

NEWS IN

brief

Oxfam chief executive due today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Chief Executive of Oxfam GB Dame Barbara Stocking is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on a four-day official visit to Bangladesh today.

During her visit, she will meet Speaker of Parliament Abul Hamid and some members of the parliament to discuss Oxfam's intervention in climate change adaptation, said a press release.

Barbara Stocking will also thank the Bangladesh government for recognising Oxfam's contribution during the Bangladesh Liberation War.

She will hold meetings with officials of the Department for International Development (DFID) and the European Union (EU) mission.

Ban on Jamaat's politics sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amra Mukitjoddhar Santan yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Election Commission and brought out a procession in the capital demanding ban on the politics of Jamaat-e-Islami.

The memorandum stated eight reasons behind their demand including Jamaat uses Islam as a tool to deceive the general public for political gains, the party's constitution contradicts the national constitution and the party is creating political unrest to save crimes against humanity accused, said a press release.

Dr Mohammad Siddique, secretary of EC, assured that he would notify the commissioners

Bangladesh geography attracts Vikram Seth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned Indian author and poet Vikram Seth said he is fond of the physical geography of Bangladesh.

He also said he was overwhelmed by the hospitality of Bangladeshis while delivering a lecture at Bashundhara campus of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) in the capital yesterday, said a press release.

Seth recited pieces from his writings and answered questions from the audience.

Other participating writers of the recently concluded Hay Festival Dhaka and members of

Unemployed diploma nurses demand job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Diploma Bekar Nurses' Association yesterday threatened to go for fast-unto-death in front of Jatiya Press Club from November 26 if their demand to appoint the unemployed nurses is not met by November 25.

Leaders of the association at a rally in front of Central Shaheed Minar demanded appointment of 5,000 unemployed nurses as per the prime minister's announcement, said a press

DHAKA TODAY

Human chain

Khaddey Bish Protirodh Andolon will form a human chain demanding a stop to use of harmful chemicals in food; Venue: Asad Gate, Mohammedpur; Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

Bangladesh-Myanmar Sampriti Parishad will organise a seminar on the expectations on US President Barack Obama's visit to Myanmar;

Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Desh Rakkha Andolon will hold a discussion marking the 26th death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

Honouring

Freedom Fighters Peoples Council will honour five eminent citizens of

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:12 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:17am.

Country's highest temperature 34.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 14.2 degrees at Dinajpur.

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	32.4	22.4	60	59
Chittagong	31.6	23.3	82	78
Rajshahi	29.3	17.5	83	75
Rangpur	28.8	16.3	67	71
Khulna	32.5	21.5	62	69
Barisal	32.7	20.5	65	85



Doctors, development partners, NGO activists and government officials at a roundtable, "HIV prevention and Role of Media", jointly organised by The Daily Star and UNFPA at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

MEDICAL, DENTAL COLLEGES

Why not admission tests under univs?

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government to explain in three weeks why it should not be directed to transfer the authority of holding admission tests for medical and dental colleges to the universities concerned.

It came up with the rule in response to a writ petition which claimed that the government illegally controls admission tests for medical and dental colleges as Education Policy, 2010 states that public universities are the authority to hold such tests.

Supreme Court lawyer Eunus Ali Akond filed the petition yesterday with the HC, seeking its directive on the authorities concerned of government to transfer the power to hold admission tests for medical and dental colleges to the respective universities.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif issued the rule after holding a hearing on the petition.

Contacted, Eunus said secretaries to the ministries of health, education, defence, director general of directorate of health services, director of Armed Forces Medical College, and six other officials have been made respondents to the rule.

CASE AGAINST FAKHRUL

Hearing on charge framing deferred

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday for the fourth time deferred until January 1 the hearing on charge framing against BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and 28 others in a blast case.

Shahbagh police filed the case against them for aiding and abetting the bombings inside the secretariat during the April 29 hartal.

The court passed the order after counsels for nine accused including BNP lawmaker MK Anwar submitted separate petitions seeking adjournment of the hearing.

Worker stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A construction worker was killed by some unknown criminals in the capital's Jatrahari area last night.

The victim was Jewel Hawlader, 20, of Khepupara upazila in Patuakhali.

Some miscreants stabbed Jewel in his abdomen when he returning to his uncle's house at Kajla in the area around 8:00pm, said Jatrahari Police Station Officer-in-Charge AKM Abul Kashem.

He died on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police could not ascertain the reason behind the murder.



