

NEWS IN *brief*

20 thatched houses gutted in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Twenty thatched houses were gutted in a fire in South Kashimpur area under Karnaphuli Police Station of Chittagong city early hours yesterday.

Agrabad fire officials estimated the loss at about Tk 5 lakh. The fire was originated from the stove of a house and soon caught the adjacent ones, they said.

One fire fighting unit from Lama fire station doused the flames in two hours.

MCJ alumni to publish book on Prof Nuruddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former students of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ) of Dhaka University will publish a memorial book on Prof QAIM Nuruddin, one of the founders of the department, says a press release.

The book will enclose his life sketch and published and unpublished writings.

Friends, relatives, students, well wishers and family members have been requested to send their writings and related information on the life and works of Prof Nuruddin to hh1971@gmail.com

Sottorer Bondhura (friends of the '70s), an association of MCJ department alumni, took the decision at its May 19 meeting at TSC. Liakot Ali Khan, Alamgir Hossain, Anupam Hayat, AHM Kahir Sah, Abdul Hafiz Dewan, Johurul Islam Khan, Khalilur Rahman and Abdur Rahman also were present.

Cuet gets int'l body membership

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) has earned the membership of International Forum On Strategic Technology (IFOST), an international research organisation, by recently signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with it.

The arrangements enable Cuet's engagements in IFOST's students and teachers exchange programmes and joint research initiatives with other member institutions.

With the accession of Cuet, the research organisation is now a network of 11 universities across eight countries.

Cuet Registrar Engineer Md Shafikul Islam and Professor of University of Usulan Chong Ui Pil signed the agreement as the representatives of the two parties at Cuet premises.

Sit-in at RU for loan facilities

RU CORRESPONDENT

Over hundred employees of Rajshahi University staged sit-in programme before Agrani Bank office on the campus yesterday demanding loan facilities to them.

Sources said on May 2, an agreement was signed between officer-employees of the university and the bank authorities to give 10 years long service loan facilities to them with 8 per cent interest.

But the bank authorities are yet to implement the deal. RU Employees Union President Abdul Aziz Kiron and its General Secretary Akkas Ali also spoke at the programme.

1,600 Yaba tablets seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Narcotics Control Department handed over two people to Kotwali Police Station on Sunday after detaining them with 1,600 Yaba tablets from Chittagong city.

The detainees are Wahidul Murad Chowdhury, 30, and Mobinul Islam, 24, hailing from Satkania upazila.

On a tip, a team from the department, disguised as drug dealers, conducted a drive at Diamond Residential Hotel at New Market area at around 8:00pm and nabbed the duo with 1,500 Yaba tablets.

On information from the duo, the team raided a house at Jalsha Market and seized 100 more tablets.



People from all walks of life pay their last tributes to eminent painter and printmaker Safiuddin Ahmed at Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday. He passed away from old age complications at Square Hospital on Sunday at the age of 90.

PHOTO: STAR

Tech-run dev process to collapse

Warns naturalist Dwijen Swarna at exhibition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The development process, which is driven by technology and neglects nature, will collapse, renowned naturalist Dwijen Swarna warned yesterday.

"The development plan being implemented now is borrowed from the western colonialists and is separating us from the nature," said Swarna, also a nature writer, at the inaugural of a three-day exhibition.

Bangladesh Resource Center for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK) is organising it at Drik Gallery in the capital. The exhibition titled "Uncultivated food, local rice varieties and rural food-biodiversity of

Bangladesh" will remain open from 9:00am to 8:00pm.

Over 500 indigenous rice varieties, 250 vegetables, fruits and traditional social and cultural motifs collected from different parts of the country are being exhibited.

Dwijen Swarna said leaders of the tropical part of the world, including Mahatma Gandhi, wanted development where human and nature will live hand in hand. However, after the Second World War, the western colonialists imposed a development paradigm that is dependent on technology and destructive to the nature, he said.

