

NEWS IN *brief*

512 mobile phone sets seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The customs department of Hazrat Shah Amanat International Airport seized 512 mobile phone sets worth around Tk 50 lakh from a briefcase of an expatriate yesterday morning.

The expatriate, Akbar Uddin, 27, arriving from Sharjah and a resident of Fatikhkhari upazila in Chittagong, had not paid the customs duty for the cellphones, said Assistant Commissioner Shahidul Islam of Chittagong Customs House.

Yaba tablets, marijuana seized, four held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Four persons were arrested with Yaba tablets and marijuana in separate drives in Chittagong city Friday night.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided Jashim'er Colony in Bakalia Miakhan Nagar area and arrested Sajjad, 30, and Sumon, 20, residents of the area, with two kilogrammes of marijuana, said police.

In another drive, police arrested Md Jashim, 35, resident of Bastuhara Colony, from the colony in Bakalia of the city with 50 Yaba tablets.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members arrested Abul Hossen, 35, of Netrakona district currently living in Patenga, Chittagong, from Kotwali Police Station area with 10 kilogrammes of marijuana, worth around Tk 60,000, said a press release.

Stolen cloths recovered, 5 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Detective Branch (DB) of police has recovered stolen cloths and arrested five persons in this connection in 72 hours preceding yesterday morning.

The arrestees are Md Sagir, 38, Md Nasir, 40, Md Selim, 40, Md Rafique, 40 and Md Monu Miah, 43.

On June 2, Md Mohsin Ali, an officer of Renal Designer Makers Limited, found that 44 rolls of cloth worth about Tk 25 lakh were stolen from the factory in Chittagong city.

As a case was filed in this connection, a team of DB police conducted drives in Bagerhat, Chandpur and different areas of the city, arrested the five and also recovered the cloths from the residence of Monu at Miakhan Nagar in the city.

US-Bangladesh friendly relation stressed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers in Chittagong yesterday said the relation between Bangladesh and the United States (US) should be friendly.

They were speaking at a roundtable on "US Foreign Policy and Bangladesh" organised by Forum for People's Voice, a local social organisation, at the capital's Brac Centre Inn auditorium.

They also said the country's people have to take the relation forward by ensuring normal economic growth, strength of national harmony and sovereignty.

Dr Haroon A Khan, professor of political science department at Henderson State University in the US, presented the keynote paper.

FISHERIES WEEK

Protect fish breeding grounds: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated the Fisheries Week-2012 with a call to protect the natural breeding grounds of fishes and create massive public awareness in this regard.

She also asked the ministries concerned to coordinate among them to check contamination of the breeding grounds from fertiliser, pesticide and industrial and urban wastes to ensure safe and easy breeding of fishes.

"We have to protect the natural breeding grounds of fishes to maintain our identity as a nation living on rice and fishes," she said while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the week at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury and Minister for Food and Disaster Management Dr Abdur Razzak attended the function as special guests while Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdul Latif Biswas was in the chair.

Fisheries and Livestock Secretary Uzzal Bikash Dutta and the Department of Fisheries

Director General Syed Arif Azad also spoke.

The theme of the national fisheries week this year is "Silver Fish Gives Call, Let Poverty Go Away".

The premier distributed National Fisheries Medal among 20 individuals and organisations for their outstanding contributions to development of the fisheries sector.

Among them, five persons were given gold medals while 15 persons and organisations silver awards.

Hasina said her government has undertaken initiatives for conservation of 580 fish breeding grounds across the country while 130 projects were taken to protect water bodies from adverse impacts of climate change.

She replied to the press report and concern of some quarters on shortage in supply of Hilsha during this monsoon saying, "The ideal harvesting time of Hilsha is the beginning of Sraban and ebb tide of Bhadra".

Hasina released fries of sweet water fishes into the lake of her official residence Gono

CJ reconstitutes power of 32 HC benches

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice (CJ) Md Muzammel Hossain has reconstituted powers of 32 benches of the High Court (HC).

Supreme Court (SC) Registrar AKM Shamsul Islam said the CJ reconstituted powers of 28 division benches and 4 single benches of the HC on July 5.

Meanwhile, the SC reopens today after a two-week summer vacation. The Appellate and the HC divisions of the SC went on vacation on June 24.

During the vacation, six HC benches heard and disposed of urgent matters, as the chief justice had given them powers to this effect.

The chief justice had also given charges to two Appellate Division judges out of a total seven to conduct the chamber-court for hearing and disposing the urgent matters on two separate days during the vacation.

According to the SC Registrar Shamsul Islam, there are a total of 100 judges at the HC, and four of them are now working as judges of the International Crimes Tribunals to deal with cases related to crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971.

Buet teachers to boycott classes two hours a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers' Association of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) started refraining from taking classes and academic activities for two hours a day from yesterday until their demand for the resignation of university's vice-chancellor (VC) and pro-VC was met.

Prof Muhammad Ashrafur Islam, president of the association, said they would continue to stage the two-hour demonstration by abstaining from work from 11:00am to 1:00pm till July 11. If the demand was not met by July 14, members of the association will boycott all academic activities, he said.

Earlier, the Buet Teachers' Association had boycotted all academic activities from April 7 to May 5 demanding resignation of the institution's VC Prof Nazrul Islam and Pro-VC Prof M Habibur Rahman bringing allegations of irregularities.

Prof Nazrul Islam recently told The Daily Star that all the allegations against him are false and baseless.

