

NEWS IN *brief*

Book on Bengal's economic history published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The publication ceremony of "An Economic History of Bengal (1757-1947)", a book written by prominent economic historian Prof M Mufakharul Islam, was held at the Department of History of Dhaka University yesterday.

The book summarises the main features of the economy of the Bengal province of that period, including the battle of Palashi and the beginning of the economic drain, de-industrialisation, development of some modern industries, trends in agricultural production, land transfer, construction of the railway network, and the 1943 famine, among others.

The book priced at Tk 650 was published by Adorn Publication. Bangladesh History

Trader stabbed to death in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A young trader was stabbed to death on Sunday night in Sylhet city.

The deceased was identified as Sumin Ahmed, 27, also vice-president of the city's ward-24 unit of Jatiyatabadi Swechchhasebak Dal. He hails from Kushigahat Fulbag area of Sylhet.

Locals found a critically injured Sumin in an abandoned market and rushed him to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Contacted, Kazi Bazle Maola, assistant superintendent of police (ASP) of Rab-9, said Rab arrested one Lokman Ahmad from Dewanerchar village in this connection.

He said Lokman admitted stabbing Sumin to death.

Japanese co distributes blankets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

YKK Bangladesh Pte Ltd, a leading Japanese multinational zipper manufacturing company at Dhaka Export Zone (DEPZ), distributed around 250 blankets among the cold-hit poor people in the capital on Sunday.

Kosuke Miimi, managing director of YKK

Smuggled Indian liquor seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday recovered smuggled Indian liquor worth Tk 5.5 lakh from Companiganj upazila of Sylhet.

Acting on a tip off, BGB personnel of Kulaura Border outpost recovered the contraband liquor. A case was filed and the liquor was handed over to Companiganj Police Station, said sources.

None was arrested in this connection.



- Fair**
Dhaka University Career Club will organise the concluding session of a two-day "e-Commerce Fair". Venue: Teacher-Student Centre, Dhaka University; Time: 9:30am.
- Roundtable**
Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies and High Commission of Canada will jointly hold a roundtable, "South Asian Regional Security: Challenges and Opportunities". Venue: Hotel Lakeshore; Time: 3:00pm.
- Lecture**
Banglar Pathshala will organise a lecture by Prof Nazrul Islam on Bangladesh's economy. Venue: RC Majumder Auditorium, Dhaka University; Time: 4:30pm.
- Seminar**
Poison Free Bangladesh will hold a seminar, "Poisoned Bangladesh: What needs to be done". Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.
- Seminar**
Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad will organise a seminar on the relevance of anti-discrimination laws in protecting the dignity of minorities. Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.
- Meeting**
Global Development Learning Network Centre, Brac University will host the inaugural of a four-day meeting to augment the centre's



Traders of the capital's Bangabazar Super Market stage a demonstration before the market yesterday protesting the killing of Rafiqul Islam Mazumdar, vice-president of the market. The handcuffed body of Rafiqul was recovered from Kushtia on Saturday night.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Law enforcers involved in Rafiqul murder

Allege BNP leaders at namaz-e-janaza

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of senior BNP leaders yesterday alleged that the government and law enforcement agencies were involved in the planned killing of Rafiqul Islam Mazumdar, general secretary of BNP's ward-56 unit of Dhaka City Corporation.

BNP leaders Chowdhury Alam and Ilias Ali had disappeared in the same way, BNP Standing Committee Member and spokesperson Tariqul Islam told journalists prior to Rafiqul's namaz-e-janaza before the party's Naya Paltan office in the capital.

The handcuffed body of Rafiqul was recovered from Kushtia on Saturday night, around three hours after he was allegedly picked up by Rab members from Jhenidah.

Citing the killing of journalist couple Sagar-Runi and pedestrian Bishwajit Das, Tariqul said there is no security to public life.

BNP Standing Committee Member MK Anwar said if the law enforcement agencies deny their involvement, it is the government's duty to identify the killers through a proper investigation.

BNP's Dhaka city unit Convener Sadeque Hossain Khoka said killings has become a common phenomenon during the present government's tenure.

