

NEWS IN *brief*

Dr Alauddin admitted to hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Dr Alauddin Ahmed, adviser to the prime minister (education, social development and political affairs) was admitted to Square Hospital in the city at 10:20pm on Monday after suffering a stroke. Quoting doctors, the adviser's brother-in-law Mojibur Rahman Monju told The Daily Star yesterday that his condition was improving in the intensive care unit (ICU) of the hospital. He requested all to pray for his early recovery.

HRPB London body formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 21-member committee of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) was formed in London on September 29 with Rahmat Ali as convener and Aminur Rahman and Shafiqul Huq joint conveners. HRPB has been moving a number of public interest litigations before the High Court and Appellate Divisions of Supreme Court for protecting human rights and environment in Bangladesh, says a press release. HRPB President Manzill Murshid was present on the occasion.

15 ex-BCL leaders leave for China

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A delegation of 15 former leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaves for China today to attend an international seminar titled "Youth Members of Political Parties". Former BCL leader Barrister Biplob Barua is leading the delegation. The other members of the delegation are Salahuddin Mahmud Chowdhury, Zahiruddin Mahmud Lipton, Paniruzzaman, Muhammad Nazmul Tuhin, Reazul Ahsan Khan, Moniruzzaman, Sheikh Hasan Mehadi, Nafiul Karim, Golam Sarwar Kabir, Suzadur Rahman, Ashrafur Rahman, Khairul Hasan Jewel, Abdullah Al Mamun and Nasim Al Momin Rupak.



Veteran journalist Syed Abul Moksud stages a sit-in before Jatiya Press Club in the city from 10:00pm to 12:00 noon yesterday to protest the beheading of eight Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia. Leaders of different political parties and individuals expressed solidarity with the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

BEHEADING OF BANGLADESHIS Rights bodies challenge govt's role

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A human rights organisation yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the "inaction or failure" of the government officials concerned to save the lives of eight Bangladeshi nationals, beheaded in Saudi Arabia on October 8.

The petition sought HC's directive to the secretaries of the foreign and labour ministries to form separate committees to investigate the role of the Bangladesh embassy officials in Saudi Arabia in protecting the lives of eight men and to submit the report to it within four weeks.

The Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), which filed the petition, prayed that the court directs the officials to submit a report to it within two weeks on what steps they had taken to save the lives of the Bangladeshis.

It also sought direction from the HC to the officials concerned for providing adequate support and legal assistance to the Bangladeshi citizens abroad, if necessary.

The petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid said an HC bench of Justice Farid Ahmed and Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif may hear the petition today (Wednesday).

Despite Bangladesh's repeated pleas for clemency, the Saudi authorities executed the eight Bangladeshi workers for their involvement in a robbery and subsequent murder of an Egyptian security guard in Riyadh in 2007.

Tk 1,293cr projects get Ecnec nod

UNB, Dhaka

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) at a meeting yesterday approved eight development projects worth Tk 1,293 crore, including a Tk 500 crore project, aimed at boosting agricultural production.

Prime Minister and Ecnec Chairperson Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting held at the NEC conference room.

"Of the total project cost, Tk 612 crore will come from the public coffer, Tk 606 crore as project assistance and Tk 75 crore from the Japan Debt Cancellation Fund (JDCF)," said Planning Minister AK Khandker while briefing journalists after the meeting. Acting Planning Division Secretary Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam was present.

The Integrated Agricultural Productivity Project (IAPP) is aimed at increasing agricultural production in the country's economically underdeveloped region. It will cover 54 upazilas in Barisal and Rangpur divisions. Different agencies of the Agriculture Ministry and Fisheries and Livestock Ministry will implement the project.

A World Bank Fund on agriculture and food security will provide Tk 370 crore for the project.

The meeting approved a project of Tk 173 crore of the Local Government Division. Under the project, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) would develop 117km road-connection network and construct 26km footpath and 89km sewerage line in the city. It would also construct a box culvert, a public library, two community centres and a maternity centre in the metropolis.

The other projects are: Repairing and modernisation of the existing 11 old vocational training centres (Tk 42 crore); Construction of Bangladesh Film Archive Bhaban (Tk 75 crore); Expansion and development of PROYASH at Dhaka cantonment project (Tk 52 crore); Sylhet agricultural university development (first phase) project (Tk 69 crore); South-western integrated water resources planning and management (2nd revised) project (Tk 294 crore) and Construction of Bangladesh chancery complex in Tokyo, Japan project (Tk 88 crore).

Finance Minister A MA Muhith, Planning Minister AK Khandker, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Labour Minister Engineer Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Commerce Minister Faruk Khan and advisers to the prime minister, members of the planning commission, secretaries and officials concerned were present at the meeting.

