

NEWS IN *brief*

EU provides relief for flood, landslide victims in hill districts

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union (EU) has provided international agencies with 5.4 lakh euros, equivalent to Tk 5.5 crore, to give humanitarian assistance to the worst affected people of the recent flooding in Bangladesh.

In Ramu and Chakaria upazilas in Cox's Bazar, CARE-UK will assist 60,000 of the most affected people. Each of the 12,000 households will receive a single distribution of 20kg rice, 5 doses of oral rehydration salts and Tk 500, said a press release.

Working with Naikhongchari, Lama and Alikadam upazilas in Bandarban, the United Nations World Food Programme and Concern Universal UK will provide 3,700 of the most vulnerable households with a monthly ration of 50kg rice, 1 litre soybean oil,

Committee of 24th BCS (admin) cadre association declared

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

24th BCS (administration) cadre association has recently announced its committee at a programme observed in the capital to mark the seventh anniversary of the cadre.

Md Nasir Uddin, executive magistrate, Dhaka Wasa, was elected president of the committee, while Md Abraul Hasan, personal secretary to the secretary of cultural affairs ministry, and Sabiha Yasmin, senior assistant secretary of cultural affairs ministry, were elected vice-presidents.

Textiles and Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddique

Court summons ATN Bangla boss

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

A court yesterday summoned ATN Bangla Chairman Mahfuzur Rahman to appear before it on August 14 on charge of making derogatory remarks about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Masud Parvez issued the summon in a case filed by Sheikh Sajedul Haq, executive editor of a local weekly, Subarta, published from Rajoir upazila headquarter.

Earlier, yesterday afternoon Sajedul filed the case with Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court.

He stated that Mahfuzur, during a programme in London, termed Hasina a "talkative" and it was

Discussion on education held

METRO DESK

A roundtable discussion on the state of education in Bangladesh was held in the capital yesterday.

The Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organised the roundtable in association with the American Centre on IUB's permanent campus at Bashundhara, said a press release.

The US State Department's Senior Education Adviser for South and Central Asia Dr Molly Teas spoke briefly on the US education system at the discussion which was also attended by Vice-Chancellor of IUB Prof M Omar Rahman, and Cultural Affairs Officer for Education and Exchanges



Wife of murdered Md Hafiz laments for her husband at Dhaka Medical College morgue. Robbers killed Hafiz, an employee of a fish trading agency, by throwing him from a running fish-laden pick-up in Mohakhali of the capital yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Bangladesh hopeful of sculptor's release from India

BSS, New Delhi

Bangladesh is hopeful that Indian courts will take a sympathetic view and release the country's renowned sculptor Rashid Ahmed, who along with his daughter-in-law Nur Nahar has been languishing in Tihar Jail over the past eight years.

Ahmed was arrested from a Paharganj hotel in New Delhi in 2004 on charge of possessing fake currency.

Rashid Ahmed, who came to India to visit Dargah of Hazrat Moinuddin Chisti (R) in Ajmer, is scheduled to appear at Tis Hazari court on July 20.

As the 75-year-old sculptor completed his prison term, Bangladesh government is hopeful of Rashid's release.

His daughter Lipi Rahman pleaded with the Bangladeshi High Commission in New Delhi to expedite the case so that her father could return home.

Housewife arrested for torturing domestic help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a housewife on charge of torturing her domestic help at Shankar in the capital yesterday.

The arrestee is Jamila Akhter, wife of Emdadul Islam, a Palli Bidyut official.

Jamila beat her domestic help Parvez Mosharraf, 15, as two mobile phone sets of her husband went missing on July 5 night.

Injured Parvez, who had been working at Emdadul's house for four years, told The Daily Star that his employers interrogated him about the phone sets.

He said Jamila hit him with two electric wires for about two hours intermittently, although he knew nothing about the lost phones.

As the housewife intimidated Parvez on July 6 night that if he did not to produce the phone sets before them by morning, he would be killed, Parvez escaped from the house the next early morning, he added.

Parvez went to some of his acquaintances and showed them the marks of his injuries.

The acquaintances took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was given treatment.

Parvez's father Shahabuddin, of Nandail in Mymensingh, after coming to Dhaka filed a case with Mohammadpur Police Station yesterday accusing Jamila.

According to Mohammadpur police, Jamila confessed that she hit Parvez lightly to get a confession.

Govt working to build exclusive industrial parks
Says prime minister

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government has taken initiatives to build exclusive industrial parks for readymade garments, plastic, printing and other sectors and also a separate industrial city for Jamdani, hosiery and electronics for flourishing small and cottage industries.

She said this while inaugurating the 55th founding anniversary of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital.

Hasina said works on the setting up of two specialised industrial parks across the country and a multipurpose industrial park in Sirajganj are progressing while special economic zones are being set up in seven divisions.

She said that her government is implementing massive programmes for flourishing the country's industrial sector by putting emphasis on agro-based small industries.

Referring to the huge demand for

Bangladeshi processed foods abroad as over 80 lakh expatriate Bangladeshis now live across the globe, the prime minister asked the BSCIC authorities to help setting up processing plants for fish, meat and vegetables.

The prime minister called upon the entrepreneurs and the BSCIC officials and employees to supplement the government efforts at building a middle income country by 2021 and expressed her hope that a poverty, hunger and illiteracy free Bangladesh could be built with the united efforts of all.

