

NEWS IN *brief*

Japan maritime self-defense squadron to arrive on Sept 24

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

As a part of its overseas training cruise, the Training Squadron of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense (JMSDF) will arrive at the Chittagong Port on September 24 on a four-day visit.

This will be the first visit of a JMSDF ship to Bangladesh since the country's independence.

Their arrival commemorates the 40th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Japan and Bangladesh, said a press release of the Embassy of Japan.

JMSDF Commander Rear Admiral Hidetoshi Fuchinoue will lead the Japanese training squadron, consisting of 750 crew and newly commissioned officers, that will be visiting 14 countries across the

RMG factory fire injures five

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

At least five workers were injured while trying to douse a fire that broke out at an export-oriented readymade garment factory in Masdair Police Line area of Narayanganj town yesterday.

The fire originated at Amena Knitex Garments Factory around 10:00am, said Fatullah Model police, quoting witnesses.

Huge quantity of loin cloths and Jhut kept in the factory warehouse were gutted in the fire, said its owner.

On information, three fire fighting units of Mondalpara Fire Service Station rushed to the spot and doused the fire.

The injured factory workers were given first aid. The fire might have been originated from an



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Hajis on the first Hajj flight at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday.

JS passes five bills

BSS, Dhaka

Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed five bills, including the Vested Property Return (Second Amendment) Bill, 2012 and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2012.

Three other bills are the Power of Attorney Bill, 2012, Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2012, and the Members of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (Terms and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2012.

Land Minister Md Rezaul Karim Hira piloted the Vested Property Return (Second Amendment) Bill, 2012 in parliament.

With the passage of the bill the period of preparing list of vested property has been extended to another 90 days and period of application for returning the property to 300 days from 120 days.

Earlier, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed piloted the Power of Attorney Bill, 2012, the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2012 and the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2012 in the House.

With the turning of the Power of Attorney

Bill into a law, acts of forgery and cheating in land management, land development, land transfer and land buying and selling will be reduced significantly.

With the passage of the bill, the dilly-dally practices in disposing of all pending civil suits will be reduced significantly.

Besides, passage of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2012 will facilitate setting up courts of chief judicial magistrates, additional chief judicial magistrates and judicial magistrates anywhere in a district.

As per the existing Code of Criminal Procedure Act, 1898, there is no provision of shifting the courts of chief judicial magistrates, additional chief judicial magistrates and judicial magistrates outside the district headquarters.

With the passage of the Members of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (Terms and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, the commission chairman will get salaries, house allowances and other benefits equivalent to the cabinet secretary's while the members of the commission

EARTH FILLING IN SAVAR Punish high-ups of Hall-Mark

Demands Poba

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green activists yesterday demanded punishment for the high-ups of Hall-Mark Group allegedly for filling up water bodies and marsh lands near Hemayetpur, Singair and Manikganj roads in Savar violating law.

They also urged the authorities concerned to remove all establishments set up by the group in the areas.

They made the demand at a press conference organised by Paribesh Bachao Andolan (Poba) at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital, says a press release.

Despite a High Court (HC) order to stop construction work for four months in Savar and Hemayetpur residential areas, the company continues to grab land illegally harassing the land owners, alleged the speakers.

The HC on July 30 issued a four-month injunction on the order of the appellate authority of the environment and forests ministry that let the group to continue earth filling.

Poba also urged the authorities concerned to implement the HC order to save environment. Joint general secretary of Poba Syed Monwar Hossain also spoke.



Discussion

Gonosanghati Andolan will organise a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Workshop

Disabled Rehabilitation and Research Association will hold a workshop; Venue: Biam Foundation; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Bangalee Jatiyatabadi Parishad will organise a discussion; Venue: Awami League's central office, Bangabandhu Avenue; Time: 11:00am.

Workshop

Bangladesh Institute of ICT in Development will hold a workshop; Venue: Department of Agricultural

Extension, Khamar Bari; Time: 11:00am.

Awarding ceremony

Brac will organise an awarding ceremony; Venue: Brac Centre Inn; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

Biswa Bangalee Sammelon will hold a discussion; Venue: Bangladesh Medical Association Bhaban, Topekhan; Time: 4:00pm.

