

NEWS IN *brief*

Manju meets Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of Jatiya Party (JP-Manju) called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

JP President Anwar Hossain Manju and Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam led the nine-member delegation.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said during the meeting they discussed the latest political and economic situation.

The JP leaders told the premier that they would work together for the continuation of democracy in the country.

Bus supervisor finds tragic end

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supervisor of a bus was crushed under its wheels at Pallabi in the capital yesterday.

The deceased was Monir Shikdar, 31, supervisor of an ENA Paribahan bus that was under-repair with faulty engine.

ENA Paribahan sources said the bus was taken to a garage in Mirpur-12 where the incident happened.

The engine mechanic, who was trying to start the bus, failed to control the bus after it started, thus hitting into Monir around 6:00am.

Monir was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Inu for dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) yesterday stressed on holding an all party dialogue to find an 'alternative mechanism' for holding free and fair elections.

This is the only way to resolve the ongoing political deadlock centering the debate on the caretaker government system, said Hasanul Haq Inu, chief of JSD, a component of ruling AL-led alliance.

He was speaking at a press conference at the Jatiya Sangsad Media Centre in the capital.

He, however, said the caretaker government system cannot be restored after the High Court verdict on it.

"The opposition party can suggest a model on the alternative system," said Inu, also chief of the parliamentary standing committee on post and telecommunication ministry.



People from all walks of life pay last tributes to noted economist and leading civil society member Prof Muzaffer Ahmad at Dhanmondi Shahi Edgah ground in the capital yesterday. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: STAR

Remain alert against undemocratic power capture, PM tells professionals

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for the continuation of democratic process in the country and urged all to remain vigilant so that no one can capture power in the future through undemocratic means.

"Now we'll have to take a decision. We carried out movements on many occasions in the past to restore democracy and we've been able to do that. But, democracy faced setbacks several times and you'll have to remain vigilant so that no one could take power in any undemocratic way in the future," she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing the newly-elected central executive committee of Professionals Coordination Council at her office.

Council President Justice AFM Mesbahuddin led the delegation.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters after the meeting.

Hasina said where there is continuation of democratic process there is development.

She said the five-year rule of BNP-Jamaat alliance government and the successive two-year tyrannical period in the name of caretaker government left behind a trail of corruption and mismanagement in the country.

She mentioned that the caretaker government oppressed many teachers, students, businessmen and politicians and filed cases against them.

Mentioning that there has been no delay in holding the trial of war criminals, the premier called upon

all, including the professionals, to remain united as ill-efforts are on to protect the war criminals.

She also expressed her strong resolve that democratic process would continue in Bangladesh alongside the efforts to make it a prosperous country.

She also urged the professionals to help publicise the development activities of the government as their working field was very vast.

Hasina mentioned that her government was doing very well compared to many other countries despite the global economic 'recession'.

Turning to BDR mutiny, she said the trial of the mutiny was being held and many of the accused had already been punished although there was a record number of

accused.

"The trial of all other sensitive cases like 10-truck arms haul case and August 21 grenade attack case would certainly be held to establish the rule of law in the country," she added.

The premier mentioned that through the 15th amendment to the constitution, the spirit of the War of Liberation had been restored, people's empowerment ensured and the scope of grabbing state power by undemocratic forces plugged.

Professionals Coordination Council Secretary General Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan, Buet Vice Chancellor Prof Nazrul Islam, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, also spoke on the occasion.

SOUTH KOREA Bangladeshi workers to enjoy re-employment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Korea will facilitate re-employment for a period of four years and ten months to the Bangladeshi workers who do not overstay illegally and return back to their homeland on completion of their job contracts in South Korea, said a press release of the South Korean Embassy in Dhaka.

This special facility will be given as per the Employment Permit Scheme of South Korea.

Under the earlier Industrial Trainee System of the country, a Bangladeshi worker could work under a company for three years and be re-employed for three more years.

"Those who return home after completion of their stipulated period will be considered honest and sincere workers and will be awarded through re-employment in the same companies. Korea is going to frame a law in this regard," the press release said.

'Encourage women into driving profession'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women can do better than men in the driving profession as females are more cautious while driving, said Communications and Railways Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday.

He said females do not smoke, talk over mobile phones or overtake while driving. So they should be encouraged to join the driving profession, which can be a respectable job for them.

He was addressing as chief guest the launching programme of a Brac driving school, an initiative of Brac's road safety programme, at Uttara in the capital.

