

NEWS IN brief

Five brick fields fined Tk 25 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined five brick fields Tk 25 lakh for destroying farmland and polluting the environment at Kewdhala in Narayanganj.

The brick fields were Messers Ananda Bricks, Seven Zero Seven Bricks, Messers Khan Bricks and Co, Messers Awlad Bricks, and Messers Jamal Traders.

New Singaporean envoy arrives

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The newly appointed non-resident High Commissioner of Singapore to Bangladesh, Chan Heng Wing, has arrived in Dhaka to present his credentials to the president today.

He will be resident in Singapore, according to the Foreign Ministry of Singapore.

After presenting his credentials at Bangabhaban, the new envoy will call on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at her office at 2:30pm, the foreign ministry sources said.

CAG re-elected Asian audit instt governing board member

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Comptroller and Auditor General was re-elected member of the Governing Board of Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for 2012-2015.



The election took place at the twelfth assembly of ASOSAI in Jaipur of India on Saturday, says a press release.

A three-member delegation from SAI Bangladesh headed by Comptroller and Auditor General Ahmed Ataul Hakeem attended the conference.

Previously Bangladesh was elected Governing Board member during the 8th, 9th and 11th assembly of ASOSAI.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina waves to people at a mass rally, organised on the occasion of the historic March 7, at Suhrawardy Udyan in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)



PHOTO: STAR, PID

'Enemies' still hatching plots to kill me

Hasina tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday in parliament said her "enemies" are still hatching conspiracies to kill her and her party leaders as they tried to do during the August 21 grenade attack.

"You have noticed that enemies are now desperate to foil the ongoing trial of war criminals.

"That is why I am saying that the grenade attack on August 21 was not the end. Plans are still going on to launch attacks and kill," she said.

Replying to lawmakers' queries, Hasina, also leader of the House, urged her party leaders and activists, irrespective of where they are, to keep watch on the "entire situation very carefully".

She, however, did not name or elaborate about the enemies.

On the grenade attack case follow-up, Hasina hoped that the trial would be completed within the specific timeframe.

On her government's plan to industrialise the country, she said, "A study is going on to manufacture sedan cars in the country."

She also said the industries ministry formulated necessary rules to set up an environment-friendly ship breaking industry with the hope that this industry would play a significant role in eradicating poverty and gain economic growth.

MODERNISING THE ARMED FORCES

Replying to another query, Hasina informed the House in detail about her government's various ongoing and future plans to modernise the Bangladesh army, navy and air force.

The process is going on to transform the Army Security Unit into Army Security and Intelligence Organisation and increase its manpower and that of Army Embarkation Unit, she said.

Hasina informed the JS that her government already approved formation of a new commando unit, SWADS Command, having 953 personnel and 92 vehicles, under the navy, to launch anti-militant and anti-terrorist operations around the country's maritime boundary.

"The process is underway for the approval of organising structures of BNS Bijoy, BNS Dhaleshwary and BNS Anusandhan for the navy," she added.

BNP blames govt for hate campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Apprehending that the government may "sabotage" the March 12 rally, the opposition BNP yesterday said using state apparatus the ruling party was trying to create fear and confusion among the people about the rally.

"The government itself is talking about sabotage and chaos aiming to foil the rally. It is conducting 'hate campaign' against the rally in the name of sabotage", BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said at a press briefing at party's central office at Nayapaltn in the city.

He said the party feared that the government itself would carry out sabotage and then shifted the blame on the BNP. He also criticised the ministers and ruling party leaders for their provocative remarks over the rally.

The rally will be peaceful but the BNP will not delay announcing tougher programme if the rally is obstructed in anyway, Fakhru said.

"We have taken all preparations for our peaceful programme. We sought help for security reasons from the administration through letter. Yet the ruling party is trying to create fear among the people", he said and asked the government to stop arresting and harassing opposition activists across the country.

Referring to the killing of a Saudi Embassy official, Fakhru said the diplomatic zone should get top priority for security, but the government failed to do that as it had kept the law enforcers busy in repressing the opposition.



