

NEWS IN *brief*

ALCWC meets today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC), the highest decision making body of the ruling party, sits today to discuss its organisational matters and the country's latest socio-political situation.

The meeting will be held at Prime Minister and the AL President Sheikh Hasina's Gono Bhaban residence

Polytech student commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A final year student of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute allegedly hanged himself to death in the capital's Khilgaon yesterday.

Imran Hossain Emon, 22, was the son of Lutfor Rahman of Delduar in Tangail.

Police recovered the body from Emon's maternal aunt's residence, where he had been living, around 9:00am, said his aunt, Nurun Nahar.

Nahar said Emon took dinner and went to sleep Wednesday night, but did not get up in the morning. They broke open the doors of his room and found the body hanging. Police recovered a diary from Emon's

PM receives salary thru' e-service

UNB, Dhaka

The electronic fund transfer (EFT), introduced by the Bangladesh Bank, is getting popular with around Tk 100 crore transactions per day through 12,000 entries.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and officials of the Prime Minister's Office received the salaries for the month of March through EFT, the central bank said yesterday.

The salaries of the cabinet members and officials of the finance ministry are also being paid through the EFT, it said.

On February 24, the central bank introduced the electronic fund transfer system to speed up transac-

Wasa offices open on Saturday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to keeping water supply smooth during summer, Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) has decided to keep its all offices open on every Saturday.

The offices will remain open on the day every week till further notice, said a press release yesterday.

Though there was sufficient preparation of Wasa to continue smooth water supply, the supply was hampering slightly due to declining water level and continuous load shedding, the release added.

Dhaka welcomes Myanmar's by-polls

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has welcomed the results of Myanmar's by-elections and hoped that it will consolidate the democratisation of Myanmar.

As a friendly neighbour, firmly committed to democracy, Bangladesh also welcomes the on-going socio-political reforms and reconciliation processes that have taken place in Myanmar in recent months.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain and thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty and squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Comilla and Noakhali in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

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

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

The sun sets in the capital at 6:17pm today and rises at 5:45am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Srimongal and lowest 19.7 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

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	35.0	24.6	47	52
Chittagong	31.2	25.4	69	78
Rajshahi	34.6	21.5	84	55
Rangpur	31.2	21.2	84	69
Khulna	33.8	24.4	67	64
Barisal	33.0	22.7	68	62
Sylhet	33.5	19.7	72	54

Visit

International

TOURISM FAIR

UNITED AIRWAYS-MONITOR DHAKA TRAVEL MART-2012

6-8 April 2012, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka

10 am to 8 pm everyday

Win attractive prizes on entry coupons including Int'l & domestic Air Tickets

ENTRY TK. 20 only

Avail attractive discounts on airfare, hotel & tour packages

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A smiling Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina holds her granddaughter Leela as she poses with underprivileged children of Shishu Palli Plus, a UK-based non-government organisation, at her official residence, Gono Bhaban, yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

Arrest warrant against six QUBEE officials

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against six officials of Broadband Internet Service Company QUBEE in connection with two cases filed against them for allegedly providing false information to the Joint Stock Company.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shahdat Hossain issued the order after Gulshan police submitted a report to the court saying that the officials were not found at their respective addresses. The police also said in its report that the officials were now out of the country.

The officials were QUBEE Chairman Sanjib Ahuja, directors Damian Reid, Martin Harriman, Paul Gregory Franklin and Stephen Gerard Olive and Pakistani National Imran Hussain.

Meanwhile, counsels of QUBEE Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jerry Mobbs and Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary DS Faisal Hyder yesterday told the court that their clients had earlier got bail from the High Court in the cases.

The court then asked Gulshan police to submit report by May 16 on execution of arrest warrants issued against the accused.

Muggers stab guard dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants stabbed to death a security guard of the under-construction Kuril flyover in the capital early hours today.

The victim identified as Ruhul Amin, 25, was found lying with grievous injuries on the throat in the project site around midnight, said Golam Mostafa, another guard, who rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

PM spends quality time with underprivileged children

UNB, Dhaka

Hundreds of underprivileged children and mothers spent some hours full of enjoyment and merrymaking with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence, Gono Bhaban, yesterday.

The PM found time in her busy schedule to invite these children of a UK-based non-government organisation, Shishu Palli Plus, to spend some quality time with them.

The children presented songs and dance routines before Hasina, who, with Leela, daughter of her nephew Redwan Mujib Siddique Bobby, cheered and encouraged them.

Shishu Palli Plus, a non-religious and non-political organisation located in Sreepur of Gazipur dis-

trict, provides destitute mothers and their children health knowledge, education and skills so that they can function independently in society.

