

Photography awards given

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Adrian Poran has clinched the first prize in The Daily Star's Odommo Chattagram photography competition, while Yeow-Kwang Yeo from Singapore and Hasan Murad won the second and the third prize respectively.

The prize giving ceremony was held at Theatre Institute of Chittagong (TIC) yesterday. As chief guest, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam distributed the awards and handed over crests of honour to nine theatre groups, which participated in a theatre festival and special awards to seven photographers of the photography competition.

Mahfuz Anam said he was spellbound to witness the creativity of Chittagong artists. He said it gave him confidence about the future of the port city as well as the country. The Daily Star will continue this kind of programme in future, he added.

The Daily Star Chittagong Bureau Chief Rasiul Huq Bahar moderated the award ceremony, while Prothom Alo Resident Editor Abul Momen spoke among others on the occasion.



Winners of Odommo Chattagram photography competition, "Chitramoy Chattala", pose at the award giving ceremony organized by The Daily Star at Theatre Institute of Chittagong (TIC) yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Youth dies as train hits him

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A youth was crushed under the wheels of an intercity train in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat yesterday.

The victim is Md Dulal, 28, son of Md Hamidul Islam of Panchmatha area in the upazila.

Police, quoting the witnesses, said the accident took place when a Rajshahi-bound intercity train, Borendra Express hit Dulal while he was crossing the rail track near Panchbibi Railway Station at around 10.00am, leaving him dead instantly.

1 killed, 2 hurt in wall collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A man was killed and his wife and daughter were injured in a wall collapse in Tangail yesterday morning.

Nikhil Chandra Saha, 50, of Baruria village was killed and his wife Rani Saha, 38, and daughter Jhuma Saha, 22, were injured as an old wall of a puja mandap collapsed on their house due to gusty wind and rain.

The injured mother and daughter are undergoing treatment at a local hospital.

US wants to work with Bangladesh on security

Will hold dialogue here on April 19, says Sherman

UNB, Dhaka

The United States will hold a security dialogue with Bangladesh here on April 19 on security challenges that the two countries face here, in this region and throughout the world.

"It's a transparent dialogue. We want to work together on all of the security challenges that we face here, through this region and the world," US Under-Secretary for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman told reporters yesterday after nearly an hour-long meeting with Foreign Minister Dipu Moni.

Sherman said the US assistant secretary for political and military affairs will be here on April 19 for a security dialogue as they want strong security discussions with Bangladesh.

Asked if US wants to deploy more US military in Bangladesh for regional security, the US under-secretary said they have "no plan now to do so."

She said US has been assisting Bangladesh in whatever way they can in the disaster preparedness and they would continue to do so.

Sherman, the third-ranking official of the US State Department, said Bangladesh has to be congratulated for its zero tolerance to terrorism and its work against violent extremism. It is a very tough job and Bangladesh will have to work hard to be successful in this arena.

Replying to a question about the standoff

between the two major parties here on the modality of holding the next general elections, she said the political leadership will have to find a room, sit down and talk different models and process to ensure free, fair, credible and participatory elections.

Sherman said the leaders of all parties, not only major parties, will have to come together and respond to the aspiration of the people.

Earlier, in a brief statement, Sherman said US wants to be a strong partner of democracy, sustained market economy, and wants free, fair and participatory elections in 2013-14.

She said the United States will provide one billion US dollars over the next five years for assisting Bangladesh in health, food security, disaster management and climate change. Like every other country, Bangladesh has also many challenges to confront in the future, she added.

Sherman, who came here on Thursday on a two-day visit, went a Grameen Village in Manikganj to see how people, largely women, are trying to lift them out of poverty. She said Bangladesh is a model for others to fight against poverty.

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Dan Mozena was, among others, present on the occasion.

Terming her visit to Bangladesh spectacular, Sherman said that during her brief visit, she held discussions with ministers and members of the civil society and had excellent talks with the prime minister, the foreign minister and the leader of the opposition.



A team of Nagorik Committee, led by its chairman and former vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Good governance for energy security stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday emphasised the necessity of good governance to ensure the country's energy security.

They urged the governing bodies to avoid unsolicited deals for transparency and accountability in this sector.

"Abundant reserve of energy resources may not be able to ensure energy security and sustainable economic growth in the absence of good governance," said Prof Nurul Islam of Institute of Appropriate Technology under Buet.

Department of Chemical Engineering and Chemical Engineering Alumni Association of Buet organised the national seminar styled "Energy Resources and Governance Issue-Bangladesh Perspective" at Buet auditorium.

Nurul Islam, who presented the keynote speech, said a large number of organisations are in control of the sector and they need to work together to ensure a good governing body.

He stressed on institutional reform, enactment of new policies, resource assessment and capacity development for proper management of the sector.

All procurements of energy sector should be made as per the Public Procurement Act 2006 and the Public Procurement Rules 2008 and unsolicited deals should be avoided for transparency and accountability, he said.

Considering future of energy demand, the government should enact a law for no export of energy in the next 50 years, said Nurul Islam adding enactment of energy conservation law is needed to ensure effective use of energy.

Maj Gen (ret) Shubid Ali Bhuiyan, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on ministry of power, energy and mineral resources, said all decisions should be taken as per the laws to ensure transparency and accountability of the sector.

He said a coordinated plan is required for sustainable energy security.

Prof SM Nazrul Islam, vice-chancellor of Buet, Prof Habibur Rahman, pro-vice chancellor of Buet, and Badrul Imam, Geology professor of Dhaka University, spoke among others.

Govt to upgrade CMCH into university

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr AFM Ruhul Huq yesterday said the government would establish a new medical college in the port city while it would turn the present Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) into a university.

The minister said this while addressing the 15th annual meeting of Lions Club International at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong auditorium in the city.

He also said the leaders of the lions were making opportunities for the youth to dedicate their lives in works.

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Guard stabbed to death in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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

Ruhul Amin, 25, was found lying with grievous injury on his throat at the project site around midnight, said Golam Mostafa, another guard, who rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

"Ruhul was on his duty near the rail tracks adjacent to the project's cordoned area. Rest of us were deployed at different points. Suddenly, we heard someone screaming near the rail tracks around 12:15am," said Mostafa.

Colleagues of the victim rushed to the spot and found Ruhul injured. He was declared dead at DMCH around 1:00am.

Officer-in-Charge of Khilkhet Police Station Shamim Hasan said perhaps construction material thieves entered into the cordoned area and Ruhul might be killed for resisting them.

Police is investigating the matter, he added.

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