Doa for Doha today

METRO DESK

A doa mahfil will be held in memory of former foreign minister AR Shamsud Doha at the family's ancestral residence at Farm View, 75 Indira Road, Dhaka after Asr prayers today (Thursday), March 8, at 4:30pm, says a press release.

The family has requested his well-wishers to attend the doa mahfil.

DHAKA TODAY

Health Talk session

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka will organise a Health Talk session; Venue: Apollo Hospitals Dhaka MHC clinic; Time: 9:00am.

Public hearing

Unnayan Samannaya will hold a public hearing; Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel; Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

Department of Women and Gender Studies will organise a seminar; Venue: RC Majumder auditorium; Time: 10:00am.

Hunger strike

Bangladesh Mudran Shilpa Samity will hold a hunger strike; Venue: before National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Motijheel; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Somen Chand Charcha Kendra will organise a discussion; Venue: Public Library; Time: 4:00pm.

Human chain

The daily Prothom Alo will organise a human chain; Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises; Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Doctors Association of Bangladesh will organise a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Rally

South Asian Granroots Development Forum Bangladesh Chapter will hold a rally; Venue: from Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Human chain

United Federation of Garments Workers will organise a human chain; Venue: before 23, Bangabandhu Avenue; Time: 10:00am.

Human chain

Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity Council will hold a human chain; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 12:00 noon.

Discussion

WARBE Development Foundation will organise a discussion; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 11:00am.

Human chain

Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation will hold a human chain; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Workshop

Japan International Cooperation Agency will hold a workshop; Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel; Time: 9:30am.

Human chain

Campaign for Good Governance will organise a human chain; Venue: before National Museum; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Agrashon Protirodh Jatiya Committee will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

Rally

Samajik Protirodh Committee will organise a rally; Venue: from Central Shaheed Minar premises; Time:



Former curator of Chittagong University Museum, Dr Shamsul Hossain, educates guides on the history of Chittagong city's Anderkilla area, which includes Shahi Jame Masjid, a 340-year-old mosque of Mughal era, to disseminate among schoolchildren who will visit the area as part of the upcoming Odommo Chattagram festival, an initiative of The Daily Star to showcase the history, culture and prospects of the port city, from March 30 to April 16.

PHOTO: STAR

Killing of Saudi official condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former president Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury in a statement yesterday condemned the killing of an official of Saudi Embassy.

Badruddoza termed the killing shameful for Bangladesh and urged the government to arrest the killers immediately and to ensure exemplary punishment to them, says a press release.

Jatiya Party (JP) Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Global Economist Forum President Enayet Karim and Tahfij-e-Haramine Parisahd Bangladesh President Maulana Sadek Ahmed Siddique in separate statements demanded that the government tighten the security for officials of diplomatic missions in Bangladesh.

They also expressed sympathy with the Saudi Embassy, Saudi government and the family members of the deceased.

Khalaf Al Ali, a Saudi national who joined the Saudi Embassy in Dhaka about two years ago, was shot dead some 30 yards off his house in Gulshan area of the city early Tuesday.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Sylhet division and the region of Tangail, Mymensingh and Comilla.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 6:05pm today and rises at 6:13am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and Chadanga and lowest 16.5 degrees Celsius at Sayerdupur.

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	34.2	23.8	76	54
Chittagong	28.2	22.5	87	49
Rajshahi	34.8	18.5	77	42
Rangpur	31.3	16.7	71	47
Khulna	34.5	22.5	83	51
Barisal	34.5	24.0	85	69

CHEQUE BOUNCE CASE

Warrant against ex-BNP MP Monju

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday cancelled bail of former BNP lawmaker Mujibur Rahman Monju (Kishoreganj-6) and issued an arrest warrant against him in a cheque bounce case.

Judge Al Asad Mohammad Asifuzzaman of the Special Tribunal-11 passed the order as the BNP leader was absent from the court yesterday without taking any step for his non-appearance.

The court also fixed April 9 for argument from the prosecution.

The same court on September 26 last year, framed charge against Monju in the case.

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