"I am frustrated about the future of the human race with such techno-

logical development and destruction of ecology," he said, expecting that the authorities will take lesson from the consequences.

Mokaram Hossain, a nature writer, said Bangladesh is gradually losing its indigenous rice, fruits, vegetable varieties and trees. "Instead, we see many alien trees that are not suitable for this land," he said.

Now there are so many trees Eucalyptus and Acacia - in each and every corner of the country. These are causing loss of natural balance, he said, adding that adequate research should be done before planting alien trees.

Sujit Chowdhury, advisor on climate change from German Embassy-

Dhaka, said ecological degradation is so widespread in Bangladesh that there must be strong movements, including in the political parties, to preserve the nature.

"Otherwise, this country will not sustain," he said, adding that Germany is a leading partner in mitigating climate change challenges. Germany will stand by Bangladesh in its efforts to tackle climate change impacts, he added.

Sukanta Sen, executive director of BARCIK, said they have been trying to create awareness on protection of the country's biodiversity for long, and the exhibition was part of it.



Visitors observe indigenous rice varieties, vegetables and fruits and traditional social and cultural motifs collected from different parts of the country at a three-day-long exhibition that began at Drik Gallery in the capital yesterday. Bangladesh Resource Center for Indigenous Knowledge (BARCIK) organised the exhibition styled 'Exhibition on uncultivated food, local rice varieties and rural food-biodiversity of Bangladesh.'

PHOTO: STAR

Pro-BNP-Jamaat panel sweeps DU syndicate election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The pro-BNP-Jamaat White panel teachers swept the Dhaka University syndicate election for the 2012-14 sessions yesterday, bagging posts of five categories.

The election to the sixth category, dean, will be held later this year as two faculty deans, the posts of which were vacant, were elected just yesterday.

The winners are Mohammad Lutfar Rahman (provost), Dr Tasmeri SA Islam (professor), Dr Mohammad Moinul Islam (associate professor), Dr Hasanuzzaman (assistant professor) and Mazharul Anwar (lecturer).

In the academic council election, however, the pro-Awami League Blue panel won four out of six posts. The Blue panel winners are associate professors Sheikh Hafizur Rahman, Chandranath Paddar, Tazin Aziz Chowdhury and Muhammad Mainul Karim and Assistant Prof Suriya Begum.

Associate professors Dr Md Mainul Karim and Md Abdus Salam of the White panel won the remaining two posts.

In the lone post of the finance committee election, Dr ABM Shahidul Islam of White panel won.

Meanwhile, Prof ABM Farooq was elected dean of the pharmacy faculty while Prof Shahida Rafiq was elected dean of the engineering and technology faculty for 2011-2012 sessions yesterday.

The elections, held at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan, were held from 10:00am to 1:00am where 1,227 out of 1,359 teachers cast their votes to represent them in the university syndicate. The result was announced at around 5:00pm.

Bangladesh protests BSF killing

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has strongly protested the killing of an unarmed Bangladeshi national by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in Chapainawabganj on May 16 and called for immediate effective action to prevent such incidents from recurring in future.

In a statement, the foreign ministry said Durul Islam, 38, son of Afzal Hossain of Azmatpur Hudmapara village in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj district, was killed by BSF from Sasaki camp.

It said Durul Islam received bullet wounds when BSF opened fire while inspecting his own maize field. Durul Islam succumbed to the bullet wounds on the day.

In another incident, Bangladeshi national Faruk Ali died as a result of firing by BSF men in the same area on April 14, said the foreign ministry.

Following continuation of such killing by BSF, the foreign ministry recalled the firm commitments from the Indian authorities as well as the Indian leadership to put an end to such acts of violence.

The foreign ministry asked the authorities concerned of India to conduct an inquiry into the incidents of killing and take appropriate action against the BSF personnel responsible for such deplorable acts.

It also called for immediate effective action to prevent such incidents from recurring in future.

