

NEWS IN *brief*

Four HC judges sworn in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The four High Court (HC) judges, whose services were regularised on Sunday, were sworn in yesterday.

Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain administered their oaths at the Supreme Court auditorium in the capital yesterday morning.

The judges are Justice Bhabani Prashad Singha, Justice Anwarul Haque, Justice Md Akram Hossain Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashraful Kamal. They were appointed as additional judges to the HC on

DU 'Ka' unit viva now on Saturday

UNB, Dhaka

The viva voce of admission seekers to honours 1st year programmes of all departments and institutions under 'Ka' unit of Dhaka University (DU) for the academic session 2012-13 has been deferred due to unavoidable reasons.

The viva voce of the students in the merit lists 2401-2800 and 2801-3200 under 'Ka' unit that was scheduled today will now be held on Saturday, said a DU press release.

The students in the merit lists 2401-2800 and 2801-3200 will face the viva from 9:00am-1:00pm and 2:00pm-4:30pm respectively at the Engineering and Technology Faculty office.

BSMMU gets donated equipment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Australia-based Bangladeshi organisation yesterday donated medical equipment to the neonatology department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) for providing free treatment to underprivileged children.

Probaso Incorporated, a voluntary organisation, donated two incubators and two phototherapy machines. Shahfeen Mustaq, events manager of the organisation, said last year on a cold night of December, 24 babies died as nine out of the 11 incubators at Dhaka Medical College Hospital were not working. So, they decided to donate the equipment.

Prothom Alo Trust helped them choose

Indian visa application centre opens in Rajshahi

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian High Commission in Dhaka will open a new Indian visa application centre (IVAC) in Rajshahi, managed by State Bank of India, today.

The Rajshahi IVAC will receive applications from Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions which are the areas of its jurisdiction, said a press release.

The centre is located at Morium Ali Tower, Greater Road, Barnali Mor, Barnali, Rajshahi. Complete visa process and details are available

Sust admission test rescheduled

UNB, Sylhet

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) authorities postponed the admission test for honours courses of academic session 2012-13, scheduled to be held today, due to hartal called by BNP-led 18-party alliance.

Today's test of 'B-1' unit will be held tomorrow while 'A' unit on December 13 and the admission test slated for December 13 will be held on December 15, said a press release.

The admission tests will begin at 9:00am. Detailed information is available on the university's website.



Moderate fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during evening to this noon, Met Office said.

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:13pm and rises tomorrow at 6:32am.

Country's highest temperature 29.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 10.2 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	25.0	16.5	96	88
Chittagong	26.6	14.3	95	90
Rajshahi	25.4	13.2	99	88
Rangpur	19.4	15.4	96	90
Khulna	29.0	14.0	90	87
Barisal	28.8	12.9	90	85
Sylhet	24.7	16.5	97	92



State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury with 10 Biranganas, who were honoured at an event at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy yesterday for their role in the Liberation War. Chesta, an NGO working for rehabilitation for Biranganas, organised the event.

PHOTO: STAR

Maritime verdict creates new opportunity: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has extended her heartiest thanks to the UN for its Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) saying the verdict of the UN body to resolve maritime dispute with Myanmar has created a new era of opportunity for Bangladesh to prosper.

She told a discussion on the Commemoration Ceremony of the 30th anniversary of the UNCLOS at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday. The foreign affairs ministry organised the event.

She said the ocean related regulations are helping the countries establishing fundamental rules and principles to share maritime spaces and use the sea and its huge resources.

Referring to the peaceful settlement of the dispute with Myanmar on the maritime boundary in the UNCLOS, she said the resolution has given Bangladesh immense opportunity to explore the vast potentials of the sea for its economic progress.

Highlighting the plan to explore the maritime resources, she said her government has taken initiative for declaring a zone in the Bay of the Bengal as "Maritime Protected Area". The government also has taken steps for creating efficient manpower for research on maritime resources, she said.

She said the government has taken initiative for setting up an army camp in Cox's Bazar and construct an airbase for protection of the sea resources.

"Our seashore and off-shore areas are blessed with vast resources including salt, fisheries, natural beauties and valuable minerals. We have to protect the resources and ensure their proper utilisation for our development," she said.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, its Additional Secretary Khurshid Alam, Chairman of Bangladesh Law Commission Prof Shah Alam, Chairman of Petrobangla Prof M Hossain Monsur, UN Country Representative Neil Walker and acting secretary of the ministry Mostafa Kamal also spoke.

