

NEWS IN *brief*

**European Debate: IBA in semi-finals**

METRO DESK

Institute of Business Administration (IBA) reached the semi finals of a European debate tournament held from November 10 to November 12 at the chamber of Oxford Union in London, says a press release.

The Oxford Union organised the event titled "Oxford IV 2011". A total of 125 teams from Europe, America, Australia and Asia participated in the tournament. Eight teams, including IBA, broke into the English as Second Language (ESL) semi-finals.

Md Abir Hasan and Gaows Mohammad represented the IBA team.

Khaled Mahmud, faculty of Institute of Business Administration, was the delegation member. Abir also became the champion and best speaker of the OIC Intersarsity Debating Championship 2010, Malaysia.

The other teams that broke in the ESL semi finals break were Leiden A, Ljubljana A, BBU A, Utrecht A, Hebrew B, Erasmus A, Open Comm A.

**Three detained with foreign currencies at airport**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed Police Battalion (APBn) personnel at Shahjalal International Airport last night recovered foreign currencies worth Tk 11 lakh from two bank officials and an employee of the airport and detained them in this connection.

Jahed Parvez Chowdhury, assistant superintendent of Police of APBn, told this correspondent that they picked up the three from the terminal of the airport around 9:00pm and seized the foreign currencies of six countries from their possession.

They withdrew the currencies from the Agrani Bank inside the airport to sell them at black market, police said.

**Domestic help succumbs to injuries**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A domestic help Rashida Begum yesterday succumbed to her injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The girl aged around 24, fell down from the second floor of a five-storey building around 9:30pm on Friday in the city's Anandabazar area.

She, came to Dhaka from Sreepur of Gazipur, had been working at Ripon's house in the area over the last three months.

Officer-in-charge of Shahbag Police Station Rezaul Karim said that locals alleged that Ripon's wife often beat Rashida and she might pushed her (Rashida) down after beating.

**MBA admission test on Jan 6**

UNB, Dhaka

The evening MBA programme admission test under the Faculty of Business Studies of Dhaka University will be held on January 6 instead of December 23, 2011.

The schedule has been changed due to some unavoidable circumstances, said a DU press release.

**Reception on Romanian Nat'l Day**

UNB, Dhaka

Honorary Consul of Romania for Bangladesh Enayetullah Khan hosted a reception at his Baridhara residence on Thursday evening marking the Romanian National Day.

LGRD Minister Syed Ashraf Islam and Railways Minister Suranjit Sengupta attended the reception as special guests.

BNP leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed, US Ambassador Dan Mozena, Canadian High Commissioner Heather Cruden, Russian Ambassador Dr Gennady Tortsenko, Japanese Ambassador Shiro Sadoshima, South Korean Ambassador Taiyoung Cho, Pakistan High Commissioner Afrasiab, Swedish counselor Ylva Sorman Nath, Singapore Consular Darryl Lau, businessmen, academics, journalists, artists and high civil and military officials attended the reception.



Visitors at a photo exhibition organised by Sthapatya Bishayak Grantha Pranayan Committee on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**No Bangalee can forget, forgive war criminals, say women FFs**

BSS, Dhaka

Recalling the memories of brutalities during the nine-month War of Liberation, women freedom fighters said no patriot Bangalee can forget and forgive those who committed genocide, rape, arson and looting in 1971.

The women freedom fighters said Jamaat with the connivance of BNP is engaged in nefarious act to frustrate the trial process when people are eagerly waiting to see the trial of

war criminals.

The observations were made by Taramon Bibi Bir Protik, Safina Lohani of Sirajgonj, Shirin Banu Mital of Kushtia, lawmaker Rawshan Jahan Sathi, journalist Nasimun Nahar Minu and Rokeya Kabir, who took part in the War of Liberation.

The valiant freedom fighters made the comments two days after the central working committee member of Jamaat-e-Islami Mian Golam Parwar made a plea to 'for-

give' what they did in 1971.

Taramon, who was a guerilla fighter, said no Bangalee will forgive the collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces, who abused two lakh women during the war.

She fought against Pakistanis in the war in Kurigram under sector 11 led by Col Abu Taher, Bir Uttam.

Rawshan, who was arrested on March 27 in 1971 and later released, said the people will not forgive us if the trial of the perpetrators of the crimes against humanity is not held.

Rokeya, who was a student of Dhaka University in 1971 and joined the liberation war as a commander of a women's contingent, condemned BNP leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed for his urge to stop trial of the war criminals.

Safina and Nasimun also echoed the same about the trial of the war criminals but they demanded state recognition to women freedom fighters who bravely fought against the Pakistani occupation forces.

**'War' against war criminals to continue: Sajeda**

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League presidium member and Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury yesterday vowed to continue 'war' against the war criminals of 1971.

