

NEWS IN

brief

Woman shot without provocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two unidentified youths, without any provocation, shot a woman on the knee at the capital's East Jurain yesterday. Daughter of the victim, Shefali Begum, 45, being treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Shefali opened the door hearing the doorbell at around 3:45pm and saw the youths, one of whom who shot her point-blank. Police suspect that the youths were extortionists who were actually looking for the landlord, Abdul Kuakata Dev Authority soon

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday decided to form Kuakata Development Authority to develop and protect its ecology and attract more tourists. The decision was taken during the presentation of the master plans on Cox's Bazar and Kuakata Tourist Centres in presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office. The PM asked the authorities to set up Atomic Research Centres and Oceanic Research Institutes there, said the PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad after the meeting.

Deferred HSC exams May 11

STAR REPORT

The government has deferred Sunday's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent examinations due to a change in holiday of Buddha Purnima. The postponed examinations under eight general and vocational boards will be held at 9:30am and 2:00pm, and madrasa board at 9:30am on May 11, according to a government handout. The decision was taken at an inter-board coordination committee meeting held yesterday. Public holiday on the occasion of Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community, has been announced for May 6 (23 Baishakh, 1419 Bengali year) instead of June 4, reports BSS.

MAY DAY OBSERVED

Pledge to protect workers' rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The historic May Day was observed in the country as elsewhere across the globe on May 1 with a renewed pledge to protect the rights of workers. The day is being observed every year since 1986 commemorating the supreme sacrifices of workers at the Haymarket in the United States who were trying to establish an eight-hour working day. The day was a public holiday with many city streets decorated with banners and festoons bearing slogans. President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Shiekh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia gave separate messages greeting the country's working class and wishing them well. The PM inaugurated a programme at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the morning. Different political and labour organisations, particularly the labour wings of political parties, professional bodies and cultural organisations also organised various programmes to celebrate the day. Organising a seminar at the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies emphasised the need for formulating a democratic and time befitting labour law. Imarat Nirman Sramic Union Bangladesh held a rally and cultural programme while National Garments Workers Federation held a rally and brought out a colourful procession. Sramic Karmachari Oikya Parishad, Garment Workers Unity Forum, Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation, National Garment Workers Federation, Jatiya Ganotantrik League, Bangladesh Nari Mukti Andolon and Nawabpur Dokan Karmachari Union also organised various programmes. Newspapers published special supplements while Bangladesh Betar, BTV and private TV channels aired special programmes highlighting the day's significance.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Moderate heavy falls are also likely at places over the country. Mild heat wave is sweeping over the regions of Jessore and Chuadanga and it may continue, Met Office said. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:28pm today and rises at 5:22am tomorrow. Country's highest temperature 36.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 18.4 degrees Celsius at Sayedpur. 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	32.0 22.1	70 79
Chittagong	31.0 22.0	76 79
Rajshahi	34.3 24.0	69 73
Rangpur	28.0 18.7	79 74
Khulna	34.5 21.7	80 82
Barisal	33.2 21.0	77 75



PHOTO: PMO

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at a May Day rally organised by Jatiya Sramik League on the playground of Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Limited at Tongi.

Nothing undemocratic to be allowed: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the country will be run democratically and nothing undemocratic will be allowed. "We do believe in constitutional power...the country belongs to people and it will be run democratically...nothing undemocratic will be allowed," she warned. Hasina was addressing a workers' rally organised by Jatiya Sramik League on the playground of Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Limited at Tongi in the afternoon, marking May Day. Speaking as the chief guest, Hasina said the government is working sincerely so that people of the country can live with dignity and lead a better life. "This country does not want alms...we will have to stand on our own feet with our own efforts. Bangladesh must be built as a self-reliant and prosperous country. "With this goal in mind, we will observe the Golden Jubilee of the country's independence in 2021," she said. Taking a shot at BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Hasina said the black money she (Khaleda) whitened by paying fines belong to the country's people, including farmers and workers. "You (Khaleda) misappropriated the money of orphans. Those who stole the money of orphans will be punished both in this world and hereafter." Accusing the BNP-Jamaat coalition government of turning the country into a haven for terrorism

and militancy during its rule, Hasina warned that all forms of terrorism will be dealt with a strong hand. "Nobody will be allowed to play with the fate of the country's people." She said killing and ballot snatching were the common features in elections during the BNP-Jamaat rule. "Some 5,175 different elections were held under the present government. All the polls were held in a free, fair and creditable manner as people cast their votes without trouble," she said. Hasina said the opposition leader vowed that all the works of her government would be scrapped if BNP comes to power in the next general election. "We have also won the maritime boundary case over Myanmar and increased wages of RMG (ready made garment) workers. Will she scrap those works?" Referring to the recent violence during BNP's countrywide shutdowns, she said killing people is the nature of BNP's politics. "They killed a bus driver while he was asleep in his vehicle. A total of 17 workers were killed during their regime. Their hands are stained with the blood of farmers, workers and students. "When Awami League assumes power, it gives something to people. Despite the global economic meltdown, we distributed rice among the poor at fair prices and open market sale (OMS) to make it affordable," she said. Hasina said the ongoing Higher Secondary

