

NEWS IN *brief*

Bangladesh elected vice-president of AIBD general conf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has been elected vice-president of the General Conference of Asia Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) for the next two years.

The honour came at the AIBD General Conference and Associated Meeting held in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal, on July 25-27.

The conference also awarded Mostafizur Rahman, deputy regional director of Bangladesh Betar, the AIBD Radio Award 2012 for the radio programme "Development of Green Technology and Sustainable Fuel".

Bangladesh Betar celebrated the achievements at its headquarters in the capital yesterday. On the occasion, Director General of Bangladesh Betar Kazi Akhter Uddin Ahmed was congratulated for his

Changes to draft road transport, traffic act urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a views exchange meeting yesterday urged the government to amend some provisions of the Draft Road Transport and Traffic Act, 2012 to ensure smooth movement of pedestrians and bicyclists in the capital.

Encouraging people to use bicycle and walk on feet could reduce traffic congestions and environmental pollution, they said.

They also said some provisions in the draft act would discourage use of bicycles on roads.

Work for Better Bangladesh (WBB) Trust, an environmental organisation, organised the programme at its office in Dhanmondi area.

Syed Mahbubul Alam, director of the WBB Trust, and Mohidul Haque Khan, an executive member of Poribesh Bachao Andolan, among others, spoke on

Sugar mill fined in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court in Chittagong yesterday fined a sugar mill Tk 1 lakh for dumping industrial waste into the Karnaphuli River.

The court led by Anupam Saha, an authorised officer and executive magistrate of Chittagong Port Authority, conducted a drive at S Alam Refined Sugar Industries Limited in Ichhanagar area around 3:30pm, and found that industrial waste was being dumped

Some HSC exam answer sheets in Ctg to be re-evaluated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Education Board has announced that 4,410 students have submitted applications for re-evaluating 16,814 HSC examination answer sheets as the students feel that they have not obtained expected results in this year's examinations.

Dr Pijush Dutta, controller of the education board, told The Daily Star that the results of the re-evaluation would be announced on August 14.

The board had earlier invited re-evaluation applications from HSC examinees and they were received through mobile SMS from July 19 to July 26, he said.

"Students paid 150 taka for re-evaluation of each

ACC sues ex-customs staff's wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in Chittagong yesterday sued the wife of a retired customs officer for concealing information of her assets in the statement submitted to the commission on May 4, 2009.

Abdul Aziz Bhuiyan, deputy director at the ACC Chittagong-2, filed the case with Double-Mooring Police Station against Sohela Chowdhurani, wife of Jahangir Khan, a former preventive officer at Chittagong Customs House.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

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

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:41pm and rises tomorrow at 5:28am.**

Country's highest temperature 34.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.2 degrees at Kutubdia.

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	30.5	26.2	87	82
Chittagong	28.4	24.8	90	83
Rajshahi	33.5	26.2	86	74
Rangpur	32.0	26.4	81	69
Khulna	31.5	26.5	86	97
Barisal	31.5	25.6	92	83



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ
The manhole near the capital's Rajarbagh Police Line, which has been missing its lid for two days, poses risks of accidents any time. Every day a number of vehicles, including scooters, tip into the open manhole, said duty traffic police. The photo was taken yesterday.

BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS

Bangladesh, Nepal sign MoU

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Nepal yesterday signed a deal on holding bilateral consultations between the foreign ministries of the two countries for further strengthening of the ties.

Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary Mohamed Mijarul Quayes and his Nepalese counterpart Durga Prasad Bhattarai signed the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on behalf of their respective governments at the foreign ministry in Dhaka.

The MoU envisages the foreign offices of Bangladesh and Nepal to meet annually and consult on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of common interest.

Earlier on the day, the two foreign secretaries, leading delegations of their respective countries, held talks on the full range of bilateral issues.

Noting that bilateral trade was far below

potential, they stressed the need to encourage private sectors of the two countries to meet and explore synergies to mutual benefit.

They noted that Nepalese exports to Bangladesh would be greatly facilitated with the initiation of the Standard Operating Procedure permitting Nepalese trucks carrying bilateral cargo to enter 200 metres beyond the zero point of Bangladesh.

They noted that a rail transit route through Rohanpur in Bangladesh to Singabad in India was currently opened to Nepal following the signing of another MoU between Bangladesh and India.

Bhattarai conveyed his government's appreciation for the opportunities offered by the Bangladesh government on the use of Chittagong and Mongla ports by Nepal.

The first round of foreign office consultations under the aegis of the MoU signed yesterday is expected to be held in Kathmandu.

JU STUDENT MURDER

4 BCL activists denied bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail petitions of four Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists accused in the murder of Jahangirnagar University (JU) student Zubair Ahmed.

The four -- Najmul Hossain Plabon, Kamruzzaman Sohag, Mazharul Islam and Mahamudul Hasan Masud -- are suspended students of JU.

They are among 13 accused in Zubair murder case filed with Ashulia Police Station.

Judge Md Abdul Majid of the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after defence lawyers submitted separate criminal appeals seeking bail against a lower court rejection order.

Judicial Magistrate Washim Shiekh of the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court rejected their bail prayers and ordered to send them to jail on July 16.

An activist of a BCL faction, Zubair was also an honours final year student of English department at JU. On January 8, members of a fellow BCL faction brutally tortured and stabbed him on the campus over previous enmity.

He succumbed to his injuries the following day.

Incumbent PM may head interim govt

Claims Qamrul

UNB, Dhaka

The incumbent prime minister can head the proposed interim government under which the next general election will be held as per the constitution, says State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam.

