

NEWS IN

brief

Torture on Kadar: Charges against OC Helal accepted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday took into cognisance the charges brought against Md Helal Uddin, former OC of Khilgaon Police Station, in a case filed by Dhaka University student Abdul Kadar.

Kadar had sued the cop on January 23 for torturing him in custody and falsely implicating him in several cases.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Mizanur Rahman passed the order and also rejected a bail plea of the accused.

Helal was sent to jail on Monday upon his surrender before the court.

**Normalcy returning to CU**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A significant number of students turned out to the campus yesterday as Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir has temporarily postponed its indefinite strike at Chittagong University (CU).

Classes and pre-scheduled examinations were held said Proctor Siraj Ud-Doullah.

Chittagong University was shut down after Shibir men clashed with Chhatra League men on February 8, leaving two students killed.

As the university resumed on March 18 upon a 38-day closure, Shibir enforced the strike.

Four get life term for rape

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced four people to life term rigorous imprisonment for gang raping of a 16-year-old girl in Nawabganj in October 2001.

Judge Arifur Rahman of the Fourth Special Tribunal for Prevention for Women and Children Repression pronounced the verdict in absence of the lifers--Abdul Malek, Sajib, Sohel and Motiur Rahman alias Moti.

The court acquitted Mohammad Taslim as the charge brought against him was not proved.

The punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the day of their surrender or arrest, the court said.

According to the prosecution, a group of miscreants took the victim to an abandoned house near Alamgir Char Primary School in Nawabgonj of Dhaka at about 10:30pm on October 7, 2001 and they raped the victim repeatedly.

Poba will file case if pillars in Shitalakhya not removed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Paribesh Bachao Andolan (Poba) will file a contempt of court case against the authorities concerned if the illegal demarcation pillars in the Shitalakhya river are not removed immediately.

It will also file corruption cases against the people responsible for wasting public money in setting up the pillars, says a press release.

The announcement came from a human chain programme organised by the Poba at Gudaraghat in Narayanganj yesterday.

Students to get training on outsourcing

BSS, Dhaka


The government has taken initiatives to impart subject-wise training to students of high school, college and university levels in freelancing outsourcing to facilitate both learning and earning at home.

The training will be given under a programme titled 'Learning and earning' to help the unemployed educated youth earn money mostly foreign currency, Project Director of A2I Programme Md Nazrul Islam Khan told a signing ceremony at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

At the function, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Support to Digital Bangladesh (A2I) Programme, Swrnirbhar Bangladesh and Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

Nazrul Islam Khan, Chairman of Swrnirbhar SM Al Husaini and Executive Director of Ahsania Mission Dr M Ehsanur Rahman signed the MoU on the behalf of their respective organisations.

BSS City Editor Ajit Kumar Sarkar and Ahsania Mission Chairman Kazi Rafiqul Alam also were present.



WEATHER  
TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain and thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty and squally wind with hail is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore and Kushtia in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country, Met office said.

Rain and thunder showers with hail at places accompanied by temporary gusty kalboishakhi squalls speed 60-80 kmph or more is likely to occur over the regions of Rajshahi, Jessore, Kushtia, Pabna, Bogra Tangail, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Dhaka and Sylhet during next 12 hour.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:16pm and rises tomorrow at 5:46am.

Country's highest temperature 36.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and lowest 21.5 degree at Rajshahi.

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	35.6	26.0	78	48
Chittagong	31.3	25.3	80	75
Rajshahi	31.2	21.5	81	67
Rangpur	27.8	22.5	70	61
Khulna	36.6	24.0	80	57
Barisal	35.2	24.5	85	56
Sylhet	30.2	23.9	83	62
Cox Bazar	32.7	25.0	80	76

Food festival begins in Ctg today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

In order to showcase the traditional foods of Chittagong and of the country as well, a three-day food festival starts at Chittagong MA Aziz Stadium Gymnasium premises today.

It is a part of 12-day long "The Daily Star-Odommo Chattagram festival", which began on March 30.

Thirty-five renowned entrepreneurs in the food sector from home and abroad will participate in the festival by displaying their unique food items at 40 stalls.

Monwara Hakim Ali, chairman of Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CWCCI), which will coordinate the food festival, will inaugurate it around 3:00pm today.

