

NEWS IN brief

Turkish coast guard commandant due tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Turkish Coast Guard Commandant Rear Admiral (UH) Hasan Upakliolu will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow on a four-day official visit to strengthen maritime relationship between Turkey and Bangladesh, said a press release.

During his visit, Hasan is expected to call on the home minister, chief of naval staff and director general of Coast Guard.

He will attend a bilateral meeting in the Bangladesh Coast Guard headquarters and pay a visit to Chittagong. He will leave Dhaka on October 12.

Indo-Bangla home secy level meeting Oct 16

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Home secretary-level talks between Bangladesh and India will be held in Dhaka on October 16 when security, land boundary agreement, and border firing issues are expected to figure prominently.

The issue of Bangladesh handing over top ULFA insurgent leader Anup Chetia to India will also come up at the meeting, sources said in New Delhi yesterday.

Indian Home Secretary RK Singh will fly to Dhaka on October 15 and will hold talks with Bangladesh Home Secretary CQK Mustaq Ahmed on October 16.

Ahead of the secretary-level meeting, senior officials

JU admission tests from Oct 13

JU CORRESPONDENT

The admission tests of the first year honours courses at Jahangirnagar University (JU) for 2012-13 academic session will begin on October 13.

This year 2,09,922 admission seekers will vie for 2,500 seats under six faculties and two institutes of the university, JU sources said.

The admission tests are scheduled to end on October 20.

The aspirants will have to bring their HSC original admit cards during the test period.

The results will be published on www.juniv.edu/admission/ within three days after the tests. The aspirants also can know the results via SMS from

Knowledge Trust formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Knowledge and Action Network Worldwide (Knowledge Trust), a non-profitable and non-political organisation, has been formed recently with a view to building a society based on knowledge.

Members of the trustee board include its Chairman Prof Tofail Ahmed, Vice-Chairman Mahfuza Khanam, Member Secretary Bidhan Chandra Pal, Treasurer Kazi Manzurul Kabir and members Siddiqua Zaman, Anwar Ul Alam and Dr Roushan Jahan, said a press release.

Advisers to the organisation are Dr Kamal Hossain, Professor Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman, Mustafa Nurul Islam, Dr Nurul Islam, Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, ASM Shahjahan, Sultana Kamal, Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Dr Saadat Husain, Dr Halima Khatun, Ramendu Majumder, Khondoker Ibrahim Khaled, Prof Sirajul Islam and Dr Ayesha Khatun, the release said.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad brings out a march in the capital yesterday protesting attacks on religious and ethnic minority communities including setting fire to residences and places of worship in the country.

VIOLENCE AGAINST BUDDHISTS IN PATIYA

Two attackers confess

STAR REPORT

The contractual workers of Western Marine Shipyard were infuriated at the sight of a Facebook photo "defaming the Holy Quran" on mobile phone and vandalised Buddhist monasteries in the nearby villages in Patiya on September 30, said two arrested workers to a Chittagong court Friday night.

Md Ibrahim and Md Mohiuddin, the workers who took part in the violence against Buddhists, made the confession. They also gave names of 34 other workers involved in the attack.

They said they saw the Facebook photo at the shipyard around 10:00am on September 30 from other workers. The news soon spread, and the workers first attacked Ovov Bihar at Lakhera village and then a Hindu temple, they said.

Police have so far identified around 100 people involved in vandalising two Buddhist monasteries and a Hindu temple in Patiya.

Meanwhile, people and organisations from home and abroad continued their

condemnation and protests against the September 29-30 onslaught on Buddhists when several Buddhist and Hindu temples and over 50 houses were vandalised and torched in Ramu and Ukhia in Cox's Bazar and Patiya in Chittagong.

Protesting the attack, more than 100 monks in Myanmar demonstrated at Bangladesh's embassy yesterday, while Buddhist community in New York demonstrated in front of the UN headquarters, report agencies. A day ago, about 300 Buddhist monks in Thailand's capital, Bangkok, staged a similar protest.

