

NEWS IN *brief***CJ leaves for USA, Canada tomorrow**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain will leave Dhaka tomorrow for a study tour in the USA and Canada.

He is expected to return to the country on October 25, said a law ministry press release.

Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, senior most judge of the Appellate Division of Supreme Court, will discharge functions of the chief justice during Muzammel's absence, the release added.

Four eateries, meat shop fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) yesterday fined four eateries and a meat shop in the capital Tk 33,000 in total for selling adulterated food items and having unhygienic environment.

The court, in a drive, gave the penalty to Banga Hotel, Monimukta Hotel and Pankari Hotel in Bangabazar and one restaurant and a chicken meat shop in Nimgali.

Executive Magistrate Ananda Kumar Biswas, who led the drive, said despite giving warning to the restaurants' owners earlier, they continued to sell adulterated food and failed to maintain hygienic environment.

The mobile court also evicted around 20 shops from the footpaths near Bangabazar area during the drive, he said.

Health services DG office catches fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out at the office of the director general of health services in the capital's Mohakhali area yesterday.

The fire, erupted around 6:25pm, gutted few documents in the office on the second floor of the six-storey building of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Two air-conditioners and a close circuit camera were also gutted.

The fire might have originated from an electric short circuit, said fire service sources.

Two units of fire fighters rushed to the spot and

Dettol school handwash campaign launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh Limited yesterday began the Dettol school handwash campaign in Dhaka and Chittagong.

The programme kicked off yesterday in Chittagong Grammar School and Ispahani Govt Girls High School, said a press release.

In the interactive programme, the students learned why washing hands is important and how to wash their hands properly.

The hand washing campaign is a part of "Dettol's Mission for Health" programme, which was officially inaugurated last year on October 15 by Health



(From left) Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Chairperson Sultana Kamal, Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman and Trustee Board Member M Hafizuddin Khan at a press conference to reveal a TIB study, "Analysis of positive and negative role of lawmakers of ninth parliament", at Brac Centre Inn of the capital yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

FIGHTING GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS First Asia cooperation summit starts tomorrow

President Zillur Rahman leaves for Kuwait today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Asian leaders are set to hold the first summit of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) beginning in Kuwait tomorrow to discuss way of enhancing cooperation to protect Asian countries from global economic crisis.

The three-day summit of the 32-member ACD in the capital of Kuwait, will also focus on ways to activate the forum, which was set up in 2002 to strengthen regional cooperation and dialogue among Asian countries.

President Zillur Rahman will leave for Kuwait 9:30am today to attend the summit. Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will receive Zillur Rahman at Kuwait International Airport at 12:30pm (local time). Bangladesh Ambassador in Kuwait Syed Shahed Reza will also be present.

He will lead a 43-member delegation to advance Bangladesh's agenda on poverty alleviation, increased economic cooperation, cooperation in disaster management, energy and mineral resources and environment at the meeting, ministry sources said.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Pakistan Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf, Thai Prime Minister Yingluck

Shinawatra, among others, will take part in the summit.

Officials said the summit will pave the way for a new era of cooperation among the Asian countries especially in finance, agriculture, food security, energy, health, industrialisation and natural disasters.

Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will open the summit at Liberation Conference Building at 11:00am tomorrow. The inaugural session will also be addressed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, who is the General Coordinator of the ACD.

Besides addressing the summit, he will attend dinner to be hosted by Amir of Kuwait tomorrow. On Wednesday, he will attend the closing ceremony and then visit Bangladesh Military Contingent (BMC) at Sabhan Cantonment in Kuwait at 6:00pm.

Later, the president will attend a dinner to be hosted by Bangladesh Ambassador in Kuwait Syed Shahed Reza at Bangladesh House.

Zillur Rahman is expected to arrive in Dhaka at 6:30pm on Thursday.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni already has reached Kuwait to attend the ministerial meeting of ACD held yesterday.

DEMAND FOR DUE SALARIES Hall-Mark workers clash with police 50 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 50 people were injured after some 15,000 agitating workers of Hall-Mark Group's readymade garment factories in Savar clashed with police yesterday demanding their due salaries.

Witnesses said the workers came out of the factories around 9:30am and headed toward Dhaka-Aricha Highway to put blockades.

An hour later, police intercepted them at Singair-Hemayetpur road, where vehicular movement had come to a halt.

Industrial Police Deputy Director Mohammad Moniruzzaman said, "The workers attacked when police asked them to free the road."

"Afterwards, law enforcers charged batons, fired at least 10 rubber bullets and lobbed five tear gas shells to disperse them."

The injured were admitted to local hospitals while the Hall-Mark authorities shut the factories for the day.

The agitators said the authorities did not fulfill their commitment to pay the two month's due salary of the employees on October 7.

They said their landlords were asking them to leave while shopkeepers were not selling anything on credit.

Hall-Mark Group Managing Director Tanvir Mahmud and General Manager Tushar Ahmed were arrested by Rapid Action Battalion from the capital's Pallabi on October 7.

The arrests were made on a request from Anti-Corruption Commission, which filed 11 cases with Ramna Police Station on October 4 against 27 officials of Hall-Mark and state-owned Sonali Bank for misappropriating Tk 1,568 crore.

Man kills woman in front of children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified man killed a housewife inside her Rupnagar residence in the capital by slitting her throat before the very eyes of her two young children yesterday.