The festival is open to all from 10:00am to 9:00pm where many well-known restaurants of the port city like Hotel Agrabad, Meridian, Dhaba, Taba and local caters will also participate.

The main attraction of the festival is "Mezban", a beef curry served only on a particular occasion, and curries of dry fish, which are unique signs of Chittagong city.

"With an aim to highlighting the culinary tradition of Chittagong, the festival will also focus on the development of the country's food sector", said CWCCI Director Mahmuda Hadi, also convener of the festival committee.

A friend of Bangladesh dies

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Govind Narain, one of the last surviving Indian civil service officers who played a key role in formulating India's role in Bangladesh's Liberation War and aiding the formation of the Mukti Bahini, passed away on Tuesday, said his family.

The 95-year-old Narain died due to old age complications at his residence in Chattarpur in South Delhi after refusing to be admitted to a hospital, the family said.

His last rites were performed at the Lodhi crematorium where Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit and several bureaucrats were present.

Born on May 5, 1916 in Uttar Pradesh state's Mainpuri, Oxford-educated Narain joined the Indian Civil Service in 1939.

Narain, who worked under prime ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi, was home secretary from 1971 to 1973.

Soldiers were forced to take up arms

Says PW in BDR carnage case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some armed mutineers forced the soldiers of now defunct Bangladesh Rifles to take up arms and join the carnage on February 25, 2009, said three prosecution witnesses yesterday in their deposition before the Metropolitan Sessions Judges' Court.

Some nine armed jawans came at 13 rifle battalion around 10:00am, fired blank shots and threatened to shoot anyone who did not arm themselves with weapons from the arms depot, said Sepoy Hemayet Hossain.

He named five among the nine soldiers. The two other witnesses also mentioned the names of two of the accused. Defence counsels later cross-examined the three. The court was then adjourned till April 9.

So far, 95 witnesses gave deposition at the court set up temporarily at the playground of Alia Madrasa in the capital's Bakshibazar.

A total 74 people, including 57 top and mid-ranking army officers, were killed in the two-day carnage at the headquarters of BDR, now Border Guard Bangladesh.

Sakku back in BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's direction, the party withdrew its expulsion order on Comilla City Corporation Mayor Monirul Hoque Sakku.

"The expulsion order of Mayor Monirul Hoque Sakku was withdrawn as per the party constitution following his appeal before the chairperson," says a party press release signed by BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.

The party had expelled Sakku, who won a landslide victory in the maiden Comilla city corporation election on January 5 against ruling Awami League backed candidate Afzal Khan, for participating in the election.



University students perform a traditional dance at the end of the two-day "Tarunya Utsab" (youth cultural festival) of the 12-day Odommo Chattagram festival, an initiative of The Daily Star, at Chittagong District Shilpakala Academy yesterday.

ODOMMO CHATTAGRAM

CU wins hearts at 'Tarunya Utsab'

ARUN BIKASH DEY and MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

Chittagong University was adjudged the winner at the end of the two-day "Tarunya Utsab" (youth cultural festival) of the 12-day Odommo Chattagram festival, an initiative of The Daily Star, yesterday.

Chittagong University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (CUVAS) clinched the runner-up title while University of Science and Technology Chittagong (USTC) and Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) were jointly awarded the third position.

The youth festival at Chittagong District Shilpakala Academy brought forth university-going students of Chittagong to showcase their culture, tradition and heritage through unique art forms in their local dialect.

The judges -- Subrata Barua Rony, founder member of the musical

band Souls, recitation artist Subhra Biswas and Rabindra Sangeet singer Milli Chowdhury -- congratulated the remaining universities for their commendable efforts.

The remaining contenders were from Southern University, Premier University and Begum Gul Chemonara Trust Chemonara Trust University.

The winning team of CU presented a video on beautiful sites in Chittagong followed by the depiction of the thrill of going to the university on a shuttle train. Their performance ended with a play on "Malka Banu", a local folklore.

The CUVAS team drew the admiration of the judges with their dance routine, acting and musical performance. The USTC team performed the same routine with jokes and

poems in addition.

The CUET team was unique from the remaining performances with their mime show on how foreign cultures were affecting their own and finally ended their piece by relating jokes.

Begum Gul Chemonara Trust University team presented songs and recitations, Southern University team performed dances, instrumental music, a fashion show and drama and Premier University team presented two dance routines, a drama and a musical show.

