

NEWS IN

brief

Lecture on Rohingya refugees

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

To give the students a practical knowledge about the Rohingya refugees and their miserable condition, Chittagong University (CU) arranged a two-day lecture session on the issue of refugees on the campus yesterday.

Department of International Relation of CU organ-ised the session in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) sub-office in Chittagong.

Dirk Hebecker, head of UNHCR sub-office in Cox's Bazaar, was the key lecturer on the first day of the programme.

He talked about the origins of the Rohingya refu-gees of Bangladesh, their problems and challenges.

Fahmida Karim, an official of UNHCR Dhaka office, and Faridul Alam, chairman of International Relation department of CU, were also present at the programme.

One held with airgun, 100 pellets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a man on suspi-cion of being a criminal and seized an airgun and 100 rounds of pellets from his possession in Chittagong city on Friday night.

On information, a Rab-7 team arrested Nasir Uddin, 35, son of late Shamsul Haque of Kosba of Brahmanbaria, from Rahimafrooz CNG Filling Station area of South Halishahar, says a press release.

The arrestee was handed over to Bandar Police Station.

CU teacher suspended

BSS, Ctg

Chittagong University (CU) authorities yesterday suspended a faculty member for enjoying unapproved leave.

The suspended teacher was SM Nurul Amin, an assistant professor of Marine Sciences and Fisheries Department.

The 483rd syndicate of the university chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof Anwarul Azim Arif took the decision.

CU syndicate sources said SM Nurul Amin went to Malaysia without taking leave from the authorities last year and did not join the university despite sev-

IUB orientation held

METRO DESK

Orientation programme for the newly admitted stu-dents of Summer 2012 Semester of the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) was held at the univer-sity's Bashundhara campus in the capital yesterday.

Lima Choudhury, senior asst director, Undergraduate Admissions of IUB, conducted the function, said a press release.

IUB Vice Chancellor Prof M Omar Rahman, School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Dean Prof Nazrul Islam, School of Business Dean Prof Nadim Jahangir, School of Engineering and Computer Science Dean Prof Mohammed Anwer, School of Environmental Science and Management Dean Prof Haroun Er Rashid and Registrar Dr Tanvir A Khan addressed the programme.

Protect open spaces

Environmentalists urge govt


UNB, Dhaka

Environmentalists and sports personalities yesterday urged the government to preserve open spaces, parks and play-grounds across the capital for ensuring sound health of all, especially the children and senior citizens.

Open space is a must in each and every locality so that people can breathe in fresh air and take shelter during any earthquake, they said.

The demand came from a human chain formed in front of Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) and Subandhan Samajik Kalyan Sangathan jointly organised the programme.

Poba chairman Abu Naser, former national cricketer Javed Omar Belim, national footballer Mahhub Rahman, former footballer Abdur Rahim, Abahani captain Abu Yusuf, architect Shahin Aziz, engineer Tofail Ahmed, Subandhan president Habibur Rahman Habib, Green Mind Society president Amir Hossain, and BCHRD executive director Mahbubul Haque also spoke on the occasion. Former national cricket team captain Rakibul Hasan presided over the programme.



WEATHER
TODAY

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Mild heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Majdee Court, Rajshahi and Pabna and may it continue.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:33pm today and rises at 5:17am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 37.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 22.0 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	26.8	74	60
Chittagong	32.5	26.4	74	77
Rajshahi	37.5	24.1	79	55
Rangpur	33.6	23.5	76	70
Khulna	37.0	27.0	80	77
Barisal	34.6	27.0	75	74
Sylhet	29.5	22.9	95	73
Cox's Bazar	33.6	25.4	75	77



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addresses a rally at Chala Club playground in Gazipur yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: BNP

Govt approves 3 land projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has started approving land projects for residential and commercial use after eight years to ease the acute shortage of land and build accommodation facilities for the growing number of people in the capital.

Three projects, Notundhara of BDDL Ltd, United of Neptune, and Swarnalee of Swadesh Properties, were approved, said an official of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday.

The government approved these projects with an aim to ease land scarcity and increased demand for accom-modation in the capital, said Sheikh Abdul Mannan, member of planning at Rajuk.

More projects are in the pipeline that would be given a green signal after scrutinis-ing the proposals and legal issues, he added.

N'GANJ RAILWAY EVICTION DRIVE

50 injured as residents clash with police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

More than 50 people, including unidentified journalists and nine policemen, were injured as residents of the district town's Railway Colony area clashed with police during an eviction drive yesterday.

Police fired some 50 rubber bullets, tear gas shells and used batons to bring the situation under control. Tension swept through the entire area as it turned into a battlefield for a series of clashes and chases.

The injured policemen include Officer-in-charge Manzur Quader and two sub-inspectors of Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station.

During the drive, about 25 to 30 shops were raged to the ground with bulldozers. The eviction zone included

Nawab Sirajuddowla road and Narayanganj rail station area.

As the drive began around 10:00am, shop owners and residents resisted with sticks. They also set fire to tires and pelted the law enforcers.

Recently, the railway authorities have launched an eviction campaign to free railway land from illegal occupation.

The affected people claimed at a press conference yesterday that 42 shops and 110 dwelling houses were evicted and looted. The amount of loss was Tk 10 crore, they said.

According to the victims, the drive was conducted in violation of a High Court stay order.

Advocate Sakhawat Hossain, former general secretary of Narayanganj District Bar Association, said the High Court had issued a stay order on eviction of the

dwelling houses and shops on 47,200 square feet area on the Railway Colony.

However, Narayanganj Executive Magistrate Abdur Rauf Talukder said a notice was served on the residents of the colony and shop owners to re-lo-cate, but they had not.

