

NEWS IN *brief*



Death anniversary of five martyrs today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 41st death anniversary of four martyred brothers -- Mukarram Hossain Mukul, Mansur Hossain Manju, Mastaque Hossain Anju, and Mosharrif Hossain Ranju -- and their brother-in-law, Yusuf Ali.

On the occasion, a qurankhwani, milad mahfil, and feeding of the destitute will be held at Hossain Nagar Baitul Mozammel Jame Mosque in Savar, said a press release.

The freedom fighters embraced martyrdom on

Indian Rajya Sabha member Najma Heptulla meets PM

UNB, Dhaka

Dr Najma Heptulla, a member of Indian Rajya Sabha and also former president of inter-parliamentary union, made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the capital yesterday.

After the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters.

He said they discussed issues relating to democratic and parliamentary systems of both the countries as well as curbing terrorism and facing the

Confidence Cement Prothom Alo Youth Festival begins in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A two-day long youth festival titled "Confidence Cement Prothom Alo Youth Festival" started in Chittagong city yesterday.

Prof Hasina Zakaria of Southern University inaugurated the programme at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy in presence of Abul Momen, resident editor of Prothom Alo, and Biswajit Chowdhury, joint editor of the daily.

As part of the festival, a debate competition was organised where eight colleges of the port city participated. The finale of the competition starts today. Also, an inter-university cultural competi-

Programmes to be held today in support of Dec 18 hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different socio-political organisations will hold several programmes in the capital today in support of making the December 18 hartal a success.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), Ganotantrik Baam Morcha, Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra and some other organisations declared the countrywide hartal demanding ban of Jamaat-e-



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HARTAL AND ITS EFFECTS

1) A bus vandalised and set afire by hartal supporters in Chandgaon area of Chittagong city yesterday. 2) Police holding back some BNP leaders and activists in the party's Nayapaltn headquarters in the capital. 3) Awami Jubo League brings out a procession in the capital's Gabtoli to resist opposition activists from enforcing hartal. 4) The charred remains of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw set on fire by hartal supporters in front of Curzon Hall at Dhaka University. 5) Travellers have to walk to their destinations as vehicles stay off the streets in the capital amid hartal violence.

PHOTO: STAR

Foreign experts laud progress in digitisation

BSS, Dhaka

International IT experts have observed that Bangladesh's advancement towards digitisation at even lower tiers of administration is fantastic as it enabled millions of rural people to get quick and hassle-free public services.

It was not easy to change the 200-year-old services, but Bangladesh did it efficiently to transform into digitised system, they said.

The experts made the remark while visiting the district e-service center at Jessore district administration office and Kodlpara Union Information Service Center (UISC) of its Monirampur on Sunday.

The experts are former professor of George Washington University and e-learning writer Prof Badrul Huda Khan, former director of Delhi Central Library and member of National Knowledge Commission of India Kalpana Das Gupta and manufacturer of the world's cheapest tablet "Akash" Sumeet Singh Tuli.

The government selected Jessore as first digital district last year under its Access to Information (A2I) programme supported by UNDP.

During the visit, National Project Director of A2I and ICT Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan and Deputy Commissioner of Jessore Mustafizur Rahman briefed the foreign experts.

Praising the e-readiness at even primary schools, Prof Badrul Khan told journalists that he will include Jessore as a case study in his next book on e-learning.

Kalpana Das said if she would not be there, it was impossible to imagine that e-governance and e-learning have been practised in a district like Jessore.

Sumeet Singh Tuli said e-readiness and sensitisation on use of IT have almost created in Bangladesh. He said his company, Datawind, will provide all-out help to build a digital device manufacturing unit in Bangladesh and sell a tablet computer at a cost of around Tk 3,000 if any local company shows its interest to the initiative.

Bangladesh to award 65 more foreign friends on Dec 15

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will confer awards on 65 more foreign friends in the fourth phase on December 15 for their outstanding contributions to the country's Liberation War 41 years ago.

The foreign friends' support came when Bangalees stood up against the atrocities and genocide and contributed to the eventful emergence of sovereign Bangladesh through a nine-month war.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will ceremonially hand over "Muktijuddho Moitri Sammanana" (Friends of Liberation War Honour) to them at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

This was announced by Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Capt (retd) AB Tajul Islam at a joint press briefing at the foreign ministry

yesterday.

Dipu Moni said sixty-three personalities and two organisations from 10 countries will receive the award on December 15. Among them, 49 are from India and the rest are from the USA, Russia, France, Australia, UK, Sweden, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan.

The recipients include politicians, journalists, artists, physicians, and litterateurs.

Among the prominent figures are Illa Mitra, Prof Satyen Bose, singer Hemanta Kumar Mukhopadhyay, Ritwik Ghatak, Sunil Gangopadhyay, singer Manna Dey, litterateur Tara Sankar Bandyopadhyay.

