

NEWS IN *brief*

TIB youth fest against graft held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Hundreds of participants at a youth festival yesterday in Sylhet vowed against corruption to make a prosperous and corruption free Bangladesh.

Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) and Youth Engagement & Support of Transparency International Bangladesh organised the event at the Shaheed Minar in Sylhet.

A procession and contests of general knowledge, essay writing and anti-corruption cartoons were also organised at the event inaugurated by everest conqueror MA Muhith. Faruque Mahmud Chowdhury, CCCs president in Sylhet, spoke on

Journalism and media studies dept opens at MIU

METRO DESK

Manarat International University (MIU) has opened a journalism and media studies department with a four-year bachelor degree programme on its Mirpur campus.

Prof Dr M Zahangir Kabir has joined the department as its head, said a press release yesterday. Prof Zahangir was the founder chairman of mass communication and journalism dept at Rajshahi University and professor of journalism and media studies in other Saarc countries' universities, including chairman of media studies dept at Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Pakistan.

He also served as directors of Saarc Agricultural Information Centre and Saarc Human Resource

DoE realises Tk 5.19cr in fines in Nov

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) realised Tk 5.19 crore in fines from various organisations for polluting environment during its anti-pollution drives across the country in November.

During the drives, the DoE also shut down four brick kilns, said a press release.

The department penalised seven dyeing factories, four brick kilns, two medicine factories, seven multi-storey buildings, and three commercial organisations for polluting air and sound.

Seven other persons and organisations were also fined for cutting hills, added the release.

Koica, KBAA celebrates alumni night

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) and its Bangladesh Alumni Association (KBAA) celebrated "Koica Bangladesh Alumni Night 2012" in a hotel in the capital on Thursday to strengthen relations between Bangladesh and Korea.

Lee Yun-young, ambassador of Korea, Monjur Hossain, president of KBAA, Kim Bok-Hee, resident representative of Koica Bangladesh office, and Ataul Haque, general secretary of KBAA, attended the event.



Rally

Biplobi Nari Sanghati will organise a rally marking Begum Rokeya Day; Venue: before Rokeya Hall, Dhaka University; Time: 8:30am.

Seminar

Bangladesh Copyright and IP Forum will organise a seminar "Protection of intellectual property and media"; Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy; Time: 9:30am.

Human chain

Transparency International Bangladesh will form a human chain marking International Anti-Corruption Day; Venue: before Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University; Time: 3:30pm.

Seminar

Bangladesh Adivasi Forum will hold a seminar "Rights and human rights of indigenous people"; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 10:00am.

Lecture

Bangla Academy will organise a lecture



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

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:12pm and rises tomorrow at 6:30am.

Country's highest temperature 29.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khepupara and lowest 10.5 degrees at Jessore.

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	26.3	15.2	72	73
Chittagong	25.8	14.6	85	77
Rajshahi	25.7	11.2	100	87
Rangpur	25.2	14.2	93	87
Khulna	28.0	13.4	95	83
Barisal	27.5	12.4	90	85
Sylhet	25.5	16.9	94	88



Swadhin Bangla Garments Sramik Karmachari Federation forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding adequate compensation for the victims of a fire in Tazreen Fashions Ltd's factory in Ashulia on November 24.

PHOTO: STAR

28th Saarc Charter Day observed

BSS, Dhaka

The 28th anniversary of signing of Charter of the South Asian regional bloc, Saarc, was observed yesterday amid new pledges to boost regional cooperation among the member states.

The Saarc Charter was signed during the first summit in Dhaka on December 8, 1985 with the then seven members - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka signing it. Afghanistan later became the 8th member of the Saarc in November, 2005.

Saarc Meteorological Research Centre (SMRC) and Saarc Agriculture Centre (SAC) jointly observed the day commemorating the adoption of Saarc Charter.

Marking Saarc Charter Day yesterday, the two centres jointly organised various programmes including colorful rally for raising awareness, essay and painting competitions for the children and students, discussion and display of the centres' products relating to Saarc Charter Day.

Considering the importance of global warming, one topic was selected for an essay on "Climate for Agriculture" for the college and university students.

On the occasion, a colorful procession was also organised from the Department of Fisheries (Matsya Bhaban) that ended at Jatiya Press Club yesterday morning.

ASIA 21 YOUNG LEADERS SUMMIT

Vision 2020 for Asia portrayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 100 accomplished young leaders representing over 20 countries engaged in interdisciplinary dialogues, shared ideas and experiences and talked about their visions of Asia in 2020 at a summit yesterday.

The 7th three-day annual "Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit", organised by Asia 21 Young Leaders Initiative, an Asia-Pacific based network of emerging under-40 leaders, began at the Brac CDM auditorium in Savar on Friday.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of Brac, in his keynote speech yesterday, talked about how he created Brac, the world's largest development organisation, and answered

questions from the audience.

He said Brac has been able to create a number of competent young leaders who would be able to run the organisation even when he was not there.

Embrace, an organisation providing maternal and child health support in different countries, was presented "Asia 21 Young Leaders Public Service Award".

The summit's participants include Ejaj Ahmad, founder and president of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center; Adam Gilmore, partner chief

engineer, Space Shuttle Program at NASA; and Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, an Academy Award and Emmy Award winning documentary filmmaker from Pakistan.



Sir Fazle Hasan Abed

URBANISATION

Not only crisis, also an opportunity

Says Hossain Zillur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than a half of the gross domestic product (GDP) of Bangladesh comes from its urban areas, said researchers at a discussion yesterday.

Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), a non-government research organisation, organised the discussion at LGED auditorium in the capital following the launching ceremony of Bangladesh Urban Institute.

Urbanisation is not only a challenge or crisis, but also an enormous opportunity as it contributes 60 percent of the country's GDP, said Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of PPRC.

However, urbanisation, which holds the country's future, is taking place in an uncontrolled manner, causing economic inequality and environmental degradation, he added.

Dhaka alone contributes 36 percent to the country's GDP, said Ellen Goldstein, country director of the World Bank.

Weak urban planning and governance, inadequate infrastructure, and informal housing and landlessness are some major constraints in the way to Bangladesh's urbanisation, said Ming Zhang, urban and water sector South Asia manager of the World Bank.

South Asian countries are facing rapid transition to middle-income countries with accelerated urbanisation, with Bangladesh at 30 percent rate of growth, he said.

India to hand over Subroto, Sajjad to Bangladesh

Says home minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India agreed to hand over to Bangladesh two wanted convicts Subroto Bain and Sajjad Hossain very soon, said Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir in New Delhi yesterday.

"I have been assured by the Indian home minister (Sushilkumar Shinde) that Subroto Bain and Sajjad will be handed over to us very soon," Muhiuddin Khan told journalists.

Recently, both Subroto and Sajjad have been arrested by the police in West Bengal and Punjab states respectively.

He said Indian President Pranab Mukherjee at a meeting with him in the afternoon, told him that the president is expected to visit Dhaka in the first quarter of next year.

Pranab has assured the minister that "there will be satisfactory solutions" to the agreement between the two countries on land boundary demarcation and exchange of adversely-held enclaves and the sharing of Teesta river water.