PALACE GRABBING BY JUDGE

HC orders probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the law secretary to investigate into the allegations against a joint district judge and three others of occupying "a former Hindu zamindar's palace" at Nawabganj in Dhaka.

During hearing on a rule, the court also asked the secretary to submit the enquiry report before it within a month.

The HC issued the suo moto rule on May 10 following a report published in the Daily Sun under the headline "Zamindar palace is judge's palace now!"

The four reportedly involved in grabbing the palace are- Abul Hossain Khandaker, the then joint district judge of Feni, who is now attached to the ministry of law, his brothers Abul Kalam Khandaker, and Khandaker Abu Ashfaq, also a local BNP leader and chairman of the upazila and their uncle Khandaker Abul Hashem.

Earlier, Abul Hossain Khandaker was promoted as an additional district judge once but the government demoted him after receiving some allegations, Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, a high official of the law ministry requesting anonymity said that Abul

Hossain Khandaker is now attached to the ministry as Officer on Special Duty (OSD).

However, departmental proceedings are going on against him on different allegations, he added.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim yesterday set July 10 to pass further orders on this matter and directed the four accused to appear before it on July 8.

The four had appeared before the HC yesterday in this connection yesterday as per its earlier order.

According to the news report, an influential local family has allegedly occupied the magnificent palace of a former Hindu zamindar at Kolakopa under Nawabganj upazila.

Built during the British rule on several acres of land, the palace now has "Joj bari (judge's house) engraved on its entrance wall, the report stated.

The property of Madhusudan Roy, Shyamal Roy, Kanailal Saha and Harmohan Saha was declared vested property and a total of 20.6 acres of land was leased out to Ansar Academy in 1979 and 1981.

However, a section of unscrupulous people grabbed a portion of the property along with the beautiful palace, the report added.

Prisoners take Sylhet jail guard hostage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A group of inmates of Sylhet Central Jail yesterday held a jail guard hostage for about two hours protesting irregularities in the prison including sub-standard food supply.

The inmates held Subedar Yousuf at knife point and demanded of the jail officials to arrange a meeting with Sylhet Deputy Commissioner Khan Mohammad Belal and National Human Rights Commission Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman.

Yousuf was freed after a scuffle between inmates and jail staff that left 3 prisoners and 6 staff members injured.

Shahidul Alam, additional district magistrate, confirmed the incident.

A three-member probe committee has been formed to investigate the incident.

Implement budgetary allocation for women

Urge two rights bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two women's rights organisations yesterday urged the government to properly implement the budgetary allocation for women to turn them into skilled human resources in the science, technology and mass communication sectors.

Addressing a press conference, they also demanded an increase in the budgetary allocation for these sectors in the 2012-13 fiscal.

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) and UN Women jointly organised the press conference. "We want substantial allocation to ensure participation of women in science, information and technology", at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

BNPS Director Omar Tarek Chowdhury read out a 19-point recommendation at the conference, where its Executive Director Rokeya Kabir also spoke.

Quoting the finance ministry's "Gender Budgeting Report, 2011-12", he said around 20 per cent of the budgetary allocation for the information and communication technology ministry was meant for the benefit of women.

But according to a survey, women at the field level did not benefit from the ministry's gender sensitive projects, he said. Tarek Chowdhury called upon the government to widen opportunities for women so that they can avail education and training to benefit from the budgetary allocation.

He also urged the government to formulate provisions making it mandatory for media houses to keep a 50 per cent job quota for women.



Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over Khulna and Barisal divisions and the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Tangail and Faridpur and it may continue. Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:37pm today and rises at 5:13am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 38.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and lowest 23.2 degrees Celsius at Jessore.

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	35.5	26.4	60	50
Chittagong	33.0	26.6	76	76
Rajshahi	38.2	24.9	55	49
Rangpur	34.8	25.4	69	69
Khulna	38.5	25.0	67	60
Barisal	36.5	25.0	63	63
Sylhet	33.2	24.8	71	68
Cox's Bazar	34.0	27.0	77	76