

Shoeb made honorary consul of Malta

BSS, Dhaka

M Shoeb Chowdhury, a noted businessman and chairman of HSTC Group, has been appointed Honorary Consul of Malta in Bangladesh.

Maltese president and deputy prime minister confirmed his appointment, while Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina approved his appointment at home, said a press release yesterday.

Shoeb was Bangladesh Adviser to Commonwealth Business Council in London, Country Coordinator of International Institute of Business Analysis (IIBA) and Amnesty International.

He is the president of IIBA, chairman of Standing Committee of Digitalisation of Trade Bodies of FBCCI, director of Special Olympics and executive director of Aim In Life Foundation.

He is also a fellow of Harvard University, USA.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Gias Uddin, an adviser and founder president of Dhaka Newspaper Hawkers Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited, passed away at Bagmara in Shiddhirganj on Tuesday night at the age of 80, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and two daughters. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Dhaka Newspaper Hawkers Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited President Abu Siddique, Managing Director Mostofa Kamal, Secretary Moslem Mia and Dhaka Newspaper Hawkers Union President Lutfe Ali condoled his death.



Students of Nalanda, an innovative school of cultural organisation Chhayanaut for children, form a human chain in front of Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhaban in the city yesterday demanding educational institutions be safe from torture on pupils. (Story on Page 3)

PHOTO: STAR

PM returns home today

BSS, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left here yesterday for home after winding up her 11-day official visit to the United States.

An Emirates flight carrying Sheikh Hasina took off from John F Kennedy International Airport at 11:20am (local time).

Earlier, the prime minister returned to New York from Connecticut, where she underwent a medical checkup.

She is scheduled to arrive at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka at 7:55pm (Bangladesh time) today.

Hasina reached here on September 18 to join the 66th UN General Assembly (UNGA).

IIUC pro-VC on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

International Islamic University, Chittagong (IIUC) Pro-Vice Chancellor Abu Bakar Rafeeq and four others Jamaat activists were placed on a one-day remand yesterday in connection with September 19 incident at Muradpur intersection where Jamaat men clashed with police during its procession.

Cancel draft broadcasting policy

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday threatened to go for a movement against the draft national broadcasting policy if it is not canceled.

They, at a seminar held at Jatiya Press Club, said if the draft broadcasting policy comes into effect, the freedom of the press will not exist.

President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Ruhul Amin Gazi said they have taken the issue seriously to go for a movement against it.

"We will announce programmes like blocked or laying siege to the information ministry against it [the broadcasting policy] to realise our demand," he said.

It is not correct to restrict broadcasting media making a 'bureaucratic policy' as the media can be restricted through the conventional laws, said Dr Akbar Ali Khan, former advisor to a caretaker government.

Jatiya Press Club organised the seminar on broadcasting policy and right to information to observe its 57th founding anniversary.

Stipulating 44 pre-conditions for broadcasting programmes and 63 pre-conditions for broadcasting advertisement, the draft policy says the government will have the power to cancel licence for radio and TV if any of the conditions is violated.

The policy bars private television channels and radios from broadcasting any programmes making derogatory comments about the national figures.

Akbar Ali, at the seminar, said accountability is necessary for everyone, including journalists, but it has to be done under the conventional laws but not through a bureaucratic control.

Demanding autonomy of the state-run BTV and Bangladesh Betar, Akbar Ali said though it was the election pledge of the government to give autonomy of the state-owned broadcasting media but they did not implement it rather they are making a policy to restrict the broad-

cast media. Veteran journalist ABM Musa said when a government becomes nervous, they then impose restriction on mass media. No government could survive restricting the mass media, he observes.

President of press club Kamal Uddin Sabuj presided over the seminar.

Editor of The News Today Reazuddin Ahmed, Editor of Dainik Manabjamin Motiur Rahman Chowdhury, Editor of The Daily Sun Dr Syed Anwar Husain and general secretary of the press club Syed Abdal Ahmad also spoke.

Change mindset to implement RTI Act

Zamir asks information providers and seekers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Changes in the mindset of the both the information providers and seekers are imperative to implement the Right to Information (RTI) Act, Chief Information Commissioner Muhammad Zamir said yesterday.

He said although awareness about the act has been raised for efforts of different organisations, there still remains a mentality of nurturing the culture of secrecy, disinterest to give information, and absence of active citizen to get information.

The commissioner was addressing a rally organised jointly by Tathya Odhikar Andolan (Campaign on Citizen Rights to Information) and Nagorik Uddyog at Jatiya Press Club marking the International Right to Know Day 2011 yesterday, says a press release.

Earlier, a procession led by Muhammad Zamir was brought out from in front of National Museum to create awareness about the implementation of RTI act.

Different organisations arranged the programmes to mark the day.

The chief information commissioner said the successful implementation of RTI act would be possible only when the movement of right to information would take the form of a massive social movement and when different professionals would apply to get information on public interest.

