

NEWS IN *brief*

War crimes trial not anti-Islamic activity: Inu

UNB, Dhaka
Information Minister Hasanul Huq Inu yesterday said the trial of war criminals is not an anti-Islamic activity in any way as the trial is a strong initiative to establish justice.

The war criminals are clearly guilty under international law, he said, adding, "They are being tried for crimes like killing, mass rape, looting and arson attack. These crimes are also unpardonable according to Islamic laws."

Inu said the self-declared war criminals are not professional political leaders, activists, religious

TIB, RAC urge parliament to pass proposed amendment to ACC Act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Reporters Against Corruption (RAC) yesterday urged the parliament to pass the proposed amendment to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Act 2004 during the current parliamentary session.

They also urged the government to take necessary steps to appoint the next ACC chairman, as the tenure of the incumbent chairman is going to end this year in June, said a TIB press release.

The call came up in a meeting between a RAC delegation and TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman at TIB office in the capital.

Novo Nordisk celebrates its 90th anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Novo Nordisk, a Danish pharmaceutical company, is celebrating its 90th anniversary.

On the occasion, the company's employees will be offered 20 shares which will be matured by 2016.

This includes all the employees as per January 1, 2013, apart from employees in the separately operating affiliates NNE Pharmaplan and NNIT.

On the eve of the anniversary, Novo Nordisk Bangladesh arranged a day long programme, inaugurated by its Managing Director A Rajan Kumar,

Mizanur, Quader president, GS of BCS 82 Forum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Mizanur Rahman, former secretary of the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, and MA Quader Sarker, member in charge of tax administration and human resource management of National Board of Revenue, have been elected the president and general secretary respectively of BCS 82 Forum for 2013-2014.

The 33-member executive committee was formed at a general meeting at Rangamati Water

CAA general meeting to be held in Dhaka

DU CORRESPONDENT
The Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) will hold its 20th general meeting and a seminar in Bangladesh for the first time.

Institute of Architects, Bangladesh (IAB) will organise the programme, Mubasshar Hussain, IAB president, told reporters at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital on Sunday.

The two-day seminar on "Architecture, Response and Responsibility" will be held at the hotel from February 22, he said.

Mubasshar added a five-day architecture exhibition will begin tomorrow at National Museum while another exhibition will begin on February 20



Almost normal vehicular movement in Farmgate area of the capital at 10:00am yesterday defying the day-long hartal enforced by Jamaat-e-Islami.

PHOTO: STAR

PRESIDENTIAL CLEMENCY
War criminals' exclusion logical

Says NHRC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The demand, made by youths and organisations including Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, for constitutional amendment to disqualify war criminals for presidential clemency is logical, said National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman yesterday.

Who knows, a party might come tomorrow and declare a general clemency, he told a discussion marking the first anniversary of "Manobadhikar Khobor", a monthly rights magazine, in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

On the latest amendments made to International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, he said the state and the defence got equal facilities. "Now, the tribunal has

been elevated to international status."

The amendments gave the opportunity to the government to appeal against inadequate sentence and to the tribunal to try organisations for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

Ruling out the possibility of controversies, he said nothing new was inserted and that it was the second standardised tribunal after the Nuremberg Tribunal, where people who committed war crimes during World War II were tried.

The nation is not willing to accept any compromise and so the state must ensure the highest punishment, he added.

Eminent jurist Barrister Rafique-ul Huq said war criminals should be awarded capital punishment but through a proper trial.

FINANCING JAMAAT-SHIBIR
Two Islami Bank officials arrested

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Police on Sunday arrested two officials of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd (IBBL), Mirpur Branch for their alleged involvement in financing Jamaat-Shibir for creating anarchy and carrying out subversive activities in the capital during hartals.

Mirpur police yesterday forwarded Manager AKM Shahidul Haque and Senior Principal Officer Hassan Mahmud Mithu before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka with a five-day remand prayer.

Sub-Inspector Masudur Rahman, the investigation officer (IO) of the case, told the court that they needed to be remanded for finding out the vital clues about the hartal violence.

