

NEWS IN *brief*

Bangladesh Tourism Board opens official website

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Tourism Board yesterday launched its official website to make the country's tourism related information available for tourists.

The website www.tourismboard.gov.bd will contain different information and images of Bangladesh Tourism Board, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, tourist spots, hotels and motels, tour operators and travel agents in Bangladesh, said a press release.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Muhammad Faruk Khan inaugurated the website at the ministry's conference room.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Motahar Hossain, Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary M Ataharul Islam, and Bangladesh Tourism Board Chief Executive Officer Akhtaruzzaman Khan Kabir, among others, were

IDLC, ABC Radio become partners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

IDLC Finance Limited, the largest multi-product non-banking financial institution in Bangladesh, has become a partner of ABC Radio, one of Bangladesh's leading FM radio stations, in sponsoring various initiatives regarding environmental and social responsibilities.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in this regard yesterday, said a press release.

Selim RF Hussain, CEO and managing director of IDLC Finance Limited, and M Sanaullah (Lablu), chief operating officer, ABC Radio, represented their respective organisations at the signing programme.

Fema elects its new committee

METRO DESK

The annual general meeting of Free Election Movement Association (Fema) elected its new committee for next three years on Friday.

Munira Khan and Tarikul Ghani have been elected president and secretary general, says a press release.

The other elected officials are vice presidents- Advocate Salma Ali, Wadudur Rahman Panna and AKM Shamsuddin Ahmed; treasurers-Advocate DM Abdul Bari and Mostofa Quaiyum Khan; and joint secretaries-ANM Emam Hasnath and Sahadat

JU VC hands over Tk 2 lakh cheque to Zubair's father

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) Vice Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain handed over a cheque of Tk 2 lakh to Zubair Ahmed's father at the former's office on the campus yesterday.

Zubair, 24, a student of the university's English department, was brutally beaten up by activists of a rival faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the pro-Awami League student wing, on January 8 this year. He succumbed to his injuries at United Hospital in the capital the following day.

He belonged to Shafin-Sammo faction of the BCL university unit.

Zubair's father Tofail Ahmed demanded immediate trial and punishment for the killers of his son.

Badrul Alam, officer-in-charge at Ashulia police station, said, "We have already submitted a charge-sheet accusing 13 students."

PROMOTION IN ARMY
Professional skills, Liberation War spirit among top criteria: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the senior army officials to consider professional efficiency, the spirit of the Liberation War, leadership, discipline, honesty, trust worthiness and loyalty as the criteria for promotion.

She gave the directives while inaugurating the Army Headquarters Selection Board-2012 at the Officers' Mess (new) at the Army Headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment.

Hasina formally inaugurated the five-day board in the morning.

She said a disciplined and strong army can play a very supportive role in establishing and consolidating democracy of a country.

"So, leadership should be handed over to those who are well educated, able for work, aware and intelligent, and above all firmly committed to strengthening democracy," she said.

Hasina told the senior most army officials

that she has the full confidence in their prudence, judgment and righteousness. "I hope that you'll be able to find out able leadership on the basis of principles and justice by keeping yourselves above personal liking and disliking," she said.

An ISPR release said a decision will be taken through the board for the promotion of the army officers from the rank of colonel to brigadier general and lieutenant colonel to colonel.

"The board comprising officers of the highest policymaking level of the army would be giving promotion to the efficient and skilled officers for future senior leadership of the Bangladesh Army," the release said.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Sheikh Md Wahid Uz Zaman, Defence Secretary Khondakar Md Asaduzzaman, Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad and high officials of the army were present on the occasion.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the Army Headquarters Selection Board-2012 at the Officer's Mess (new) at the Army Headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

UNIPAY2U
Arrest warrants against 14 officials

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Following two cases filed in two courts in Chittagong, arrest warrants were issued yesterday against 14 Unipay2u officials including its chairman and managing director on charge of misappropriating Tk 5.12 crore.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) BM Nizamul Haque and Metropolitan Magistrate (MM) Ali Mansur passed separate orders as two people filed the cases accusing 14 officials of Unipay2u, said court sources.

Nine officials were accused in one case and six in the other. Md Muntasir Hossain Iman, managing director of the company, was accused in both.

Court sources said Salil Chowdhury filed his case with the CMM court accusing nine officials and he is general secretary of Bivagio Biniogkari Oykyia Parishad (Divisional Investors Unity Council).

He complained that the accused embezzled around Tk 5 crore by assuring him to double the amount in ten months on February 6, 2010, according to the sources.

Gopal Chandra Halder, the other plaintiff who filed his case with the MM court accusing six officials, alleged that the accused embezzled around Tk 12 lakh from him at different times by giving him the same assurance.