Dipu Moni leaves for Japan, Cambodia

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni left Dhaka yesterday for a week to attend the second International Conference on Afghanistan in Japan and the Nineteenth Meeting of the Asean Regional Forum (ARF) in Cambodia.

Today, she will attend the daylong conference in Tokyo alongside US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and delegates from some 70 nations and international agencies, said foreign ministry officials.

The conference will review the achievements in the past decade and chalk out a new roadmap for the war-torn Afghanistan to follow after Nato-led troops withdraw in 2014.

The roadmap aims to establish accountability, improve governance and finance management and safeguard the democratic process, rule of law and human rights, especially of women.

Dipu Moni leaves Japan on July 11 to attend the Asean (Association of South East Asian Nations) Regional Forum meeting, scheduled to be held in Phnom Penh on July 12.

Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong will chair the meeting where Hillary and 26 other foreign ministers and representatives of the 28 ARF participants and the Asean secretary-general will be present.

Dipu Moni is expected to return home in the early hours of July 14.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the inaugural ceremony of Fisheries Week-2012 in Osmani Memorial Auditorium of the capital yesterday with 20 individuals and representatives of organisations who won National Fisheries Medal.

PHOTO: PMO

RU celebrates 59th founding anniversary

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) celebrated its 59th founding anniversary on the campus with much enthusiasm and festivity yesterday.

Vice Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan inaugurated the programmes by hoisting the national flag and the university flag. He also released pigeons and balloons on the occasion.

To mark the day, students and teachers of the university brought out a colourful procession. Beginning from the RU senate building, the procession paraded different streets on the campus.

Later, Prof Sobhan placed wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar, RU mass grave and grave of Shaheed Prof Shamsuzoha.

A discussion was also held at Kazi Nazrul Islam Auditorium where senate and syndicate members, deans of different faculties, chairmen and directors of different departments and institutions and hall provosts were also present.

The university was established on July 6 in 1953. Authorities of the university observed the day yesterday, a day after of its founding day as it was a holiday because of Shab-e-Barat.

Nominate VC after senate election

Demands JU Shammilito Shikkhak Parishad

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University teachers under the banner, "Shammilito Shikkhak Parishad", yesterday demanded that the present vice chancellor postpones the special senate meeting he called for July 20 to nominate three persons for the VC post.

Different posts of the senate were being held by unelected people. The senate members must be first elected and selected so that it can then nominate the persons for the VC post, they said.

The parishad's Convener Prof MA Motin, at a press conference in the social science building, said as per the Jahangirnagar University Act, 1973, the chancellor selects the VC from the trio the senate nominates.

VC Prof Anwar Hossain should stick to the act while running the university, he said.

Meanwhile, cultural activists of Jahangirnagar University under the "Sangskritik Jote" banner demanded that

Bangladesh Chhatra League men who attacked them on April 28 be brought to book.

In the attack, some 15 activists, protesting vandalism by BCL at a demonstration by teachers the day before, were left injured.

The teachers, under the banner of Shikkhak Samaj, had been demanding the resignation of the then vice chancellor, Prof Shariff Enamul Kabir, since the murder of Zubair Ahmed, an English department student, on January 9.

The activists, at a human chain in front of JU's administrative building, also blamed the probe body, formed on June 11 to investigate into the attack, of not submitting their report within the 15 days stipulated by the JU authorities.

Prof Sufi Mostafijur Rahman, leading the new body, said the investigation period was extended for another 15 days, with approval from VC Prof Anwar Hossain.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Commonwealth Journalists Association Committee and Nirapad Noupah Bastabayan Andolon will arrange a seminar; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Views exchange meet
Jibobochitra O Jalbayu Paribartan Bisayak Bangladesh Adibasi Network and two other organisations will organise a views exchange meeting; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

Roundtable
Oxfam GB Bangladesh will hold a roundtable; Venue: Girdap Auditorium;

WEATHER TODAY

Change in temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most 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 over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 5:18am.

Country's highest temperature 34.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.8 degrees at Rangpur.

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	33.7	26.0	81	69
Chittagong	32.0	26.0	78	83
Rajshahi	34.6	26.2	80	96
Rangpur	32.8	24.8	88	70
Khulna	33.0	26.5	84	82
Barisal	32.6	26.4	79	79
Sylhet	33.7	26.9	76	66



Everest conquerors Nishat Majumder and MA Mohit (centre) present Dhaka University Economics Department Alumni Association (DUEDAA) with a photo of planting a flag of the DUEDAA by them on the Mount Everest. The association President Hossain Zillur Rahman (third from right) and its General Secretary Farid Uddin Ahmed (third from left) are receiving the photo at a reception accorded to Nishat and Mohit by the association in DU Senate Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Work with passion

Everest conquerors urge youth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Everest conquerors Nishat Majumder and MA Mohit yesterday called upon the country's youth to carry on work in their respective fields with passion to make outstanding contributions to the nation.

They said this at a reception programme organised for them by Dhaka University Economics Department Alumni Association (DUEDAA) at DU Senate Bhaban.

Nishat, the first Bangladeshi woman to conquer Mount Everest, encouraged fellow women to struggle hard to fulfill their ambitions in life.

DUEDAA also announced at the event about its Tk 19 lakh worth scholarship programme for the financially challenged students of the department.

Some students were also awarded the scholarship cheques there.

DUEDAA President Hossain Zillur Rahman and its General Secretary Farid Uddin Ahmed addressed the programme among others.

Meanwhile yesterday, Federation of Walkers Association organised another reception programme titled "Provati nagorik sangbardhona" at Elizabeth Mancha to honour Everest conquerors Nishat, Mohit and Wasfia Nazreen.