"Our war will continue as long as a single war criminal will exist in the country," she said while inaugurating a newly built building of Update Dental College and Hospital at Dhaur under Turag police station in the city.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun and Prime Minister's Adviser Dr Syed Modasser Ali attended the function as special guests.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Prof Ali Asgar Mandol, Bangladesh Private Medical Association President Prof Amirul Islam, Update Dental College founding chairman Dr Moazzem Hossain and Managing Director Ulfat Jahan Moon addressed the function.

Sajeda Chowdhury said Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia should be tried for taking stand in favour of the war criminals.

Khaleda has no right to the red-green flag of this country as she had helped Pakistan during the Liberation War, she added.

She said those who have brought back home the razakars (collaborators), given citizenships and made them ministers should be tried too.

**8 endangered wild animals released at Lauyachhara Park**

BSS, Maulvibazar

Eight endangered wild animals were released yesterday in the Lauyachhara National Park.

Chief Whip Vice-Principal Abdus Shahid released the wild animals at about 12:00 noon to mark 40 years of independence. Later, he planted a sapling at the national park.

Of the total released wild animals, there are three snakes, three cats and two herons.

Wild animal expert Sitesh Rangan Dey was present at the occasion.



Dutch-Bangla Bank Foundation Chairman M Shahabuddin Ahmed hands over the sample of the blanket to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban on December 15. Dutch-Bangla Bank has presented 100,000 blankets worth Tk 4.50 crore to the prime minister to ease the sufferings of the winter season.

PHOTO: COURTESY

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Dry weather likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary or partly cloudy sky over the country in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over the country during mid night till noon, Met office said.

Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Sayedpur, Dinajpur, Khulna, Satkhira, Jessore, Kushtia, Barisal and Khepupara and it may continue.

Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:15pm today and rises at 6:35am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 26.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 06.0 degrees Celsius at Jessore.

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	19.3	12.0	91	86
Chittagong	22.5	14.2	89	89
Rajshahi	18.6	07.4	99	70
Rangpur	14.1	10.4	97	94
Khulna	22.5	10.0	93	89
Barisal	21.3	09.8	100	89
Sylhet	25.3	14.5	78	75
Cox's Bazar	26.7	14.0	87	71

**Int'l confce on cultural transformation begins**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An international conference with a view to exploring relationship between culture and socio-political and economic changes began at Brac Centre Inn in the city yesterday.

The two-day conference titled 'Cultural Transformations: Development Initiatives and Social Movements' will have over 80 participants from China, Japan, Taiwan, India, Singapore, the United States and Australia. They will present papers on cultural transformations across the world.

The Inter-Asian Cultural Studies Society (IACSS), a network of universities and research institutions from East, South East and South Asia, organises the conference once in every other year.

The consortium explores ways of imaging the idea of Asia in the new century, keeping its cultural, political and social histories in view.

The Department of English and Humanities of Brac University and Brac Development Institute are hosting the conference.

English and Humanities Department

Chairperson Prof Firdous Azim in her welcome address said Asian universities need to set up more post-graduate programmes on cultural studies.

This would help generate a larger academic framework from the perspective of Asian countries, she said, adding, "Now, all we get are western discourses".

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof AK Azad Chowdhury was present as the chief guest at the programme with Brac University Vice-Chancellor Prof Ainun Nishar in the chair.

Ashish Rajadhyaksha from Bangalore's Centre for the Study of Culture and Society (CSCS) and Dhaka's Central Women's University Vice-Chancellor Prof Perween Hasan presented the keynote papers at the inaugural session.

The conference will continue today with presentations on sexuality and feminism, cinema, art, theatre and many more.

It starts at 9:30am and ends at 7:00pm at Brac University.

**Ensure best feeding practices, say docs**

UNB, Dhaka

Leading specialists in obstetrics and paediatrics in the country have urged the government to update the medical and nursing curriculum to ensure best practices in Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF).

Termining adequate child nutrition a basic building block for a healthy generation, the experts stressed the need of incorporating practical sessions on IYCF in the medical and nursing college academic calendar.

Quite often doctors are unaware of the practical details of IYCF, including breastfeeding and complementary feeding techniques, the specialists said at a workshop in the city yesterday.

The workshop was organised by the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society of Bangladesh (OGSB) with cooperation from the Institute of Public Health and Nutrition (IPHN), and the Alive and Thrive initiative.

National Professor Dr Shahla Khatun; Prof Fatema Parveen Chowdhury, director, Institute of Public Health and Nutrition; Prof

Khandakar Mohammed Sifayetullah, director of Health Services; Prof Abu Shafi Ahmed Amin, president of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council; and Prof Sameena Chowdhury of OGSB spoke at the workshop.

Addressing the workshop, Dr Shahla said without wholehearted involvement and cooperation of physicians, it would be impossible to achieve the national nutrition goals.

Dr Sameena said there were gaps in the medical and dental council curriculum, which needed to be addressed.

"A medical student often lacks practical knowledge of exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding, and is unaware of the harmful effects of formula baby foods," she said.

According to Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) statistics, less than half of Bangladeshi mothers practice exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months. The initiation of breastfeeding within the first hour after birth, strongly recommended by WHO, is less than 25 percent.