Ten Biranganas honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biranganas yesterday asked the state to give them an allowance to help them lead their lives with some dignity.

They made the request at an event held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy to honour their role in the Liberation War.

Ten Biranganas (women who were brutalised by the invading Pakistani army and their collaborators) are Suraiya Begum, Asia Akhtar, Hajera Begum, Komola Begum, Nurjahan Begum, Josna Begum, Raju Bala, Rahima Begum, Joydan and Shurjo Begum.

Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, state minister for the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, presented the women with flowers and utorrio (celebratory scarves).

Raju Bala, who was only 14 during the time of the war, recalled the day on which she lost her husband, her child, her dignity and her will to live.

"When the military came, they locked my in-laws in one room and killed my husband in front of me. They dragged me and my baby fell from my arms. They stepped on my child with their boots and crushed him to death," she told the audience.

Shirin Sharmin said she would try her best to convince the government to create a comprehensive list of women affected during the war. That process might be long and difficult, but till then, the government can give an allowance to those who have already been identified, she said.

Chesta, an organisation working for the rehabilitation of Biranganas, organised the event. Poet Kazi Roby, among others, spoke.

PARAG ABDUCTION Ameer on 3-day fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Ameer Hossain, mastermind behind the abduction of Parag Mondol, on a three-day fresh remand.

The court passed the order when Monirul Islam, officer-in-charge of South Keraniganj Police Station and investigation officer (IO) in the abduction case, produced Ameer before the court and sought a five-day further remand.

Monirul Islam stated in the remand prayer that he gathered important information about the abduction. The information derived from Ameer was being verified. So, Ameer needs to be remanded to get information from him about other culprits involved in the incident and to find out them, the IO added.

Ameer was arrested on November 24 in Tongi after a 'shootout' with Detective Branch of police when he sustained injuries. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

With Ameer, eleven people were detained in the case.

Parag Mondol, a six-year-old student of Heed International School, was abducted by criminals at Shuvadda Paschim Para in Keraniganj on November 11.

Parag was found three days after his abduction at Atibazar in the area.



(From left) Deputy Chief of Mission of German Embassy Dr Ralf Matthias Reusch, Danish Ambassador Svend Olling, Swedish Ambassador Anneli Lindahl, Head of Delegation of European Union in Dhaka William Hanna, European Union Attaché in Dhaka Pierre Buysschaert and Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of France Babou Kamichetty at a discussion with senior journalists of The Daily Star at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Save economy

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Commerce Bangladesh, the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka; the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bangladesh Employers' Federation and the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"We still remember the bleak days in the past when frequent hartals kept the economy at a standstill," they said in the statement.

Referring to the November 24 factory fire

that killed 111 garment workers in Ashulia, the business community said readymade garment buyers in North America began diverting export orders from Bangladesh to other countries after that unfortunate incident.

Furthermore, a consumer group's movement boycotting "Made in Bangladesh" products is taking shape.

The business community acknowledged that differences of opinions were inevitable in a functioning democracy but there were means to settle them other than through hartals and "politics of

damage and suppression".

The current political situation could be more people-friendly and business-friendly if the ruling and opposition parties demonstrated tolerance and were willing to settle issues through dialogues and negotiations, they said.

What the nation needs most now is a promise made by all political parties to uphold the country's interest first and refrain from activities that affect the economic growth and prospect, the statement says.

German embassy

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It also reported the incident to the foreign ministry, said a press release of the embassy.

It said a group of about 15 hooligans carrying BNP symbols attacked the car of Ms Anna Heringer, who is now on an official visit to Bangladesh sponsored by the German development agency GIZ, in Gabtoli Market area around 7:30am on Sunday on her way back to Dhaka from a field-trip.

They stopped the car, destroyed all of its windows and dragged the driver out of the vehicle, the statement added.

"Fearing for her life, Ms Heringer jumped out of the car and managed to abscond. Her driver was badly beaten up by the mob and is now suffering from severe head injuries. The car, donated by the German government, was set on fire."

The release said Heringer, who has won Aga Khan Prize for Architecture and the Global Award for Sustainable Architecture, has dedicated much time and effort to assist Bangladesh on its way out of poverty over many years. "She has been a strong advocate of the people of Bangladesh in Germany."