

NEWS IN *brief*

70 Koica computers for IIT of DU

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) has donated 70 desktop computers, one server, two multimedia projectors, one multi-functioning printer, licensed Microsoft Project and visual studio software to two renewed computer labs of Institute of Information Technology (IIT) of Dhaka University (DU).

IIT and Koica Bangladesh office inaugurated the labs yesterday.

Taiyoung Cho, the ambassador of Korea in Bangladesh, AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice chancellor of DU, and Lee Jung Wook, resident representative of Koica Bangladesh Office attended the inaugural ceremony.

Girl found dead in city pond

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hazaribagh police recovered the body of an unidentified girl floating in a pond in the city's Baddanagar yesterday.

The girl, aged about 13 years, was in salwar-kameez. The police sent the body to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital morgue.

Local people saw the body of the girl floating in the pond yesterday morning and informed the law enforcers, said the police.

Bangladesh ready to help Gambia

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said Bangladesh stands ready to help Gambia develop its health and food sector.

She said this when the newly-appointed Gambian High Commissioner Dembo M Badjie called on her, said a foreign ministry press release.

"Bangladesh highly values its brotherly relation with Gambia", she said adding that the country is appreciated as an abode of peace and stable democracy by the international community.

The high commissioner in response said the people of Gambia have a lot of respect for the achievements that Bangladesh has made over the years in the areas of democratic consolidation, economic development and social progress.

Abducted trader rescued: 2 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chawkbazar police rescued an abducted businessman from Padmar Char in Manikganj on Monday night after six days of his abduction and arrested two abductors.

The arrested are Alam Bepari, 45, and Hajrat alias Hazu, 44.

Md Rezaul Rahman, a businessman of garments accessories in city's Chankharpool area, was abducted on January 17. A general diary (GD) was lodged in this connection on the following day.

Masud of the same area took Rezaul to Daulatdia in the name of visiting a girl for marriage, said Rezaul.

"When we boarded a trawler with around seven persons suddenly they tied up my hands and legs and introduced themselves as abductors," said the victim.

Hearing in Tarique's case Feb 16

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned till February 16 the hearing of a money laundering case against BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman and his business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun.

Judge Mohammad Mozammel Haque of the Special Judge Court-3 adjourned the hearing following a prayer seeking time by the defence lawyer.

Meantime, two prosecution witnesses -- Hosne Ara Begum, the then officer-in-charge of Cantonment Police Station and Mir Alimuzzaman, the then inspector of Detective Branch of police -- appeared before the court yesterday to face cross-examination by Mamun's lawyer.

Both the witnesses gave their statements before the court on December 8 last year.

Mamun was present at the court while Tarique is now in London. Tarique was detained on March 7 in 2007, but allowed to go abroad for treatment next year.



(From left) Belal Chowdhury, Begum Akter Kamal, Sanatkumar Shaha, Prof Anisuzzaman, Aditi Falguni, Abdus Shakur, and Hayat Mamud at the award giving ceremony of the 8th Prothom Alo Borsho Shera Boi (books of the year) at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the city yesterday.

BCL factions clash at JnU: Six injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Violent clashes between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday left at least six activists hurt at Jagannath University and vehicular movement suspended on adjacent North-South Road for more than one hour.

Equipped with machetes, knives, iron rods and other weapons, several hundred BCL men from both the groups staged showdowns from 11:00am to 12:30pm creating panic on the campus, witnesses said.

Sources say the clashes erupted following two incidents on Monday over establishing supremacy on social organisation Magura Zila Chhatra Kalyan Samity and Jagannath University Cultural Centre.

The university authorities sealed off the cultural centre on Monday

following a feud over supremacy in the organisation among activists of BCL, associate student body of ruling Awami League.

Later on Monday night, a scuffle broke out between the rival groups at a restaurant near the university over the supremacy in Magura Zila Chhatra Kalyan Samity.

Witnesses say during the clashes chase and counter-chase took place between the two groups led respectively by Saiful Islam Akand, convener of BCL university unit, and Khandaker Arifuzzaman, joint convener of the unit.

At one stage, Arifuzzaman group drove away Saiful group from the campus.

Vehicular movement on the North-South Road remained suspended for more than an hour causing severe traffic jam in the area.

Panicked students were seen running to save themselves and taking shelter at different classrooms and even in the toilets.

Police also obstructed traffic movement on the road to avert vandalism and destruction by the BCL activists.

Leaders of the BCL central committee rushed to the spot and eased the situation at 2:00pm.

However, tension was prevailing on the campus.

Proctor of the university Dr Kamal Uddin Ahmed termed the incident "very sad" and expressed concern over the situation. "The incident was triggered by their earlier feuds, which are not related to the interests of the general students," Dr Kamal commented.

"We are going to take stern actions against those who have

created anarchy and destabilised the peaceful situation," the proctor added.

He said as the vice-chancellor is abroad, actions will be taken after having a discussion with him.

Khurshid Hossain, deputy commissioner of Lalbagh division police, said they had to keep traffic off the road for a while to avoid vandalism.

Asked, he said they did not arrest anyone as the university authorities did not file a complaint with them.

In a separate incident, several hundred students of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute in Tejgaon Industrial Area took to the street for about half an hour blocking Tongi Diversion Road yesterday morning.