Seminar

National Human Rights Commission will organise a seminar; Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel; Time: 10:00am.

Convention



WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately 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 05:59pm and rises tomorrow at 05:46am.

Country's highest temperature 34.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.4 degrees also at Rangpur.

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	32.0	26.3	73	92
Chittagong	31.8	26.7	73	83
Rajshahi	30.2	25.4	94	97
Rangpur	29.0	24.4	96	84
Khulna	31.2	26.5	84	97
Barisal	30.0	25.5	81	92

Biman chairman's removal sought in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party lawmaker Mujibul Haque and the lone independent MP Fazlul Azim yesterday in parliament blasted the government for the recent 'unprecedented' collapse of Biman flight schedule in different international destinations.

The duo held Air Marshal (ret'd) Jamal Uddin Ahmed, chairman of board of directors of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, responsible for the mismanagement in the national airliner and demanded his immediate removal to save the Biman.

"I went to the airport last night and saw many passengers waiting for hours to go to their respective destinations. I saw many women and children facing huge sufferings in the airport," Mujibul said while speaking on point of order.

Taking floor on the point of order Fazlul Azim said the Biman board chairman is a mighty person who does not listen to anybody; he is a superpower and not accountable to anyone. He is the only man who is destroying the Biman.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN MARRIAGE

Govt to make no law against religious sentiment: Shafique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In response to rights activists' demand for an act to ensure women's rights in marital relationship, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said the government would not formulate any law, which would go against religious sentiment.

"In our country, different familial issues like marriage registration, relationship between husband and wife, and women's rights to property are being determined by religious code. So the government will only formulate law on these issues, if a unanimous decision comes from all quarters," he said.

"In the Hindu Marriage Registration Act-2012, we have kept marriage registration optional, not mandatory, as a section of Hindu leaders are against marriage registration," he told a meeting, "Securing Women's Economic

Rights in Marital Relationship through Law", at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) organised the programme where the organisation placed 29 recommendations, including formulating a "Uniform family Code" to ensure women's economic rights in marital relationship.

Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch has said Bangladesh's discriminatory personal laws on marriage, separation and divorce trap many women and girls in abusive marriages or drive them into poverty when marriages fall apart.

In many cases, these laws contribute to homelessness, hunger, and ill-health for divorced or separated women and their children, the New York based rights body said in a new report released yesterday.



Swadhinata Forum, a pro-BNP organisation, observes a token hunger strike in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday protesting the failure of law enforcement agencies to trace BNP lawmaker Ilias Ali, who along with his chauffeur, went missing from the capital's Banani in the wee hours of April 18.

PHOTO: STAR

Matiur Rahman MP laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Dr Mohammad Matiur Rahman, a renowned cardiac surgeon and an Awami League lawmaker from Tangail-3 constituency, was laid to rest yesterday.

Following his namaz-e-janazas at Dhaka and Ghatail upazila of Tangail, he was buried at his family graveyard in the upazila's Khilgati village.

Matiur Rahman, also director of Labaid Cardiac Hospital in Dhaka, passed away from heart complications at a Bangalore hospital in India on September 14 at the age of 66.

His body arrived in Dhaka via a flight from India on Sunday. His coffin was bought to his residence in Ghatail upazila yesterday.

Historic Education Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has paid tribute to the martyrs of 1962 education movement by formulating a pro-people education policy, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid.

He told a discussion, organised by National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE), at Jatiya Press Club in the capital to mark the historic Education Day with NFTE chief coordinator Principal Quazi Faruque Ahmed was in the chair.

The day was observed yesterday commemorating sacrifices of Mostafa, Babul, Wajiuallah and other students killed in police firing while staging demonstrations against the SM Sharif Education Commission formed in 1962.

Nahid said still there are many challenges including improvement of quality of education.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique also spoke.

Meanwhile, students' organisations including Bangladesh Chhatra League, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree, Bangladesh Students' Union, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation and Bangladesh Biplobi Chhatra Sanghati arranged various events in the capital to mark the day. The organisations placed wreaths at the memorial at Shikha Odhikar Chattar.