

NEWS IN *brief*

Khalaf murder case IO testifies

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The investigation officer (IO) yesterday narrated before a Dhaka court what he found in his probe into the Saudi Embassy official Khalaf Al Ali murder case.

With his deposition, all the thirty-three prosecution witnesses had given their statements and the court concluded trial of the case.

Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 recorded the statement of the IO Mohammad Obaidul Haque, assistant SP of Detective Branch. Later, defence lawyers cross-examined the witness. The court fixed December 10 for the next hearing.

DU Victory Day debate champion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University became the champion of the Victory Day Debate competition this year. Green University became the runners up while Jahangirnagar University team became the second runners up of the competition.

The debating teams had to conduct a mock parliament at the competition's final stage held at Bashundhara City in the capital yesterday, said a press release.

Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu was present as chief guest while ATN Bangla Chairman Mahfuzur Rahman presided over it.

Recognition of women's role sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday called upon the people of all walks of life to properly evaluate women's contributions and participation both in national and international levels.

They also urged to recognise women's efforts in countering natural disasters and climate change and their contributions to boosting production, says a press release.

The seminar, arranged by Steps Towards Development at Cirdap auditorium in the capital, was attended by researchers, teachers and social workers.

WorldFish arranges knowledge fair for farmers

METRO DESK

With participation of farmers from Khulna, Satkhira and Barguna, a two-day Knowledge Fair started at CSS Ava Center in Rupsa of Khulna yesterday.

WorldFish, an international non-profit research organisation dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture, organised the fair on behalf of the Aquatic Agricultural Systems (AAS) programme funded by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) to endorse and prioritise research for development agendas.

AAS Programme Deputy Regional Director and Country Manager Kevin Kamp, Deputy Team Leader Nasem Ahmed Aleem and Project Manager Dr Golam Faruque, among others, attended the fair.



PHOTO: STAR

Fire fighters check for remaining embers after dousing a fire in a garment factory in AK Khan area of Pahartoli in Chittagong city yesterday.

ASK condemns 'Bihari' camp attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights body Ain o Salish Kendra yesterday condemned Wednesday's attack on Bihari camp (camps for stranded Pakistanis) at Rangpur which left 300 houses burnt and around 20 people injured.

The organisation also demanded arrest and trial of the offenders who set the houses on fire. It urged the law enforcing agencies to be more cautious about those types of incident and to take immediate actions if such incidents occur in future, says a press release.

The rights body demanded that the government arranges rehabilitation and compensation to the victims.

In another statement, Bangladesh Mohajir Welfare and Development Committee also condemned the incident that took place over paying bill for a cup of tea at Bihari camp no-3 at Robarshanganj in Rangpur city.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

A doa mahfil and discussion will be held at House 500/A,

Road 7 in the capital's Dhanmondi area today on the occasion of 21st death anniversary of Ataur Rahman Khan, a former prime minister of Bangladesh, said a press release.

His relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programme.

HR MECHANISM FOR SOUTH ASIA

Core group proposed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A proposal for a core group to carry out future national advocacy on human rights with the aim of establishing a regional human rights mechanism for South Asia was handed over to Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday.

The core group, which comprises seven eminent personalities, was proposed in the concluding document, Dhaka Consensus, of a two-day workshop styled "National Consultation on South Asian Human Rights Mechanism".

National Human Rights Commission Chairman Prof Dr Mizanur Rahman and former advisors to a caretaker government Sultana Kamal and Rasheda K Chowdhury handed over the Dhaka Consensus to the foreign minister.

Other members of the group are Hameeda Hasan, South Asians for Human Rights member, Dr Saiduzzaman, Centre for Policy Dialogue trustee, Mahfuz Anam, editor of The Daily Star, and Mahiuddin Ahmed, a former ambassador.

The workshop, which was held from December 3, was organised by the Regional Initiative for South Asian Human Rights Mechanism. The initiative is a network of organisations and individuals aiming to create an environment conducive to the establishment of a regional human rights mechanism for South Asia.

The workshop was an open platform for civil society organisations and representatives, academics, journalists, students, human rights activists and other professionals to discuss the role of citizen groups in building a regional framework.

The Dhaka Consensus states that the core group will prepare a concept note examining the rationale for a regional mechanism, expectations of citizen groups both in the country and region and the potential impact of such an initiative in strengthening regional cooperation between states.

Dipu Moni called the initiative "praiseworthy" and assured her government's highest support.

Ruet deadlock ends

Mayor says VC ready to resign; VC says resignation if govt asks

RU CORRESPONDENT

The prevailing deadlock over removal of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) vice chancellor came to an end yesterday as protestors withdrew their programmes on the campus upon assurance of the VC's resignation within a month.