They staged the demonstration demanding some changes in their examination system and curriculum.

Alliance Française shifts Baridhara unit to Gulshan-1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alliance Française (AF) de Dhaka, one of the links of a vast network across the world promoting French culture, has shifted its Baridhara branch to the capital's Gulshan-1.

Aimed at meeting the growing demand of people keen to learn French language and introducing locals with French culture the AF opened the branch, Director of AF Olivier Litvine said at a Meet the Press at the Gulshan branch yesterday.

He said there will be a café from next month and that apart from language teaching, interior designing course will also be offered at the branch.

"French is a distinguished language. That's why people want to learn it". Migration may be another reason, which drives people to master the language, he said.

Following the Meet the Press, AF yesterday also handed over Lifetime Achievement Award to veteran journalist Fayza Haq for her contribution in the field of cultural journalism.

Fayza Haq, known as Fayza Apa in the media arena, started her professional career as an associate editor with the Daily Sun based in Karachi in 1970.

She earned a scholarship to study journalism at East West Center in the USA. Fayza Haq also obtained advanced professional training from France, Germany, and Russia.

She has been entertaining a large and prominent circle of English newspaper readers in Bangladesh through her splendid and thought-provoking write-ups.

Fayza Haq is now a senior feature writer at The Daily Star.

The AF director, who handed over a crest to Fayza Haq, said AF has taken the initiative to recognise her dedication in journalism.



Winners of national "Ruposhi Bangla Photo Exhibition and Competition", organised by Bangladesh Photojournalists Association (BPA), pose for a photograph with the guests at BPA auditorium in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

30 injured as RMG workers attack police in Savar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 30 people, including an assistant commissioner and two constables of police, were injured yesterday when workers of a readymade garment factory attacked a police team in Savar.

Faizul Kabir, a deputy director of Industrial Police, told The Daily Star that a group of unruly workers of Hallmark Fashions Limited attacked policemen around 9:00am when the Savar land office, led by assistant commissioner (AC) (land), with the support of police knocked down a gate of the factory built illegally on its adjacent road.

The small group of policemen fired eight rounds of bullets in the air and took shelter in the nearby Tetuljhora School and College to flee the attack.

The angry workers also attacked the school with brick chips and bamboo sticks, injuring many students, teachers and policemen.

Police Constable Muktar Hossain was admitted to Rajarbagh Police Line Hospital in the city.

The Kanungo (a land official) of Savar land office filed a case on behalf of the AC accusing two to three thousand workers in this connection.

No arrest was made.

Remove illegal structures from 2 Madaripur temples

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to remove illegal structures from the temple premises in a village of Madaripur immediately to protect the religious place.

During hearing a rule, it ordered the deputy commissioner (DC) of the district to ensure that the people of Hindu community can perform prayers and religious festivals at Gopal Mandir (temple) and Kali Mandir at Palita village of Rajoir upazila without any hindrance.

The court also directed the DC and the superintendent of police to prosecute a Nirmal Kanti Halder of Palita under the criminal law for damaging the temples and cutting trees of their premises subject to investigation.

It said the DC has to investigate how the temples have been demised on a lease.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim also ordered the DC to submit a report on compliance of the orders to it by February 12.

The bench on January 17 issued the

2 lawyers to meet Quader Molla at jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday allowed two lawyers to meet Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Molla at Kashimpur Central Jail in Gazipur next month.

Any two of the three counsels of Quader Molla will meet him between 9:30am and 12:30pm of February 3, 10 and 17 to discuss the case filed against him on charges of committing crimes against humanity.

The lawyers are M Tajul Islam, Farid Uddin Khan and Sajjad Ali Khan.

The three-member tribunal headed by its Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq passed the order after the detainee filed a petition on Sunday seeking permission in this regard.

Quader Molla, assistant secretary general of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, is among the six Jamaat and two BNP leaders who are facing trial in the court for committing crimes against humanity.

The prosecution on December 18 last year filed charges against him with the court. The charges include killing, looting and arson in the city's Mirpur and Mohammadpur areas and in Keraniganj during the Liberation War in 1971.

Ten days later, the tribunal took the charges into cognisance.

The court will hold hearing on charge framing against the accused on Sunday.

JU teachers demand punishment of former proctor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Draped in 'funeral clothes', the agitating teachers opposing the vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday brought out a procession and a protest rally on the campus to realise their demands.

They urged the university administration to meet their demands including punishment of former JU proctor Prof Arzu Miah for his alleged attack on the university teacher's association president, punishment of Zubair Ahmed's killers and restructure of the current committee to investigate into his murder, and cancellation of the appointment of unqualified teachers.

Zubair, an English department student, succumbed to his injuries after he was attacked by a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists on January 9.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country 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.

Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the regions of Faridpur, Madaripur, Comilla, Feni, Srimongal, Jessore, Kushtia and Barisal and it may continue.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 5:39pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 27.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 06.9 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi and Srimongal.

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	24.0	11.2	63	38
Chittagong	24.5	12.0	80	53
Rajshahi	23.4	06.9	89	66
Rangpur	22.2	09.0	91	73
Khulna	25.2	10.7	89	71
Barisal	25.5	09.4	89	76
Sylhet	24.5	10.5	89	65