

NEWS IN *brief*

PM pays tributes to Kemal Ataturk

UNB, Ankara

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, now in Ankara on a three-day official visit to Turkey, visited the Anitkabir Mausoleum of Kemal Ataturk yesterday morning.

She paid rich tributes to Founding Father of modern Turkey Mustafa Kemal Ataturk by placing wreaths at his mausoleum.

Later, Hasina signed the visitor's book and visited the museum of Kemal Ataturk.

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni, Industries Minister Dilip Barua and Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran and other members of the PM's entourage were present.

Old man burnt alive in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An old man was burnt alive while two tin-shade rooms were gutted in a fire in the port city yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Nur Mohammed, 70, of Khejur Tola in Patenga.

The fire had originated from an electric short circuit in one of the rooms and burned to ashes the two rooms, owned by Abdul Hakim and Shaheen Banu, said fire service sources.

Nur, a resident of one of the rooms, could not come out and was burnt alive.

Four eateries fined Tk 1.25 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court fined four eateries Tk 1.25 lakh in Enaet Bazar area under Kotwali Police Station in the port city yesterday on charge of selling and serving food items in unhygienic environment.

The court, led by District Administration Executive Magistrate Jubaer Ahmed, fined Hotel Boishakhi, Hotel Café Jubli, Miska Dhansiri Sweets and Tofa Food.

Of them, Miska Dhansiri Sweets was fined Tk 50,000 while the three others Tk 25,000 each, said a press release.

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Unite govt, NGO efforts for best results

Says expert

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government and development organisations should work together on climate change adaptation programmes so that the country can be better equipped in taking on the impacts of global warming, said a climate expert yesterday.

The climate change specialist, M Asaduzzaman, said the many community-based adaptation programmes undertaken by different non-government organisations around the country are isolated.

"The government also took some projects but those are also isolated. There is no coordination among them. All of those seem to be isolated. They are not adding up," he said.

Asaduzzaman was addressing a workshop, "Pilot evaluation of social and economic responses to a few identified livelihood adaptation options", at Hotel Riggs Inn in the capital.

The workshop presented the outcomes of an action plan undertaken by Centre for Global Change (CGC) in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) in three upazilas

under Khulna and Satkhira districts.

Asaduzzaman, also a former research director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, said the many projects ongoing across the country will give people the much-needed experience to deal with climate change impacts.

But Bangladesh is not yet prepared to take on impacts of climate change and people trying to work outside the government are in panic, he said.

"The country has got a small amount of money to deal with climate change. Many will scramble for money when more of it comes in. We do not know whether this money will be properly utilised. I think steps should be taken now," he said.

It is yet to be known whether projects under the Climate Change Trust Fund are related and relevant to climate change, he said.

"If we think that the donors' money is only to be used and not for any special purpose then we will not be able to progress far," he said.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said it is important to learn from

a pilot project on adaptation and take the experience forward. "Otherwise it (the experience) will be of no use."

She said the climate change issue would pose as a threat for the country. "Still, people are using their resiliency to face the challenges. We should also work with the government to face the challenges."

She said the government must think with the long term in view and introduce measures, like on rainwater harvesting, to alleviate the water crisis in the country. "Buildings are being constructed in cities but such facilities are not there on a large scale."

CGC Executive Director Ahsan Uddin Ahmed, Associate Prof Sharmin Neelormi of Department of Economics of Jahangirnagar University, Additional Chief Engineer Dewan Naquib Ahsan of Department of Public Health Engineering, Project Director Abu Wali Raghieb Hassan of Department of Agriculture Extension and Climate Change Specialist Sarwat Chowdhury of United Nations Development Programme also spoke at the programme.



Railways Minister Suranjit Sengupta speaks at a press conference at Rail Bhaban in the capital yesterday. (Story on Page 1) PHOTO: STAR

'Ensure people's right to info'

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the Information Commission (IC) to take further steps to ensure people's rights to information.

"Access to information is the rights of people," he said when a delegation of Information Commission submitted the commission's annual report-2011 to him at Bangabhaban.