Railway Divisional Estate Officer Ahmedul Kabir said the rail adminis-tration had been working to recover the grabbed land around the railway stations and on both sides of the rail lines.

Vast areas of railway land have been under illegal occupation in Narayanganj Railway Station area and in the town, he said.

According to the official, the railway quarters have been declared aban-doned much ago, and a decision has been taken to relocate the residents to



Guests hold copies of the book "Muktijuddhe Bamdhara" (Leftist Current of the Liberation War) by Mridul Guho during its launching at Chittagong Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Reckless driving kills four

METRO DESK

Four people were killed and 15 others injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj, Gaibandha and Pabna on Friday and yesterday.

Our Tangail correspondent reports: Two people were killed and 10 others injured when a bus collided with another one at Sholomile in Raiganj upazila of Sirajganj early yesterday.

The deceased were Abul Hossain, 38, a bus supervisor, and Kamrul Islam, 40, of Mirzapur municipal area.

Police said a bus of Zidan Paribahan from Dhaka collided head-on with a BRTC bus in the area at around 2:30am, leaving Abul dead on the spot. Kamrul succumbed to his injuries at Sirajganj General Hospital.

The injured were rushed to the hospital.

In Gaibandha, a worker was killed and five others were injured when a maize-laden truck fell into the river Jamuna from the bank at Balashi ferry ghat, five kilometres off the town, early hours of yesterday.

The deceased was Sirajul Huq, 55. He died on the way to hospital.

Two of the injured, Abdul Matin and Mojibar Rahman, were taken to Gaibandha Sadar Hospital.

In Pabna, Md Farid Uddin, 45, died instantly as a motorbike hit him at Mirkamari village in Ishwardi upazila on Friday night.

Religious order a must to establish HR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

State Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Quamrul Islam yesterday said existence of a proper religious tenet in the country is necessary to check the violation of human rights.

He said this while addressing as the chief guest a programme at Chittagong circuit house in the port city.

A monthly magazine titled "Manobadhikar Sangbad" (Human Rights News) was unveiled at the programme, which was organised by the magazine publishing house.

The state minister said it is also one of our major duties, in terms of religious outlook, to ensure the trial of the war criminals, though a lot of conspiracy is being hatched to thwart the trial.

Editor of the magazine Maulana Mohammed Abed Ali presided over the programme.

Int'l Mother's Day today

BSS, Dhaka

The "International Mother's Day" will be celebrated in the country as elsewhere in the world today.

The day is aimed at honouring mothers and celebrating motherhood, maternal bonds and the influence of mothers in society.

It is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in March, April, or May. In Bangladesh, Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of the month of May.

On this day, people wish their mothers with "Mother's Day" gifts along with organising various programmes showing their deep respect to their mothers and honouring their contributions to society as well.

Different government, non-government and socio-cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day. The programmes include holding discussion, reception and cultural programmes in the capital.

Television channels are scheduled to telecast special programmes and national dailies to publish special features and articles highlighting the significance of the day.

Besides, different fashion houses have brought special products in the markets ahead of the day considering their high demands as people used to give "Sarees" to their moms as "Mother's Day" gift.

Bangladesh Shilpa Sahitya and Sangskritik Parishad will organise a discussion on Poet Kushum Kumari and Poet Sufia Kamal today on the occasion of "International Mother's Day".

Awami League Advisory Council Member Amir Hossain Amu will join the function as the chief guest at National

Journo leaders, editors, private TV chiefs to exchange views today

UNB, Dhaka

A views exchange meeting between the newspaper editors and chiefs of elec-tronic media and journalist leaders will be held at Jatiya Press Club at 11:00am today (Sunday).

The meeting has been organised to make the journalist's May 15 sit-in programme a success, said a press release.

Journalists will hold the sit-in in front of the home ministry on Tuesday demanding arrest of the killers of journalists, includ-ing that of Sagor Sarowar and Meherun Runi.

The programme is also aimed at pressing for ensuring the safety of jour-nalists when they dis-charge their professional duties and protecting the freedom of the mass media.

Leaders of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) and Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) requested the editors and electronic media chiefs to attend the meeting.

YUNUS, FAZLE HASAN Dilip Barua's remarks condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) Secretary General Maj (ret'd) Abdul Mannan yester-day strongly condemned Industries Minister Dilip Barua's remarks about Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and Brac Chairperson Sir Fazle Hasan Abed.

Dilip on Friday criticised the duo for pointing out the importance of the caretaker government (CG) system to US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and urged them to check their popular-ity in politics before talking on the caretaker govern-ment issue.

In a statement, Mannan said the comment regarding the two 'eminent personal-ities' was 'unexpected' and 'ill-mannered'.

"Although Dilip is a veteran politician, he has no record of winning any elec-tion. He has been appointed minister under technocrat quota. A person, who is failed to check his own popularity, is not befit to give such an advice."

"I think, those two emi-nent persons have not done any wrong talk on favour of the country and country-men," said Mannan.

He also suggested Dilip to remain alert in making any comment regarding the country's eminent personal-ities in future.

Body found floating in ditch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A hacked body of an unidentified man was found floating in a ditch at Kadamtali in the capital yesterday.

On information, police recovered the body from the ditch at Sarai Masjid Road in the area around 11:30am, said Al-Mamun, sub-inspector of Kadamtali Police Station.

Both legs of the body were severed while a deep mark of stab injury was found around the neck, said police.

A sack was also found floating near the body in the pond.

Police suspect that unidentified assailants stashed the body into the sack and threw it into the pond.

Police could not know identity of the man and sent the body to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy.