

BICYCLE JOURNEY
Musa injured
in Fenchuganj

UNB, Dhaka

Musa Ibrahim, the first Bangladeshi to conquer Mount Everest, sustained a foot injury as he fell down from his bicycle in Fenchuganj in Sylhet yesterday.

He is now undergoing treatment in the capital's Ibn Sina Hospital.

Musa along with 13 members of his team started their journey on bicycles from Dhaka on December 3 as part of Bangladesh tour to generate awareness for a tobacco-free young generation as well as making educational institutions tobacco-free.

Now, Musa would not be able to continue this event as doctors advised him a three-day rest.

The bicycle team is scheduled to return Dhaka on December 27.



Artists perform a dance in Bangladesh Television's 48 years' celebration programme at the Television Centre in the capital yesterday. The state-run BTV was founded in 1964.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

BTV must compete
with pvt channels

Says prime minister

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the state-run Bangladesh Television (BTV) authorities to upgrade its standard to compete with the private television channels in the country.

She gave the directive at the inaugural programme marking the completion of 48 years of BTV through video conferencing from her official residence, Gono Bhaban.

Hasina said the authorities of BTV, the only terrestrial TV channel of the country, will have to give more attention to their programmes to attract more viewers.

The prime minister urged the BTV authorities to take further initiatives to broadcast more programmes relating to agriculture, trade, weather and climate change, healthcare, and women and children.

She said the BTV will also have to take more initiative to involve the people with the government activities and inspire them in the spirit of the War of Liberation.

Hasina said the standard of BTV has increased over the years with the addition of modern technology and new programmes.

"The BTV is also ahead in broadcasting programmes related to education and it will have to be attentive to make such programmes more attractive and effective," she said.

"We've taken massive programmes for BTV's technological advancement, creative development and network expansion," she added.

Later, Hasina talked to Information Minister Hasanul Huq Inu, who was at the Rampura TV Station, through video conferencing.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Iftakher Uddin Farhad, president of Bangladesh Ceramic Ware Manufacturers Association, passed away from health complications at Bumrungrad International Hospital in Thailand yesterday morning. He was 58.

He was the chairman and managing director of FARR Ceramics and was recognised as a commercially important person (CIP).

He left behind his wife, three sons and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held in the capital's Gulshan Azad Mosque after Maghrib prayers today.

He will be buried at his ancestral graveyard in Noakhali tomorrow.

All are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Mobile court seals off fairness
cream manufacturing factory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court sealed off a cosmetics manufacturing factory, Lata Herbal, in Gazipur district town on Monday as its products contain hazardous chemicals, which damage skin.

It also sentenced a Lata Herbal official to two years' imprisonment and fined him Tk 2.5 lakh and ordered police to sue its chairman Ayub Ali, who is on the run.

Executive Magistrate AHM Anwar Pasha, who led the drive, said they seized the factory's all products, equipments and raw materials and will have those products in markets withdrawn soon.

"The company has BSTI approval and its licence is valid up to June 2014. But its manufactures contain ingredients, which were not in BSTI's guidelines," he said.

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) received several complaints from a number of consumers that Lata Herbal products, which were mainly skin-whitening cream and lotion, were causing them skin diseases.

The magistrate said, "We collected samples of the products from the market and lab-tested them at BSTI and Bangladesh Atomic Energy Centre. The findings suggest that toxic chemicals and ingredients like mercury are present in the cosmetic products."

The hazardous substances can cause skin rashes, discolouration (thus called fairness) and damage immunity to bacterial and fungal infections, he said, citing a report of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). Mercury is poisonous to kidney and nerve cells, it said.

Pasha said, "We will get some other products of different herbal companies tested in future. We believe that many of these 'magic fairness creams' have hazardous elements."

A field officer of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), Mazharul Islam, who accompanied the mobile court, said they found around 30 workers in the Lata Herbal factory, and no-one of them was a chemist.

"The company has already expanded its market all over the country. Their products are popular particularly in rural areas, and it runs commercials in newspapers and TV channels and sponsors different sorts of programmes for publicity," he said.

Buriganga, Shitalakkhya
waters untreatable

Says Syed Ashraful Islam

UNB, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraful Islam yesterday said the water quality of the Buriganga and Shitalakkhya rivers has deteriorated to such a level that treatment plants are now unable to treat that.

"We've made the rivers unusable...it's an example how the environmental degradation takes place in the entire country," he told a function urging all to remain alert against any kind of pollution, especially river pollution to ensure access to drinking water for all.

He was speaking at the annual "Chittagong Festival and Mejban" of Chattagram Samity-Dhaka at the capital's Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex.

Ashraf, also the Awami League general secretary, said the government is planning to bring water from the Meghna River, even from the far away Padma River, to ensure drinking water in the capital and its surrounding areas.

