

NEWS IN *brief*

National Immunisation Day Jan 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 20th National Immunisation Day (NID) will be observed on January 7 through providing polio vaccine to 24 million children aged upto 5 years.

Health workers and volunteers will administer oral polio vaccine at 1,40,000 sites including in health centres, schools and mobile sites like at transport stations throughout the country, says a press release.

Vitamin-A capsule will also be provided to 20 million children during the programme.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the programme on the first day at her official residence.

The second round of the programme will be held on February 11.

Khokon, Maj Mizanur get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted two months' anticipatory bail to BNP leaders Khairul Kabir Khokon and Maj (Retd) Mizanur Rahman in separate cases filed on charge on December 18 violence in Dhaka.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Shahidul Karim granted them bail after hearing separate bail petitions filed by the accused.

Khokon and Mizanur yesterday appeared before the bench, seeking anticipatory bail in the cases filed with Motijheel and Shahbagh police stations.

The cases were filed against them on charges of vandalism and preventing police from discharging their duties on December 18 last year.

Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon appeared for the accused while Deputy Attorney General Khondker Diliruzzaman represented the government.

Airtel launches lottery

METRO DESK

Bharti Airtel, a global telecommunications company, has launched "Bangladesh Thalassaemia Lottery 2011" to help Thalassaemia patients deprived of proper treatment, says a press release.

Bangladesh Thalassaemia Society, with partnership of Airtel Bangladesh, has arranged the lottery under "mTicketing" system. The proceeds of the lottery will be donated for Thalassaemia patients.

Airtel customers can buy the tickets through SMS by typing "BTS" and sending it to 16244. The price of the ticket TK 10 will be deducted from the balance and the serial of the ticket will be sent in a return SMS. A single customer can purchase as many tickets as he/she desires. The lottery draw will be held on January 15.



Rescuers continue their search for victims after an engine-run boat capsized in the river Karnaphuli in Boalkhali upazila, Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Five drown in boat capsized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least five men drowned and another five reportedly went missing as an overloaded engine-run boat capsized in the river Karnaphuli at Boalkhali upazila yesterday.

They died were all workers of FMC Corporation Dock Yard. Three people were injured in the accident.

The deceased were identified as Rahamat Ali, 22, of Pachhim Gomdandi; Naya Miah, 30, of Netrokona; Mohammad Masud, 25, of Netrokona; Emran Hossain of Khulsi, Chittagong; and Abul Kasem, 50, of Pachhim Shakhpara, Boalkhali.

Boalkhali Officer-in-Charge Jahurul Haque Sabuj said the boat carrying some 50 workers of the under-construction dockyard capsized as it was overloaded. "We suspected that five were missing while the rest people swam ashore safety".

DEMOCRATIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

'Japan can be model for S Asia'

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A Japanese-disciplined democratic and administrative structure can serve as a model for the South Asian region, observed an international conference in the city yesterday.

The two-day conference styled "Prospects for peace and security through regional cooperation in 21st century South Asia: The role of Japan", which concluded yesterday, also observed that the Japanese policy of harmonising the South Asian region can be used to promote stability and development in the region.

Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic Studies (BISS) with support from Japan Foundation organised the conference at BISS auditorium in the city marking the 40th anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Bangladesh and Japan.

South Asia and Japan can forge a new relationship, which can put the whole gamut of Asian politics in a positive direction, the programme observed.

Scholars, academics and professionals from Bangladesh, Japan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka partici-

pated in the conference, in which seven key-note papers were presented covering issues related with the conceptual analysis of regionalism in South Asia, Japan's foreign policy towards Asia in the 21st century, the role of Japan in promoting regional cooperation in South Asia and relation between Japan and the South Asian countries.

The summary proceedings of the conference recommended that trade liberalization, educational cooperation, removal of visa procedure complexities, common food bank and creation of central univer-

sity can enhance the understanding and connectivity between the people of South Asia and Japan.

Also, media can be used as an important tool for this, it said.

The conference said Japan's ODA has emphasised on the development of economic infrastructure like hydroelectricity, roads, power transmission stations, etc. whereas the focus of the Japanese help should be more on human development.

Saarc-Japan Special Fund can be used as a tool in alleviating poverty in South Asia, the conference recommended.

Chevron edn project ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-year Shobar Jonno Shikkha (education for all) project, sponsored by Chevron Bangladesh, has concluded through a ceremony at a Sylhet resort.

Implemented in 15 villages of Nabiganj upazila near Chevron's Bibiyana Gas Field, the project has increased access to cost effective Non-Formal Primary Education for over 400 vulnerable and dropout children aged between 7 and 14, said a press release.

It was formed as a part of Save the Children's larger nationwide Shikhoon programme.

All 437 students passed their grade-end exams, with one in four scoring 80 per cent or higher.

The programme also includes a six-month school-readiness component.

Chevron Asia-south policy, government and public affairs general manager, William A Koetzle, said today as many as 60,000 families were engaged with Chevron Bangladesh's community engagement initiatives.

Sylhet DC Khan Mohammad Bilal was present.

TREE FELLING
HC summons DC of Kurigram, 3 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the deputy commissioner of Kurigram and three others to appear before it on January 8 for not taking action against the persons responsible for cutting down trees on the Bhurungamari High School premises.

During the hearing of a writ petition, the court also issued summons against Bhurungamari Thana Nirbahi Officer, Officer-in-Charge of Bhurungamari Police Station and the headmaster of Bhurungamari High School to explain why they had not taken action in this regard.

Following the petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, the court issued a rule upon them on December 11 last year to explain why their failure to take action against the people responsible for cutting down the trees should not be declared illegal.

The organisation filed the petition saying that the vested quarters have cut the trees on the school premises and damaged the environment in August 2011.

Enamul Islam Khokon on behalf of the local people had submitted an application to the DC, TNO and OC to take action against the vested quarters but they did not take any action.

The petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid yesterday told the court that the respondents did not take any action against the persons responsible for cutting down the trees. Rather they now were harassing Khokon in different ways.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim issued the summons following the statement of Manzill Murshid, Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain said.



WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of light rain or drizzle over the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Rajshahi and Pabna in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during mid night till morning, Met office said.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 5:26pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 29.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 10.2 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.0	15.8	69	58
Chittagong	26.3	18.2	83	65
Rajshahi	23.5	11.2	94	79
Rangpur	22.4	11.0	99	82
Khulna	25.0	16.5	77	65
Barisal	25.2	15.3	88	88



WE MOURN

We deeply mourn the sad demise of **Mr. Samson H. Chowdhury** the Chairman of Square Group



CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

The Chamber is deeply shocked at the sad demise of Mr. Samson H. Chowdhury, Chairman, Square Group on the 5th January 2012. Late Mr. Chowdhury had long been associated with the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka (MCCI) and was President of MCCI for 2 terms in 1996-97.

Throughout his association, he made invaluable contributions to the Chamber's activities and was widely respected for his commitment to the Chamber, rare wisdom, high principles and amiable manners. In his death, the Chamber has lost a very dedicated member.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Dhaka



CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF) is deeply shocked at the sad demise of Mr. Samson H. Chowdhury, Chairman, Square Group on the 5th January 2012. Late Mr. Chowdhury had long been associated with the Federation.

Throughout his association, he made invaluable contributions to the BEF's activities and was widely respected for his commitment to the Federation, rare wisdom, high principles and amiable manners. In his death, the Federation has lost a very dedicated member.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Bangladesh Employers' Federation