24 BNP activists hurt in BCL attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least 24 activists of opposition BNP and its front organisations were injured in an attack launched by ruling Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists at Gournadi upazila town in Barisal district yesterday afternoon.

Abul Hossain Mia, the upazila BNP secretary, said BNP-led 18-party alliance organised a rally at upazila BNP office near Gournadi bus stand around 5:00pm.

When their procession from the party office reached highway, police barred them. Later they were retuning to their office for holding a protest rally there, he said.

Suddenly about 40 cadres of BCL attacked them with lethal weapons, ransacked at least seven motorcycles of our leaders and activists and more than 150

chairs and other furniture of the office around 5:30pm, Abul alleged.

The injured, including engineer Abdus Sobhan, Shah Alam Fakir, Lokman Hossain, Shafikur Rahman, Swapan Sharif and Panna Khan, were given treatment at local clinics, BNP sources said.

Syed Mahub Hossain, the upazila BCL president, said hearing the news about preparation of BNP activists for bringing out armed procession to deteriorate law and order, BCL activists prevented them.

Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of Gournadi Police Station, said police prevented the BNP activists from holding their programme without the prior permission of the authorities concerned. To maintain law and order police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

WB LOAN CANCELLATION
Abul Hossain terms it unexpected

BSS, Dhaka

Information and Communication Technology Minister Syed Abul Hossain yesterday said the way World Bank cancelled its \$ 1.2 billion credit for the Padma bridge project and blamed Bangladesh for it was unexpected and regrettable.

In a statement, the former communications minister said cancellation of the loan was disappointing and embarrassing for the country.

He said the government ensured cent percent transparency, integrity and accountability at every stage of the project's implementation.

"I want to assure the people that I did not commit any irregularity at any stage of the project. I did not give any illegal opportunity to anyone. I was not influenced by anyone."

"The project is a victim of local conspiracy and a nasty game of international politics," he added.

Koko's charge framing hearing deferred again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred till August 5 the hearing on charge framing against Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in a tax evasion case.

With this, the court has deferred the hearing 20 times on excuses that Koko's lawyer could not submit any order on a rule issued by the High Court (HC).

Judge (in charge) Dr Md Akhteruzzaman fixed the date after Koko's counsel Sanaullah Miah submitted a petition seeking an adjournment on the hearing.

In the petition, the lawyer said the HC on June 9, 2010, issued a rule upon the government to explain why proceedings in the case should not be declared illegal.

The hearing on the rule is still pending with the HC, he said.

The National Board of Revenue filed the case against Koko for dodging taxes on his income of Tk 52.39 lakh for fiscal years 2002-03 to 2006-07.

Meanwhile, court sources said Koko was shown fugitive in the case despite his lawyer's submission of adjournment petitions.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Unnayan Shamannay and CUTS International will arrange a seminar; Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel; Time: 9:00am.

AGM
Sonar Bangla Insurance Limited will organise its annual general meeting (AGM); Venue: Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh; Time: 11:00am.

Reception
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will accord a reception to Nishat Majumder and Wasifa Nazreen; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:30pm.

Certification ceremony
AK Khan Healthcare Trust will organise a certification ceremony; Venue: Birdem

WEATHER TODAY

Change in temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Rangpur and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Tangail and Mymensingh and at a few places over Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Faridpur and Madaripur till 6:00pm today.

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

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 5:15am.

Country's highest temperature 35.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 25 degrees at Cox's Bazar.

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	34.2	27.8	63	60
Chittagong	33.5	26.0	81	76
Rajshahi	35.6	27.3	77	65
Rangpur	34.2	27.5	73	71
Khulna	34.4	27.4	74	68



Poribesh Bachao Andolon forms a human chain in front of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University yesterday demanding that the authorities concerned take punitive measures against those who illegally cut hills and chop down forests.

Poba demands national hill management policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Poribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) yesterday formed a human chain demanding formulation of a national hill management policy to stop hill cutting, deforestation, and unplanned human settlements, which are causing landslides in Chittagong.

A politically influential quarter has been cutting down trees, developing lands for housing projects, and making unplanned roads in the hilly areas while the government is indifferent to these illegal activities, they said at the programme organised in front of the Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University.

As a result of these activities several hundred people have fallen victim to landslides across the Chittagong hill areas and in the latest incident 85 people died in last Tuesday's landslide, speakers said demanding punishment of hill cutters and grabbers.

"Random cutting down of trees causes cracks on the hills in summer due to excessive heat. When rain water enters these cracks, the soft soil of the hills become extremely vulnerable to slides," said Poba Chairman Abu Naser Khan.

"Local administration asks low income people living at the foot of the hills to evacuate during the rainy season but they do not give any instruction or place to shift to," said Prof Kamal Ataur Rahman.

Speakers also asked the government to make Department of Environment more efficient for quicker case filing and investigation against hill cutters.