"As per the constitution, there's no bar to the incumbent prime minister to become the head of an interim government," he told the news agency yesterday.

Qamrul Islam expressed the view about the small interim government proposed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her interview with BBC Bangla in London on July 29.

About the Election Commission, he said, "Some minor amendments to the Constitution may be required for making the Election Commission stronger than the proposed interim government."

Replying to a question, the state minister said: "We want credible elections, not questionable polls."

In response to another query, Qamrul said members of the interim cabinet can be included from elected public representatives based on consensus following discussions in parliament. "In my opinion, elected public representatives should be the members of the proposed small cabinet."

He hoped that the prime minister's proposal will be accepted by all.

The state minister said: "If the opposition doesn't accept the prime minister's proposal, then it will become clear to all the caretaker government issue is not their main agenda -- their agenda is different."

Kuakata boat has historical value

Says expert



Yves Marre, a French-born Bangladeshi expert on local traditional boats, inspects a recently surfaced 200-year-old boat on Kuakata beach. Marre says the antique boat bears historic significance. The photo was taken on Monday afternoon.

PHOTO: STAR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A French-born Bangladeshi expert on local traditional boats has examined an ancient boat that surfaced from beneath the sandy beach in Kuakata recently and said it was a national heritage bearing ethnic history.

"I have never seen such an unusual traditional boat," Yves Marre told The Daily Star after examining it on the beach Monday afternoon. "It is important to preserve it now, as it is lying at an insecure state," he said.

Marre initiated a traditional boat museum under the banner "Protection and Preservation of National Naval Heritage of Bangladesh".

With his project, he has so far replicated 65 types of traditional wooden boats of Bangladesh and exhibited those boats in France and other European countries.

Talks are underway to open an exhibition of those boats in the naval museum of Greenwich in

London soon.

"I urge the government to take immediate steps to save the boat to preserve our heritage, and it is going to be a learning process for generations to come," he said.

"The boat should be kept in Kuakata by setting up a museum or at a safe place where tourists can visit it easily. This is going to be a landmark attraction of Kuakata."

Marre, an internationally acclaimed expert on traditional boats and also managing director for TARATARI Shipyard Ltd at Kalurghat in Chittagong, said the monsoon tides were too high to do anything on the surfaced boat. "We have to wait till November to lift the boat from the sand and start restoration."

The ancient boat which is believed to be belonging to the first Rakhine settlers from Arakan province in Myanmar more than 200 years ago was found on June 29 at

low tide.

On July 11, a team of archaeologists from the Department of Archaeology, Khulna office, examined the boat and declared that the boat was over 200 years old. It is clearly an unusual boat that the first Rakhaine settlers in the area used for fleeing from Myanmar's Arakan province, the team leader said.

On July 24, Amitav Sarker, deputy commissioner of Patuakhali, inspected the ancient boat and asked the local authorities to take measures to protect it.

Meanwhile, the Department of Archaeology has formally asked the government to immediately form a committee, provide funds for lifting the boat, and start restoring it.

Made of timber of Gorjon tree, the 72 feet long and 22.5 feet wide boat was discovered near the tamarisk garden in Kuakata.

Some war crimes trials may end this year

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said he is hopeful that trials of about five to seven persons accused of crimes against humanity will be finished within this year if the present speed of trial proceeding continue.

He said this while talking to reporters after a meeting with Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Dr Abdullah Bin Naser Al-Busairi at his office in the Bangladesh Secretariat.

When reporters raised the issue of defence's preparation to submit lists of several thousand witnesses to the International Crimes Tribunals, the law minister said the tribunals could take action against anybody who will obstruct their (tribunals) trial proceedings without any reason.

A law ministry press release said Shafique told Saudi Ambassador Dr Abdullah Bin Naser Al-Busairi that the trial of killers of Saudi embassy official Khalaf Al Ali would be held at a speedy trial tribunal.

State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam was present at the meeting.

4 held for robbery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested four robbers in connection with looting of a businessman's house in Gendaria on March 9.

The arrestees are Shahar Ali alias Kamal, 37, Noor Hossain, 32, Al Amin, 23, and Shipon Mia, 25.

The DB police also recovered 10 tolas of gold and Tk 80,000, which were looted from the house, from them.

Moshiur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner of DB, said they arrested Al Amin and Shipon Mia from the capital's Nakhapara and Kunipara areas early yesterday.

On July 19, Shahar Ali and Noor Hossain, were held from Gazipur and Mirpur areas.

Meanwhile in another incident, Nazmul Hasan, 22, a security guard of a house, was injured as a gang of robbers stabbed him at South Banasri in the capital's Rampura area early yesterday.

Nazmul Islam, a resident of the 6-storey building, said the incident took place around 2:15am.

Seriously injured Nazmul was rushed to a local hospital, and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

RU STUDENT KILLING Parents satisfied over charge sheet

RU CORRESPONDENT

The elderly parents of Faruk Hossain, a student of Rajshahi University who was hacked to death allegedly by Shibir men in February 2010, yesterday expressed their satisfaction over police's submission of a charge sheet.

Faruk's father Fazlur Rahman and mother Hasna Hena talked to this correspondent by phone.

On July 8, police submitted a charge sheet against 110 Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir leaders and activists, including Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, and informed journalists of the charge-sheet on Monday.

Fazlur Rahman demanded expulsion of the students who were involved in the killing and exemplary punishment to the killers under a speedy trial tribunal.

Meanwhile, Asma Begum, elder sister of Faruk, said the RU authorities promised a job for one of their family members at the university but they did not fulfil their commitment yet.

"I applied against five posts under fourth class category in the university's recent recruitment but the authorities informed me that I qualified for none."