Several human rights, Diaspora organisations, community leaders, professionals and individuals from the Netherlands and other parts of Europe in a joint statement on Monday also strongly condemned the attack.

United Forum of Churches, Bangladesh, Sammilito Sanskritik Jote, Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhist-Christian Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Puja Uddipan Parishad, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, Sammilito Aijibhi Samannay Parishad condemned and protested the attack yesterday.

ATTACK ON ADIVASIS IN RANGAMATI
Punish perpetrators

Demands Canada based rights org

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Council of Indigenous Peoples of Chittagong Hill Tracts (ICIPCHT) demanded withdrawal of Bangalee settlers from CHT and exemplary punishment of persons responsible for recent attacks on indigenous people in Rangamati.

The organisation also demanded that the government ensures appropriate compensation for the victims, and full implementation of the 1997 CHT Peace Accord.

The Canada-based organisation made the demands to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through a letter on October 2.

According to the letter, Bangalee settlers have attacked indigenous people indiscriminately, and vandalized, set fire to shops, houses and clinics owned by the indigenous people.

At least 40 indigenous students, a government physician, 12 chairpersons of union parishes and two teachers of Rangamati College have sustained injuries in a series of attacks that began on September 22, it said.

"We are worried that this communal attack on the Paharis will not be the last for the reason that the government of Bangladesh has not addressed the structural roots of violence in the CHT," the ICIPCHT said in the letter.

HALL-MARK SCAM
Menon calls it state-sponsored plunder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday termed the Hall-Mark scam as state-sponsored plunder.

"Finance Minister AMA Muhith was insensitive to the scam. He apologised later for his comment that 4,000 crore Taka loan scam of Sonali Bank is not a big amount. But he was not earnest," he said.

"During the BNP-Jamat government, corruption was Hawa Bhaban-centred. Under the present government, corruption is not centralised but spread to many spheres," he added.

He was speaking at a roundtable on "Corruption by plundering tycoons and democracy in crisis" organised by Sammilito Samajik Andolan, in the capital's Liberation War Museum.

Criticising the former Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani's recent comment, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said, "Our [country's] democracy is not like Pakistan. Pakistan's democracy is agrarian and governed by Talibans."

Gilani yesterday claimed that an "unannounced Bangladesh-model government" is functioning in his country in the presence of a "worthless" parliament that has no say in decision-making.

The programme was also addressed by Prof Anowar Hossain and Prof Ajoy Roy.

CU suspends five BCL activists

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University authorities yesterday suspended eight students, including five activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), for different periods ranging from six months to one year for their part in unwanted incidents.

The BCL men are Alamgir Tipu and Saiful Hoque, respectively master's and third year students of economics; Md Arafat Hossain, second year student of accounting and information systems; and Nure Alam Imon and Rakib Uddin, third year students of history.

The five along with a second year student of English, Rubel Dey, were suspended for six months for their role in the September 29 factional clash on the campus, which left six Chhatra League activists injured.

The two other students--Abdullah Al Masud, first year student of microbiology, and Akond Yunus Ahmed, first year student of public administration--were found involved in harassing a shuttle train driver on August 5 and harassing a CU correspondent inside classroom on September 8.

They were suspended for one year.

The university authorities also served show-cause notices on three other BCL activists--Monsurul Alam, Jamir Uddin and Kaiser Rony--in connection with the September 29 clash.

Alal sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-two BNP men including its youth wing Juba League President Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal were denied bail and sent to jail yesterday in a case filed for damaging and torching vehicles in front of the BNP's central office on Tuesday.

Metroplitan Magistrate Mohammad Rezaul Karim scrapped their appeal for bail when they were produced before his court.

On October 3, police arrested Alal from the party's central office in the capital. Later, a Dhaka court sent him on a two-day remand.

Police filed three cases against over 500 pro-opposition leaders and activists with Paltan and Ramna police stations in connection with the incident.

Int'l docufilm festival ends today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The sixth International Festival of Docufilms on Liberation and Human Rights will end today.

