesh Awami Ainjibi Parishad, Bangabandhu Ainjibi Parishad, Gonotantrik Ainjibi Samity, and Jatiya Ainjibi Parishad.

Nurul Islam Sujan, an AL lawmaker and

Supreme Court lawyer, said Khaleda's remark about Khairul is tantamount to contempt of court. She made the comments as Khairul termed Ziaur Rahman "an usurper of state power" in Fifth Amendment case verdict, he said.

Sujan said at least 31 Supreme Court judges had taken money from the prime minister's relief fund since 1999 till the date for medical treatment following lawful process, and Justice Khairul followed the similar legal procedure in taking money.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said Khaleda made the falsehood against the former chief justice in order to taint his image.

AL leader Yusuf Hossain Humayun, former High Court judge Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury, former SCBA secretary SM Rezaul Karim, Additional Attorneys General MK Rahman and Murad Reza, Advocate Azharullah Bhuiyan, and Advocate Sheikh Akhterul Islam, among others, were present at the press conference.

Manmohan pays tributes to Bangabandhu

BSS, Dhaka

Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh yesterday paid rich tributes to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as he visited Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi in the city.

Manmohan accompanied by his wife Gursharan Kaur reached the historic House No-32 at Dhanmondi at 12:55pm amid tight security and placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu, who liberated Bangladesh from the Pakistani occupation in 1971.

After placing the wreaths, the Indian leader stood in solemn silence for some time as a mark of respect to the memory of the great leader.

Later museum's curator Syed Siddiqui Rahman escorted Manmohan to different corners of Bangabandhu's historic residence, which subsequently turned into the museum.

The Indian premier first visited the ground floor of the two-storey ordinary building and saw the rare pictures of Bangabandhu, his young leadership, hard struggle for independence and meeting with statesmen from all over the world, including late Russian President Leonid Brezhnev and late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Seeing all the pictures on the ground floor, Manmohan walked to the first floor of the building and witnessed the simple living style of a statesman, who not only placed Bangladesh as an independent state in the world map, but also earned high laurel from all over the world.

The Indian prime minister saw the photos and memorabilia of Bangabandhu and his family members very attentively when the curator of the museum was briefing him.

Before leaving the museum, Manmohan signed the visitor's book and was presented with some books and an album on Bangabandhu by the curator of the museum.

"Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman led his people in their struggle for liberation through his inspired and courageous leadership. I pay homage to a great visionary and statesman who laid a firm foundation for an independent, strong and proud Bangladesh," he wrote in the book.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, Food Minister Dr Abdur Razzak and Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr Modasser Ali were present on the occasion.

CONCEALING Tk 5.89 CRORE

Ex-SCC chief engr, wife charge-sheeted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday charge-sheeted former chief engineer of Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) and his wife on charge of concealing around Tk 5.89 crore in their wealth statement.

ACC Sylhet office Deputy Director Enamul Basir submitted the charge sheet to the chief judicial magistrate's court against the couple Saiful Islam and his wife Rozina Sultana Rimi.

The office Director Abdur Rakib Nakib said a case was filed against the couple in this regard with Sylhet Kotwali Police Station on February 10, 2008.

In their recent wealth statement to the ACC, the couple showed Tk 11,80,67,839.

But ACC investigations found the amount to be Tk 17,70,56,601.43 accumulating from 10 plots on Bashundhara Residential area, two flats in the capital, a filling station in Sirajganj, cars, bank deposits and savings accounts.

The couple did not submit their income tax till 2007, said ACC.

Saiful joined Jamalpur Pourashava as assistant engineer on December 1, 1990. He was made executive engineer and served in Bogra, Faridpur, Dinajpur and Sherpur (Bogra) before joining SCC in 2002 as chief engineer.

He was suspended from office after the joint forces picked him up on March 13, 2007 during their anti-corruption drive.