

NEWS IN *brief***Iftekharuzzaman elected into TI board of directors**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman has been elected to the international board of directors of Transparency International (TI), a Berlin-based global civil society coalition against corruption, for three years from this November.

This is for the second term that Iftekharuzzaman has been elected to the TI international board. Earlier, he served the TI board during 2008-11, said a press release.

In his reaction, he said this election reflects a global recognition of TIB's work.

DU 'Gha' unit admission test tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The admission test of 'Gha' unit for the first year honours courses of Dhaka University (DU) for session 2012-13 will be held tomorrow.

The hour-long test will begin at 10:00am at 79 centres of the capital, said a DU press release yesterday.

Detailed seat plan is available at <http://ghaunit.univdhaka.edu>. One can also get the seat plan sending an SMS to 16321 from any mobile phone.

Some 78,341 candidates are expected to sit for the test.

Youth killed as train hits him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified young man was killed as a train hit him in the capital's Khilkhet area yesterday.

Police said a train hit the victim wearing a lungi (a traditional men's garment) and a t-shirt while he was walking along the railway track around 12:30pm.

Locals rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with Kamalapur Government Railway Police Station.

SCC ward councillor re-election suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Re-election of Sylhet City Corporation's ward-6 councillor, scheduled to be held today, has been suspended.

The Election Commission announced the decision on Tuesday in compliance with a High Court order after Syed Atiqur Rab Chowdhury, a candidate, filed a writ petition with the HC challenging the candidature of Farhad Chowdhury Shamim.

After Syed's challenge the HC ordered for issuing show cause notice and ordered to keep election related activities suspended for three months, counsel Shamsul Hossain Kamal said.

DHAKA TODAY

Memorial meeting

5:00pm.

Daylong programme
Bangladesh Institute of Planners will organise a daylong programme marking "World Town Planning Day";

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or thundershowsers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The highest maximum temperature is likely to be 32-33 degree Celsius and the lowest minimum temperature may be 17-18 degree Celsius.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:16pm and rises tomorrow at 6:09am.

Country's highest temperature 32.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 19.3 degrees at Rajshahi.

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

City/Town	Temperature in		Humidity in	
	Celsius	Max:	Min:	percentage
Dhaka	28.7	22.2	74	77
Chittagong	28.2	24.4	91	90
Rajshahi	28.2	19.3	98	90
Rangpur	29.9	20.5	88	73
Khulna	29.2	23.0	91	85
Barisal	28.6	23.5	88	91



Travelling over Dayaganj Road of the capital became a hassle after rain for the last couple of days left muddy puddles all over the pothole-riddled road. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka wants strong ties with Laos: PM

BSS, Vientiane, Laos

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh wants to build a strong partnership with Laos and other Southeast Asian countries to face common challenges of globalisation, world economic meltdown and climate change.

"The developing Asian countries are experiencing common challenges of globalisation, world economic meltdown and climate change. My aim is, therefore, to build a strong partnership between Bangladesh and Laos as well as other countries in Southeast Asia to face these challenges," she said.

Sheikh Hasina said this while addressing a lunch hosted in her honour by Laotian Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong here.

The prime minister observed that Laos may possibly get benefit from Bangladesh's connectivity with India, Nepal, Bhutan and China, and the combined market of over three billion people.

"Moreover, Bangladesh's strategic location, connecting South Asia and Southeast Asia and having sea, air and land links could provide Laos access to the region," she said.

Hasina warmly invited Laotian entrepreneurs to come and consider possibilities of investment in Bangladesh.

She said the situation was ideal for Laotian businessmen to come and do business in Bangladesh.

She said, Laos could import quality pharmaceuticals now being exported to 93 countries, ceramics and porcelain now going to 61 destinations in Europe, Americas, Africa and Asia, readymade garments, textiles, leather and footwear.

The prime minister sought Laotian support for Bangladesh's entry into the Mekong-Ganges Cooperation Initiative, the East-West Economic Corridor, and in becoming an Asean Dialogue Partner.

Sheikh Hasina invited the Laotian prime minister and his wife to visit Bangladesh.

Berlin to give Dhaka climate change fund

UNB, Dhaka

Germany will provide 10.97 million euros (equivalent to Tk 111.37 crore) to Bangladesh as climate change fund for cyclone affected people in the coastal areas particularly in Barguna and Patuakhali districts.

The fund will be utilised for construction of solar-powered cyclone centres, installation of solar-irrigation pumps and development of other infrastructures, including roads and water supply in the affected areas.

The governments of Bangladesh and Germany signed a deal to this effect yesterday under a programme titled, "Climate Change Adaptation Flood Protection."

Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Iqbal Mahmud and German Ambassador in Dhaka Dr Albrecht Conze signed the financial cooperation agreement on behalf of their respective sides at a ceremony at the NEC auditorium in the capital.

At the event, the German ambassador said the main objective of the fund is to get the disaster-survived people out of poverty through creating facilities.

A German Embassy press release said the project will be co-financed and closely coordinated by other donor agencies, including ADB, IFAD and World Bank, while it will be implemented by the KfW, German Development Bank and the local partner, LGED.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meets her Laotian counterpart Thongsing Thammavong at the latter's office in Vientiane of Laos yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES Indian FM lauds Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India's new External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid lauded strengthening of democratic institutions and practices in Bangladesh and expressed hope that the next general elections would see the democratic process further strengthened in Bangladesh.

In a meeting with Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dipu Moni in Laos on Tuesday on the sidelines of the 9th Asem Summit, he also assured to address ongoing matters of bilateral cooperation.

Dipu Moni hoped that the latter would make progress in taking the final steps concerning enclaves, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

The ministers discussed on formation of the body of experts related to Tipaimukh project under Joint River Commission, operationalisation of Standard Operating Procedure for trucks entering through the land border and electrification along tin bigha corridor.

Jamaat-Shibir violence condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday condemned the violent attacks on law enforcers and vandalism carried out by Jamaat-e-Islami and pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir around the country on Monday and Tuesday.

Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial for War Criminals of 1971 (Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee) said Jamaat's behaviour proved how desperate they were to save their top leaders facing war crimes charges.

In the name of holding peaceful rallies and processions, Jamaat engaged in anarchy, vandalising public property and swooping on law enforcers. This demonstrates the ugly side of political revenge on their part, said a statement of the forum.

"The activities are not only a demonstration of the threat against the country's

democracy and rule of law, but also a threat to Bangladesh's existence and national security," it read.

The forum, which advocates secularism and the trial of crimes against humanity during the Liberation War, reiterated its demand to ban Jamaat's politics.

In another statement, Sampradayikota-Jongibad Birodh Manch urged people to resist such acts of violence, which was aimed at barring the war crimes trial.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh said with the dates of the delivery of the verdicts against some war criminals coming nearer, the Jamaat-Shibir men were becoming more desperate.

The violence caught the nation by surprise, said Sectors Commander Forum.

They urged the government to take a hard line against the masterminds of the planned anarchy.