

NEWS IN *brief*

Chinese envoy gives edn materials to physically challenged people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jun yesterday distributed educational and complementary materials to 14 physically challenged persons in Bangladesh.

At a programme organised by Impact Foundation Bangladesh at its office in the capital, he presented 13 visually challenged students with materials including chess boards, white canes and brail paper and a physically challenged man with a wheelchair. The Chinese embassy officials will assist over 100 visually challenged persons while

Nine arrested for robbery

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police in an overnight drive on Tuesday arrested nine youths suspecting their involvements in recent robberies committed in Gazipur.

The arrestees are Rajib, 16, Saiful Islam, 17, Jahirul Islam, 22, Sohel, 25, Billal Hossain, 14, Badsha, 25, Selim, 20, Shakil, 20, and Rubel, 18. The arrestees hailed from different villages in Gazipur, Mymensingh, Netrakona and Sylhet.

Police said several robberies were committed in different villages of Shreepur upazila.

Some suspicious youths were interrogated earlier and according to their information police first arrested Rubel.

Later, Rubel led the law enforcers to capture the other eight, added police.

More tribunals for war crimes trial demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Peshajibi Shomonnay Parishad yesterday demanded increasing the number of tribunals to speed up the war crimes trials and finish those by December 16.

They also demanded banning politics of Jamaat-e-Islami at a human chain in front of Jatiya

Ctg cops raise awareness about Jamaat violence among students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Metropolitan Police launched awareness raising programmes at educational institutions on the recent violence on cops to develop a cordial relationship between students and law enforcers.

Bayezid Police Station yesterday projected footage of the attacks by Jamaat-e-Islami and pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir before some 700 students of BGC Trust University in the port city. Afterwards, the students were asked to identify the attackers, said police.

A similar event was organised at Jamiah Ahmaddiah Sunnia Alia Madrasa by Panchlaish



President Zillur Rahman places a wreath at Shikha Anirban in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday marking Armed Forces Day.

PHOTO: PID

Modernisation of armed forces to continue

Zillur Rahman tells chiefs of three services; President, PM pay respects to martyred members of armed forces

AGENCIES, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday said the government will continue its support for the modernisation of the country's armed forces, reports UNB.

"The government has attached top priority to modernising the armed forces," he said when Chief of Army Staff General Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan, Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Zahir Uddin Ahmed and Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal M Enamul Bari met him at Bangabhaban marking the Armed Forces Day.

The chiefs of the three services apprised the president of the regular and different modernisation programmes taken by the three services.

The president, also the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, appreciated the role of the forces in nation building activities besides their regular duties.

"On this day in 1971, the Bangladesh Armed Forces comprising the army, navy and air force launched a united attack on the Pakistani occupation forces. As a

result, our victory was accelerated," said Zillur Rahman.

The president hoped that the spirit of Armed Forces Day would help the military personnel build themselves as more efficient, skilled and patriotic soldiers of the country.

President Zillur also enquired about the well-being of the families of martyred armed forces' members.

Meanwhile, President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday paid homage to martyred members of the Armed Forces for sacrificing their lives during the War of Liberation, reports BSS.

They placed wreaths at the altar of Shikha Anirban (eternal flame) at Dhaka Cantonment in the morning on the occasion of Armed Forces Day.

They later stood in solemn silence for some time as a mark of respect to memories of the martyrs.

The president and the prime minister also signed the visitor's book on the premises of Shikha Anirban.

Three Buddha statues recovered, five held

Rab says items looted from Ramu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three touchstone statues of Lord Gautama Buddha, which Rab says were looted from Cox's Bazar's Ramu during an attack by religious bigots on the Buddhist community on September 29, were recovered from Feni and Comilla yesterday.

During a four-hour drive till 3:15am, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-7 also arrested five people -- Mohammad Shahjahan, 55, Nurul Alam, 45, Md Musa, 56, Anwar Hossain, 50, and Rafiqul Islam, 45, -- in this connection.

Addressing a press briefing at its Patenga office, Rab-7 Deputy Commander Nazmul Hossain said they went to Shahjahan's Jamtola residence in Feni disguised as buyers of black market statues.

There they arrested Shahjahan, Alam and Musa with two statues. As per their statements, Rafiqul was arrested from Nalua in Comilla's Chandina and Anwar with a statue in possession from his Nalua residence, he said.

The arrestees were handed over to police stations as per their residences and two cases were lodged, he added.

A mob destroyed 12 pagodas and over 50 houses during the attack. The violence was apparently triggered by the image of a Buddhist youth's facebook page that had been photo-shopped, revealed The Daily Star investigation. The page had an image derogatory to Islam pasted on it.

DU teachers protest Jamaat violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) yesterday brought out a silent procession on the campus protesting Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir men's recent mayhem across the country.