Speaking at the press briefing, AB Tajul Islam said it was not correctly reported that Indian President Pranab Mukherjee would receive the award on December 15.

The government, he said, invited him to receive the award at his convenient time. The date of his visit will be confirmed by the two foreign ministries, he added.

Tajul also said this time the invited foreign friends will attend the programmes of the martyred intellectuals' day (December 14) and the Victory Day (December 16).

Asked whether any individual from Pakistan will come to receive the award this time, Dipu Moni said their names would be on the list in the next phase.

This will be the fourth time of awarding foreign friends since the government first conferred "Bangladesh Liberation War Honour" posthumously on Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

She was the first of the foreign friends to get the honour. Her daughter-in-law and Congress President Sonia Gandhi received the award on her behalf on July 25, 2011.

In the second phase, Bangladesh awarded 83 with "Bangladesh Liberation War Honour" and "Friends of Liberation War Honour" on March 27 and 61 more in the third phase on October 20 this year.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar

Nagorik Oikya will organise a seminar on Current situation and electoral system; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Bangabandhu Parishad will hold a discussion on Martyred Intellectuals' Day and Victory Day; Venue: Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh; Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar

Policy Support Unit of Local Government Division and SIDA-SASMIT

Project Consortium will arrange a seminar on safe water; Venue: LGED-RDEC Conference Room, Level 12, Agargaon; Time: 9:00am.

Rally

Bangladesh Awami Sangskritik Forum will stage a rally on the occasion of its founding anniversary; Venue: In front of Awami League office, Bangabandhu Avenue; Time: 11:00am.

Human chain

Bangladesh Jatiyatibadi Sangskritik Foundation will form a human chain demanding release of detained BNP

WEATHER TODAY

Dense fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain may occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna and Sylhet divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

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

Dense fog may occur over the river basins and moderate to thick fog may occur elsewhere over the country during midnight till noon.

Night temperature may fall slightly 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 29.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 12.3 degrees at Sitakunda.

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	23.1	15.6	99	88
Chittagong	26.6	14.7	92	79
Rajshahi	23.1	13.5	99	89
Rangpur	18.8	15.3	97	94
Khulna	27.0	15.5	100	89
Barisal	27.5	13.6	98	89

82 turtles recovered in capital



PHOTO: WILDLIFE DIVISION

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 82 turtles of two species were recovered from the possession of illegal traders in the capital's Kataban area on Monday.

A team of Wildlife Crime Control unit under Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division recovered the turtles while conducting a drive in the area around 3:00pm on Monday, said a press release of the division.

Sensing the drive, traders of turtle species fled the area, leaving behind

80 Indian Roofed Turtle and two Indian Eyed Turtle.

The team, led by Wildlife Division Conservator Dr Tapan Kumar Dey, recovered the turtles and later shifted them to the national turtle rehabilitation centre in Gazipur.

A case was filed with the wildlife division under the Wildlife (protection and safety) Act 2012 in this regard.

The law strictly prohibits poaching, capturing, trapping and trading of wildlife and has provisions of minimum one-year imprisonment or Tk 50,000 fine for anyone breaching the law.

JAIL KILLING CASE SC adjourns hearing till today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday adjourned till today the hearing of an appeal filed against a High Court verdict that acquitted six former army personnel in the jail killing case.

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division of SC headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain passed the order after a time prayer moved by Attorney General Mahbubey Alam.

The government filed the appeal with the apex court last year challenging the HC verdict in the case filed for killing four national leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, AHM Quamruzzaman and Captain Mansur Ali -- inside the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

In November this year, the government submitted a statement to the SC, praying for upholding the lower court verdict that gave death penalty to three former army personnel and life term imprisonment to 12 others.

In 2004, the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka convicted and sentenced to death Risalder (retd) Muslemuddin, Dafadar (dismissed) Marfat Ali Shah and Dafadar (dismissed) Abdul Hashem Mridha for killing the leaders.

The court also awarded life-term imprisonment to Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq-ur Rahman, Lt Col (retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Maj (retd) Bazlul Huda, Lt Col (dismissed) Khondaker Abdur Rashid, Lt Col (relieved) Shariful Haq Dalim, Lt Col (retd) SHMB Noor Chowdhury, Maj (Retd) AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, Lt Col (retd) AM Rashed Chowdhury, Maj (relieved) Ahmed Shariful Hossain, Capt (retd) Abdul Majed, Capt (relieved) Kismat Hasem and Capt (relieved) Nazmul Hossain for abetting the killers.

On August 28, 2008, the HC upheld the capital punishment of Muslemuddin and acquitted Marfat and Hashem. It also acquitted Farooq, Shahriar, Mohiuddin and Bazlul Huda, and did not say anything about the eight others who were given life term by the lower court.

On January 27, 2010, Farooq, Shahriar, Mohiuddin and Bazlul Huda were executed in the Bangabandhu assassination case.