The decision came after conciliation talks between the agitators, Vice Chancellor Prof Sirajul Karim Chowdhury and Rajshahi city Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton on the campus yesterday, Ruet sources said.

The agitators decided to withdraw their programme as the VC will resign within a month, the city mayor informed reporters.

Since November 16, a section of teachers, student and university staff held protest programmes on the campus under the banner "Progratisheel Chhatra-Shikkhak-Karmakarta-Karmachari Oikkyo Parishad".

Dr Kamruzzaman Sarker, convener of the parishad, said they withdrew as the VC assured them that he will resign willingly within a month and will not take any punitive action against the agitators.

"We will launch fresh movement if the VC does not resign within the stipulated time," Sarker said.

However, Prof Sirajul Karim Chowdhury said he would only resign after direction from government high-ups.

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon and Adivasi Paribesh Rakha Andolon will arrange a roundtable on legal rights of indigenous people; Venue: Dhaka Reports Unity; Time: 10:00am.

Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Youth Forum will hold a discussion on necessity of caretaker government; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Views exchange meeting

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will organise a views exchange meeting on International Human Rights Day;

Rally

Jatiya Mukti Council will stage a rally demanding trial of those responsible for fire in Tazreen Fashions in Ashulia; Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club;

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

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

Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:12pm and rises tomorrow at 6:29am.

Country's highest temperature 28.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 09.7 degrees at Chuadanga.

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	26.4	14.7	63	56
Chittagong	26.4	15.6	87	78
Rajshahi	26.7	10.5	93	79
Rangpur	26.8	13.4	87	84
Khulna	27.5	14.0	82	73
Barisal	28.2	12.5	89	82
Sylhet	27.7	16.4	78	78



Bangladeshi architect Rafiq Azam receives the South Asian Architect of the Year Award, 2011 from Shri Basil Rajapaksa, minister for economic development of Sri Lanka, at Cinnamon Grand Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka on November 25. Rafiq won the award for his project, SA Residence, in the capital's Gulshan. It is a three-storied residence based around a pure square shape and constructed of a single material, cast concrete. One of India's leading cement manufacturers, JK Cement, sponsors the award.

PHOTO: COURTESY

William AS Ouderland Bir Protik remembered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi people need to remember and honour the foreigners who stood by their side during the Liberation War at great risk to their lives, said Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday.

The war might have prolonged without their support, she said, adding that Bangladesh's foreign friends and allies played an important role in building public support internationally.

Dipu Moni was addressing as chief guest an inaugural ceremony of a documentary on William AS Ouderland Bir Protik in the capital's Bangladesh Asiatic Society auditorium.

Oikko Ltd organised the event on the occasion of the 95th birth anniversary of Ouderland, a Dutch Australian com-

mando officer who actively participated in the Liberation War.

Ouderland is the only foreigner to have won the fourth highest gallantry award of Bangladesh, Bir Protik.

He organised and trained guerrilla fighters in his office at the Bata Shoe Company where he worked as a production manager. He also planned and directed guerrilla operations in Dhaka and surrounding areas.

Ouderland breathed his last in 2001.

Australian High Commissioner Gregory Wilcock and Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu were special guests at the event. The event also featured two documentaries on Debdulal Banerjee, a prominent voice of All India Radio Kolkata, and Gobindo Haldar, lyricist of prominent liberation songs.

6 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Six people were killed and two others injured in road accidents in four districts yesterday.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports, a human hauler skidded off on Arakan road in Boalkhali upazila around 7:00am yesterday, leaving its driver and his helper injured.

Md Masud, 20, and Abdul Kader, 15, of the upazila were declared dead at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Our Feni correspondent reports, a passer-by was critically injured when a CNG-run three-wheeler hit him in Bashikpur area of Fulgazi upazila yesterday.

Shafiqul Islam, 55, died at Feni Sadar Hospital.

Moreover, police said an unidentified man was crushed to death under the

wheels of a speeding truck on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Lalpool area of Feni yesterday.

Our Dinajpur correspondent adds, a motorcyclist was killed instantly as a truck rammed his vehicle on Dinajpur-Dhaka highway at Nasirabad in Ghoraghat upazila yesterday afternoon.

The dead was Md Dulal, 55, of the upazila's Chakbabunia village.

Meanwhile, an unidentified rickshaw passenger was killed on the spot after a bus rammed the three-wheeler in front of Madumoti Model town on the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar on the capital's outskirts on Wednesday night, reports BSS.

Two others injured in the incident were admitted to Saver Thana Health Complex, said police.