It also provides them with a secure environment, food, clothing, education and vocational training. Currently over 150 mothers and 400 children are supported by the organisation.

Greeting the children on their arrival, the PM said the main goal of her politics is to ensure the basic needs for the country's children, including food, clothing, education and shelter.

The government is working tirelessly to turn Bangladesh into a middle-income country by 2021, free from hunger and poverty, she said.

Hasina said it is the government's duty to ensure that children, irre-

spective of being orphans or living on the streets, get proper education and stay away from hazardous jobs.

She called upon all non-government organisations to supplement government efforts to ensure food, education and shelter for underprivileged children.

She said the government took numerous steps to provide some facilities to the country's children, which includes providing free school textbooks up to higher secondary level.

"We want to groom our children properly and provide all the facilities so that they can be the future leaders of the country," she said.

Hasina said it is not acceptable that children will pass their days in miserable conditions. "The govern-

ment is here to take all the responsibilities," she said.

On a request to provide citizenship to the Shishu Palli Plus founder, Patricia Kerr, Hasina said she personally had no objection in giving citizenship to a person who devoted more than 30 years in serving destitute mothers and their children.

However, "We have to follow the rules of the country before giving citizenship to her," she said.

Social Welfare Minister Enamul Hoque Mostofa Shaheed, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, British High Commissioner in Dhaka Robert Gibson and Shishu Palli Plus founder Patricia Kerr also spoke on the occasion.

Law to ensure safe water stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for formulating safe drinking water and sanitation law and mitigating arsenic problem to ensure safe water and its adequacy in the country.

They also emphasised saving the rivers across the country especially around the capital to ensure safe drinking water.

Arsenic contamination has been creating a huge problem to get safe drinking water for rural people, the speakers told the roundtable on "Pure drinking water for all," organised by Prothom Alo at its office.

"Though there is the national policy for arsenic mitigation, the government does not have proper

attention to implement it," said M Firoz Ahmed, vice president of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa).

The donors did not give money for any projects to mitigate arsenic problem following formulation of the arsenic policy, he said.

It is very important to go for providing alternative source of water to save the people from arsenic contamination but only one per cent of the affected people have got such alternative facilities, Firoz said.

Khairul Islam, country representative of Water Aid Bangladesh, said funding to mitigate arsenic problem has not been given priorities to the vulnerable areas.

Stressing the need for a coordi-

nated effort to solve arsenic problem, Prof Mujibur Rahman of Buet said there is huge discrimination among the people of the country in getting water which is needed to be reduced.

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanok said the government depends on ground water to supply drinking water in the capital but it is not a permanent solution rather it is putting the Dhaka city at risk.

He said the government is going for using surface water instead of ground water following a direction from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The minister put emphasis on creating awareness to reduce wast-

age of water.

Nani Gopal Mandal, lawmaker of Dakop, Khulna demanded digging up ponds to make water reservoirs to ensure drinking water for the people of southwest-ern region.

MA Matin, director general of RDA, Bogra, said it is necessary to make the rivers around the Dhaka city free from pollution to ensure drinking water.

Dibalok Singh of Dustha Shashtha Kendra demanded adequate drinking water for slum dwellers at a cheaper rate.

Abdul Qayyum, joint editor of Prothom Alo, moderated the programme.

Zuena Aziz, additional secretary of the local government division, also spoke at the roundtable.

Doa mahfil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Pallabi residence after Asr prayers today.

Afroza passed away on Tuesday at the age of 37 after long suffering from brain cancer.

Alimunnesa

METRO DESK



Doa mahfil of Alimunnesa, wife of late Moqbul Hossen, a government employee, will be held at her Pakhimara village residence at Bakshiganj in Jamalpur today.

She died on February 10 at the age of 97, said a press release.

Join us to celebrate

The Daily Star

আদ্য চতুগ্রাম উৎসব

Current Events:

ফিল্ম ফেস্টিভাল

Film Festival

Fulki (Opposite to D.C. Hill), 4 to 7 April 2012

3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

ফুড ফেস্টিভাল

Food Festival

M A Aziz Stadium Gymnasium

5 to 7 April, 2012, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

চট্টগ্রাম ও বিজ্ঞানচর্চা

Chittagong and Science

Fulki (Opposite to D.C. Hill)

6 April, 2012, Day long event

শাম্পান বার্ষিক

Shampian Baich

Bridge Ghat, Karnaphuli River

6 April 2012, Day long event

Inaugurating today:

Upcoming Events: Brands Expo, Economic Conference, Children Festival, Chittagong and Science, Music and Dance Festival

The festival will be held till 10 April, 2012. Check The Daily Star for regular updates.

Event Sponsors: grameenphone, BSRM, UCB, AKS, KEPZ, PACIFIC, etc.