About the water crisis in the port city, Chittagong, the minister said, "The water of the Karnaphuli River is gradually becoming salty...the water of the Bay of Bengal is also salty. Now water is being brought from the Halda River in Rangunia for the people of Chittagong."

Industries Minister Dilip Barua, Primary and Mass Education Minister Dr M Afsarul Ameen, BNP leaders Abdullah Al Noman and Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin, Samity general secretary Mohiul Islam Mohim and its former general secretary Syed Nurul Islam also spoke at the event held with Samity president Rezaul Haq Chowdhury Mushtaq in the chair.



Titas Gas dug up Dhakeshwari Road in the capital and left it in that state for around a week in the name of carrying out development work, causing nuisances to pedestrians as well as vehicles. The photo was taken on Monday.

Road crashes kill 6,
injure 10

METRO DESK

Six people were killed and 10 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Narsingdi, Brahmanbaria, Joypurhat and Jhenidah yesterday.

Our staff correspondent reports, an elderly man died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday as he sustained injuries when a bus hit him in the capital's Gulistan on Sunday.

The victim Rafiq Uddin Fakir, 60, of Pallabi, was admitted to the hospital after the bus requisitioned by police hit him near Bangabandhu Stadium at around 8:00pm on Sunday, locals said.

Our Narsingdi correspondent reports, two people were killed instantly and 10 others injured when an ambulance collided with a BRTC bus on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Charbagh of Raipura upazila in Narsingdi yesterday evening.

The deceased were the ambulance driver, unidentified, and Iman Hossain, 16.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent reports, an unidentified pedestrian died when a truck hit him on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Khetabari in Bijoynagar upazila yesterday.

The person was declared dead at Madhabpur Upazila Health Complex.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports, a teenage boy died instantly as a truck ran him over, while he was returning home by riding a bicycle, at Khanjanpur in Joypurhat town yesterday, police said.

The deceased Md Rubel, 16, son of Md Dulal, of Chandpur, had been living with his sister at Dogachhi village in Joypurhat Sadar upazila.

Our Jhenidah correspondent reports, a girl was killed instantly as a tractor ran her over at the sugarcane centre of Kotchandpur upazila headquarters in Jhenidah yesterday morning.

The deceased was Rahima Khatun, 7, daughter of Nazrul Islam of the upazila headquarters.

DHAKA TODAY

Human chain
Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will form a human chain demanding punishment for war criminals; Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Roundtable
The weekly Azkal will arrange a roundtable on protecting democracy; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Prize giving ceremony
Dhaka Ahsania Mission will organise ISESCO Prize for Literacy 2012; Venue: Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology auditorium, Tejgaon; Time:

RISING Stars

We have so many reasons for partying this week: the world didn't end, new years is around the corner, and well because partying is fun. We bring you the ultimate guide to partying while contemplating globe trotting. The search to be musical starts here along with a treat for Zeppelin fans. From Shironamhin's exclusive interview to making friends with creepy crawlies, we got it all.

SEE THIS WEEK'S RISING STARS.

DU POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPT
Alumni reunion held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University Political Science Department Alumni Association (DUPDAA) yesterday held its reunion and organised a reception for dignitaries and oath-taking of new members.

Many of the department's alumni joined the programme held on TSC premises of the university.

DUPDAA honoured five members of the association for their contribution to the country.

Later at a discussion, Barrister Mainul Hosen, former adviser to a caretaker government, said his seniors in the department have inspired him to discharge his duties to the country.

An alumni and AL leader, Abdul Jalil, said countrymen and political parties have failed to ensure democracy in the country due to political intolerance.

The five members honoured are -- Abdul Jalil, M Mokammel Haque, Md Faizur Rahman Chowdhury, M Hafiz Uddin Khan and ASM Rokibul Hasan.

Mojibur Rahman and AKM Nurul Alam took oath as the association's new president and secretary.

APON for Drug Free Society
bringing hope through rehabilitation

1st Annual 5K

RUN/WALK 2012

For more information go to www.greg67.com
Apon 5K Run/Walk is open to all ages, including children
100% of the proceeds will fund rehabilitation of drug abused kids in the streets of Dhaka
Media Partner: **The Daily Star**

Friday, Dec 28, 2012
8:00AM Sign-in & Registration, 9:00AM Run/Walk Starts
RAOWA, Dhaka Cantonment, Bangladesh
Register Now & Pledge Donations
NO REGISTRATION FEE

RACE MAP

Race Start: Front of RAOWA Club, Dec 28, 2012, Start Time: 9:00 AM

Race Finish: Jatiyo Sangshad Bhaban, Dec 28, 2012

Please make donations payable to:
APON
APONGAON, Basta Bazar
Singair Upazila, Manikganj District
Post Mail: 97 Asad Ave.,
Mohammadpur, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh

Contact Person:
Brother Ronald Drahozal CSC
Executive Director
Email: apongaon@gmail.com
Cell phone: 01711400502