The present government, she said, is expanding and modernising the BSCIC training programme as well as expanding specialised training in the industrial sector including in management, design, fashion, packaging, and marketing.

Chaired by Industries Minister Dilip Barua, the inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by Industries Secretary K H Masud Siddiqui and BSCIC Chairman Fakhru Islam.

91pc women face sexual harassment
Says survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 91 percent of women become victims of stalking and other forms of gender violence, experts said quoting a survey report at a workshop yesterday.

The survey was conducted by Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) in 2010.

The experts said the High Court passed a ruling in 2009, calling "stalking" a component of sexual harassment, which was punishable.

The experts, however, conveyed disappointment at the sentence, which is only a year's jail term or a penalty of Tk 2000. The sentence must be increased to demonstrate the seriousness of the crime, they said.

"Stalking can lead to increased suicide among girls, and therefore has to be treated as a crime, not just as a social problem," said Giti Ara Nasreen, a professor at Dhaka University.

"Such a high figure shows that stalking and sexual harassment are not only practiced by 'hooligans' as is depicted in the media, but by males in general."

The workshop, "Role of Media to End Sexual Harassment," was organised by Brac in the capital.



Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque submits the investigation report of the BNP parliamentary committee on disappearance of Illias Ali, former lawmaker and BNP organising secretary (Sylhet Division), to party Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP

JU VC PANEL
JU teachers demonstrate to defer nomination

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) teachers have staged a sit-in on the campus demanding cancellation of a special senate meeting scheduled to be held on July 20 to nominate a three-member vice-chancellor (VC) panel.

The teachers, under the banner of Sammito Shikkhak Parishad, have been demonstrating for the last two days demanding senate election prior to the special senate meeting.

They also demanded elections of syndicate members, provosts, deans, Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union (Jucsu) and registered graduates at the senate meeting.

The teachers alleged that all the senate members are holding their posts without election for a long period.

As per the university act, the senate members must be first elected and selected so that they can nominate the persons for the post of vice-chancellor, they added.

Meanwhile, the JU teachers yesterday decided to raise a fund for Padma bridge construction by donating their income of a day in response to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's declaration that the bridge would be constructed from the country's own finance instead of World Bank loan.

The teachers under the banner of "Bangabandhu Adorsho O Muktiyuddh Chetona" Bishwasi Shikkhak Karmakarta O Karmachari Brindha" announced this through a press conference at the university's central cafeteria around 12:30pm.

RIVER EROSION PREVENTION
Experts call for cooperation among S Asian nations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Asian nations should cooperate to address issues of river erosion, which turn thousands homeless every year, academics and disaster management experts said yesterday.

This is a serious issue but it has been ignored for long, they said at the inaugural session of a weeklong regional training on river erosion and embankment safety management in South Asia.

"About one million people are affected by river erosion in Bangladesh alone. Many of these people get displaced for years," said Prof Dr Shahnaz Huq-Hossain, director of Dhaka University's Disaster Research Training and Management Centre (DRTMC).

DRTMC and Saarc Disaster Management

Centre, New Delhi, jointly organised the training at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of DU. Academics, practitioners, and government officials from the South Asian countries are to attend the training.

Those losing their homes and land because of rivers are taking shelter in city slums, Dr Shahnaz said, adding that mainstream intervention is necessary for those victims.

DU Vice Chancellor Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique said river erosion and its victims has become a national problem.

"Riverbanks maintenance is very important for preventing erosion," he said urging South Asian facing similar problems to collaborate.

DU Pro-VC and Geography Professor Dr Nasreen Ahmad, among others, also spoke.

Joint secretary 'commits suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A joint secretary of the public administration ministry allegedly committed suicide yesterday hanging himself from a window grille at his residence in the capital's Mirpur area.

Deceased Md Monwar Hossain Sarker, 58, hailing from Boalia in Rajshahi, had been living at the Officers' Quarters of Nam Garden in Mirpur-13 area. He was made OSD (officer on special duty) in January.

Quoting family members, Abdul Latif, officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station, said Monwar committed suicide hanging from a grille of window with a rope in his room early yesterday.

"The deceased's two sons told us that their father had diabetes and heart complications. Moreover, he was frustrated for the last few months after he had been made OSD," the OC added.

Police recovered the body in the morning and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue around 3:00pm for an autopsy.

An unnatural death case was filed with Kafrul Police Station.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Women's Federation for World Peace will organise a seminar; Venue: Women's Voluntary Association Auditorium, Dhanmondi, Road No-27; Time: 4:30pm.

Rally
Ganosanghati Andolon will organise a rally; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:30pm.

Human chain
Bangladesh Shikkhak Samity will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Citizens' rally
Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon will arrange a citizens' rally; Venue: Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University;

Reception
City Corporation Samajik Sangskritik

Time: 10:30am.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Chittagong, Sylhet, Rangpur and Barisal divisions in 24 hours 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 6:49 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:20am.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and lowest 24.5 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	32.6	27.0	82	83
Chittagong	29.2	25.5	97	89
Rajshahi	31.5	26.0	86	84
Rangpur	32.1	25.0	93	86
Khulna	34.2	27.0	84	97
Barisal	33.4	27.5	87	93
Sylhet	32.2	26.4	89	94