

NEWS IN *brief***Seminar on 'Arab Spring' held at Asian University for Women**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A seminar on "Arab Spring" was held on the Asian University for Women (AUW) campus in Chittagong yesterday.

Alliance Française de Chittagong and AUW jointly organised the seminar styled "Cross Perspectives".

Tunisian-born French-language scholar, novelist and cultural critic Abdelwahab Meddeb addressed the event as the keynote speaker on the theme "Muslim Secularism versus Islamism in the context of the Arab Spring".

Director of Alliance Française de Chittagong Dr Samuel Berthet, and Assistant Professor of Sociology of AUW Dr Sara Amin, among others,

**BYLC distributes certificates among workshop participants**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Participants of a three-day workshop on leadership development programme were awarded certificates at a ceremony at Canadian High Commissioner's official residence in the capital yesterday, says a press release.

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Centre (BYLC) trained 33 third and final year university students in leadership, teamwork and group dynamics, career planning, ethics, goal setting, self-development, communication and problem solving at the workshop held at the BYLC headquarters on November 22-24.

The workshop was supported by the Canadian

**Hizb ut-Tahrir man detained**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested an alleged member of the banned militant outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir in Chittagong city while he was putting up posters of the organisation.

The arrestee, Arif Mahmud, is an LLM student at Chittagong University.

AKM Mohiuddin Selim, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said Arif along with two others were pasting anti-state and anti-prime minister posters on the walls in front of Almas Cinema.

**Schoolgirl 'commits suicide'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A schoolgirl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan in her house at Khulshi of Chittagong yesterday.

Rinki Barua, 14, daughter of SK Barua, appeared in the JSC (Junior School Certificate) examination this year.

Family members rushed Rinki to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where doctors declared her dead, said Zahir, sub-inspector of CMCH police outpost.

She hanged herself after having a quarrel with her mother, he added.

The body was sent to the CMCH morgue for an



Unabated encroachment on the Turag river in Amin Bazar of the capital by sand traders changes the river's course, reduces its width and adversely affects the environment. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**PM asks scouts to help develop country**

BSS, Dhaka

Terming youths the future of the nation, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the scouts to be prepared to shoulder the responsibility of developing the country.

"Get yourselves ready...I want to see that you replace seniors soon by learning how they are carrying out their duties," she told the inaugural ceremony of the two-day 24th Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Conference at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

The prime minister asked the scouts to play an important role in graduating Bangladesh into a middle income country.

"Our aim is to turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021. We have been working to establish Bangladesh as the most peaceful nation in South Asia, and the scouts will have to serve an important role in this regard."

Mentioning her fondness for scouting, the prime minister said it helped young boys and girls grow up as self-reliant and with a spirit to serve the distressed

humanity.

At present there are nearly 11.64 lakh

scout members in the country, the prime

minister said, and the number will be

raised to 15 lakh by the next year.

Sheikh Hasina said her government

was patronising scouting's expansion

through three projects--Scouts

Expansion at Primary Schools, Human

Resource Development through Scouting

and the 24th Asia-Pacific Scouts

Conference.

Alongside modernisation of the Scouts

Centre at Mouchak, the government has

allocated land for another training centre

in the northern region, she said.

She assured of extending all

cooperation for the development and

expansion of Bangladesh Scouts, Asia-

Pacific Regional Scouts and World Scouts.

Earlier, Hasina released a postage

stamp on the occasion of the 24th Asia-

Pacific Regional Scout Conference.

A statement of Filipino Vice President

and Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Scouts

Jejomar C Binay was read out at the

function.

**Pro-ruling party lawyers split**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A forum of pro-ruling party lawyers, Sammilita Ainjibi Samannay Parishad (SASP), has split up into two groups due to internal conflicts.

One of the groups is led by Abdul Baset Majumder, a former vice chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, and Attorney General Mahbubey Alam.

Incumbent SASP Convener M Amir-Ul Islam and Post and Telecommunications Minister Shahara Khatun head the other faction.