The youth festival was inaugurated at 5:00pm by educationalist Rawsan Ara Hanif who pointed out the importance of using the Chittagong dialect of Bangla language.

Many people might think that speaking in that dialect may make them look less smart but to set aside this dialect would mean losing a taste of Chittagong, she said.

Adnan Mannan, a teacher in the genetic engineering and biotechnology department of CU, said a lack of interest among youngsters is causing local languages to die out in the present age of globalisation.

"We are proud of Chittagong, its language and culture," he said.

Shubhra Biswas said the prominent figures in the arenas of drama, music, dance and literature in Bangladesh are full of people who are descended from Chittagong.

Chittagong Bureau Chief of The Daily Star Raisul Haque Bahar, Fulki Principal Shila Momen and Shilpakala Academy Cultural Officer Moslem Uddin Sikder were also present at the programme.

Saarc Charter requires revisions

Conference told

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

An international conference yesterday opined that the Saarc Charter, which was formulated 26 years ago in a different climate, should be revised to address the present aspirations of the member states.

The two-day international conference on "Challenges and Opportunities of Twenty First Century Saarc", which concluded yesterday with a set of recommendations, said Saarc should function as a facilitator in resolving the bilateral issues in the region.

But the Saarc Charter leaves no

scope to take any bilateral issue to the forum.

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) organised the conference.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said that 26 years ago Saarc had been slow at times but it had now made steady progress. "We need to cooperate with each other more than ever before as the cost of non-cooperation is too high".

The foreign minister also listed some achievements like shortening of negative list of export items by the member states, formation of Saarc Development Fund, and establish-

ment of South Asian University and South Asia Forum.

The conference in one of its recommendations says a legal mechanism like the European Court of Justice could be a desirable institution in Saarc to resolve the problems of the member states.

It further said necessary efforts should be taken to build social and economic capital which would ensure the security of the peoples in the region, and it called for formulating the South Asian Economic Union.

According to Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, ultimate objective of Saarc was to have South Asia


Economic Union, but there were miles to go.

The conference says regional cooperation could be instrumental in improving through water management, disaster management, climate and environmental resource management, and energy security.

Presided over by BISS Director General Maj Gen Imrul Quayes, the concluding session was addressed, among others, by Dr Shanthie Mariet Dsouza of National University of Singapore, Director General at Myanmar Foreign Ministry Yin Yin Myin, and BISS Research Director ColAKM Nazrul Islam.

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মজা চলছে, মজা চলবে!

কারণ, মজার মজার মুক্তি, পেইমস আর দারুণ সব সারপ্রাইজেস নিয়ে আজ বৃহস্পতিবার এবং আগামী শুক্র ও শনিবার আমরা আসছি তোমাদের স্কুলে! আমাদের এবারের স্কুলগুলো হলোঃ

৫ এপ্রিল ২০১২

- মনজুর আহমেদ হাইস্কুল, রাজশাহী
- কম্বার মদিনাবাদ মাধ্যমিক স্কুল ও টেকনিক্যাল কলেজ, খুলনা


৬ এপ্রিল ২০১২

- জাগরার চর আদর্শ হাইস্কুল, শেরপুর
- কলারোয়া জি. কে. এম. কে. পাইলট হাইস্কুল সাতক্ষীরা

৭ এপ্রিল ২০১২

- নকলা পাইলট হাইস্কুল, শেরপুর
- নকলা পাইলট গার্লস হাইস্কুল, শেরপুর
- মুক্তিযোদ্ধা স্মৃতি বিন্দা নিকেতন, শেরপুর
- পেকুয়া জিএমসি ইনস্টিটিউশন, কক্সবাজার
- সাতক্ষীরা সরকারী হাইস্কুল, সাতক্ষীরা
- সুন্দরবন টেক্সটাইল মিলস মাধ্যমিক স্কুল, সাতক্ষীরা
- সাতক্ষীরা সরকারী গার্লস হাইস্কুল, সাতক্ষীরা
- সাতক্ষীরা পুলিশ লাইন স্কুল, সাতক্ষীরা

ইংরেজি শেখার মজার এই আয়োজনটি কিন্তু তোমরা একদম মিস করা না।



হাফন্য আমবেই