NEWS IN brief

Bangladesh ambassador to Japan presents credentials

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The newly appointed Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Masud Bin Momen presented his credentials to Emperor of Japan Akihito at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo yesterday.

Masud conveyed the greetings of President Zillur Rahman to the Japanese emperor and expressed gratitude on behalf of the government and people of Bangladesh for the continued support that Japan provided to Bangladesh since the country's independence, said a foreign ministry press release.

Embassy's all officials were present at the cre-

Man dies as train runs him over

OUR CORRSPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

Abdul Malek Chowdhury, 37, of Collegepara area in Gaibandha municipality, was killed as a train ran him over near the Gaibandha railway station on Tuesday evening.

Police said the victim died on the spot as a Rangpur-bound express train hit him while he was walking along the railway tracks.

Government Railway Police recovered the body

Bangladesh's ranking down in warning on tobacco products

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's position in the ranking of use of visual warnings on the packages of tobacco products has fallen by 20 points, according to a research report.

Bangladesh stands at 97th position among 198 countries. In 2010, the country's position was 77.

The report titled, "Visual warning on packages of tobacco products" was published by Canadian Cancer Society at the 5th session of WHO FCTC Conference of Parties- COP in Seoul of South Korea yesterday.

Canada was the first country to introduce visual

Teen dies from electrocution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

A teenager died from electrocution at Fatikchhari upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Jahangir Alam Rubel, 14, son of Nurul Alam, of Lelang village of the upazila.

Rubel died on the spot around 9:30am as he came in touch with a live electric wire of a broken electric pole made of bamboo in a field near his house. He went there to pluck some vegetables, said Sub-Inspector Rafiqul Islam of Fatikchhari Police Station.

Novo Nordisk, a leading diabetes healthcare company, brings out a procession on World Diabetes Day in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ADMISSION TO DU

HC stays bar on madrasa students for 3 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday, in response to a writ petition, stayed for three months an admission precondition of Dhaka University (DU) for which madrasa students were not eligible for enrollment in eight departments.

As per DU syndicate's September 6, 2009 decision, admission seekers must study English and Bangla courses of 200 marks each in Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) or equivalent examinations to be eligible for enrolment in the departments.

Madrasa students study English and Bangla of 100 marks each and Islamic Economics and so are not eligible for enrolment in the departments, said the petitioner's counsel Barrister Imran Siddiq.

The departments are Bangla, English, linguistics, international relations, sociology, women and gender studies, mass communication and journalism, and population science.

The court, however, allowed the precondition to remain effective for enrollment in two departments -- economics and development studies -- as madrasa students do not study economics during their Alim (HSC level).

The court also issued a rule upon the government and DU authorities to explain in four weeks why this precondition should not be declared illegal.

Imran and Deputy Attorney General Mokhlesur Rahman said there was no legal bar on madarsa students, who qualify in the DU admission tests, from getting enrolled in the eight departments.

The petition was filed by four madrasa students, including one Mohammad Kamal, who qualified in this year's admission tests, on November 11 challenging the legality of the DU syndicate's decision.

The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar passed the order and rule.

Jamaat-Shibir's mayhem condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-political organisations yesterday condemned the recent attack by Jamaat-e-Islami and pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir on the law minister's escort car, police personnel and the general people.

They also urged the government to control the anti-liberation force.

On November 13, activists of Jamaat and Shibir beat up pedestrians in the capital injuring at least 30 people including 15 policemen. They also vandalised more than 30 vehicles.

Shibir men also attacked police escorts of the law minister at Karwan Bazar, injuring three policemen.

In a joint statement, Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee's President Shahriar Kabir and General Secretary Kazi Mukul said the country will face grave danger if the government does not combat Jamaat's terrorism.

They also urged the government to ban politics of the party.

Leaders of Amra Muktijoddhar Shantan said Shibir is trying to foil the ongoing trial of the crimes against humanity accused.

Bangladesh National Awami League, Bangladesh College-Bishwabiddalay Shikkhok Samity and Bangladesh Tarikat Federation also condemned Jamaat's attack.

Lawyers slate attack on Shafique's escort car

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-ruling party lawyers yesterday said Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir activists attacked the law minister's escort car on Tuesday targeting the minister as he played a vital role in holding the ongoing trial of the 1971 crimes against humanity.

The lawyers of Sammilita Ainjibi Samannay Parishad (SASP) were addressing a meeting they organised at the Supreme Court Bar Association's (SCBA) south hall in the capital protesting the attack.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed was targeted for his role in constituting the war crimes tribunal to try the top Jamaat leaders who assisted the Pakistani army in committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War, they said.

The leaders demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those responsible for the attack.

SASP Convener M Amirul Islam announced that SASP would hold rallies on all bar premises across the country on November 18 in protest against the attack.

Chaired by pro-AL faction SCBA Vice President KM Saifuddin Ahmed, the meeting was addressed among others by Rokanuddin Mahmud, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and SCBA Secretary Momtazuddin Ahmed Mehedi.

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap returns Nov 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap, a popular discussion programme featuring contemporary social and political issues, is all geared up to be aired for the second time in the country from November 18.