Bus passengers stranded at a bus stop near Shah Amanat Bridge in Chittagong city yesterday after bus and mini-bus owners and staff went on a 12-hour strike protesting the murder of a driver by robbers on Friday. Inset, passengers embark on a risky ride on a jeep due to a dearth of vehicles during the strike.

PHOTO: STAR

Modified textbooks for class I-IX next yr: Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to distribute textbooks with modified curriculums to class I-IX students from next January, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday.

The changes, in line with the national education policy recommendations, were brought to 111 textbooks, keeping pace with the demand of time, he said at a press briefing at his ministry's conference room.

"Producing competent and efficient human resources as per the demand of the fast-changing world and globalisation is not possible with the existing curriculum which was prepared back in 1995," Nahid said.

Class XI students will also have textbooks with modified curriculums, he said.

Nahid said six subjects -- Bangla, English, mathematics, Bangladesh O Bishwa Porichoy, Information and Communication Technology, and life-oriented education -- were made mandatory for class VI-X students, including

those of madrasas.

The total marks of these subjects will be 650.

Some new chapters like climate change, reproductive health, autism, and right to information have been included in some subjects at secondary level, he said.

Nahid said they also kept some optional subjects like population and development studies, human resource development, human rights and gender studies, and tourism and hospitality for class XI and XII students.

"It is a revolutionary step for the country's education. We have emphasised on humane and moral values in the new curriculum," he said.

National Curriculum and Textbook Board Chairman Prof Mostofa Kamal Uddin said mistakes in the new curriculum could be amended.

Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser and Dr Siddiqur Rahman of Institute of Education and Research of Dhaka University also spoke at the briefing.

Mijarul Quayes next UK envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



The government has decided to appoint Foreign Secretary Mohamed

Mijarul Quayes as the next high commissioner of Bangladesh to the United Kingdom on completion of his three-year tenure.

Meanwhile, the government has also decided to appoint Md Shahidul Haq as the next foreign secretary.

But Shahidul, an officer of 1986 batch of BCS (Foreign Affairs), would not be made foreign secretary right this moment as he is now holding the position of director general which is equivalent to joint secretary at the foreign ministry.

Additional Foreign Secretary Mustafa Kamal is expected to take over as acting foreign secretary from next month until Shahidul Haq is eligible for the foreign secretary post, said officials at the ministry.

The Superior Selection Board (SSB) confirmed his promotion to the post of joint secretary last month.

An official of the Ministry of Public Administration said the SSB may sit next month to consider pending promotions when Shahidul is likely to be promoted to the position of additional secretary when he can be made acting foreign secretary.

The post of high commissioner in London felt vacant after expiry of contract job of Rajshahi University former vice chancellor Dr Mohammad Sayeedur Rahman Khan.

Why physical education teachers' job not class-I?

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government to explain in two weeks why it should not be directed to give class-I status to physical education teachers at 70 government colleges.

The rule came following a writ petition claiming that the government's action of not giving class-I status to the teachers is discriminatory, as it has earlier given the same status to the teachers of primary training institutes (PTIs).

The college's 70 physical education teachers including Majharul Islam and Mashiur Rahman jointly submitted the petition yesterday seeking directive

from the HC on the government to upgrade their existing status from class-III to class-I.

According to the petition, physical education teachers of government colleges and PTIs were appointed as class-III employees. But only the PTI teachers were given class-I status in 2003.

The HC bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Ashish Ranjan Das issued the rule after holding hearing on the petition.

Petitioners' counsel Bodruddoza Badal told The Daily Star that eight government high officials including secretaries of the ministries of public administration, finance and education have been made respondents to the rule.

Stop Jamaat anarchy

Demands Muktiyoddha Sangsad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad (BMS) at a press conference in the capital yesterday protesting the anti-state activities of Jamaat-Shibir, declared its six-point demand, including closure of the organisations financing the fundamentalists.

The other demands included launching a campaign against the bigots in the mass media, and closure of the educational institutions that make people "jihadi" through counselling.

BMS Chairman Abdul Ahad Choudhury said, "While a number of trials against war crimes are almost completed, the Jamaat-Shibir and the fundamentalists are creating chaos in the country to impede justice."

He also called upon the people of every union, upazila, and district to resist Jamaat-shibir.

BMS Secretary General Ismat Kadir Gama read out the six-point demand.

SM Jahangir Alam, another BMS leader, was also present on the occasion.