

NEWS IN *brief*

Int'l conf on S Asia water resources next January

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day international conference on South Asia's water resources will be held in Dhaka on January 4-5, 2013, says a press release.

The conference aims, among others, at assessing multi-national and co-operational water management based on the necessity and prospect of Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM) basin.

The conference titled "Water Resources of South Asia: Conflict to Cooperation" will jointly be hosted by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Bangladesh Paribesh Network (BEN).

The last date of sending articles for the conference is September 31, while July 31 is the last date for sending one page abstract of the proposed article.

Bangladeshis can send their articles to Prof Feroze Ahmed, department of civil engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology (Buet), Dhaka, or to fahmed@ce.buet.ac.bd

For expatriates and foreign nationals, the contact address is Prof Mohamed Khalequzzaman, department of Geology, Lock Haven University

Body recovered from railway track

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Jamalpur Railway Police recovered the body of an unidentified youth from the railway track in Joyrampur area of the sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The police said local people found the mutilated body on the railway track between Jamalpur-Nandina railway station.

The youth, wearing lungi and T-shirt, might have been crushed under train at night, they added.

Human chain for saving church land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Christian mission Juba Samity of Sylhet yesterday formed a human chain in front of Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar demanding that the land of Sylhet Presbyterian Church be saved from land grabbers.

They alleged that some leaders of the Christian community are trying to sell the land attached to the church in the city's Nayasarak area to developers.

They threatened further agitation if their demand is not met.

The samity President Andrio Das and General

Abductor sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man, who allegedly abducted his nephew on Sunday in Chittagong, was sent to jail yesterday.

Kamrul Islam, sub-inspector of Panchlaish Police Station, said a Chittagong court rejected their remand prayer and sent Ershad Hossain to jail.

On Sunday, Sajidur Rahman Sajid, a student of class IX of Sermon Pre-Cadet School and College, was on his way to school when his maternal uncle Ershad kidnapped him.

Police rescued him and arrested Ershad the fol-



A boy pours water on his mother's head after she fell unconscious on the footpath due to the scorching heat in Mohammadpur area of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HIZB-UT-TAHRIR VCs to curb spread

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will ask vice chancellors of public and private universities to check proliferation of militancy in universities as banned militant outfit Hizb-ut-Tahrir is trying to recruit university students and teachers.

The decision was taken yesterday at an inter-ministerial meeting of the government committee on militancy resistance and prevention held at the home ministry in the capital.

The government has intelligence information that militant outfit Hizb-ut-Tahrir is trying to create operatives in universities while another outlawed militant organisation Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) in rural areas, a source in the meeting said.

After the meeting, State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku told reporters that they decided to issue a directive to all Imams of mosques across the country to discuss about

the negative impact of militancy before delivering sermon at Juma prayers.

For this the government committee will seek help from Islamic Foundation and the education ministry will assist in creating anti-militancy awareness in academic institutions across the country, he said.

Tuku said the government has taken a massive task involving deputy commissioners, superintendents of police, local public representatives and people from other walks of life to hold regular meetings at district and upazila levels to create awareness among common people against militancy.

The government committee will also issue request letters to all lawmakers to co-ordinate anti-militancy activity in their constituencies, he said.

Shamsul Haque Tuku presided over the meeting, which was attended by representatives from information, finance, and education

GHORASHAL POWER PLANT Rehab project okayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cabinet Committee on Purchase yesterday approved the rehabilitation of Ghorashal 210 megawatt power plant at a cost of Tk 187.5 crore.

It also approved 9 other purchasing proposals at a meeting chaired by Finance Minister AMA Muhith at the Cabinet Division of the secretariat in the capital.

The Ghorashal power plant was commissioned in 1999, but its production stopped in July, 2010 owing to an accident.

The rehabilitation work of the plant was awarded to M/s Management Company "IED Holding" LLC, Russia, said Cabinet Division officials.

The committee also approved a proposal for increasing spending on Kashiani-Gopalganj-Tungipara new rail line construction, costing Tk 34.8 crore more than the original contract value, they said.

