

NEWS IN *brief*

US gives training on antiterrorism to police, immigration officials

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US government recently provided a four-day-long antiterrorism assistance training on Fraudulent Document Recognition (FDR) to the police and immigration officials of Bangladesh.

The US Department of State's Antiterrorism Assistance Programme and the US Embassy's Regional Security Office conducted the training at Police Staff College in Dhaka till July 25, said a press release of US embassy.

Officials of the immigration section, passport section, security control office, and sections of the Special Branch of Bangladesh Police participated the training

458 women victims of violence in July: Mahila Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 458 women were victims of different forms of violence last month, said a press release yesterday.

According to a monthly report of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, which was made based on media news, there were 126 victims of rape and attempted rape and among them ten died.

Dowry related violence continues unabated as 52 reported being abused and 30 were killed. Eight children were pushed into underage-marriages.

Thirteen cases of domestic workers being abused came to light. Among the victims three died and four committed suicide.

Sixty-six women reported being subjected to stalking and 31 committed suicide due to different

KOICA launches tree plantation campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and KOICA-Bangladesh Alumni Association (KBAA) launched a tree plantation and awareness raising campaign in the country yesterday.

Planning Minister AK Khandker attended the inaugural ceremony held at the ministry auditorium as chief guest.

President of KBAA and Secretary of Agriculture Ministry Monzur Hossain chaired the function. Resident Representative of KOICA Bangladesh office

RCC demolishes 30 establishments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) authorities in a drive demolished illegal establishments and removed construction materials from the footpaths in Court Dhalur More and Kashiadanga road of the city yesterday.

Nearly 30 shops of construction materials were demolished, said the city corporation Magistrate M Sadekul Islam who led the drive.



Worshippers perform religious rites at Nandankanan Buddha Mandir in Chittagong city on the occasion of Ashari Purnima, a religious festival of the Buddhists, yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

New power tariff slabs soon: Tawfiq-e-Elahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) will introduce a new structure of power tariff slabs to help cut the sharp rise in electricity bills of consumers, said Prime Minister's Energy Adviser Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury yesterday.

"The present structure of slabs is unfair... at present, there are three power tariff slabs for consumers," he said.

The energy watchdog is preparing a new structure of nine slabs on the basis of power unit consumption, he also said on the sideline of a signing ceremony in the capital's Bidyut Bhaban.

Digital Power and Associates Ltd, a sister concern of Orion Group, signed an agreement with Power Development Board (PDB) to set up a 102-megawatt power plant at Gognagar in Narayanganj.

The furnace oil-based independent power plant will come into operation within 12 months and supply electricity to the national grid for 15 years.

Under the contract, PDB will buy electricity from the plant at Tk 6.91 per kilowatt hour. PDB Secretary Azizul Islam and Orion Group Managing Director Salman Obaidul Karim signed the deal on behalf of their respective organisations.

State Minister for Power Muhammad Enamul Huq, Power Secretary Abul Kalam Azad and PDB Chairman Abdul Wahab Khan were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, residential users said to have been experiencing a four-fold rise on their monthly energy bills since March this year.

Alongside hiking electricity tariffs three times in the last five months, the government on March 1 withdrew the common lowest slab facility enjoyed by the residential users.

PW recalled to testify against SQ Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday recalled a prosecution witness to testify, this time in camera, against BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

Parag Dhar, ninth prosecution witness in a case against the opposition big-shot facing war crimes charges, gave his deposition and was cross-examined earlier.

This time he will only testify and face cross-examination in a closed room, said Prosecutor Zead Al Malum. Parag earlier testified on July 26. Since many important matters were left out in his earlier deposition, he will testify again, Malum said.

In a reply, the prosecutor said if the tribunal deemed it necessary to recall a witness, it could do that for the sake of a fair trial.

Two counsels from either party are allowed to be present during the in-camera session scheduled for August 7. Meanwhile, the defence cross-examined the investigator of a case against war crimes accused and Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee for the 40th time yesterday.

HUMAYUN'S DEATH Shaon sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Thirteen days into the death of Humayun Ahmed, his wife, Meher Afroz Shaon, and Mazharul Islam, publisher of Anya Prokash Publication Ltd, were sued in Chittagong yesterday for "killing the litterateur in a planned way".

Advocate Nazrul Islam, who claims to be a writer, filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate ABM Nizamul Haque's court in Chittagong.

The court took the charges into cognisance and asked Criminal Investigation Department to submit a report after carrying out an investigation.

The renowned writer and filmmaker died in a New York hospital on July 19 at the age of 64.

In the case statement, the plaintiff claimed that Shaon and Mazharul carried out their pre-planned murder to misappropriate Humayun Ahmed's cash and property.

On what prompted him to file the case and the basis of his suspicion, Nazrul said it was different news items.

Nazrul also stated the news editors of two dailies, Amar Desh and Azadi, and writer Abdul Hye Shikder as the case witnesses.

News items published in the two dailies and an article written by Hye stated that Humayun Ahmed was not properly treated after falling from a chair on July 17 due to negligence by Shaon and Mazharul, said the plaintiff.

Piranha fish seized in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court seized 4,000kg of banned Piranha fish worth about Tk 4.80 lakh from Fisheright in Firingeebazar area of Chittagong city yesterday.