Certificate exams were delayed due to the hartals. "What is your problem with education...do you not want the students to continue their education?" Listing the steps taken by her government for the welfare of the downtrodden, she said now farmers can open a bank account at Tk 10. "We have also raised the minimum wage of RMG worker to Tk 3,000, are providing allowances to widows, elderly people and freedom fighters and distributing free textbooks." She said her government formed the Education Assistance Fund so that poor students can avail assistance for higher education. On employment, Hasina said the government already reopened eight out of 18 jute mills and the remaining ones will be reopened soon. She said the government also took initiatives to set up special economic zones in the country's seven divisions. "We have created 68 lakh jobs, including 4.5 lakh in the public sector, during the last three years." Hasina announced to upgrade the Telephone Shilpa Sangstha grounds into a stadium and Tongi municipality into a city corporation. LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan, State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanak, lawmakers Advocate Rahmat Ali and Jahid Hasan Russel, Gazipur District AL President Mozammel Haque and Tongi Mayor Advocate Azmatullah Khan also spoke at the rally.

HC summons Rajuk, BTCL bosses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday summoned the Rajuk chairman and the BTCL managing director to be present at the court on May 14 for not removing all the illegal structures on Gulshan Lake in the capital as per its earlier directive. Chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha chairman and managing director of Bangladesh Telecommunication Company Ltd would have to give their reasons before the court for failing to free the lake completely from encroachers. The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim passed the order after lawyers of Rajuk and BTCL said the task of demolition which was being carried out could not be completed. Following HC's order in January, Rajuk has evicted the slum dwellers from the lake area but has not taken any steps regarding the buildings standing there, the HC bench said, adding that the court had ordered the removal of all structures from the lake. Later on April 15, the HC directed Rajuk and BTCL to demolish all the illegal structures on Gulshan Lake within 15 days and asked to turn in a compliance report by May 2. After a report was published in the daily Prothom Alo, the court issued a suo moto order upon the authorities concerned, including Rajuk's chairman and BTCL managing director, to explain why they should not be directed to protect the lake. According to the Bengali daily, a dam of over five bighas of land was created across Gulshan Lake, dividing it in the middle. Several tin-shed houses have also been erected along the dam by claiming land ownership. AKM Saifuddin Ahmed appeared for Rajuk and Raisuddin Ahmed defended BTCL.

ASIA REGIONAL MEETING BEGINS TODAY

'Eclampsia, PPH major causes of maternal mortality'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Postpartum hemorrhage (PPH) and eclampsia are the major causes of maternal mortality in Bangladesh, said a senior secretary of the health and family welfare ministry yesterday. He said 194 women per 100,000 still die in various reasons during pre and post delivery period. Senior secretary of the ministry Humayun Kabir told a press conference at a hotel in the capital. According to a survey on maternal mortality, about 1,500 women, out of 7,500, die each year due to eclampsia while Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics 2010 shows 32 per cent women die because of excessive bleeding after

giving birth to child. USAID organised the press conference ahead of a three-day Asia Regional Meeting on Interventions for Impact in Essential Obstetric and Newborn Care begins here today. Quoting sixth Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey, the senior secretary said only 32 per cent women give birth at the hands of medically trained attendants which increase maternal mortality rate. "We want to ensure 50 per cent deliveries at the hands of skilled birth attendants by 2016," he said adding, "We are also piloting the use of Magnesium Sulphate at community level to prevent deaths from eclampsia." Underscoring the need for such

regional meeting, he said this regional meeting will help the countries share their experiences to reduce maternal mortality rate and achieve millennium development goals (MDGs). At least 275 policy makers and senior technical professionals from over 20 countries of the Asian region will attend the programme. Seventy five Bangladeshi experts will also attend the event. Health Minister AFM Ruhul Huq will inaugurate the programme this evening. Mission Director of USAID Richard Greene and Director of USAID supported Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP) Koki Agarwal were also present at the programme.