HC drops Khaleda's petition from hearing list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday dropped from its hearing list a petition by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia challenging proceedings against her in the Zia Orphanage Trust case.

The bench of Justice Mohammad Anwarul Haque and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque dropped the plea.

Zahirul Hoque, who was an additional attorney general before becoming an HC judge, had argued against Khaleda in the case.

The HC on October 15, 2009, issued a rule on the government and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to explain why the proceedings against Khaleda in the case should not be scrapped.

The petition came up in the cause list yesterday for final hearing.

Attorney General Mahubey Alam and ACC counsel Khurshid Alam Khan requested the bench to drop the petition, saying Justice Hoque is now one of two judges of the bench.

Khurshid Alam said a different bench will now hear the petition.

The ACC filed the case against Khaleda, her son Tarique Rahman and five others on July 3, 2009, with Ramna Police Station in connection with embezzling of over Tk 2.10 crore by forming the "fake" organisation Zia Orphanage Trust.

Both Khaleda and Tarique got bail from the HC in the case.

'Elderly people golden citizens'

BSS, Dhaka

Social Welfare Minister M Enamul Haq Mostafa Shaheed yesterday said the government has undertaken a plan to declare the elderly people as 'golden citizens'.

The national identity cards of the elderly people would be inscribed with the words 'golden citizen,' he said while speaking as the chief guest at a discussion at the office of Retired Government Officers Welfare Association at Dhanmondi in the city.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary or partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:36pm today and rises at 5:55am tomorrow.

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	33.6	25.4	68	81
Chittagong	33.4	25.2	81	72
Rajshahi	34.5	25.0	80	82
Rangpur	34.0	25.0	71	71
Khulna	34.5	27.5	75	77
Barisal	35.0	26.3	84	89
Sylhet	35.7	24.5	73	76

BridgeAcademy

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

CLASS TEACHERS - 4 posts available
TEACHING ASSISTANTS - 4 posts available

Bridge Academy is a brand new English medium school in Chhatak, Sunamgonj, opening in January 2012. The school offers an exciting opportunity for exceptional primary school teachers and assistants to create a legacy for the future of learning and education in Bangladesh.

- Are you:**
- an outstanding graduate with an excellent academic record
 - passionate and committed to teaching as a career choice
 - able to speak, read and write in fluent standard English
 - energetic, creative and inspirational

- In return we will offer:**
- innovative and comprehensive training package
 - excellent working environment with state-of-the-art facilities
 - salary of 10,000-20,000 taka per month, two festival bonuses and contribution to Provident Fund

If you are interested in applying we strongly encourage you to attend one of our briefing meetings:

15th October, 10:30-11:30 at X-Cel, Institute of Interactive Learning
Urban Centrepoint, 400, New Eskaton Road, Bara Maghbazar, Dhaka-1000

19th October, 15:00-16:00 at Shajalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) in the Mini Auditorium

The application form, job description and person specification will be available on our web-site from the 19th October at www.bridgeacademybd.com. If you would like to talk to us about the posts please contact: Susan Mackenzie (Headteacher) on 01761 859137 or Ayub Korom Ali (Chair of Governors) on 01731 147809. Closing date for applications: 24th October 2011, interviews will take place on 30th October 2011 at Bridge Academy.

Aarong fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) in an enforcement drive yesterday fined the authorities of Aarong Centre Tk 3 lakh for creating noise pollution in the capital's Uttara.

The DoE team found that the faulty installations of electric generators in the centre's basement are creating unbearable noise pollution in their surrounding areas, said Mohammad Munnir Chowdhury, director of DoE.

They also asked the authorities to shut down the generators and take immediate remedial measures to prevent noise pollution.

Earlier on Monday, the DoE recorded the noise level of the generators between 90 and 101 decibel, which is fatal for public health, said Chowdhury.

Pottery exhibition begins today

METRO DESK

A pottery exhibition titled "Aesthetic Designed Earthenware" will be inaugurated in the Gallery Zoom and Courtyard at Alliance Française de Dhaka at 5:30pm today.

The wonderfully made works of art are produced by the Nalam Aesthetic Pottery Society Ltd under the Performance Improvement Project will be on display.

Md Atharul Islam, secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, will attend as the chief guest while renowned artist Mustafa Monwar will present as special guest in the opening ceremony.

The exhibition will be ended on October 15.

roam free
up to **90%** reduction on international roaming rates

Lahore Fort Pakistan Taj Mahal India The Pearl Qatar Golden Temple Sri Lanka

Next time you travel to India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka or Qatar, feel free to roam on your airtel. Because our international roaming rates are as good as your local ones.

- Free incoming calls
- Reduced rates when calling Bangladesh
- Attractive local call rates while roaming

• Check page 4 for details • Call 1212 (free)