

NEWS IN *brief*

New Korean envoy joins office

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



New Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Lee Yun-Young began his diplomatic assignment on October 23 after presenting his credentials to President Zillur Rahman.

Born on February 8, 1959, Ambassador Lee graduated in Economics from Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul. He also did his MS and M. Phil in Economics and European Politics respectively in the London School of Economics and Political Science in 1990.

After passing high diplomatic service examination, he joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1987 and has served at Korean Embassies in the United States, Cote d'Ivoire, Kingdom of Belgium and Korean Mission to the European Union.

Buet student drowns

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's bazar

A student of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) drowned on Sunday at High School Para area in Cox's Bazar.

The dead, Mursalim-ul-Karim, 20, was a first year student of Buet's computer science department.

Victim's uncle Hasan said while running near a pond, Mursalim slipped and fell into the pond. He was rushed to Cox's bazar Sadar Hospital

Sagar-Runi murder probe to end soon: Home minister

STAR REPORT

Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir yesterday said the investigation into the killing of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi will be completed soon.

"The government has taken all measures to track those down who have been found guilty in the investigation. Very soon we will come to know the conclusion of the investigation," he told journalists at Kachua Bangabandhu Degree College in Chandpur, reports our Chandpur correspondent.

Sagar Sarowar, a news editor at Maasranga television, and his wife Meherun Runi, an ATN

Housewife 'commits suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the body of a housewife from a city hospital after she had allegedly committed suicide at her house in the capital.

The victim was identified as Nadia Mafroz Mesu, 26, wife of Mostafizur Rahman Sujon, a cellphone dealer.

Her in-laws claimed she hanged herself to death at their Modhyo Badda house in the morning.

Mesu's cousin Tanvir said her in-laws had called her mother saying that she fell ill and was being taken to a hospital.

They rushed to Apollo Hospital and found her

RMG warehouse gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Huge quantities of ready-made garments and material were burned at a factory's warehouses in Fatullah early yesterday.

The fire broke out on the first floor of the five-storey building of Euro Tech Ltd in Nayamati around 2:00am, police quoted witnesses as saying.

On information, four units of firefighters from the city rushed to the spot and with two more units -- one of them from the Fire Service Headquarters -- extinguished the fire at 7:00am.

KM Saiful Islam, deputy director of Narayanganj Fire Service, said an electrical short-circuit might



Fanuses (paper lanterns) being released into the sky on the eve of Prabarana Purnima, one of the biggest Buddhist festivals, during a solidarity event at TSC intersection of Dhaka University on Sunday. Prabarana Udjapan Parishad organised the programme. PHOTO: STAR

Khaleda discusses border killings with Sushma

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on Sunday raised the issue of border killings during her meeting with her Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj who agreed with her that such incidents should be brought down to zero.

Kicking off her week-long official visit to India with an hour-long meeting with Swaraj, senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Party and the party's leader in the Lok Sabha, at the latter's residence in South Delhi, Khaleda voiced concern over border killings, BNP Vice Chairman Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury told media persons at Taj Palace Hotel.

Khaleda also flagged the Tipaimukh power project issue and welcomed the formation of a sub-committee under the India-Bangladesh Joint River Commission. She said "acceptable" experts should be included in the sub-committee, according to Chowdhury.

The BNP chief also discussed with Swaraj the Teesta water sharing issue and stressed "the need for finding an accept-

able solution and fair share" for Bangladesh, Chowdhury said, adding that the Indian leader of the opposition welcomed her suggestion.

The two leaders also discussed bilateral trade. When Swaraj pointed to India's decision to allow import of more duty-free items from Bangladesh, Khaleda welcomed it and told Swaraj that there was, however, scope for further opening up of India's market to goods from Bangladesh.

Answering a question, Chowdhury said the internal situation in Bangladesh did not come up at the meeting.

Khaleda arrived in Delhi on Sunday by a Jet Airways flight leading a nine-member BNP delegation at the invitation of India's foreign minister. She met the Indian prime minister yesterday. Khaleda will leave for Dhaka on November 4.

In September, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad had also visited India and met the Indian president and the prime minister.

The visits by the Bangladeshi leaders assume significance as those came ahead of parliamentary polls in Bangladesh towards the end of next year.

PRABARANA PURNIMA CELEBRATION Eminent citizens stand with Buddhists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prominent civil society members on Sunday conveyed their solidarity to the Buddhist community on the eve of Prabarana Purnima celebration and highlighted the necessity of fostering a secular and inclusive Bangladeshi identity.