14 killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

At least 14 people were killed and 12 others were injured in road accidents in Bagerhat, Dhaka, Nilphamari, Kishoreganj and Gazipur Tuesday and yesterday. Our Bagerhat correspondent reports: A bus driver, talking over mobile phone, drove his vehicle into a parked truck at Boalia intersection in Mollarhat upazila yesterday, killing at least five people and injuring 12 others. Two of the deceased are Abdul Azia, 45, and Rabeya Begum, 45. Police said the accident left two bus passengers dead on the spot, while three of the injured succumbed to their injuries in Khulna Medical College Hospital. The other injured were taken to Mollarhat Upazila Health Complex. The injured passengers claimed that the accident occurred as the driver of the bus, who feld the crash site, was talking over mobile phone while driving. Our staff correspondent reports: A truck driver died after being run over by another truck at Pallabi Beribadh in the capital early yesterday. The deceased, Jahangir Alam, 30, was the son of Abdur Rahman of Joydevpur, Gazipur. Jahangir was coming to Gabtoli Beribadh with his empty truck early

hours of yesterday. In Rustampur Beribadh area, the truck suddenly stopped moving. As he was directing his helper to fix the problem standing beside the truck, another truck hit him from behind. Jahangir died on the spot at 3:00am yesterday. Rupnagar police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue. Police seized the truck, which hit Jahangir. Our Nilphamari correspondent reports: Four people were killed as a mini bus hit a motorbike and then a bicycle on Nilphamari-Jaldhaka road at Sindoi village of the sadar upazila yesterday. Three of the motorbike riders died on the spot. They are Tajul Islam, 42, a teacher of Jaldhaka Degree College, his sister-in-law Sabina Yeasmin Mona, 28, a teacher of a primary school in Saidpur upazila, and her daughter Momo, 6, a student of Gulshan International School Dhaka. Mofijul Islam, 32, the bicyclist, hailing from Sardar Para village of the sadar upazila, succumbed to his injuries on his way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Both the motorbike and bicycle were coming from opposite direction when the speeding Nilphamari bound bus rammed them at Singdoi Moidaner Par point.

Sub-inspector Ershadul Haque of Sadar Police Station said police recovered the bodies and seized the bus. A case was registered in this connection. Our Kishoreganj correspondent says: A Dhaka bound bus ran over two school students on Kishoreganj-Dhaka highway in the sadar upazila yesterday, killing one of them on the spot and injuring the other. The deceased, Md Noman Mia, 13, was the son of Md Hadis Mia of the upazila's Kamaliarchar village. Noman's injured friend Rubel Mia, 15, was taken to Kishoreganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. The two friends met with the bus in Binnati area while crossing road. BSS from Gazipur reports: Two motorcycle riders were killed as a speeding city bus hit the vehicle at Chandona Chourastha in Gazipur on Tuesday night. One of the victims, Altaf Hossain, 33, died on the spot, while Mohammad Ali Mondal, 34, succumbed to his wounds in Gazipur sadar hospital. Following the accident, local people barricaded the road and damaged several vehicles, suspending traffic movement for about an hour. Police said a speeding bus of "Balaka Paribahan" hit the motorcycle from behind at about 8:45pm and sped away instantly.

Tk 875 crore projects approved

Solar street lights in 7 city corporations

UNB, Dhaka

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved six development projects involving Tk 875 crore, including one to introduce solar street lighting in seven city corporations. The approval was given at a meeting of the Ecneec with its Chairperson and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. "Of the total project cost, Tk 386 crore will come from the national exchequer while the remaining amount will come in the form of project assistance," acting Planning Division Secretary Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam told reporters after the meeting. Under Solar Street Lighting Programme in City Corporation project, the Power Division will introduce solar energy-driven LED technology in the streets of seven city corporations. The project would cover a total of one thousand kilometre-long streets in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet and Rangpur city corporations. The project would be implemented during January 2012-December 2015 with a cost of Tk 317 crore. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide Tk 237 crore for the project. While making recommendations for the project, the Planning Commission said it would help spread the use of renewable energy all over the country. It is also commensurate with the Renewable Energy Policy 2008 which has fixed the renewable energy production target at 5 percent of the total energy generation by the year 2015 and 10 percent by the year 2020, the planning commission added. The Ecneec meeting approved another project with a view to expand and develop water, sanitation and drainage system in Tongi Pourashava, including Tongi Ijtema ground, with a cost of Tk 94 crore. The other projects approved at the meeting are: Installation of Off-Grid Wind-solar Hybrid System with HFO-based Engine Driven Generator in Haitiya Island; Installation of 5 MW Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) Grid-Connected Power Generation Plant at Kaptai; Establishment of Bangabandhu Textile Engineering College project, 3rd revised and Digitalisation of land survey record preparation and preservation. Planning Minister AK Khandker, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan, among others, were present at the meeting.

Razia Matin no more

BSS, Dhaka

Renowned educationist Prof Razia Matin, wife of former Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor late Prof Abdul Matin Chowdhury, died of old-age complications at Shikdar Medical College Hospital in the capital yesterday at the age of 87. Prof Razia, former principal of Dhaka University Laboratory School and College and presidium member of Bangabandhu Parishad, left behind her three sons and one daughter to mourn her death. She will be laid to rest in Banani Graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Azad Mosque of Banani. Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique condoled her death. Meanwhile, general secretary of Bangabandhu Parishad Dr S A Malek expressed his deep shock and sorrow at her death.