

NEWS IN *brief*

Top US diplomat arrives in Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



Melanne S Verveer, a top US diplomat, yesterday arrived in Dhaka 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.

She will meet government representatives, civil society and businesswomen, said a US embassy press release.

Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues Verveer will launch a 10-day "Grassroots Women's Political Leadership Forum: South Asia Regional Women's Political Leadership Summit" at the Asian University of Women in Chittagong on September 9, it said. She also will meet women of indigenous communities in Chittagong.

DU student hurt in road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A student of Dhaka University (DU) was injured as a CNG-run auto-rickshaw hit a rickshaw carrying her on the campus yesterday.

The injured was identified as Marjia Al Hakim, a first year student of DU psychology department and a resident of Rokeya Hall.

Witnesses said the speeding CNG-run auto-rickshaw hit the rickshaw in front of the hall while Marjia was going to the university's central library around 2:00pm, throwing her off the rickshaw.

With head and hand injuries, she was rushed to

Greater Mymensingh Cultural Forum executives' induction tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The induction ceremony of newly elected central executive committee of Greater Mymensingh Cultural Forum and Eid reunion will be held tomorrow.

Textiles and Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui will attend, as chief guest, the programme at Bangladesh Shipkalaka Academy auditorium at 5:00pm.

With forum president M Hamid in the chair, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Promode Mankin and Litterateur Rahat Khan will also attend the programme as special guests, said a press release.

A cultural function will be held with the participation of singers and dancers from Mymensingh.

Foreign ministry officials' club Meenabazar Sept 8-9

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Service Club-Families, an organisation of foreign ministry officials, will organise a Meenabazar on the premises of the state guesthouse Padma in the capital.

The Meenabazar will run between 10:00am to 7:00pm tomorrow and the day after, said a foreign ministry release.

Foreign Secretary Mohamed Mijarul Quayes will inaugurate the event at 10:00am tomorrow.

The profits from the Meenabazar will be donated to support various philanthropic and social service activities being carried out by different welfare organisations

REUNION
Rajshahi University Former Students' Samity will organise a reunion; Venue: Paltan Tower, Purana Paltan; Time: 5:00pm.

DISCUSSION
Bangladesh Sammilito Peshajibi Parishad will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

HUMAN CHAIN
Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity Council will form a human chain;

Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

TRAINING
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will organise a training programme; Venue: its premises; Time: 9:30am.

CITIZENS' RALLY
Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon will organise a citizens' rally; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

CULTURAL PROGRAMME
Chhayanaut will organise a cultural

RAIN LIKELY
UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital tomorrow at 6:10pm and rises tomorrow at 5:43am.

Country's highest temperature 34.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet 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	31.5	24.9	78	71
Chittagong	31.0	24.8	87	83
Rajshahi	30.5	25.0	97	92
Rangpur	31.8	26.0	83	74
Khulna	28.5	24.5	100	94
Barisal	28.5	24.5	97	88
Sylhet	34.6	25.3	68	76

Visitors look at artworks of Jaseeb Ara Siddique after the inauguration ceremony of her first solo painting exhibition at Drik Gallery in Dhanmondi of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



MEGHNA POLLUTION
DoE fines paper mill Tk 25 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined a paper mill Tk 25 lakh in Munshiganj for illegally running the mill for seven years and polluting the river Meghna.

A team from DoE detected that Pioneer Paper and Board Mills Ltd located in Gozaria area of the district, has been running since 2006 without mandatory permission of the department, said a press release.

DoE Director Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, who handed down the penalty, also ordered the owner to shut down the mill immediately and ordered DoE's local office to file a criminal case against the offender.

The paper mill has released untreated liquid effluent in the Meghna through a local canal.

Munir said such pollution is detrimental to aquatic life and riverine ecology, the press release added.

The mill owner could not be readily contacted for comments.

Class IV student returns after 21 hours 'disappearance'
Guardians assault institution's vice-principal, security guards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After going missing for around 21 hours, a student of Willes Little Flower School and College in the capital's Kakrail returned on his own to his Gandaria residence yesterday with no idea of what had happened.

During this period, his guardians beat up the school's vice principal and two security guards over the disappearance, filed a general diary and went to numerous hospitals in search of him.

The school's academic activities remained suspended for half an hour yesterday as its teachers formed a human chain and organised a press conference inside the school protesting the attack.

On his return around 7:00am yesterday, 13-year-old Farhan Iqbal Shakil, studying in class IV, fell sick and was admitted to Mitford Hospital in Old Dhaka. He was also unable to speak, claimed his father, Iqbal Hossain Tayeb.

"My son just said that he could not

Expatriates new victims of acid attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alongside men, women and children, the Bangladeshi expatriates have also been becoming victims of acid throwing over personal rivalry in distant lands.

A male victim from Brahmanbaria, Md Sumon Miah, 30, who had migrated to Dubai, shared his story with The Daily Star yesterday.

He said he fell victim to acid throwing in Dubai in 2009 due to a financial conflict with his maternal uncles. Unemployed for the last three years with a damaged eye and face, he is now living as a burden of the family, he added.

Sumon talked to The Daily Star on the sidelines of a views exchange meeting.

Speaking at the meeting, Monira Begum, executive director of Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF), said of the acid victims between 1999 and 2011, about 26 percent

were men while 74 percent were women and children.

