

NEWS IN *brief*

UGC approves new budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University Grants Commission (UGC) yesterday approved a budget of Tk 1,455.73 crore for 2012-2013 fiscal.

Of the total, Tk 1,440.78 crore would be spent for the country's public universities and the remaining Tk 14.95 crore for the UGC, said a press release.

The UGC approved the budget in its 127th Full Commission meeting chaired by its Chairman Prof Dr AK Azad Chowdhury at the UGC Bhaban in the capital.

Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, UGC members and vice chancellors of different public universities attended the meeting.

Ctg Samity to greet GPA-5 scorers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chattagram Samity, Dhaka will accord a reception to the children of life members of the Samity who scored GPA-5 in SSC, Vocational and Dakhil examinations this year.

The reception programme will be held on July 1.

The Samity's education and library secretary Kaikobad Osmany has requested the GPA-5 scorers to send two copies of photographs, attested photo copies of their mark sheets, and photo copies of life membership ID cards of their parents by June 24.

The address of sending the documents is -- General Secretary, Chattagram Samity, Dhaka 32, Topkhana Road, Chattagram Bhaban, Dhaka-1000.



Bangladesh Coast Guard and Border Guard Bangladesh members push back Myanmar citizens, fleeing sectarian violence in the neighbouring country, after providing them with food near Shah Porir Dweep yesterday. The influx of these refugees had ceased for the last two or three days but again regained momentum yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

CTG SHRINE LOOT IO submits report on Zulfiqar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday submitted to a Chittagong court the interrogation report on Lt Col (sacked) Zulfiqar Ali Majumder, a former Rab-7 commanding officer, for his alleged involvement in robbing Tk 2.07 crore from a Chittagong shrine last year.

Investigation officer of the case, Abdus Samad submitted the report to Chittagong Judicial Magistrate Court and prayed for a five-day remand.

On June 7, a Chittagong court rejected a seven-day remand prayer and permitted to interrogate Zulfiqar inside jail for five days.

On November 4, 2011, Rab-7 members, including Zulfiqar, allegedly entered the Talsara Darbar Sharif in Anwara upazila, kept Pir (spiritual leader) Ahammed Safa Shah hostage at gun-point, broke into three cupboards and looted the cash.

Housewife arrested for torturing domestic help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) rescued an eight-year-old female domestic help from a flat in the capital's Uttara who was allegedly tortured by her employer.

Acting on a tip-off from National Human Rights Commission Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman, a team of Rab rescued her around 1:30pm from sector-13. It also arrested housewife Salma Akhter, 40, wife of Mostufa Zaman, a contractor of Rajuk.

Sathi was produced before a press conference at the Rab headquarters in Uttara soon after she was rescued. She showed marks of burn injuries in her body, marks of beatings in legs, hands and shoulders.

She said, "Some days before aunty [the housewife] called me to the kitchen to do some works but I didn't hear her words from the balcony. So she beat me with hot spatula confining in the kitchen."

"Every day she beat me when I said I am tired," she added.

When asked Sathi said her father Kalam Khan of Barisal and mother, a garment worker, left her to the house three months back.

Salma, at the press conference, said she sometimes slapped the kid but did not beat her up severely with spatula or other objects.

"I confess that I have slapped her once or twice. But I have no idea how she has made those bruises in her body. You people are trying to establish that I have done something very wrong," she said.

Prof Mizanur Rahman, present on the occasion, said they received information about the girl some days back from her neighbours.

"Neighbours heard her screaming from the flat. They several times requested Salma Akter not to torture her, but she did not pay any heed," he said.

Budget neglected rural people's healthcare

Say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As in previous years, healthcare for rural people has again been neglected in the proposed national budget for no steps were taken to increase doctors' attendance in public hospitals of rural areas, said speakers at a meeting yesterday.

Neglecting the need of these hospitals has led to the commercialisation of medical services. This sometimes forces people of the middle-income group into selling their belongings to avail healthcare services, they added.

The views exchange meeting, "National budget and the allocation in health sector", was held in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Health Rights Movement National Committee (HRMNC), Manusher Jonno Foundation and Population Services and Training Centre jointly organised the meeting.

The country's budgets, including the proposed one, had no step to address the reasons

behind most of the posts in public hospitals of rural areas remaining vacant over the years, said Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon General Secretary Dr Mohammad Abdul Matin.

Well-off people, ministers and even the president opt to go abroad for healthcare services as they have no confidence in the country's public hospitals, said the speakers.

The situation would change if accountability in hospital management could be ensured, they added.

The speakers placed some recommendations, which include increasing budgetary allocation for healthcare by 15 to 20 percent. They also sought increased allocation for the elderly, people with disabilities, women and children.

HRMNC President Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub chaired the meeting where HRMNC Member Secretary Dr Nitai Kanti Das, Sardar Arif Uddin and Public Health Foundation Chairman Prof M Muzaherul Huq also spoke.

Graft prevalent in country

Says TIB executive director

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Almost all departments of Bangladesh are corrupt, said Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman at a seminar yesterday.

While presenting a keynote paper, Dr Iftekharuzzaman pointed out that corruption was the abuse of power for personal benefit and urged the country's people to create awareness against corruption.

