

NEWS IN *brief*

Biotechnology festival held at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT

A day-long biotechnology festival was held on Chittagong University (CU) campus yesterday. Science and Technology Secretary Dr Md Rafiqul Islam, as chief guest, inaugurated the festival titled "Biotechnology Vision 2021" organised by CU genetic engineering and biotechnology department.

With CU Vice Chancellor Prof Anwarul Azim Arif in the chair, National Institute of Biotechnology Director Dr Md Saidul Islam, as special guest, was also present.

The festival programmes include inter-school and college biotechnology Olympiad, workshop, inter-university idea contest, film show and pro-

Dipu Moni congratulates new US secretary of state

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni congratulated John F Kerry on his assumption of office as the new secretary of state of the United States and assured of full support from the government of Bangladesh to him.

In a letter yesterday, she termed the appointment the US secretary of state a true recognition of his commitment, dedication and the contribution he made to his people.

The foreign minister lauded Kerry's role for international peace and cooperation particularly in times of international conflict, said a press release.

She also extended an invitation to John Kerry to

Housewife 'kills herself'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A housewife allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of their house at Baharam Parain in Chandanaish upazila yesterday.

Police quoting the victim's neighbours, said Sanju Akter, 23, wife of Abu Taleb, killed herself at her husband's residence around 5:30am.

During the incident, her husband went to mosque for Fajr prayers and her only six-year-old son was asleep, said police. The couple locked in an altercation over family matter on Friday evening.



A team of detectives seize equipment used for making fake notes and arrest five persons, including two foreigners, inset, at a house in Niketon in the capital's Gulshan yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Fake foreign currency 'factory' busted

Five, including two foreigners, arrested; notes and equipment seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of police arrested five men, including two foreigners, from the capital's Gulshan on Friday and seized counterfeit foreign currencies and equipment used in its making from their possession.

The arrestees are Jinge Phillip Shifo, 35, of South Africa; Samzela Criss, 34, of Cameroon; and Bangladeshi Golam Kibria, 35, a resident of Dhanmondi; Yousuf Ali, 30, of Khilkhet; and Stephen Look, 40, of Mirpur.

DB Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Mashiur Rahman said the arrestees used to cheat former Bangladeshi expatriates, who returned to the country and were trying to migrate to countries offering better prospects.

During a raid in a Niketon house, US\$ 45,800 and € 12,500 in counterfeit currencies, two laptops, one printer and some papers and chemicals used in making counterfeit currency were seized, he said.

Shifo and Criss, arriving around eight and four months ago respectively, rented the house for Tk 40,000 per month to produce counterfeit currencies, which the Bangladeshi trio used to sell.

Stephen, working as a manpower broker in Paltan, used to lure the expatriates. The gang recently cheated a Sylhet resident, who returned from London, of Tk 7 lakh, he said.

To lengthen their stay, the foreigners falsely stated that their passports were lost and applied for new ones and visas, added the ADC.

Full 'Muktijuddho Kosh' published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A complete 12-volume Bangla encyclopaedia on the Liberation War, edited by eminent historian Prof Muntasir Mamun, was published yesterday.

"Muktijuddho Kosh" was first published in 2005 in five volumes. Now it has 20,391 entries on different war-time incidents, personalities, genocides, mass graves, mass killing grounds, torture centres, anti-liberation forces, battles, and martyrs.

The 8,034-page encyclopaedia, published by Somoy Prokashan, is priced at Tk 10,000.

The publication of the book is a milestone, Prof Muntasir said at the publication ceremony at National Museum. He said a number of people voluntarily supported him in the endeavour.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith said, "The bold initiative to editing and publishing such an encyclopaedia is unbelievable. The foreign and cultural ministries should distribute it to various places."

Prof Muntasir requested the government to allocate 100 marks to the compulsory history of Bangladesh at all levels of education. Currently, science students do not study history at all, while the subject is optional for humanities students, he said.

JU students stage sit-in for classrooms

JU CORRESPONDENT

Students of three departments of Jahangirnagar University staged sit-ins in front of the vice chancellor's office yesterday, demanding adequate classrooms and other facilities.

The students of the newly founded journalism and media studies (JMS) department have been demanding enough classrooms, a seminar library and media lab for quite some time. They want all these facilities in the news arts building where the department activities are currently held.

Around 9:00am yesterday, they started a sit-in at the entrance of the administrative building. Two hours later, archaeology and international relations students held separate sit-ins there but they withdrew from protest on assurance of fulfillment of their demands.

Apart from adequate classrooms, archaeology students demanded a museum.

The JMS students continued to protest until 6:00pm when the VC, Prof Anwar Hossain, assured them of meeting their demands after holding a syndicate meeting at his office.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fifth death anniversary of freedom fighter Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, who was also general secretary of Gonoforum.

The party activists will place wreaths at his grave in capital's Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at 9:00am.

Mollah Abdur Rashid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the fifth death anniversary of Mollah Abdur Rashid, former joint registrar of Co-Operative Societies, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his village home at Shibpur in Narsingdi.

A special prayer will also be held on February 8 at the mosque of Sector No-6, Uttara in the capital after Juma prayers.

Rahima Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Rahima Islam, wife of late Shamsul Islam Khan, former industries minister.

She died of old age complications on this day last year at the age of 77.

WEATHER TODAY

Little change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershower is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, and Dhaka divisions and the regions Noakhali and Comilla and weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloud sky elsewhere over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderate fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:46pm and rises tomorrow at 6:38am.

Country's highest temperature 30.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 09.4 degrees at Ishwardi.

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	27.4	14.3	72	47
Chittagong	28.5	14.5	79	66
Rajshahi	27.5	10.0	93	71
Rangpur	27.0	10.6	73	51
Khulna	27.4	12.5	100	80
Barisal	28.4	12.5	91	75

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable

Bangla daily the Prothom Alo will organise a roundtable discussion titled "The need for expert healthcare service providers and prospects of community paramedics"; Venue: its office; Time: 10:30am.

Conference

WE CAN National Committee will arrange a conference titled "Experience of WE CAN Approach to End Domestic Violence"; Venue: Spectra Convention Centre; Time: 10:00am.

Siege

Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra will lay siege to Sram Bhaban demanding, among others, safety at workplaces;



Yves Marre, managing director of TaraTari Shipyard Ltd, addresses a press conference on "Boat Technology in Chittagong and in Bengal" festival at Alliance Française de Chittagong in the port city yesterday. The festival is a joint initiative of The Daily Star and Alliance Française de Chittagong.

PHOTO: STAR

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