The deceased Moniza Begum, 26, wife of Mohammad Hanif, employee of a garment factory, was a resident of "Ta Block" of Mirpur Section-6.

The man entered the sixth floor residence around 4:30pm and locked the door from inside. The husband was not at home, said Inspector Mahbuba Khoda of Rupnagar Police Station, quoting one of the children, Khushi, 7.

"Hearing Moniza's screams, two women who came on a visit and a security guard knocked the door repeatedly. The two children inside were also crying," he said.

When the three outside were trying to look inside through a window, the man unlocked the door and ran away. The three then found the dead women lying on the floor, he added.

"Khusi told us that she had seen the man before but she could not recognise him," he said.

Rupnagar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sikdar Shamim Hossain said they suspect that the crime had been pre-planned and the man was an acquaintance of the victim.

He said the children were unhurt and no valuable went missing from the house.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia arrives at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital to leave for China on a seven-day visit yesterday.

Universities urged to be closer to community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Besides generation of knowledge and skilled manpower, universities have the major responsibility to contribute to the society through their public engagements, said speakers at a workshop yesterday.

They also said the country's universities should be committed to sharing knowledge, resources and skills with the communities for the betterment of the society.

The observations came at the inaugural ceremony of a two-day workshop styled "University-Community Relationships: Realising the Potential" at a hotel in the capital.

British Council, Bangladesh, in partnership with ActionAid Bangladesh and University Grants Commission (UGC), organised the workshop under its "University-Community Bridging Projects."

Disaster Management Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali appreciated British Council's role in developing the English language skills of the Bangladeshi students.

UGC Chairman Prof Dr AK Azad Chowdhury, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Waddington Gibson CMG also addressed the programme.

ATTACK ON BUDDHISTS

67 orgs demand security for minority communities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samajik Protirodh Committee, a platform of 67 development organisations working on women and human rights, yesterday strongly condemned the September 29 and 30 attacks on Buddhist communities in Ramu and Ukhia of Cox's Bazar and Patiya of Chittagong.

Expressing grief, concern and hatred over the incidents, the committee leaders and activists demanded immediate arrest of and exemplary punishment to the perpetrators.

They also demanded that the government ensures security to people of minority communities, said a statement signed by Ayesha Khanom, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, on behalf

of the committee.

"When we desire to build a society and a state of peace and harmony, such incidents worries us and makes us anxious," said the statement.

People participated in the Liberation War in 1971 with the aim to build a democratic and non-communal state and the constitution also protects equal rights of all citizens. But such an incident blurs many significant achievements and impedes the ways to living with religious harmony, it read.

Meanwhile, seven left-leaning political parties, at a meeting yesterday, urged countrymen to observe October 18 as "Anti-communal Day" to protest repression on minority communities.

IT to be available at all edn instts: Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has planned to make information technology available at all educational institutions in phases to make new generation efficient in IT in the country, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday.

As part of the plan, the government has taken initiatives to introduce multimedia classroom in the country's 20,500 educational institutions, he said while speaking at a function organised to distribute multimedia equipment at Teachers Training College in the capital.

Under a Tk 306 crore project titled "Introduction of ICT at Secondary and Higher Secondary Level", the educational institutions including high schools, madrasas and colleges will get a laptop, an internet modem and a multimedia projector each with digital contents.

Nurul Islam Nahid handed over a laptop, an internet modem and a speaker to each of 100 heads of educational institutions.

The instruments will also be provided to other institutions gradually, and multimedia projectors will be given later.

The minister hoped that the multimedia classrooms will change the existing teaching-learning process at the country's educational institutions and will help making an IT-efficient generation.

"This generation will build desired Bangladesh," he said.

Teachers who got training on creating digital contents are the architects of the building the IT-efficient generation, he added.

Nahid said teachers at the institutions are being provided training so that they can make digital contents in their classroom.

A blog has also been created so that the teachers can share the digital contents among themselves, he added.

Education secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Director General of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education Prof Nomanur-Rashid, and director of the project Abul Kalam Azad also spoke.

DHAKA TODAY

Procession

National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled will organise a procession marking "World White Cane Safety Day"; Venue: from Bangladesh Betar Bhavan, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar; Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar

Informal Sector Labour Rights Forum will organise a seminar to establish labour rights; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Human chain

Bangladesh Chinnamul Hawkers Samity will form a human chain demanding rehabilitation of evicted

Furniture fair

Bangladesh Furniture Shilpa Malik Samity will organise the "11th National

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershows accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Sylhet and Dhaka divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Rangpur 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 5:33pm and rises tomorrow at 5:57am.

Country's highest temperature 33.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Patuakhali and lowest 21.8 degrees at Rajshahi.

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

| City/Town | Temperature in | | Humidity in percentage | | | |
|------------|----------------|------|---------------------------|---------|---------|--|
| | Celsius | Max: | Min: | Morning | Evening | |
| Dhaka | 32.5 | 24.0 | 85 | 78 | | |
| Chittagong | 31.2 | 24.0 | 86 | 82 | | |
| Rajshahi | 30.8 | 21.8 | 91 | 83 | | |
| Rangpur | 31.2 | 22.5 | 79 | 82 | | |
| Khulna | 32.3 | 25.8 | 88 | 92 | | |
| Barisal | 32.5 | 24.0 | 78 | 86 | | |