Police also arrested Ashik Mohammad Jonayed, SM Hasanul Manna, Mohammad Kafil Uddin, Mohammad Nur Alam and Mohammad Rabiul Islam on the same charge and produced them before the court with a five-day remand prayer.

Metropolitan Magistrate MA Salam after rejecting the remand prayers ordered to send them to jail as the police filed the case under the Speedy Trial Act.

Khaleda flies to Singapore today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will fly to Singapore tonight for treatment, said family sources.

According to her relatives, the opposition leader has a sore throat and aching teeth since two weeks and her arthritis problem has also deteriorated.

A Singapore Airlines flight carrying Khaleda and her relatives will take off at 11:30pm, said one of her relatives.

Sources close to the BNP chief said Khaleda might also go to London from Singapore for her treatment where she would also discuss some "crucial issues" regarding the party's national council slated for March 19 with her elder son Tarique Rahman, also BNP senior vice-chairman.

The sources, however, refused to elaborate the "crucial issues."

Obituary

METRO DESK

 Nigar Rashid, wife of Engineer AK Rashid Uddin Ahmed,

former member of Chittagong Port Authority (Engineering), died on Sunday. She was 60.

A doa mahfil will be held on Thursday after Asr prayers at her parental residence in the capital's Gulshan.

All well-wishers, friends and relatives are requested to attend the programme.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

 Today is the second death anniversary of Nurunnahar Khatun,

wife of former headmaster of Ghorashal Pilot High School late Masudur Rahman.

A milad mahfil, recitation from the holy Quran and discussion will be held at her Ghorashal residence today, says a press release.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for the salvation of her departed soul.

A student of Engineering University School and College, Dhaka, pins a black ribbon on his classmate's uniform yesterday in memory of blogger Ahmed Rajib Haidar, who was killed on February 15. Students attended classes yesterday defying the hartal called by Jamaat-e-Islami.



PHOTO: STAR

COX'S BAZAR'S DEVELOPMENT
Cabinet okays law to check unplanned construction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved a law to form a body to ensure development and to check unplanned construction in Cox's Bazar district.

Once the law, styled as Cox's Bazar Development Authority Act-2013, is passed, the development authority will be empowered to control unplanned structures which have become a worry for tourism in the southeastern district.

A board comprising a chairman and three members will be formed to discharge responsibilities, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told reporters after a weekly cabinet meeting.

The cabinet also approved the birth and death registration act with a provision to fine Tk 5,000 and maximum a one-year imprisonment for providing false information and violating the law, he said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting which was held at Bangladesh Secretariat.

When poems help to fight corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poem is a powerful tool against corruption, participants said at an open-air recitation session at the capital's Rabindra Sarobar amphitheatre yesterday.

Kobitay dhonito hok shushashoner ongkar (Let the commitment to good governance be echoed through poems)—with this theme, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organised the session, "Poem against Corruption."

"Can poems prevent corruption? May be not. But like many other cultural tools, it has inspired us for ages. From the very movement against the British colonial rule, it helped the people of this continent know themselves, grow as a determined nation to eliminate oppression, and achieve a just society," said TIB Executive Director Dr

Iftekharuzzaman.

"We have organised this session to fire the spirit of Ekush (the Language Movement of February 21, 1952) and to stand against corruption. We also hail the youths who are protesting at Shahbagh and express solidarity," he added.

Noted recitation artists Shimul Mustafa, Mahidul Islam and Ravisankar Maitree, and members of TIB's voluntary group, Youth Engagement and Support (YES), performed at the session.

A recital, "Bangla nam e desh", which narrated the history of the 1971 Liberation War, was also presented. The session ended with a play of Dhaka YES Theatre.

Sajjad Hossain, senior programme manager of TIB, was present, among others.

 WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Light fog may occur over the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged and day temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:56pm and rises tomorrow at 6:28am.

Country's highest temperature 28.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 13.4 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

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	21.5	16.0	87	74
Chittagong	25.4	18.2	89	66
Rajshahi	25.1	15.6	97	75
Rangpur	23.5	13.4	99	78
Khulna	25.5	16.5	100	78
Barisal	25.2	17.0	93	86