

NEWS IN *brief*

SC introduces SMS for case status info

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court has recently introduced Short Message Service (SMS), as part of its digitalised case management system, to help litigants access case information over cellphones.

"From now on, anyone can know the recent status of a case simply by sending an SMS," Kazi Parvez Anwar, a system analyst of the SC, told The Daily Star. To know the recent status of a case one has to type SC_space_nature of the case (eg. criminal/civil)_space_case number_space_year it was filed and send it to 2233.

Case information is also available on:

(www.supremecourt.gov.bd). A total of 23 judgments of the Appellate Division and 315 judgments of the High Court Division have been preserved in the data centre which maintains the apex court's verdicts, orders, cause lists and other relevant information.

CU shuttle train engine derails

CU CORRESPONDENT

The engine of one of the two shuttle trains of Chittagong University, pulling nine coaches, derailed at Oxygen Gate area, between Chittagong Cantonment and Sholoshahar Railway Station, around 5:30pm yesterday.

No student present in the train was injured. A relief train has reached the spot, said station-master of the railway station, SM Fakhru Alam Parvez, around 7:00pm. He, however, could not estimate the time needed to get the route operational.

Eight robbers held from Karnaphuli river

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Coast Guard caught eight robbers and seized four engine boats and some sharp weapons from their possession in the Karnaphuli river in Chittagong yesterday afternoon.

On a tip-off, a team from the Coast Guard (East Zone), led by Lt Commander Mohiuddin Khan, conducted a drive in the outer anchorage area of the river from 9:30am to 4:30pm and caught the robbers with the engine boats and weapons while they were preparing for committing robbery, said Alamgir Hossain, public relation officer (PRO) of the zone.

The accused were handed over to Patenga Police Station and a case was lodged, added the PRO.

Shrimp fry worth Tk 10 lakh seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The fisheries department seized shrimp fry worth Tk 10 lakh at Shah Amanat Bridge in Chittagong city yesterday.

It also imposed Tk 10,000 fine on the driver of the truck that was illegally carrying the fry.

On information, a team from the department conducted a drive in the area around 1:00am and seized around 10 lakh shrimp fry, each costing Tk 1, from the truck, said District Fisheries Officer Prabhati Debi, who led the drive.

Prabhati said the fry were being taken to Satkhira from Cox's Bazar.



A gap has been formed at a joint of Meghna bridge. Inset, another gap at a joint has been covered temporarily. Because of damages to the hinge bearings and expansion joints of the bridge, vehicles have been running on it with risk. Renovation work of Meghna and Meghna-Gumti bridges began last night. Vehicular movement on the bridges will remain suspended for seven hours from 11:00pm everyday until September 7 due to the repair work.

PHOTO: STAR

NCT TENDER 'IRREGULARITIES' Mohiuddin calls for protest rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League Chittagong city unit President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday declared holding of a rally at Laldighi Maidan on September 9 to protest alleged irregularities in tendering process regarding appointment of private operators for New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) of Chittagong Port.

He was addressing a roundtable organised by Chattagram Bandar Raksha Parishad at Ladies' Club in Chittagong city.

The former mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) said opinions from different professionals would be collected about the issue, and appeal would be made to the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina before holding the rally.

Mentioning that a "mafia group" was involved in destroying the country's main sea port, he said the "group" would be declared persona non grata.

Movements would be continued keeping the port in operation, Mohiuddin said adding, "The port will not be shut for the movement. No programme like hartal would be declared."

Former officials of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), leaders of different organisations including Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), Berth Operator and Ship handling Operator Association, C&F Agents Association, and Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association (BMSA) participated in the roundtable.

President of Berth Operator and Ship Handling Operator Association Fazle Ekram, BGMEA Director Sajedul Islam, BKMEA representative Showkat Osman, C&F Agents Association Joint Secretary Kazi Mahmud Imam Bilu, Bandar Karmachari Parishad (CBA) President Mamtaj Uddin, Vice President Shariat Ullah and Dock Bandar Sramik Karmachari Federation General Secretary Mahfuzur Rahman Khan, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Former CPA Member (Engineering) Dr Safayat Ahmed Khan said corrections could be made after inviting any tender. "But this time, it seems that everything is being done in favour of a particular firm," he alleged.

He, however, suggested informing the issue to the higher authority before starting movement.

Former CPA Member (Finance) Mosharraf Hossain said a section is engaged in tarnishing the image of the government and they are trying to damage the port.

Earlier on August 28, Mohiuddin, announced at a press conference to build up movement raising allegation that there were irregularities in the process of tender for NCT operation.

He alleged that several terms and conditions in the tender have been changed or slackened in favour of a local firm.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S RIGHTS Law demanded for protection

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Adivasi leaders and rights groups in a views exchange meeting in Rajshahi city yesterday urged the government to pass the proposed "Bangladesh Indigenous People's Rights Act" so that their rights can be well protected.