The teachers marched from Aparajeyo Bangla to the Central Shaheed Minar. DUTA Acting President Prof ABM Faruque and General Secretary Prof Ohiduzzaman, among others, took part in the procession.

ABM Faruque alleged that the Jamaat and Shibir men had been attacking law enforcers as well as general people to foil the war crimes trial.



S ASIAN LITERARY PRIZE

Tahmima's "The Good Muslim" shortlisted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Bangladesh's Tahmima Anam and three Indian writers are among six authors who have been shortlisted for the US\$50,000 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature given to the best novel thematically linked to the South Asian region.

India's Jeet Thayil's "Narcopolis", Uday Prakash's "The Walls of Delhi" and Amitav Ghosh's "River of Smoke" are on the shortlist alongside Tahmima's "The Good Muslim".

The two other writers are from Pakistan -- Jamil Ahmad (The Wandering Falcon) and Mohammed Hanif (Our Lady of Alice Bhatti).

The shortlist was announced at the May Fair Hotel in London on Tuesday evening. The final prize is due for announcement at the Jaipur Literature Festival in January 2013.

"The six shortlisted books from different countries represent the diversity of South Asian fiction in terms of theme as well as idiom," said K Satchidanandan, who chaired the jury for the prize.

"We were looking for works which are thematically fresh, stylistically innovative and are a definitive contribution to novel as a genre," he said.

The shortlist is a choice from 16 novels longlisted for the prize in October.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Md Rafiqul Islam, former English teacher at Sitakunda Government Model High School, died of old age complications at his residence in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong yesterday. He was 78.

He left behind his wife, two sons, three daughters and a host of relatives, well-wishers and students to mourn his death.

After his second namaz-e-janaza, he was buried at his family graveyard at Muradpur in the upazila.

Rafiqul worked as an English teacher for about 39 years at the high school.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



The 4th death anniversary of former ambassador Maj Gen Quazi Golam Dastgir will be observed at House 36 (New), Road 11 (New), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka after Asr prayers today, said a press release.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are invited to attend the programme and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

The event was not held on the actual date of the anniversary on October 17 due to unavoidable circumstances.

ibution Ceremony of Educational Assistive Devices to Persons with Disabil



Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jun presents educational materials to a visually challenged person at a programme organised by Impact Foundation Bangladesh at its office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Dipu Moni flies to Moscow today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni will fly for Moscow on a four-day official visit to Russia this morning.

With the visit of the foreign minister, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Russia in next January and a deal about setting up of atomic power plants with Russian assistance will be finalised, officials at the foreign ministry said.

She will hold meetings with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey V Lavrov and other high officials. Setting up of nuclear power plants in Bangladesh will dominate the talk between the two foreign ministers, foreign ministry officials said.

Dipu Moni will also discuss about finalisation of a number of agreements and MoUs, which were expected to be inked during Sheikh Hasina's visit.

Earlier on May 21, 2010, Dhaka and Moscow inked an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the field of use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

GLOBAL MIGRATION, DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT Migrant workers' safety promised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day 6th global summit of Global Forum on Migration and Development, the world's largest such forum, will end in Mauritius today with the commitment to ensure safety and better work environment for migrant workers.

The summit will hold discussions on migrant workers' safety, status and rights, said Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan, secretary to the Ministry for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.

Before leaving for the summit at Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre at Pailles, he said, "This summit will also discuss on issues like the working envi-

ronment, rights, skill developments and facilities of migrant workers.

"The summit's results will be reported to the second UN High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2013."

The forum meets every year for an interactive and practice-oriented dialogue. A five-member delegation led by Expatriates' Welfare Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain left on Monday to join the summit.

At the summit's end, the minister and secretary will go to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Malaysian government on manpower employment on November 24.

DHAKA TODAY

Procession
Transparency International Bangladesh will organise a procession marking COP 18; Venue: from before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Procession
Equitybd will hold a procession on "Climate Justice"; Venue: from Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Human chain
Dhaka University students will form a human chain protesting the attack on Gaza by Israelis; Venue: at the base of Aparajeya

Seminar
The Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance will organise a seminar on implementing the tobacco control act; Venue: Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence; Time: 11:00am.

Memorial meeting
Eminent Social Workers and Researcher Khorshed Alam Memorial Meeting Preparation Committee will hold a memorial meeting on Khorshed Alam; Venue: Shaheed Col Taher Auditorium, 36, Bangabandhu Avenue; Time: 3:00pm.

Cultural programme
Sharshruti will organise a cultural

Bangla; Time: 10:00am.

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Night temperature may rise slightly over southern part and it may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:19am.

Country's highest temperature 32.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 13.3 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	31.0	21.2	49	51
Chittagong	29.4	24.2	90	75
Rajshahi	29.4	17.5	62	72
Rangpur	29.5	15.5	77	69
Khulna	29.6	20.5	55	74
Barisal	30.6	21.0	70	78