

NEWS IN *brief*

US navy's 7th fleet commander arrives in Dhaka



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US 7th Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Escott H Swift arrived in Bangladesh yesterday to attend a week-long training exercise of the US Navy and Bangladesh Navy from September 17.

The inaugural ceremony of the second "Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training" (CARAT) exercise will be held at Naval Base Issa Khan in Chittagong.

CARAT contributes to regional maritime security by enhancing capabilities in areas such as maritime interception, information sharing, anti-piracy, anti-smuggling, and combined operations at sea, says a US embassy press release.

Dhaka appreciates creation of IOM emergency fund

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has appreciated the creation of an emergency fund by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to reinforce operational and emergency response capacity.

Such a financing mechanism to bridge the gap between the periods when an emergency occurs and when contributions are received is very important, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni told International Dialogue on Migration in Geneva on Friday.

The creation of the fund came after Bangladesh took the lead in articulating the demand for an institutionalised approach and a proper emergency evacuation framework for migrants in crisis situation in the Dhaka Declaration of Colombo Process, the

National Earth Olympiad 2012 ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Earth Olympiad 2012 (NEO'12), a competition on environmental and earth sciences, ended yesterday.

Top 20 scorers in the competition were awarded certificates and crests at a function organised by Bangladesh Youth Environment Initiative at International School in the capital's Baridhara area.

Ajraf Anwar of Sunnydale school became champion from the senior group while Sakib Alim of Academia from junior group.

Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh Svend Olling, Prof Kazi Matin Ahmed, a teacher of geology department at Dhaka University, and Afia Akhtar, president of International Association of Geoscientists, among

Welder dies in fall from building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man fell to his death from an under-construction multi-storey building in VIP road area of the capital's Shantinagar yesterday.

The deceased was Mohammed Sohail, 32, of Manikganj. His body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Quoting his co-workers, Paltan police said Sohail was doing welding work on the building's outer wall when he received an electric shock and fell down



The National Board of Revenue (NBR) brings out a procession to observe National Income Tax Day yesterday. Beginning from the NBR office, the procession paraded through different important streets in the capital. (Story on page B1)

PHOTO: STAR

TOFAIL, MENON'S REFUSAL TO JOIN CABINET Suranjit sees new equation

STAR REPORT

Veteran Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta yesterday termed Tofail Ahmed and Rashed Khan Menon's refusal to join the cabinet "a forecast of a new equation of new politics".

Meanwhile, Tofail, another veteran AL leader, at an election campaign meeting in Kapasia, Gazipur yesterday, said his refusal could not be an agenda for the opposition, reports a correspondent.

Menon, president of Workers' Party of Bangladesh, at a meeting with journalists on Friday, said he declined the government's offer as the proposal was not made maintaining due political process.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on

September 13 expanded her cabinet with five new ministers and two state ministers. Tofail and Menon turned down the offer to join the cabinet.

Minister without portfolio Suranjit, addressing a discussion organised by Dhaka city unit Awami Shilpigoshthi in the capital's Jatiya Press Club, said, "Their (Tofail and Menon's) decisions create a new equation of the new shape of queer politics", reports UNB.

He said there was nothing much to talk about the issue, as Tofail and Menon's decisions were personal and political.

Tofail said, "Awami League is a large political party. Whether I join the cabinet or not does not make any difference in the party. I do not have any frustration or anger."

Two more polytechnic instts for females soon Says education minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid has said the government will establish two more polytechnic institutes -- one in Sylhet and one in Barisal -- for females in the country soon.

With the new polytechnic institutes, the number of the institutes for females will be increased to 6 from 4 in the country.

Nurul Islam was addressing a views exchange meeting on 'the demand for skilled manpower and employment' organised by Technical Education Board at a hotel in Sylhet on Friday night.

The number of seats in the government polytechnic institutes has been increased to 25,000 from 12,000 to create skilled manpower in the country, he said.

Due to lack of skilled manpower, around 19,000 foreigners work in the country's garment sector, he added.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, former adviser to a caretaker government, Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, and ADB official Luny Lewes An Dayel, among others, also addressed the programme.

Raise awareness to stop formalin treated fish sale

Says fisheries dept

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mass awareness should be generated and relevant laws enforced to stop the sale and purchase of formalin-treated fish to ensure people's sound health, said speakers at a views exchange meeting yesterday.

Department of Fisheries organised the meeting in the capital's Matsya Babhan to present its progress in a three-year project "Control of Using Formalin in Fish and Raising Mass Awareness" beginning July 2011.

The department Director General Sayed Arif Azad said formalin has adverse effects on nature and the human body and its uncontrolled use leads to unnatural deaths for humans and causes serious diseases like cancer.

He suggested that the misuse of formalin could be controlled by applying relevant laws strictly and raising awareness.



