

Bangladeshi woman embarks on Everest conquest today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wasfia Nazreen, the first Bangladeshi attempting to climb the seven highest mountains of the world's seven continents, will leave the country today to conquer Mount Everest, the highest peak of the world.

A send off ceremony was organised at the head office of City Bank Limited, the key sponsor of Wasfia's climb, in the city yesterday where she was handed over the Bangladesh flag to plant on top of Mount Everest.

Wasfia, the first female Bangladeshi mountaineer, also gave a presentation of her climbing experiences at the ceremony, says a press release.

She will climb Everest along its southern side, the route taken by Sir Edmund Hillary, the first to conquer the mountain, and considered to be more challenging than other routes.

Wasfia launched her expedition to the seven peaks on July 3, 2011 under the campaign "Bangladesh on Seven Summits" in celebration of 40 years of the country's independence.

She conquered Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa on October 2, 2011 and Mount Aconcagua in Argentina on December 16, Bangladesh's Victory Day, but came back 300 metres away from the peak of Mount Elbrus in Russia on July 12 due to inclement weather.



Wasfia Nazreen, third from right, embarking on her Mount Everest conquest today, being presented the Bangladesh flag to plant on top of the world's highest peak at a ceremony in the head office of City Bank Limited in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

NEWS IN brief

Man 'commits suicide' in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An official of an insurance company allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself at Pallabi in the city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Siddiqur Rahman Shaon, 40, executive vice president of Sandhani Life Insurance.

Shaon's second wife Kakoli Akhter said after getting up from the bed at around 7:00am, she found her husband hanging from the ceiling fan with her scarf in their guest room. She rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Kakoli said her husband came home on Friday night as usual. They went to sleep after taking meal at 12:10am. She couldn't ascertain any cause behind his committing suicide.

DMCH Camp Police detained Kakoli for interrogation.

2,000 yaba tablets seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel arrested an alleged drug peddler and seized 2,000 pieces of yaba tablets from his possession in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The arrestee was identified as Md Morshedur Rahman, 21, hailed from the district's Teknaf upazila.

On information, a Rab-7 team from Cox's Bazar camp conducted a drive in the Eidgah bazar area around 12:00 noon and arrested Morshedur.

The yaba tablets seized was worth Tk 8,00,000, says a press release of Rab-7.

Students for bus fare concession

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), at a rally following a human chain in the city's Agrabad Commercial area yesterday, demanded a 50 percent concession in bus fares for students in Chittagong city.

Students, on an average, spend over Tk 50 daily in fares which is a burden for them, said SCF leaders, urging Chittagong City Corporation and Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation to introduce special bus for students.

SCF city unit President Satyajit Biswas, Vice President Taj Nahar Ripon, School and College Secretary Mishu Dutta and Library Secretary Dipa Majumdar also spoke at the programme.

Speaker visits ailing minister

BSS, Dhaka

Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Abdul Hamid Advocate yesterday visited ailing Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (Retd) A K Khandoker, Bir Uttam, at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in the city.

The speaker stayed there for some time and inquired about the condition of him.

He wished early recovery of AK Khandoker.

Maleka Begum gets Ananya literary award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted essay writer and researcher Maleka Begum yesterday received Ananya Sahitya Purashkar-1418 for her contribution to literature.

Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University Dr Anisuzzaman formally handed over a crest and Tk 50,000 as prize money to her at Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum.

Her name was announced for the award in April last year.

Ananya, a fortnightly magazine, has been conferring the award in recognition of special contributions of women to literature since 1401 of Bangla calendar year.

Maleka Begum, a part-time teacher at the women and gender studies department of Dhaka University, donated the prize money to the department for establishing a "Rokeya Charcha Kendra" (centre for studies on Begum Rokeya).

An activist of women's rights movements, Maleka Begum always considers women's issues as her topic of research and writing. She has authored at least 30 books.

Prof Anisuzzaman hoped that Maleka Begum would continue her writing, explore new areas, and contribute further to literature.

Prof Bharati Ray, vice-president of ICCR, India, DU's Prof Dr Biswajit Ghosh, Ananya Editor Tasmima Hossain, among others, also spoke at the programme.

Two drown in city ponds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mentally challenged girl and a schoolboy drowned in the city yesterday.

The girl, Angkan Barua, 10, drowned in the pond of Dharmarajik High School, situated inside Sabujbagh Dharmarajik Buddha Bihar, around 10:00am.

Her father Bidarshan Barua said her mother Rima Barua, who is a teacher at the school, took Angkan with her in the morning. Angkan was playing with some children on the school ground when her mother was busy delivering classes.

As she went missing after sometime, her mother and other staff of the school started searching for her but failed. Finally, they discovered the girl in the pond.

Angkan was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 12:00pm.

Bidarshan said his wife used to take their daughter to the school everyday as they had nobody at home to look after the girl.

Angkan had a younger brother.

Meanwhile, Al-Amin, 16, a student of Monikanon High School in Mirpur, drowned in the pond of Dhaka College campus around 10:00am.

Billal Hossain, who rescued him from the pond, said a group of Tabligue Jamaat men, including Al-Amin, came to the central mosque of Dhaka College last Friday.

Some Tabligue men went to the pond for taking a bath at about 9:30am.