Considering the dismal state of drivers training in the country, National Road Safety Council decided that the Bangladesh Army, Brac and Accident Research Institute of Buet, in collaboration with Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, will train the driving instructors and provide road safety training to in-service drivers, says a Brac press release.

Brac Executive Director Dr Mahub Hossain and actor Ilias Kanchan also spoke.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Severe heat wave is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Jessore and Kushtia regions and mild to moderate heat wave over rest of Rajshahi and Khulna divisions and the regions of Faridpur, Dinajpur and Sayerpur and it may continue.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:38pm today and rises at 5:12am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 41.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 22.5 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	35.8	29.2	73	67
Chittagong	33.0	27.1	80	77
Rajshahi	41.0	29.0	75	44
Rangpur	35.0	24.5	75	75
Khulna	38.2	28.5	77	75
Barisal	35.4	28.5	77	71

Two shot in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A security guard and a woman were shot by two unidentified miscreants in the capital's Wari yesterday.

The injured were Mridul Mia, 30, security guard of an under-construction building near Joy Kali Mandir, and pedestrian Nargis Sultana, 35.

The miscreants, riding on a motorcycle, fired several rounds of bullets at the office of a satellite channel service provider BDS Cable Network around 7:30pm, said police and eyewitnesses.

Mridul, who was staying beside the office, was shot in his chest while Nargis in her legs. Some windows of the office were also shattered.

Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Wari Police Station, said the incident of shooting occurred following feud among cable operators.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the newly-elected central executive committee members of Professionals Coordination Council at her office yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

CHILD DROWNING

A leading killer, yet unrecognised: Unicef

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although drowning is emerging as a leading killer of children in Bangladesh, it has remained undetected as a significant health issue, says a new Unicef report.

One of every four children between one and four years dies from drowning in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand, it shows.

More children drown than die of diseases like measles, polio, whooping cough, tetanus, diphtheria and tuberculosis combined in the four countries, which were surveyed for the report.

"For too long drowning has been

a hidden epidemic", said Gordon Alexander, director of Unicef's Office of Research, which jointly conducted the study with The Alliance for Safe Children (TASC).

"Drowning is emerging as a leading cause of death for children in the surveyed countries. And yet drowning is off the political radar".

Adequate supervision and swimming lessons can significantly reduce child drowning, suggests the report, "Child Drowning: Evidence for a newly recognised epidemic and its prevention", which has been published recently.

The vast majority of drowning

deaths are preventable, as they tend to occur within 20 metres of the home, when unsupervised children wander off and fall into local water hazards.

The report includes new evidence into prevention interventions in an operational research programme in Bangladesh, which shows 80 percent of the deaths were reduced when poor village women leave their children at village crèches when at work.

Another 90 percent death rate was slashed for children four years and older, who participated in SwimSafe (swimming and safe rescue training) programme.

"This report makes clear that

there is a serious--and until now, hidden--problem in the countries surveyed", said Gordon Alexander. "It also provides evidence of affordable interventions that can save hundreds of thousands of children's lives. We must now act where we have the evidence".

The report claims that the actual drowning death toll in Bangladesh is higher than is reported, as drowning causes immediate death mostly, and children who drown are never taken to health facilities whereas the figures rely on reports from hospitals and health facilities.

Come & Visit

Malaysia 2012

Tourism, Education, Healthcare, 2nd Home Programme, Property and More....

Enjoy exotic Malaysian Dance & Demonstrations at 4 pm and 6 pm every day

Entry Free For All

Date : May 24-26, 2012
Venue : Ball Room, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel
Time : 10 am to 8 pm

Attractive Raffle Prizes for the visitors including Airtickets to KL and free hotels

Organised by: HIGH COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA, DHAKA

In collaboration with: Malaysia, Healthcare

Title Sponsor: TEEMS

Event Manager: Rabi

আপনার কষ্টার্জিত অর্থের বিনিয়োগ নিরাপদ ও ঝুঁকিমুক্ত করার জন্য শেল্টেক্ বসতি মেলা ২০১২-এর

১৫% Discount অফার পুরো May মাস জুড়ে বলবৎ থাকবে।

Luxurious Apartments

@ Dhanmondi
Size : 1625 - 2400 sft.

Banani

Size : 1685 & 1780 sft.

Sheltech Tower : 55, Bir Uttam Gazi Nuruzzaman Road (West Panthapath), Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh

01713-091702
01713-091706

01713-091704
01713-091724

01713-091705
01713-091749

শেল্টেক্ SHELTECH