A group of passengers laid siege to the Biman Bangladesh Airlines office and vandalised it, inset, at Sholoshahar in Chittagong city yesterday after the authorities failed to provide them with accommodation at hotels following a flight delay. The Jeddah-bound flight was to take off at 1:30am yesterday, but the Biman authorities rescheduled it for Tuesday and did not provide hotel accommodation for all passengers.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Worker killed at workshop in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female worker was killed as a piece of machinery hit her on the head at an engineering workshop in the capital's Mir Hazirbagh area yesterday.

The victim was Munni Akter Runa, 28, a worker at Mukta Engineering Workshop.

Runa's co-worker Nur-E-Alam said a piece of a machine broke away and hit her when she was working at the workshop around 9:15am.

Runa was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead.

Abul Kamal Azad, officer-in-charge at Shyampur Police Station, said they investigating the matter.

Buet classes resume

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Classes in the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BuEt) resumed yesterday after a 63-day deadlock over the demand by agitating teachers and students for removal of the vice-chancellor (VC) and his deputy.

Buet sources said the Academic Council meeting might be held on Tuesday to decide on holding this year's admission tests.

The university regained its usual environment with the campus abuzz with the return of all its teachers, students and staff.

"It is like a new beginning," said a civil engineering department student.

Normalcy returned to BuEt after the pro-VC, Prof M Habibur Rahman, was removed on September 9 and two cases, filed against the agitators, were withdrawn as per Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid's September 3 assurance.

The university authorities approved a new calendar on September 11, a day after the Deans' Committee chalked out the calendar to resume classes in all departments from yesterday's date.

Yesterday the students said they had lost around seven months, three months due to some unscheduled closures before the deadlock and another three to four months for the deadlock.

Buet Teachers Association (BTA) General Secretary Prof Ashrafur Islam said they would hold discussions with students for a way to make up for the time lost.

He, however, said the demand for the removal of VC Prof SM Nazrul Islam still remained.

The agitation began on April 7 when BTA started abstaining from work over the resignation demand, bringing 16 allegations against the VC and pro-VC.

They suspended their agitation temporarily on May 4 following the prime minister's assurance to meet the demand. As their demand remained unmet, they started a symbolic protest on July 7.

But things turned for the worse when the Buet authorities suddenly closed the university for 44 days from July 11 after teachers announced to go for a non-stop work abstention from July 14. Buet students and staff this time joined the agitation.

Road crashes kill 7

METRO DESK

Seven people were killed and fifteen others injured in separate road accidents in Habiganj, Natore, Chittagong and Gaibandha yesterday.

Our staff correspondent from Sylhet reports, three persons were killed and 10 others injured as a bus rammed two battery-run three-wheelers near Debpura Bazar in Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj yesterday evening.

The deceased were newspaper hawkker Saidur Rahman, 22, Enam Uddin, 26, of Kanaipur, and Sheful Miah, 27, of Rajabad in Nabiganj pourashava.

Of the injured, two were taken to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital while the others to Nabiganj Upazila Health Complex.

In Natore, two people died instantly as a microbus carrying them plunged into a ditch beside Natore-Dhaka highway at Talbaria in Gurudaspur upazila of Natore yesterday morning.

They are Sultan Ahmed, 40, of Kushtia, and the microbus driver Abdus Samad, 22, of Tangail.

In Chittagong, an unidentified boy died as a truck ran him over near West Mohara in Chandgaon area of the city yesterday evening.

In Gaibandha, Badsha Mia, 55, of Palashbari upazila, died and five others sustained injuries as a bus hit a rickshaw-van on Rangpur-Bogra highway in Dipherhat of Sadullapur upazila yesterday. Two of the injured were undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

DHAKA TODAY

Sit-in
Bangladesh Diploma Bekar Nurses Association will stage a sit-in; Venue: Ispahani Bhaban, Motijheel; Time: 10:00am.

Workshop
Jatiya Protibondhii Forum will organise a workshop; Venue: Mahub Kabir Hall, Biam Foundation; Time: 9:30am.

Roundtable
South Asian Lawyers' Forum will organise a roundtable; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion
Bangladesh Parjatan Bikash Kendra will hold a discussion; Venue: Public Library; Time: 4:00pm.

Rally
Jatiya Ganotantrik Front will arrange a rally; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:30pm.

Dialogue
Brac Business School and Financial Excellence Limited will hold a dialogue; Venue: GDNL, (18th floor), Brac University; Time: 3:00pm.

Roundtable
Jatiya Zakkha Niyantaran Karmasuchi and four other organisations will

WEATHER TODAY

Change in temperature unlikely

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

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:01pm and rises tomorrow at 5:46am.

Country's highest temperature 33.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and Rangamati and lowest 24.5 degrees also at Rangamati and Hatiya. The highest and the 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	32.2	26.6	74	79
Chittagong	31.2	26.0	82	76
Rajshahi	31.3	25.5	97	83
Rangpur	26.0	24.6	98	96
Khulna	32.5	26.5	86	84
Barisal	30.4	25.4	84	92