Another press release said speakers at a human chain yesterday demanded the government take effective measures to implement the RTI act. They said it is possible to ensure people's participation in government's policy decisions through ensuring right to know.

Sushasaner Jonno Procharvijan (Supro) or Campaign for Good Governance and other like-minded organisations organised the programme in front of National Museum.

Meanwhile, a two-day long information fair organised by Transparency International Bangladesh, Savar Upazila Parishad, and Shacheton Nagorik Committee, Savar, on Savar upazila office premises ended yesterday, says another press release.

The theme of the fair was "Right to information is prerequisite to meet people's other basic rights". Hundreds of people were provided information free of cost at about 50 stalls of the government and non-government organisations in the fair.

Debate competition, discussions, and photo exhibitions on the liberation war, and anti-corruption cartoons marked the last day.

Tk 1.44 crore Malaysian support for IUT

METRO DESK

The Malaysian government has provided Tk 1.44 crore to the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), a university established here as a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Jamaluddin Sabeh, high commissioner of Malaysia in Dhaka, handed over the cheque to Prof Dr Imtiaz Hossain, vice-chancellor of IUT, at the High Commission on Tuesday, says a press release.

IUT was initially established as the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research in 1978 and later renamed as Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT) in 1994, and later as Islamic University of Technology (IUT) in 2001.



Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Jamaluddin Sabeh hands over a cheque for Tk 1.44 crore to Islamic University of Technology (IUT) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Imtiaz Hossain at the High Commission in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

New laser technology for treating Melasma

BSS, Dhaka

Doctors in Bangladesh found a new laser technology more effective to treat melasma, a skin discoloration that appears on sun-exposed areas of the face.

"The new laser, known as dual yellow laser, has a proven record of more effectiveness to treat the skin disease than any other drugs and available treatments in Bangladesh," Dr Jahanara Khan, a leading dermatologist of the country told the news agency yesterday.

There is no specific data available about how many people of this country are suffering from this skin disease, but many people are coming to doctors regularly for treatment, prompting them find an effective way of their treatment.

Dr Jahanara, who has been practicing in the country for seven years, said she alone so

far treated big number of people with the latest technology.

Recently, she participated in the Asia's largest international conference in Singapore on melasma treatment titled "Aesthetic Asia 2011 Conference" where dermatologists from different countries shared their experience about the technique, importance, effectiveness and the benefits of the new way of treatment.

Speaking about the prospect of the new concept of melasma treatment, Dr Jahanara, the lone participant from Bangladesh, said the dual yellow laser had already become the most popular treatment in the western countries.

She said the new laser tech blasts away broken capillaries, skin discoloration, sun damaged skin, facial redness or rosacea, acne and even melasma without any peripheral damage or pain.

Jica's support for mothers, babies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aiming to improve the maternal and neonatal health status in Bangladesh safe motherhood promotion project (SMPP) Phase-II was launched yesterday.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with support of Japan International Cooperative Agency (Jica) organised the launching programme.

Secretary of the Ministry of Health Humayun Kabir was the chief guest while Dr Takao Toda, chief representative of Jica and health ministry officials Prof Khondhaker Shefyet Ullah, MM Neazuddin were present as special guests.

Takao Toda said, "I want to see the success of the project to all over the country so that every precious new life can see the light of earth safely and without any death of mother".

The total cost for the project will be approximately US\$ 6 million.

The project will run for five years (2011-2016) covering approximately 71 lakh people of Narsingdi, Jessore and Satkhira districts under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Worker dies at dyeing factory

5 others sick; reason unknown

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A factory worker died and another five fell unconscious after inhaling toxic fumes at a dyeing factory in the capital's Shyampur yesterday.

The dead is Abu Sayeed, 22, while the others are Hazrat Ali, 23, Ziaul Haque, 19, Mohidul, 18, Feroze, 15 and Billal, 15, all workers of Chamak Dyeing and Printing Mills at Shyampur.

Of those survived, Hazrat Ali is taking treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while the others were released after they regained consciousness.

The factory is situated on the ground floor of a four-storey residential building while the upper floors are used as residential flats for tenants and workers.

The exhaust pipe runs parallel to the building and ends at the rooftop where it releases fumes, said factory supervisor

Giasuddin. The incident occurred Tuesday night when the workers were sleeping on the top floor, he said.

Nannu Miah, acting manager of the factory, rushed the six workers to DMCH around 5:45am. Sayeed was declared dead at DMCH.

The employees refused to speak to reporters at the hospital.

Nannu quoted the workers as saying that they "panicked after seeing a ghost".

Factory supervisor Giasuddin, however, did not rule out the possibility of inhaling toxic fumes by the employees.

Police visited the spot and is probing into the incident, said Shafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kadamtoli Police Station.

According to morgue sources, no mark of injury was detected on the body of the victim. His blood and viscera would be examined to ascertain the cause of death.