A total of 60 shows will be broadcast on BBC Bangla Radio and Channel i, informed organisers at a press conference in the capital's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel yesterday.

First launched in 2005, the political debate show reached 2.5 crore people through over 150 episodes.

It created a platform for ordinary citizens from all walks of life to have an open discussion with political leaders and policymakers, allowing them to hold those in positions of power accountable for their actions, and acted as a forum for highlighting peoples' voices.

Produced by BBC Bangladesh Sanglap, BBC Media Action and BBC Bangla Service, the programme will provide similar opportunities for dialogue and debate between different actors, thereby strengthening the democratic practice and culture in Bangladesh.

The programme will aim to ensure a greater participation of youth and women in its second phase, said the organisers.

The programme will be broadcast every Sunday at 8:00pm and be repeated every Tuesday at 8:00pm. In addition, Channel i will air it every Monday at 7:50pm and rerun it every Tuesday at 5:00am and 3:05pm.

Guests aboard the Rongdhonu release pigeons to celebrate the ship's launch yesterday on the river Karnaphuli in Chittagong. *Inset*, Rongdhonu, docked at the Marine Workshop Ghat, is the third floating hospital of Friendship, an NGO working on healthcare among other areas.

PHOTO: STAR

Mosharraf acquitted of graft charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday acquitted former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain and his estranged wife Zinat Mosharraf in a corruption case filed in 1991.

The HC bench of Justice Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan delivered the verdict yesterday after allowing an appeal filed by the duo in 1992 against a lower court judgment.

The now defunct Bureau of Anti Corruption (BAC) filed the case with Motijheel Police Station on January 1, 1991.

According to the case, Mosharraf, being the chairman of Bangladesh Chemical and Industries Corporation (BCIC) and also secretary of the industries ministry from 1987 to 1990, along with Zinat had misappropriated Tk 7.07 lakh by using 10 vehicles, six air coolers (AC) and two refrigerators of BCIC for personal reasons.

On June 9, 1992, a lower court in Dhaka sentenced Mosharraf and Zinat to two years imprisonment and fined them Tk 5 lakh each, as the charges against them were proven.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan yesterday said the commission is yet to decide whether it would move an appeal to the Supreme Court against the HC verdict.

The ground of yesterday's HC verdict could not be known, as its written text was not released.

Friendship launches another hospital ship

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Aiming to provide free emergency healthcare to underprivileged people living in coastal areas, a floating hospital called Rongdhonu was launched yesterday at Marine Workshop Ghat in Chittagong.

Rongdhonu is the third and newest ship of Friendship, an organisation working on healthcare, education, sustainable economic development, disaster management, and infrastructure development in char and coastal areas of Bangladesh.

At the launching ceremony held at the ghat, French Ambassador to Bangladesh Michel Trinquier said Bangladesh is a land surrounded by rivers and a sea, so there are many opportunities to serve the marginalised people of coastal areas through such type of water-based initiatives.

Runa Khan, founder and executive director of Friendship, said the hospital ship would serve the coastal belt from Mongla to Teknaf, providing primary and secondary medical assistance to the coastal people who have very little or no access to basic health care facilities.

Runa said Friendship's other two hospital ships and 300 satellite clinics are serving people living in remote areas.

Earlier known as Rainbow Warrior II, Rongdhonu was adopted and renamed by Friendship. The ship was an integral part of Greenpeace's campaigns all around the world against nuclear testing and whaling.

The ship was handed over to Friendship on August 16, 2011 in Singapore and it was anchored in Chittagong Port on August 28 of that year to be converted into a floating hospital.

The hospital ship will be equipped with basic healthcare facilities covering ophthalmic, dental, women's health, and paediatric problems. Specialised health camps will also be organised periodically to provide secondary health services such as eye surgeries, dental surgeries and reconstructive surgeries.

UNDP Resident Representative Neal Walker, among others, also spoke at the programme.

DHAKA TODAY

Celebration

Department of Philosophy of Dhaka University will observe World Philosophy Day. Time: 10:00am. Venue: TSC auditorium.

Discussion

Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee will hold a discussion on the occasion of 40th "Constitution Day". Time: 3:30pm. Venue: WVA auditorium.

Carnival

Jaago Foundation will organise a carnival for street children. Time: 3:00pm. Venue: Banani Society Math.

Discussion

Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) will hold a discussion on Dr Muhammad Qudrat-e-Khuda. Time: 3:00pm. Venue: BCSIR auditorium.

Protest Rally

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal will hold a protest rally against the violence of

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, *Dhaka*

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

Light fog may occur over the river basin of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country.

The lowest minimum temperature is likely to be 16-17 degrees Celsius and highest maximum temperature may be 31-32 degrees Celsius.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:12 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:14 am.

Country's highest temperature 31.3 degrees Celsius was recorded at Bogra and lowest 14.5 degrees at Dinajpur yesterday.

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

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.3	18.5	58	68
Chittagon	28.0	19.5	72	64
Rajshahi	30.0	16.7	71	72
Rangpur	30.0	16.5	67	57
Khulna	30.0	18.8	77	82
Barisal	29.1	17.6	86	89