Besides, it gave nod to three proposals of the health ministry to purchase family planning materials, including 15 crore pieces of low dose birth control pills, at a cost of Tk 237 crore, the officials said.

The committee also approved four proposals of the local government division that included appointment of two consultancy firms under City Region Development Project financed by the Asian Development Bank, they added.

Workshop against child marriage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday emphasised the need for raising awareness on the dangers of early marriage and pregnancy as it increases mortality risk of both mother and child.

"Early marriage and pregnancy at a transition period from a child to a woman pose both physical and psychological challenge to a girl, since she has to play three roles -- child, teenager and mother -- all at the same time," said Md Abdul Waheed Akanda, chief of Bureau of Health Education (BHE).

He was addressing a disseminating workshop titled "Health Education Intervention on Adolescent Reproductive Health among the School Students" organised by BHE at the Institute of Public Health in the capital.

"More than 75 percent girls are married off before they reach the age of 18 and most of them conceive before that age," said Prof Khandaker Md Shafayet Ullah, director general of Health Services.

"Bangladesh made a breakthrough in raising awareness about some health issues like vaccination for children. Now attention should be paid to high mortality rate of children and mothers," he said, adding that if public consciousness is raised about the issue then it is possible to lower the mortality rate.

Referring to the importance of communication for dissemination of health knowledge, Prof Abdus Salam, lecturer of Department of Mass Communication of Dhaka University, said, "Communication is the first dose of immunisation."

Dr Moti Uddin Ahmed, director (Admin) of Health Services, Dr Shah Newaj, director (Planning and Research) of Health Services, spoke among others.



Hill Women's Federation forms a human chain near Shahbagh intersection in the capital, protesting abduction of Kalpana Chakma, a progressive leader of the association, on the 16th anniversary of the incident yesterday. On the day in 1996, Kalpana was kidnapped from her house in Baghaichhari upazila in Rangamati.

PHOTO: STAR

JU students march for congenial atmosphere

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) students teamed as 'Santrasher Biruddhe Jahangirnagar' yesterday brought out a protest procession on campus to press for their four-point demand including immediate polls to the JU Central Students' Union.

The other demands are taking proper steps to free JU dormitories from criminal activities and ensuring security of students, immediate trial of murderers of Zubair Ahmed, an English department student who died in a factional clash of Bangladesh Chhatra League on the campus on January 9 this year, and punishment of the culprits who attacked cultural activists during agitation against irregularities of the university's former vice-chancellor Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir on April 28.

Starting from Amar Equishey premises, the procession ended at the Shaheed Minar followed by a rally.

Later, the students handed over a memorandum to Vice-Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain.

Speakers at the rally said tougher movements would be called if their demands were not met.

Sowmit Chanda Joydip, president of Bangladesh Student Union JU unit, Md Fiaz Sharif vice-president of JU Sangskritik Jote, Samjir Ahmed of Bangla Forum and Atia Ferdousi, addressed the rally among others.

Meanwhile, JU authority on Monday formed a new committee to investigate the attack on the cultural activists, as the probe body formed during the former VC's tenure showed no progress.

Archaeology Department's Prof Sufi Mustafizur Rahman

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Ministry of Commerce, UNESCAP and ICC Bangladesh will organise a seminar; Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel; Time: 10:00am.

Budget discussion
Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka and Policy Research Institute will arrange a discussion on budget; Venue: MCCI Conference Hall, Motijheel; Time: 12:00 noon.

Roundtable
Nagorik Forum will organise a roundtable; Venue: Diploma Engineers Institute, Bankers Hall; Time: 4:00pm.

Human chain
Jatiya Garments Sramik Oikya Andolon will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion
Prakton Chhatra League Foundation will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Human chain
Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club;

WEATHER TODAY

Rain or thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over Sylhet division, the Met Offices said.

Mild heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and the region of Rajshahi and it may continue.

