

NEWS IN *brief*

President leaves for S Arabia

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

President Zillur Rahman left for a five-day visit to Saudi Arabia early hours today to attend the two-day (August 14-15) 4th Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in Makkah.

Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz will examine the Islamic world, address the sources of discord and division, reunify the Islamic Ummah and promote Islamic solidarity.

Presidents of the member countries' will attend the summit, which will be preceded by two meetings, the first at foreign ministers' level to prepare for the summit and the second at the senior officials' level to prepare for the ministerial meeting.

Stop going after Dr Yunus: B Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina not to go after Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus.

"For God's sake, please stop going after him for the sake of 96 lakh poor people of the country," he said.

"Please put priority on national interest, not on personal interests," he said while addressing a discussion before an iftar party organised by Bikalpa Mohila Dhara, women's wing of BDB, at the party's central office in the capital's Kuril Bishwa Road area, said a press release.

B Chowdhury said Bangladesh has been defamed both at home and abroad for the government's mis-handling of the Grameen Bank issue.

Bangladesh police trained

in counter terrorism

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US government provided ten-day long training to Bangladesh police to enhance their capabilities for fighting terrorism.

The workshop styled "Counterterrorism Components of Academy Development (CTCAD)" concluded on August 9, said a press release yesterday.

Instructors and officers from Police Training Institutes of Bangladesh Police participated in the

Two workers injured in ship breaking yard fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two workers were injured in a fire at a ship breaking yard in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong yesterday.

The injured are Al Amin, 19, of Naogaon; and Ershad, 28, of Comilla.

The fire, originated from the welding sparks in the engine room of SL Steel Ship Breaking Yard at Jora Amtal, injured the two while they were working there, Kumira fire service sources said.

Fire fighters doused the blaze around 1:00pm. Valuables worth Tk 5 lakh were gutted, the sources added.

The injured were taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and, later, were referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said the ship breaking yard



The little girl in her father's arms happily surfs through a row of frocks at a shop in the capital's Gawsia Market with Eid-ul-Fitr just a week away. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

DCC POLLS EC seeks removal of HC stay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Election Commission yesterday filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking stay on a High Court order which had halted the process for Dhaka City Corporation (north and south) elections.

The arrestees were Md Firoz Hossain, 30, Md Rajib, 25, Md Yunus Mallik, 30, and Md Sumon, 22.

Al-Beli Afifa, senior assistant commissioner of DB police, said they arrested the gang members from Dakkhinpara in Matuail around 5:30pm on Saturday.

Using information from the arrestees during primary interrogation, detectives recovered fake passports from the house of Firoz in Matuail, she said.

They also recovered some torn pages of passports that contained immigration seals and visas.

"The gang used to collect passports of returned expatriates who were not interested to go back again. To collect those, they used various techniques including cheating and theft," Afifa said.

They changed the photographs of the passports, replacing the photo of the original passport bearer with that of the person interested to go abroad illegally, she said.

The gang maintained liaison with the brokers at passport offices and supplied fake passports to job seekers, she added.

A case was filed with Jatrabari Police Station in this regard.

In another drive, DB police arrested three female pickpockets from the city's Banani Supermarket area on Saturday.

Police also recovered few cell phones and passports from their possessions.

The arrestees were Monwara Begum, Lili and Ripa.

Police said the trio blended with the crowd of shoppers and stole women's bags.

4 held with 81 fake passports in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four members of a passport counterfeiting gang along with 81 fake passports were caught when Detective Branch (DB) of police launched a drive in the capital's Jatrabari on Saturday.

The arrestees were Md Firoz Hossain, 30, Md Rajib, 25, Md Yunus Mallik, 30, and Md Sumon, 22.

Al-Beli Afifa, senior assistant commissioner of DB police, said they arrested the gang members from Dakkhinpara in Matuail around 5:30pm on Saturday.

Using information from the arrestees during primary interrogation, detectives recovered fake passports from the house of Firoz in Matuail, she said.

They also recovered some torn pages of passports that contained immigration seals and visas.

"The gang used to collect passports of

DRINKING WATER, SANITATION Natural disasters hamper target

Says study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Achieving target of ensuring drinking water and sanitation would not be possible by 2013 due to natural disasters in the country, said a study.

To achieve the target, the government needs to ensure increase yearly coverage of access to sanitation rate from 0.75 percent to 22.10 percent. Now around 81.04 percent households have access to sanitation, it said.

The study titled "Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction into Government's Schemes on Water and Sanitation: Gap Analysis and Way Forward" suggested adoption of geo-hazard specific risk reduction strategies.

