

NEWS IN *brief*

FFs' descendants receive Indian scholarships

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A function to award scholarships to the descendants of freedom fighters of Bangladesh was held at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre of Indian High Commission in the city on Sunday.

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs AB Tajul Islam and acting Indian High Commissioner Sanjay Bhattacharyya distributed scholarship cheques to selected awardees of Dhaka division on behalf of the Indian government, said a press release.

The Indian government has been awarding scholarships to the direct descendants of freedom fighters for undergraduate and higher secondary studies since 2006.

In the under graduate category, each selected awardee is given a scholarship of Tk 24,000 per year for four years till he/she completes graduation. In the higher secondary category, each awardee is granted a scholarship of Tk 10,000 per year for two years.

Hotel worker electrocuted in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A hotel worker was electrocuted at Maijartek in the port city on Sunday night.

The victim, Mohammad Harun, 23, son of Nasir Ahmed of Hakimpur village under Sudharam Police Station of Noakhali, worked at Darbar Hotel in the area.

Harun came in touch with a live electrical wire when he was fixing a bulb in the hotel, police said.

He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

CRP stroke and sports rehabilitation unit launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) launched a Stroke and Sports Rehabilitation Unit at its Savar hospital yesterday, a press release said.

The unit is equipped with latest physiotherapy equipments to assist both children and adults to build strength, flexibility and increase overall health and functionality. It can facilitate treatment for 3,000 patients a year.

Dr Arun Bhadra Thapa, representative of World Health Organisation (WHO) to Bangladesh, and Dr KM Maqsudur Rahman, chairman of Dr KM Maqsudur Rahman Trust, were present at the inauguration ceremony.

The programme commenced with a piece of dance performed by children of CRP's Inclusive School, an institution where challenged and non-challenged children are taught side by side.



Bangladesh Awami Jubo League forms a human chain before Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday condemning the recent "coup plot" against the present democratic government.

PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka in Arctic climate change expedition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is taking part in a climate change expedition to Antarctica to explore and highlight the pace and alarming impacts of greenhouse pollution unfolding even in the world's most remote frozen continent.

Al Gore, a Nobel Peace Prize winner and former US vice president, is leading the 116-member expedition, "A Voyage to the Bottom of the Earth", to see firsthand and let the world know how fast the climate bell is ticking.

Bangladesh's representative, Environment and Forests Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud, left for Earth's extreme southern part from Ushuaia, Argentina, generally regarded as being the most southerly city in the world, on Sunday afternoon.

He is scheduled to return on February 5, said a press release from the ministry yesterday.

The expedition team, arranged by Gore's "Climate Reality Project", comprises Virgin Group Founder Sir Richard Branson, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Executive

Secretary Christiana Figueres, Icelandic President Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson and CNN founder Ted Turner.

Other members include ministers of countries vulnerable to climate change, leading climate scientists, politicians, business leaders, green campaigners, filmmakers and journalists from across the globe.

In invitation letters to the expedition members, Al Gore wrote, "This prediction has proven true. Today the West Antarctic Peninsula is warming about four times faster than the global average."

On their activities, he said, "Ashore in Antarctica, we will explore its many natural wonders and observe, firsthand, the dramatic impacts of climate change on the continent, and learn about what they mean for the world as a whole."

Al Gore visited Antarctica in 1988 when scientists began predicting that it could warm more rapidly than the global average.

Despite being a remote continent, Antarctica is witnessing a rapid melting of ice sheets due to global warming. This is contributing to a rise in sea level, resulting in drastic impacts on Earth dwellers, including Bangladeshis.

21 AUG CASES

Hearing on charge framing deferred

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred the hearing on charge framing against BNP Senior Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman and 51 others accused in the August 21 grenade attack cases, due to the mass procession organised by BNP.

The court directed the jail authorities to produce the accused before it on February 1, the day for next hearing.

Judge Shahed Nuruddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 passed the order after the prosecution informed that 32 of the accused, who are now in jail, could not be brought to the court due to the procession.

On August 21, 2004, at least 24 people were killed and at least 200 others injured in the attack on an Awami League rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city.

Reinvestigate maiming of child: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to form a high powered committee to reinvestigate the incident of maiming a seven-year old child and forcing him into begging.

Neyamul, son of Umed Ali, a rickshaw puller of Ashrafabad in the city's Kamrangirchar, was maimed and forced into begging by a gang of miscreants in December 2010.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim passed the order after it found discrepancies in the reports of the home ministry, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police.

Rab claimed that some miscreants maimed the child, police submitted a final report to the lower court concerned clearing all the accused from the charge, while the home ministry said no such maiming incident had taken place, said Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain.

During the hearing of a rule, the court said the committee, to be formed under the leadership of an additional secretary of the home ministry, must submit the investigation report to it within 60 days.

Ain O Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust and Brac yesterday prayed to the court to direct the government to reinvestigate the incident.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6pm 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 region of Srirangal and it may continue.

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:44 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:40am.

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	26.8	14.0	44	26
Chittagong	27.0	16.4	51	50
Rajshahi	25.0	09.1	79	55
Rangpur	25.0	08.6	79	69
Khulna	26.3	13.0	58	58
Barisal	27.4	11.0	72	60
Sylhet	28.2	12.4	66	49

Heartiest Congratulations to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) on their



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