Each of the groups is claiming to be possessing control of the platform and held separate programmes on Supreme Court Bar Association premises yesterday. They will soon announce two separate convening committees.

A Supreme Court lawyer, seeking anonymity, told The Daily Star that the lawyers had split up over an invisible power struggle.

Deputy Leader of the House, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, who inaugurated a discussion programme by Baset Majumder-led faction, urged the lawyers to help the government complete the war crimes trial within its tenure.

"Holding the trial of the crimes against humanity was in our election manifesto. The progressive lawyers and politicians will have to remain united so that the anti-liberation forces cannot hamper the trial," she said.

The other faction held an organising meeting yesterday where Shahara Khatun expressed her disappointment for the splitting of the platform.

AMAR DESH STAFF  
Journo leaders worried over police bid for remand of 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist leaders yesterday expressed concern at a petition filed by police for remand of four journalists and an employee of Bangla daily Amar Desh.

The remand petition has been filed with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) court in a case filed on charges of assaulting the policemen who went to arrest the daily's acting editor Mahmudur Rahman two years ago.

In a joint statement, the journalist leaders also demanded withdrawal of the case.

They said the move for remand is an incident of repression and harassment as the five have secured bail from the High Court and the CMM court.

The five are Amar Desh Executive Editor and Jatiya Press Club General Secretary Syed Abdal Ahmad, News Editor Jahed Chowdhury, Chief Assistant Editor Sanjeeb Chowdhury, senior staff reporter Alauddin Arif and office assistant Saiful Islam.

Police lodged the case on June 2, 2010, against some 400 journalists and employees of the daily.

The signatories to the statement included Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Ruhul Amin Gazi, presidents of two factions of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists; Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan and Shawkat Mahmud, BFUJ secretary generals; Omar Faruque and Abdus Shahid, presidents of Dhaka Union of Journalists; and Shaban Mahmud and Muhammad Baker Hossain, DUJ general secretaries.

**Make anti-communalism convention a success**

Sujan urges citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sushasone Jonno Nagorik (Sujan), a civil society platform working for good governance, yesterday urged all citizens and organisations believing in the ideology of the Liberation War to make the national convention against communalism, slated for December 8, successful.

A group of eminent citizens convened the convention in Dhaka to launch a movement against communalism, fundamentalism and militancy, said a press release.

The evil forces are the major barriers to the establishment of a non-communal democratic state and the national development. Liberal people have to fight together against the communal forces, added the release.

All negative provisions should be scrapped from the constitution in order to make it the transparent document of a secular country, the release read.

**Blind but mostly treatable**  
Researchers say 37,000 visually impaired in country

UNB, Dhaka

Of the 1.4 million visually impaired people in the world, one million live in Asia, including 37,000 in Bangladesh, say researchers.

They came up with the figures at a 16-day international training workshop on visual impairment that concluded at a city hotel on Thursday, said a press release.

About two lakh children are blind in the world due to cataract, which is treatable. Most of these cataract-affected children live in Asia and they fall to different eye-related diseases as most of them do not consult doctors, they said.

Apart from host Bangladesh, researchers from India, Indonesia, Thailand, Afghanistan and China took part in the workshop organised by Child Sight Foundation.

Dr Mohammad Muhit, a Bangladeshi ophthalmologist of international repute, was the chief trainer at the programme. Key Informant Method (KIM), invented by Dr Muhit, earned appreciation at the programme.

The KIM has ushered in a new era in the field of childhood visual impairment research as it has successfully been used in 12 countries for disability-related researches.

**WEATHER TODAY**

No change in temperature

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 basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:21am.

Country's highest temperature 29.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 11.6 degrees at Srimangal.

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	27.2	15.3	58	54
Chittagong	26.8	16.5	77	62
Rajshahi	27.0	12.5	90	73
Rangpur	28.0	14.2	77	79
Khulna	28.5	17.0	80	77
Barisal	28.0	15.5	84	89