Around 15 minutes after Al-Amin went missing, they managed to rescue him and rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead, Billal said.

Al-Amin, son of Abdur Rahim, an expatriate in Saudi Arabia, was a resident of Mirpur-1.

He appeared at the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination this year.

Al-Amin was supposed to go to Rajshahi with the Tabligue men today.

DISPOSAL OF CASES

Long delay is HR violation

Says acting Law Commission chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Long delay in disposal of cases causes a gross violation of human rights of litigants, Prof Shah Alam, acting chairman of the Law Commission, said yesterday.

Time and money of the people are wasted due to prolongation in disposal of cases, which also increases their sufferings in getting justice, he said.

Prof Shah Alam said lawyers were responsible for the delays.

"After conducting a research, I have found that most lawyers take adjournments from courts to linger the proceedings with a view to increasing their earnings."

Prof Shah Alam made his observations at a discussion, "Ain adda: Reasons behind long delay in disposal of civil cases and ways forward", in the city yesterday.

The acting chief of the Law Commission also said his office had made several recommendations for the government to update the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and some laws including the witness protection act in the last three years, but the government did not make any response.

Justice Awlad Ali, former judge of the Supreme Court, said judges had to maintain their office hours strictly to dispose of more cases so that litigants could get justice in a short time and at a minimum cost and the disposal rate increased.

Many district court judges do not stay in the ejlash (court-room) after 2:00pm, he said, adding that judges should not adjourn the proceedings of cases again and again.

Jurist Shahdeen Malik said the chief justice had to take more initiatives to increase the rate of disposal of cases and to reduce backlog.

More than 85 thousand cases were disposed of at the High Court and 33 thousand cases were filed with this court between October 2010 and May 2011 for some special initiatives taken by the then chief justice ABM Khairul Haque, he said.

Additional Attorney General MK Rahman, Deputy Attorney General Motaheer Hossain Saju, SC lawyers ABM Nurul Islam, and Sheikh Akhterul Islam, and Law Commission's Research Officer Umme Saraban Tahura, among others, also spoke at the discussion organised by Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (Billia) at its auditorium.



PHOTO: STAR

Noted essay writer and researcher Maleka Begum being presented with Ananya Sahitya Purashkar-1418 by Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University Dr Anisuzzaman at Poet Sufia Kamal Auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum in the city yesterday. On her right are Ananya Editor Tasmima Hossain and ICCR, India Vice President Prof Bharati Ray.

প্রিয় সহকর্মী ফুয়াদ আহমেদ এর আকস্মিক মৃত্যুতে আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত। তাঁর রুহের মাগফিরাত ও আত্মার শান্তি কামনা করছি। পরম করুণাময় তাঁর শোকসন্তপ্ত বন্ধু-পরিজন ও পরিবারকে এই শোক সহ্য করবার শক্তি দান করুন।

এই প্রার্থনায়
এয়ারটেল পরিবার

Khaleda Pakistan's agent: Hanif

BSS, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has again proved herself an agent of Pakistan by taking 5 crore rupees for elections from Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), said Mahbulul Alam Hanif, joint general secretary of the Awami League, yesterday.

The AL didn't say that the BNP had taken money from the ISI to participate in the 1991 election, he said, adding that the statement in this regard was made by the Pakistani army in a Pakistani court.

He was speaking at a meeting of the Jatiya Sramik League at the AL's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city.

Hanif also said, "Khaleda Zia has declared the March 12 programme to protect war criminals in the month of freedom as she doesn't believe in the country's independence and the War of Liberation."

"The trial of war criminals and all corrupt people will be held on this soil whatever programme you give," he said, pointing at the BNP.

"We have to face the conspiracy of the opposition by getting united under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," he added.

He also urged the ruling party leaders and workers to vow to work till the war criminals were brought to justice.

The Jatiya Sramik League organised the meeting centering on the AL's March 11 human chain programme and March 14 rally.

Its President Abdul Matin Master presided over the meeting while its General Secretary Ray Ramesh Chandra and AL Labour Secretary Habibur Rahman Siraj addressed among others.

Sramik League's presidents and secretaries in the capital and other AL front organisation leaders also attended the meeting.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Mahbub Hossain, a cultural activist and social worker, died of old age complications at his Kanchijuly residence in Mymensingh town yesterday. He was 70.

He left behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest at Golkibari graveyard following his namaz-e-janaza on Anjuman Eidgah ground in the town after Maghrib prayers.

Abu Layes Mamun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abu Layes Mamun, a founding member of Bangladesh Newspaper

Circulation Managers' Association and the circulation manager of the monthly Mouchake Dhil, passed away early morning on Friday. He was 55.

He left behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death, a press release said.

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Comilla.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

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

The sun sets in the capital at 6:06pm today and rises at 6:10am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 16.0 degrees Celsius at Rangpur and Dinajpur.

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	32.2	23.0	76	56
Chittagong	30.2	22.8	91	72
Rajshahi	32.2	18.2	46	31
Rangpur	31.4	16.0	74	51
Khulna	33.2	23.0	86	69
Barisal	32.5	23.0	83	62
Sylhet	32.5	20.5	69	62
Cox's Bazar	32.0	22.0	81	67