The parliamentary caucus on indigenous peoples' affairs has prepared the draft law and organised the meeting with supports from Oxfam, Research and Development Collective (RDC), and Jatiya Adivasi Parishad (JAP) to draw recommendations from grassroots level to make the law effective.

The speakers proposed constituting a national commission and a separate ministry to protect indigenous people's rights to their ancestral land as a way of ensuring their social-economic and cultural well-being.

Eminent litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque attended the programme as chief guest while lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha, a member of the caucus, presided over the meeting at Rajshahi Chamber's of Commerce and Industries.

RDC General Secretary Prof Mesbah Kamal and JAP President Robindranath Soren attended as special guests. Indigenous leaders Anil Marandi, Noreh Orao, Romanath Mahato, Zakaria Mardi also spoke on the occasion.

They demanded inclusion of names of all tribes and ethnic groups and the issue of adivasi women's empowerment in the law to protect their rights. They also reiterated their demand for primary education in their mother tongues.

The speakers said the law would lay down the legal framework for eliminating indigenous people's poverty in order to mitigate their plight.



PHOTO: STAR

Teachers of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology request Vice-Chancellor Prof Nazrul Islam to resign at his office on the campus yesterday.

Dr Reza receives award for nature conservation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent wildlife expert Dr Reza Khan has been awarded with Prokriti O Jibon Foundation-Channel i "Nature Conservation Award-2012" for his contributions towards conserving the wildlife and biodiversity of the country.

Environment and Forests Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud handed over the crest to Reza at an award giving ceremony held at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

Besides, a cheque of Tk 1 lakh and a certificate of complimentary treatment for life were given to Reza on behalf of Incepta Pharmaceuticals Limited and Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital respectively.

Prokriti O Jibon Foundation and Channel i jointly organised the award and the programme as part of their commitment to recognise an individual every year for his/her works in conserving the country's biodiversity and nature.

Addressing the programme, Reza, former curator of Al Ain Zoo and Dubai Zoo in the United Arab Emirates, said this award is an encouragement for all those working for the well being of the country's wildlife and environment.

He urged the government to keep the country's natural forests under a separate wildlife department and to not exhibit ailing animals at the zoo.

He is currently serving as a specialist on Wildlife and Zoo Management (Public Parks and Horticulture Department) in Dubai. In his 40 years of research on wildlife, he has written and published 16 books and more than 50 scientific publications.

PM returns home

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned home yesterday from Tehran concluding her four-day official tour to attend the 16th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (Nam).

A Biman Bangladesh flight carrying the prime minister and members of her entourage landed at Shahjalal International Airport at 6:20pm.

Deputy Leader of Parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, senior ministers, bureaucrats and diplomats received the prime minister at the airport.

In the summit, held on Thursday and Friday, the prime minister addressed the plenary session of the summit on the opening day.

Hasina chaired a session of general discussion previous to the closing session at the 120-nation summit.

On the sidelines of the summit, the prime minister held bilateral meetings with the heads of state or government of a number of countries including India, Iran, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Top US diplomat due on Sept 6

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



A top American diplomat will arrive in Dhaka on September 6 on a five-day visit as part of the Obama administration's efforts to promote policies on women's issues and peace and security in Bangladesh.

Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Melanne Vermeer, during her visit to Dhaka and Chittagong from September 6-10, will meet government representatives, civil society and businesswomen.

She will be travelling to Bangladesh for the second time after the January 4 visit.

In her capacity as director of the Department of State's new office on Global Women's Issues, Vermeer coordinates foreign policy issues and activities relating to the political, economic and social advancement of women around the world.

On September 9 at the Asian University of Women in Chittagong, she will launch "Grassroots Women's Political Leadership Forum: South Asia Regional Women's Political Leadership Summit," a 10-day programme on political leadership development for grassroots women leaders from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Prior to the conference, Vermeer will meet indigenous women in Chittagong to explore issues of women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship.



Protest rally

Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports will organise a protest rally; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:30am.

Rally

Bangladesh National Garments

Workers Employees League will hold a rally; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:30am.

Mobile eye care project

Bangladesh Institute of Health Sciences will organise a mobile eye care project; Venue: its auditorium, 125/1,



PHOTO: STAR

Renowned wildlife expert Dr Reza Khan, second from left, being presented Prokriti O Jibon Foundation-Channel i "Nature Conservation Award-2012" at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital yesterday. On his right is Environment and Forests Minister Hasan Mahmud and on his left are Prokriti O Jibon Foundation Chairman Mukit Majumdar Babu and Channel i Managing Director Faridur Reza Sagar.



Change in temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Day and high temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:15pm and rises tomorrow at 5:41am.

Country's highest temperature 36.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 25.0 degrees at Srimangal.

The highest and the lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.0	27.4	74	62
Chittagong	31.2	26.2	80	82
Rajshahi	36.5	27.2	80	77
Rangpur	33.8	27.1	84	80
Khulna	33.0	27.0	84	94
Barisal	32.6	26.6	72	92
Sylhet	33.9	26.7	79	78