AKM Musha, country director of Concern Worldwide, Bangladesh, presented the findings at a workshop in the capital yesterday. National Alliance for Risk Reduction and Response Initiative (NARRI) conducted the research in 13 districts.

With the Department of Public Health Engineering Chief Engineer Mohammad Nuruzzaman in the chair, Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzque, and European Union representative Oliver Brouant also spoke.



A portion of the Dhaka-Aricha highway that has been lying in a dilapidated state for a long while. Although there will be heavy traffic on this road during the Eid holidays, there has been no sign of repairing it yet. The photo was taken yesterday at Gabtoli in the capital.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

RAMPAL POWER PLANT HC questions filling up of Moidara river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday asked the government to explain in two weeks why filling up of Moidara river in Rampal upazila of Bagerhat near the Sundarbans for setting up a coal-fired power plant should not be declared illegal.

The court came up with the rule following a writ petition filed last week by Save the Sundarbans, an environmentalist organisation, saying that the government authorities concerned have been filling earth in the Moidara river to set up the power plant violating the environment laws.

Earlier on March 22, the HC in response to another writ petition issued a rule upon the government to explain why it should not be directed not to set up the proposed 1,300 Megawatt coal-fired power plant at Sapmari-Katakhal Mouja of Rampal.

Barrister Zakir Hossain, a lawyer for the petitioner Save the Sundarbans, said the authorities have been filling earth in Moidara river violating the environment laws, although the earlier HC rule is still pending.

An HC bench of Justice Hasan Foez Siddique and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain issued yesterday's rule.

Secretaries to the ministries of environment, power and land, director general of department of environment, chairman of power development board, deputy commissioner and superintendent of police of Bagerhat, project director of Chittagong-Khulna coal-fired power plant, upazila nirbahi officer of Rampal and officer-in-charge of Rampal Police Station have been made respondents to

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop
National Human Rights Commission will organise a workshop; Venue: Brac Centre Inn; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion
North Bengal Development Council will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Memorial meeting
Tareque-Mishuk Smriti Parshad will organise a memorial meeting; Venue: Public Library, Shahbagh; Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion
Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad will hold a discussion; Venue: Shaheed Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon Auditorium, Dhaka Medical College; Time: 1:00pm.

Discussion
Jatiya Ganotantrik League will hold a discussion; Venue: Bir Uttam Khaja

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely
UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to very 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 6:33pm and rises tomorrow at 5:34am.

Country's highest temperature 33.9 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 23.0 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	28.5	25.5	95	95
Chittagong	26.5	24.5	98	90
Rajshahi	33.5	26.0	87	100
Rangpur	32.6	27.0	79	66
Khulna	31.8	25.2	100	97
Barisal	30.5	25.0	98	88

TOBACCO CONTROL ACT 98pc people want amendment

Says survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 98 percent of the country's people demand amendment to the tobacco control act, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

The habit of smoking has come down in many countries due to pictorial messages displayed on packets of tobacco products like cigarettes, they said.

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) organised the programme in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity to disseminate the findings of a survey carried out by Quark Global Strategies, an international research organisation.

Citing the survey, they said people's opinion on prioritising public health and introducing the pictorial warnings surely prove that people remain strict towards amending the act.

The survey said around 98 percent of the respondents voted to ban sale of cigarettes to under-18 children and approximately 78 percent deem a ban on advertisement and promotion of tobacco necessary.

Around 99 percent people, 97 percent of them smokers, backed a smoking ban in public places, including workplaces and restaurants, it said.

CAB President Kazi Faruque and Ubinig Executive Director Farida Akhter also spoke on the occasion.

BNP will honour Yunus if back in power: Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government must stop flinging insult at Dr Yunus immediately, urged BNP leader Moudud Ahmed yesterday.

"No matter how hard you conspire to defame Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, he still is and always will be the most respected person in the country and the rest of the world," he said.

People love Grameen Bank and its founder Dr Yunus. A certain group in the government is trying to destroy the national interest over personal vendetta, he alleged.

Moudud was addressing as chief guest a discussion on "Nobel Laureate Dr Yunus and Grameen Bank are victims of state conspiracy: Citizen thought" organised by Projonmo Academy, a pro-opposition organisation, at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

He said the government is repeatedly failing to realise that by showing disrespect to the luminary it is ridiculing itself.

"We will confer a national recognition upon Dr Yunus for his contribution if we come to power in the next general polls," he added.

Terming the government's action against Grameen Bank state terrorism, Chittagong city BNP chief Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said by putting a person's tax issues on the cabinet agenda, the government has proved its incompetence.

"We will reinstate the glory of Grameen Bank if BNP goes to power," said the former commerce minister.

Maj (ret'd) MM Mehbub Rahman, an adviser to the organisation, also spoke on the occasion.