Chief Information Commissioner Ambassador (Retd) Mohammad Zamir led the delegation. Information Commissioners Mohammad Abu Taher and Prof Dr Sadeka Halim and IC director M Abdul Karim were present on this occasion.

Receiving the annual report, Zillur said now people can easily have the access to information following the formation of the Information Commission.

During the meeting, Chief Information Commissioner Zamir apprised the president about the commission's various activities.

He informed the president that the commission has taken an initiative to incorporate articles on "Rights to Information" with curricula for class VII, IX and X in the secondary level from the next year, aiming to make the young generation aware of their rights to information.

The Chief Information Commissioner said steps have already been taken to make people aware about the Rights to Information Act through the print and electronic media as well as holding opinion exchange meetings at the district and divisional levels.



A manhole sans lid before the capital's Bangla Academy, the very road over which the celebratory procession marking Pehela Baishakh will pass tomorrow. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Four electrocuted in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four persons were electrocuted at Eskaton Garden, Karwan Bazar, Sabujbagh and South Keraniganj of the capital yesterday.

Police said day labourer Hafizur Rahman, 28, came into contact with a live electric wire, which was laid below surface, while digging earth inside the under-construction Police Officers' Complex at Eskaton Garden.

An unidentified youth, aged about 22, might have been electrocuted when he came into contact with a snapped electric wire in Karwan Bazar area during a heavy rain yesterday morning, said police.

The police recovered the body from in front of Purnima cinema.

A portion of the victim's left hand was found burnt. The victim in Sabujbagh was identified as Mujibur Rahman, 32, a caretaker of a house at East Maniknagar of Sabujbagh.

He became victim while switching on an electric water pump at around 10:30am, said police. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

The victim of electrocution at South Keraniganj was identified as Mohammad Ali, 22. He was brought dead to DMCH at around 1:45pm, said DMCH sources.

Bangladeshi cattle trader killed by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A Bangladeshi cattle trader was allegedly killed by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Kajuri-Baikari border early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Sirajul Islam, 32, son of Syed Ali Sardar of Kaliani Chhoygharia village in Satkhira.

According to Bangladesh Border Guard (BGB) sources, Sirajul with other cattle traders went to India to buy cattle on April 10.

BSF personnel of Kajuri camp arrested the victim when the party was returning to Bangladesh, and chopped him to death at about 4:30am yesterday leaving his body in a paddy field, they added.

BGB members sent a letter to BSF authorities protesting the incident and making a request to hold flag meeting.

Later, two flag meetings were held between BGB and BSF authorities at zero point near Kajuri border.

However, BSF denied the allegation and said they were not involved in the killing, said Major Shamim-un Nabi Chowdhury, second-in-command of 38 BGB battalion.

BSF members said they only discovered the body in the paddy field.

Officials of both BGB and BSF agreed to resolve the dispute through discussions and by taking necessary measures.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely
UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Ranpur, Dhaka, Khulna and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The highest temperature is likely to be 31-33 degrees Celsius and lowest temperature may be 19-21 degrees Celsius.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:19pm today and rises at 5:39am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and lowest 18.7 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	28.6	20.0	96	61
Chittagong	30.0	24.0	75	74
Rajshahi	31.6	19.5	91	75
Rangpur	27.5	19.8	96	78
Khulna	34.5	26.0	86	76
Barisal	29.7	25.0	83	81

শ্রেষ্ঠ মানবিক সেবা

বিশ্বের সর্ববৃহৎ আলপনা

আঁকবেন: কাইয়ুম চৌধুরী, রফিকুল নবী, নিসার হোসেন, মনিরুজ্জামান ও শিশির ভট্টাচার্য।
অংশ নিতে চলে আসো মানিক মিয়া এভিনিউতে, ১৩ এপ্রিল রাত ১১টা থেকে ১৪ এপ্রিল ভোর ৫টা পর্যন্ত
বৈশাখ বরষের নতুন এক উৎসবে।

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