Though the occurrence of acid throwing has declined, at least one incident is taking place every three days in the country, mostly in rural areas, she told the meeting at the Department of Social Services.

ASF along with the government agency jointly organised the programme where ASF distributed Tk 20.16 lakh as donation among 52 acid survivors--45 women and seven men.

Some female acid survivors also shared their stories with The Daily Star and demanded exemplary punishment for the culprits.

Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam, ASF Chairperson Dr Iftekharuzzaman, and Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haque Mostafa Shaheed also spoke.

55pc elderly victims of physical torture in capital: Survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 55 percent of elderly people in the capital are being tortured physically by their family members, said a survey yesterday.

It said the victims are tortured by the children, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, grand children and even their spouses.

The findings of the survey were revealed at a seminar titled "Abuse against Older People within the Family among Urban Poor in Dhaka City" at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban in Dhaka University (DU).

DU population science department and HelpAge International Bangladesh jointly organised the programme.

Prof AKM Nurun Nabi, project director of population science department, conducted the survey on dwellers of the capital's Kalyanpur, Rayer Bazar and Agargaon.

The survey also revealed that 88.4 percent of elderly people across the country are being tortured mentally while 83.3 percent are victims of ignorance.

About 55 percent of elderly people are also suffering as they do not receive enough money, Prof Nurun Nabi added.

Both males and females are victims of such tortures but the females suffer more than the males, said the survey.

Mohammad Bellal Hossain, chairperson of the population science department, presided over the programme while HelpAge International Bangladesh Country Director Nirjharinee Hasan, addressed the programme, among others.

BLAST CASE AGAINST OPPOSITION
Fakhrul appeals to stay proceedings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday filed an appeal with the High Court for staying the proceedings of a bomb blast case filed against him and others.

Shahbagh police filed the case against Fakhrul and 28 other leaders and activists of the 18-party alliance in connection with two bomb explosions inside the Secretariat during hartal hours on April 29.

On August 26, the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court took into cognisance the charges against all accused of the case for its trial after rejecting a petition submitted by the accused to not take the charges into cognisance.

Fakhrul filed the appeal yesterday challenging the August 26 order of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge.

Fakhrul's lawyer Mahbub Uddin Khokon told The Daily Star that according to the appeal, two unknown motorcyclists hurled the "bombs" inside the Secretariat as per the case statement, but the investigation officer of the case failed to trace them.

The IO did not even mention names and whereabouts of the two motorcyclists, who are the prime accused, but brought charges against the opposition leaders and activists as the abettors, and therefore the charges against the abettors cannot be taken into cognisance, he said, citing the appeal statement.

The court fixed September 18 for hearing on charge framing against the 29.

The charge sheeted accused of the case are now out on bail.

DESTINY SCAM
Director Abul Kalam Azad sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Abul Kalam Azad, a director of Destiny 2000 Ltd, to jail in connection with a money laundering case after rejecting his bail petition.

On July 31, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed two separate cases with Kalabagan Police Station against 22 officials of Destiny Group including Abul Kalam Azad for laundering Tk 3,285.26 crore by swindling investors.

Yesterday, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Ismail Hossain passed the order after hearing arguments from lawyers of both sides of the case.

The judge also turned down a prayer from the ACC to quiz Abul Kalam for seven days.

Police arrested Abul Kalam on August 28.

Read Tomorrow

The rich literature and the history of Manipuri Language. Learn how the women in Kurigram exporting caps to the middle-east. Saif Uddin, the man who diversified his agro business and earned awards for his vision. Also, learn how a village is being lit-up with the initiative of Robir Alo project, and about Monjum, a disabled student who dreams to continue studying despite many obstacles. Read the heart touching account from Faridur Reza Sagor. Regular feature Farmers' Voice is on "Perthenium", a new kind of killer weed.

Star Insight is a fortnightly publication of **The Daily Star**

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A fortnightly supplement of The Daily Star
DHAKA, SATURDAY
September 08, 2012
Vol 4, Issue 04

Manipuri Language & Literature

3 promoted as major generals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Army yesterday promoted three brigadier generals to the rank of major general and made changes in five key positions including the post of general officer commanding (GOC) of the Ninth Infantry Division based in Savar.

Of the three newly promoted major generals Sheikh Mohammad Aman Hasan has been made the director general (DG) of Special Security Force (SSF), a source in Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) confirmed The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, Army Headquarter Chief Engineer Brig Gen Abdul Quadir was promoted to major general and made Commandant of Ordinance Factory, while Commandant of the Non-Commissioned Officers Academy Brig Gen AKM Abdur Rahman was made the Military Secretary to the Army Headquarter after promotion.

SSF DG Maj Gen Chowdhury Hasan Sarwardy has been transferred to the Ninth Infantry Division as its GOC.

Ninth Infantry Division GOC Maj Gen KM Mominur Rahman has been made the Quarter Master General (QMG).

Also, Ordinance Factory Commandant Maj Gen Abul Hossain has been made the Commandant of the Military Institute of Science and Technology in Mirpur.

Rangpur 66th Infantry Division GOC Maj Gen Sabbir Ahmed has been made the GOC of Chittagong 24 Infantry Division while Military Secretary of the Army HQ Maj Gen Salahuddin Miaji has been made GOC of the Rangpur 66th Infantry Division.