Bangladesh Liberation War Museum (BLWM) organised the four-day long festival titled "6th LWM International Festival of Docufilms on Liberation and Human Rights" at the Public Library Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium in the capital, said a press release.

On the last of the festival, people can enjoy the following films -- Revolution 1971 (UK), The Battle of Chilly part-3 (Chilly), Hara Kaila Khuni Chai Na (Bangladesh), Agnijuger Dhaka (Bangladesh), Salvador Alinda (Chilly), Nostalgia for the Light (Chilly), The Unsung Ballads (Bangladesh), Pet Singer: The Power of Song (USA), Aftermath: The Remonants of War (Canada), and The Battle of Chilly part-1 (Chilly).

Meher Afroz said children learn many things from a nuclear family. But only joint family can ensure that they learn to love and get love from each and every member of their family.

Dr Badiul Alam Majumder, Prof Ameena Mohsin, actress Rokeya Prachi and Secretary of Girl Child Advocacy Forum Nasima Akter Jolly also spoke.



Participants at a seminar on "Breast Cancer Awareness" organised by Apollo Hospitals Dhaka yesterday. The hospital has launched a "Go Pink Campaign" this month to spread awareness among the country's women population about the risks of the disease.

PHOTO: STAR

NATIONAL GIRL CHILD DAY
Independence of children suggested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a mock parliamentary debate competition yesterday said a child should be given complete independence for its healthy physical and mental growth.

Girl Child Advocacy Forum and Debate for Democracy jointly organised the competition at Dhaka Reporters' Union (DRU) auditorium on the occasion of National Girl Child Day.

Green Herald International School participated in the debate as the treasury bench while YWCA School took the role of the opposition bench.

With Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron, chairman of Debate for Democracy, in the chair, Meher Afroz Chumki, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the women and children affairs ministry, as chief guest, and Tariq-ul-Islam, secretary of the ministry, as special guest, were present.

Meher Afroz said children learn many things from a nuclear family. But only joint family can ensure that they learn to love and get love from each and every member of their family.

Dr Badiul Alam Majumder, Prof Ameena Mohsin, actress Rokeya Prachi and Secretary of Girl Child Advocacy Forum Nasima Akter Jolly also spoke.

Election-time admin to operate under EC
Says prime minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said it was the election commission (EC) which would conduct the next general election and the civil administration and all law enforcement agencies would operate under its authority during that period.

"We have strengthened the election commission, and all the elections held under the election commission and under our government were free and fair," she told grassroots leaders of Dinajpur district unit Awami League at her Gono Bhaban residence.

About caretaker government issue, the premier said they did not want to plunge the country into the "darkness" as in the 1/11. "Teachers, political leaders, business leaders and many other people were tortured by the

past caretaker government. And we don't want such a government again," Hasina told the views exchange meeting.

With an indirect reference to civil society leaders who support the caretaker government system, Hasina said they supported the system with a wish that they would get posts and other benefits if the caretaker government came. "And I urge them [who support CG] to join politics and get to power through election," she said. "But we cannot destroy our democracy and democratic practices to fulfill their desire."

"We want to build our country as a peaceful nation, where people of all religions will live in peace and harmony and all will perform their religious rites," Hasina said. "And it's also the teaching of Islam."

WEATHER TODAY

Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:40pm and rises tomorrow at 5:53am.

Country's highest temperature 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessor and lowest 23.0 degrees at Rangamati and Chaudanga.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| City/Town | Temperature in Celsius | Humidity in percentage |
|------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Dhaka | 32.4 | 25.9 |
| Chittagong | 31.8 | 24.4 |
| Rajshahi | 33.2 | 23.8 |
| Rangpur | 31.2 | 26.0 |
| Khulna | 32.0 | 25.7 |
| Barisal | 32.8 | 24.3 |
| | Max: 32.4 | Min: 25.9 |
| | Morning 81 | Evening 68 |
| | 80 | 80 |
| | 83 | 81 |
| | 88 | 88 |
| | 90 | 92 |
| | 95 | 88 |