Rafiqul was buried at his village home in Chondipur of Saharasthi upazila of Chandpur around 9:00pm yesterday.

Protesting the killing, BNP Dhaka city unit will hoist black flags at ward-56 and hold a protest rally before the office at 2:30pm today and hold a doa and milad mahfil in the office after Asr prayers tomorrow.

BNP Chandpur district unit will also organise demonstrations and a protest rally at Shaharsti gate on Chandpur-Comilla Highway at 3:00pm today.

Recruit more Bangladeshis

PM urges Saudi Arabia

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the Saudi government to recruit more manpower from Bangladesh for mutual benefits of the two countries.

The prime minister made the call when a three-member delegation of Saudi Majlish-e-Shura led by its Speaker Dr Abdullah Bin Mohammed Bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh made a courtesy call on her at Gono Bhavan in the capital yesterday evening.

Deputy Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Nazrul Islam briefed reporters after the meeting.

During the meeting, the prime minister also urged the Saudi government to boost investment in Bangladesh and increase bilateral trade between the two brotherly countries.

In response, the Saudi Speaker said he has already discussed recruiting more manpower and boosting trade and commerce with Bangladesh during a meeting with the Bangladesh Speaker.

The Saudi Speaker stressed the need for regular visits of high-level delegations of both the countries to further strengthen bilateral ties.

NIKO GRAFT CASE AGAINST KHALEDA

HC hearing on 2008 rule tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fixed tomorrow for hearing a rule it issued in 2008 over the legality of filing the Niko corruption case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station on December 9, 2007.

It accused Khaleda and several others of abusing power while she was the prime minister to award a gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian company Niko.

Following a writ petition filed by Khaleda, the HC on July 9, 2008 stayed the case and issued the rule upon ACC and the government to explain why the initiation and proceedings of the case against her should not be declared illegal.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Abdur Rob fixed tomorrow to hear the rule.

ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that he prayed to the HC last week to fix a date for hearing the rule as per the ACC's instruction.

ACC decided to get the old cases disposed of at the HC, he said, adding that Khaleda was on bail in the case.



Dr Abdullah Bin Mohammad Bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh, Speaker of Consultative Assembly of Saudi Arabia, meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhavan yesterday.

PHOTO : PID



PHOTO: STAR

Garment Sramik o Shilpa Rakkha Jatiya Mancha forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday protesting recent violence against women, including rape and murder.

Strict laws to restrict hartal demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Strict laws need to be established and implemented to restrict hartals and protest movements in the country, demanded speakers at a discussion in the capital yesterday.

They also urged two leading political parties--Awami League and BNP--to refrain from such movements for the well-being of the nation as such movements only create chaos and disrupt normal life.

The speakers said they will place a 12-point demand, including these issues, before the two parties.

Citizens Rights Movement (CRM) and Green Club of Bangladesh (GCB) jointly organised the discussion followed by a press conference at Jatiya Press Club.

To reduce the immense pressure on the capital city, the speakers called for a decentralised government to strengthen local governments.

CRM President Maj (retd) Mafizul Haque, said, "It is important to divide the country into four states with each state controlled by their own local government to ensure optimum service for people."

This will also enable individual provinces to independently solve their problems without turning to the capital, he added.

CRM Secretary General Tushar Rahman said an effective framework defining local governments is needed in the country.

Moreover, the tenure of local representatives serving in the parliament needs to be reduced to four years for more efficient performance, he said.



WEATHER TODAY

Mild cold wave likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Thick fog may occur over the river basins and moderate to thick fog elsewhere over the country during midnight till noon, said Met Office.

Mild to moderate cold save is sweeping over Rangpur division and the regions of Srirangal and it may continue.

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:28pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43am.

Country's highest temperature 28.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 07.2 degrees at Rangpur, Sayedpur and Dinajpur.

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	21.3	14.8	59	64
Chittagong	26.0	15.0	79	63
Rajshahi	17.5	11.8	79	82
Rangpur	18.4	07.2	97	83
Khulna	21.6	14.0	83	82
Barisal	23.6	12.8	89	77