The court also fined three fish traders Tk 9,000 on charges of catching and selling the fish.



Love Road is one among many streets in the capital's Tejgaon industrial area which has been occupied by floating people and traders. The authorities concerned seem blind to the situation, though it simultaneously causes sufferings to pedestrians and pollutes the area's environment. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Daily wage of Tk 100 for tea workers urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different tea workers' organisations, including Tea Labour Union, yesterday demanded prompt government intervention in fixing the minimum daily wage of a worker at Tk 100 from existing Tk 48.

The workers' leaders conveyed the demand to the ruling party Chief Whip Abdus Shahid during a views exchange meeting with him at Parliament Members' Club, says a press release.

Abdus Shahid assured the leaders that the tea workers' wage would be increased soon after discussion of the matter with tea garden owners.

During the meeting, he said tea garden labourers made significant contribution to the economy. The government is designing and implementing various plans to improve their education, healthcare, sanitation, wage and ration, he added.

He told the leaders, "Future development programmes will also be designed after discussion with tea garden owners and related parties.

The leaders of different tea labourers' organisations have reached a consensus to sink their differences and make united efforts to improve the lot of the workers.

The delegation of tea labourer leaders included Sitaram Almik, Rambhajan Kairy, and Bijoy Hajra.

DHAKA TODAY

Dialogue
Centre for Policy Dialogue will organise a dialogue; Venue: Brac Centre Inn; Time: 2:30pm.

Seminar
Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement will hold a seminar; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Cultural programme
Bangladesh Shishu Academy will

organise a cultural programme; Venue: its auditorium; Time: 3:00pm.

Celebratory procession
Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dhaka University will organise a celebratory procession; Venue: from the base of Aparajeya Bangla; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion
Bikalpadhara Bangladesh will hold a discussion; Venue: Institute of

WEATHER TODAY

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 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 5:29am.

Country's highest temperature 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 24.1 degrees at Rangamati.

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	30.7	26.7	89	81
Chittagong	29.8	25.0	91	85
Rajshahi	32.5	26.5	85	79
Rangpur	32.4	26.8	76	74
Khulna	32.4	26.6	100	88
Barisal	33.1	25.8	87	90

Brick kiln fined Tk 4 lakh in Faridpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) fined a brick kiln Tk 4 lakh for polluting environment at Ramchandrapur in Boalmari upazila in Faridpur yesterday.

Mohammed Munir Chowdhury, director for monitoring and enforcement wing at DoE, realised the amount as fine from Maxim Brick Field, said a press release.

Owner of the brick field has been operating it since 2010 without obtaining licence from the DoE, it said.

With its traditional chimney, the kiln has been hampering agricultural productions, destroying trees and posing threats to public health.

Munir Chowdhury also asked the kiln owner to modernise it within September this year.

Star report prompts case against brutality

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A reader of The Daily Star yesterday filed a case against a human hauler driver and its conductor for getting two passengers beaten up in the hands of their cohorts in the capital's Shewrapara on July 30.

Bithika Mazumdar, a housewife, filed the case with Mirpur Police Station on the basis of a news item, "Crime goes unchecked", published in The Daily Star on July 31.

The case statement said the passengers quarrelled with the driver, Md Selim, and the unidentified conductor of the vehicle (Dhaka Metro 11-1888) plying on the Gulshan-Pallabi via Mohakhali route. The issue was over calling for passengers at Mohakhali though the vehicle was supposed to ply non-stop.

At one stage Selim called the cohorts over phone and stopped the vehicle at Shewrapara bus terminal. The cohorts then beat the duo with steel pipes, bricks and sticks. The goons also robbed them of their cellphones, said the statement.

Officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, Wazed Ali, told The Daily Star that police were trying to arrest the accused.

DHAKA UNIVERSITY MCJ dept celebrates golden jubilee today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ) of Dhaka University completes 50 years of its journey today.

Championing the country's journalism education, the department has produced hundreds of talented journalists and media professionals throughout the half of a century.

Teachers, students, and employees will celebrate the occasion through cutting cakes, taking out a celebratory procession, cultural events and a discussion among others.

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Akhtar Sultana, chairperson of MCJ department, said she was proud and glad that the department crossed a 50 years mark.

The MCJ department was launched in DU in 1962. In the beginning, it used to offer a one-year diploma degree.

Graduate programme was introduced in 1967. A decade later, the department launched postgraduate programme (1977). Currently, it offers MPhil and PhD programmes too.

Prof Sheikh Abdus Salam, a former chair-

person of MCJ department, said it was a pioneer journalism department in the South Asian universities.

Hundreds of MCJ graduates are now working successfully in the media and different other sectors at home and abroad, he told The Daily Star.

A senior professor, Dr Golam Rahman, said the DU MCJ alumni had contributed to creating journalism departments in other public and private universities including Rajshahi, Jahangirnagar and Jagannath University.

The alumni will hold programmes including a seminar to celebrate the golden anniversary in Toronto, Canada, he said.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, also a faculty member of MCJ department, said it was certainly a gala day for all teachers, students and staff.

He urged the department authorities to equip students with advance technology so that they could fight the challenges of the ever-expanding field of mass media globally.