"I never think that in this country there is a division between 'us' and 'you'. We all have equal rights to this country," renowned writer Muhammad Zafar Iqbal told a solidarity event at TSC of Dhaka University, organised to mark the festival which has been marred by the Ramu violence this year.

About the blame game centring the violence, he said, "If we keep on blaming each other for what happened, it means we don't really understand the problem, and if we don't understand the problem, we will never be able to solve it."

Prabarana Udjapan Parishad organised the event to thank the journalists, politicians, rights activists, lawyers and others who stood up for Buddhists following the September 29-30 violence when at least 12 Buddhist pagodas and over 50 Buddhists houses were ravaged in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong.

During the event, a 100 fanuses (paper lanterns) and mongol prodeeps (lamps) were lit. Each of the fanuses had a name of an affected Buddhist temple written on it. Prabarana Purnima is one of the biggest Buddhist festivals.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua, among others, addressed the programme.

Khaleda's visit to India pointless

Says Dipu Moni

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni has termed opposition leader and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's ongoing visit to India as "pointless".

"When in power, they [BNP] flatter India but as the opposition side they are always against India. No initiative was taken to realise Bangladeshi people's demands from India," she said responding to journalists' queries during her visit to her hometown in Chandpur on Sunday.

The foreign minister attended an eid reunion and women's rally organised by the Awami League at Badarpur Primary School ground in Chandpur.

Khaleda Zia left for India on October 28 for a weeklong visit at the invitation of the government of India. She met with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday.

Maruf Chinu passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Maruf Chinu, a former student leader, poet and editor of Bangla daily

Ajker Kagoj, died of cancer in a Dhaka hospital on Sunday.

He was 60. Maruf left behind his wife Lily Islam, a Supreme Court lawyer, and two daughters.

He was laid to rest at Banani graveyard on Sunday afternoon.

Maruf was the founding general secretary of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and an elected general secretary of Dhaka University Central Students Union.

In his final years, he was the principal of Sheikh Borhan Uddin Post Graduate College in Dhaka.

Grameen lending to start in Scotland

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Grameen micro-lending system is likely to be launched in Scotland early next year with the assistance of Tesco Bank and other major supporters.

Tesco Bank will provide half a million pounds of the loan capital for what will be Grameen's first venture in the UK, said a statement.

The supermarket bank will also offer savings facilities and business support for aspiring entrepreneurs who wish to start businesses in some of Scotland's most deprived communities.

The Grameen Scotland Foundation, a charitable body run by a board of trustees, will oversee the running of the Grameen-style lending in Scotland.

Borrowers will be represented on the foundation as they will also be stakeholders in the Grameen system, holding the chief executive officer accountable.

The foundation has already attracted significant backing from a range of sources, including the Scottish government, which has donated £100,000, and supporters such as businesswoman and philanthropist Ann Gloag, who has given £100,000.

In addition, the foundation is in advanced discussions with the European Investment Fund and is expected to exceed its initial funding target of £1 million in the first year of operation.

The Scottish Grameen collaboration was jointly announced by Grameen Bank founder Prof Muhammad Yunus, Tesco Bank Chief Executive Benny Higgins, Principal of Glasgow Caledonian University and Trustee of the Grameen Scotland Foundation Prof Pamela Gillies, and Chair of the Foundation Martin Cheyne at the university on October 25.

The initial Grameen pilot scheme will serve Glasgow, North Ayrshire, West Dunbartonshire and Inverclyde, four of the five most deprived communities in Scotland.

On the occasion, Prof Yunus said, "I'm not saying change all business--I say give people an option. Poor people need to be given the right opportunities to be able to succeed in their own lives, and this is what Grameen helps them to do."

"We must encourage people to envision their own futures and once that is done find out how to get there. Once a person has a vision, it can be made real, and this is what the Grameen Scotland Foundation will work to achieve."

Weather may remain dry

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:21pm and rises tomorrow at 6:04am.

Country's highest temperature 34 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 17 degrees at Chuadanga.

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	32.8	22.5	70	55
Chittagong	31.6	22.5	75	79
Rajshahi	31.8	18.8	61	75
Rangpur	30.8	19.8	62	70
Khulna	32.0	21.3	77	83
Barisal	32.0	20.4	79	89
Sylhet	34.0	22.0	67	74