The seminar, "Corruption in Bangladesh: Implications, Causes and Strategies", was jointly organised by Faculty of Law and Department of Development and Governance Studies of Northern University Bangladesh (NUB) at the university's Dhanmondi campus.

NUB acting vice-chancellor Prof Dr Abu Yousuf Md Abdullah, who chaired the seminar, said corruption was a major impediment to development and democratic governance in many developing countries including Bangladesh.

Former additional secretary and Centre for Governance Studies Executive Director Azizur Rahman, Planning Commission Division Chief Shamima Akter, Leadership Studies Chairman Dr Sinha MA Sayeed, NUB Faculty of Business Dean Prof Saeed Alamgir Jafar and NUB Faculty of Law Dean Prof Dr AWM Abdul Huq also spoke at the seminar.

DHAKA TODAY

Human chain

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists will form a human chain; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:30am.

Programme

Bangladesh Sangeet Sangathan Somonnoy Porishad will organise a programme; Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy; Time: 6:30pm.

Rally

Dhaka Zila Autorickshaw Samik Union will hold a rally; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Bangladesh Youth Forum will organise a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Certificate awarding ceremony

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited will organise a certificate awarding ceremony; Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel; Time: 10:00am.

Rally

WBB Trust will hold a rally; Venue: in

front of Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University; Time: 11:00am.

Views exchange meeting

Governance Advocacy Forum will organise a views exchange meeting; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 10:30am.

Seminar

Directorate General of Health Services will hold a seminar; Venue: its premises, Mohakhali; Time: 9:30am.

Visit

Poribesh Banchao Andolon will go on a visit; Venue: Dhamnondi Eidgah Mosque; Time: 11:00am.

Views exchange meeting

Oitihashik Agartala Mamlā Obhijukto Parishad will organise a views exchange meeting; Venue: Flat D/4, 12 Siddeswari Lane; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Deshpremi Jonogoner Mancha will hold a discussion; Venue: Gono Sangskritik Kendra, 2/4 Nabab Habibullah Road, Shahbagh; Time: 3:00pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:48pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12am.

Country's highest temperature 38.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 23.5 degrees at Dinajpur.

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	32.2	25.3	71	87
Chittagong	32.9	26.0	83	80
Rajshahi	35.4	26.5	84	81
Rangpur	31.5	24.0	98	78
Khulna	36.5	27.5	67	72
Barisal	33.3	27.0	79	77
Sylhet	35.1	26.0	74	66



(From left) Pankaj Bhattacharya, Sanjeeb Drong, Jona Goswami, Numan Ahmed Khan, Saktipada Tripura and Dwipayan Khisa at a rally at the base of Shoparjito Swadhinata at Dhaka University yesterday. The programme was organised to demand proper investigation of a recent attack on indigenous people at Hoako Chakma Palli under Teknaf in Cox's Bazar.

PHOTO: STAR

Probe attack on Chakma Palli

Demand educationalists, politicians and indigenous leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Educationalists, politicians and indigenous community leaders organised a rally yesterday demanding proper investigation of a recent attack on indigenous people at Hoako Chakma Palli under Teknaf in Cox's Bazar.

They also demanded withdrawal of the "false case" filed against the Palli's residents, immediate release of the arrested residents and withdrawal of the "controversial" policemen from Hoako Police Outpost to restore the confidence of the residents on law enforcers.

The rally was held at the base of

Shoparjito Swadhinata at Dhaka University with Bangladesh Adivasi Forum General Secretary Sanjeeb Drong in the chair.

The speakers said one, Abdul Haque, and his henchmen, assisted by law enforcers, attacked the Palli in Sukna Amtali village on May 29 and 30, assaulted two indigenous teenage girls and looted some three houses over a land dispute.

A delegation comprising political leaders, teachers, journalists and human rights workers visited the spot on June 7 and placed a five-point recommendation, including arrest of the

perpetrators and compensation to the victims, they said.

Parbatya Chattagram Janasanghati Samity Organising Secretary Saktipada Tripura said the frequency of incidents of repression against the indigenous community has been alarmingly growing.

Veteran politician Pankaj Bhattacharya, who led the delegation, Dhaka University teachers Prof Mesbah Kamal, Prof HKS Arefin, Robaet Ferdous and Shantanu Majumder, Institute for Environment and Development Executive Director Numan Ahmed Khan and Wasir Rahman Tonmoy of Manusher Jonno Foundation also spoke at the rally.

Hospital ransacked over patient's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Relatives of a patient ransacked the Kidney Disease and Urology Hospital in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area after death of the patient in the hospital on Sunday night.

They also assaulted the hospital's doctors and nurses. Zakir Hossain Mollah, officer-in-charge (OC) at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station, said the patient Rafiqul Islam, a resident of Zohuri Mahalla in the capital's Mohammadpur area, died around 9.45 pm after he was admitted to the hospital with kidney and respiratory problems.

The angry relatives ransacked furniture, and electronic gadgets at the hospital's ground and first floor alleging that Rafiqul died due to negligence by doctors in treatment, he said.

They beat up medical officer Abdul Latif and chased other doctors and nurses, the OC said.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. But none has been arrested yet in the connection.

The hospital authorities filed a case with the police station.

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Gold: Tk. 20,000 | Platinum: Tk. 30,000
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