Day and night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The highest maximum temperature is likely to be 37-38 degree Celsius and lowest minimum temperature may be 22-23 degree Celsius.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:47pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11am.

Country's highest temperature 37.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and lowest 23.5 degrees 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	35.5	28.6	70	63
Chittagong	33.3	27.1	69	75
Rajshahi	36.8	25.6	77	68
Rangpur	34.1	25.2	90	67
Khulna	37.2	28.5	78	70
Barisal	35.5	28.2	74	74

9 killed, 39 hurt in road accidents

METRO DESK

Nine people were killed and at least 39 others injured in separate road accidents in Noakhali, Brahmanbaria, Chittagong and Rajbari yesterday.

Our Noakhali correspondent reports: Five people were killed as a bus rammmed a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on Laxmipur-Choumuhani road in Zirtoli Darogarastar Matha area of Begumganj upazila yesterday afternoon.

The victims are Saleh Ahmed, 36, Yasin, 25, Anwar Hossain, 25, Nargis Akter, 21, and Babu, 25.

Police said a passenger bus of Ananda Paribahan hit an auto-rickshaw from the opposite direction in the area around 1:00pm, killing the five.

Following the accident, agitating people blocked the road for two hours.

In Brahmanbaria, a woman was killed and at least 30 people were injured when a bus fell into a ditch beside Brahmanbaria-Akhaura road at Chinair village in the sadar upazila yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a bus carrying over 40 passengers plunged into a roadside ditch at Chinair turning point as its driver lost control over the steering.

Twenty three injured were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital while the rest seven to Akhaura Upazila Health Complex and other private clinics.

BSS from Chittagong says, two died as a truck hit their motorbike before Amin centre in Lal Khan Bazar area of the city yesterday.

Enamul Haque, 30, died instantly while Alamgir Hossain at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Our Chittagong correspondent adds, Md Borhan, 40, died instantly and two others got injured as a pick-up van hit another vehicle on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Banshbaria Bazar area of Shitakunda upazila in the early hours of yesterday.

Injured Gazi Nurul Alam, 38 and Baharuddin, 45, were rushed to the upazila health complex.

In Rajbari, at least seven people were injured as a bus hit a three-wheeler on Daulatdia-Khulna highway in Goaland Feed Mill area yesterday morning.

Injured Shamim, Kader, Saddam, Sujon, Kuti Bibi, Jannatul Ferdousy and her husband Zia, were taken to Goaland Upazila Health Complex.

Later, Jannatul Ferdousy, Saddam and Sujon were referred to Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

UK IMMIGRATION Major overhaul in family migration

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UK government has announced a major overhaul of family migration policy, under which foreign criminals will no longer be able to stay in Britain by arguing their "right to family life".

The new family migration policy will help stop foreign criminals hiding behind human rights laws to avoid deportation and ensure that only migrants who can support themselves financially may establish their family life in the UK, a press release of the British High Commission said yesterday.

British Home Minister Theresa May said judges must stop blocking the deportation of foreign criminals from Britain because the right to family life is "not absolute".

"The changes are intended to increase integration, tackle abuse of family migration, and reduce pressure on public services", the release said, adding that most of these changes would come into force from July 9, 2012.

The new UK immigration rules will mean deportation should become the normal consequence for anyone receiving

a custodial sentence of at least 12 months.

For criminals jailed for more than four years, the public interest in removal will outweigh the right to private and family life in all but the most exceptional circumstances.

For the first time UK Parliament will have a debate, scheduled for June 19, on what level of criminal behaviour should outweigh human rights claims from foreign offenders.

The British home minister said, "It is unacceptable that foreign nationals whose criminal behaviour undermines our way of life can use weak human rights claims to dodge deportation."

"We want these new rules to make it clear when the rights of the law abiding majority will outweigh a foreign criminal's right to family and private life. By voting on this in the House of Commons, Parliament will define for the first time where the balance should lie."

According to Home Office figures, last year 185 foreign prisoners successfully appealed against deportation after citing the right to family life.