

NEWS IN *brief*

JU teachers to join classes

JU CORRESPONDENT

After a seven-day work abstention demanding the vice chancellor's resignation, Jahangirnagar University teachers yesterday withdrew the demand and declared to resume classes "considering students' suffering".

Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (Juta) raised the demand for the VC's resignation after agitated students vandalised some teachers' residences, including that of the VC, and five vehicles following a student's death on February 12.

The student, Md Malek, died in a Savar hospital after an hour-long wait for an ambulance at the JU medical centre.

The decision to join classes came at a Juta gen-

Chinese carnival to be held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time in Bangladesh, the Chinese embassy will host "2013 Chinese New Year Dhaka Carnival" on Saturday.

The carnival will be held in the capital's Banani Bidya Niketon to introduce the traditional Spring Festival to Bangladesh.

The festival will include trade fair, food fair, charity sale and auction, games, singing competition, and Chinese cultural programmes.

Tickets are available at Jinghua Bangla Tours and Travels Ltd in Gulshan. People can also con-

Duma's AGM held

METRO DESK

The annual general meeting (AGM) of Dhaka University MBA Association (Duma) was held on Friday.

Chief Election Commissioner Taslim

Uddin Khan declared the 18-member new committee of Duma with M Shamsuzzaman as president and Engr Md Mohsin Miah as its general secretary.

SM Sultan Kabir and Hossien Muhammed Zaki will be responsible for the posts of treasurer and organising secretary respectively.

Three held with Yaba pills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) detained three people with 5,937 Yaba pills and five bottles of Phensedyl in Domdomia area of Teknaf early yesterday.

They are Jewel Mallik, of Fatikchhari, Shafiul Alam, of Chittagong city, and Hossain, of Chandpur.

BGB officials estimated the value of the drugs at around Tk 18 lakh.

BGB handed them over to Teknaf Police Station

DHAKA TODAY

Fair Market, Nilkhet; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion Tamuddun Mojib will hold a discussion on International Mother Language Day; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Blood donation programme Dosh o Dosh will arrange a voluntary blood donation programme in memory of Language Movement heroes; Venue: Gausul Azam Super

Discussion Gulshan Niketon Recreation Society will hold a discussion to respect the martyrs of the Language Movement;

WEATHER TODAY

Weather may remain dry

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:57pm and rises tomorrow at 6:26am.

Country's highest temperature 30.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 10.6 degree Celsius at Sreemangal.

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	27.9	16.5	59	44
Chittagong	26.5	15.4	63	63
Rajshahi	26.7	13.0	78	67
Rangpur	26.8	13.2	85	53
Khulna	28.6	13.5	78	63
Barisal	28.0	12.7	75	54



Left, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina places a wreath before Central Shaheed Minar at 12:01 this morning in memory of the Language Movement martyrs who, on February 21, 1952, laid down their lives for recognition of Bangla as a state language. Right, freedom fighters and the families of martyrs follow suit.

PHOTO: STAR



PM for secular country free of war criminals

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the people to build a knowledge-based, prosperous, peaceful and secular country free of war criminals and razzakars, keeping in mind the indomitable spirit of the Language Movement.

She made the appeal while distributing the "Ekushey Padak 2013" among 13 recipients at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital.

The recipients of Ekushey Padak 2013: MAWadud (posthumous), Prof Ajit Kumar Guha (posthumous), Principal M Quamruzzaman (posthumous) and Tofazzal Hossain for the Language Movement; Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid for the Liberation War; Nurjahan Murshid (posthumous) and Samson H Chowdhury (posthumous) for social services; Rafiq Azad and Asad Chowdhury for language and literature; Kaderi Kibria, Jamaluddin Hossain, Bijoy Krishna Adhikari (posthumous) and Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshti for art and culture.

Hasina said Ekushey February has become the symbol of Bangalee nationalism, secularism and non-communal spirit, and called upon all to remain conscious in upholding the spirit of immortal Ekushey.

"Those who deny the spirit of the Language Movement and Liberation War are the enemies of immortal Ekushey and independence," she added.

Hasina said with the initiatives of some expatriate Bangladeshis living in Canada and all out support of her government, the Unesco declared Ekushey (21st February) as the International Mother Language Day, which facilitated the rights of mother tongue of all small ethnic groups in 193 UN member countries across the world.

Recalling the invaluable contribution of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the Language Movement, she said in 1974, Bangabandhu first delivered his speech in the UN General Assembly in Bangla to portray Bangla language and culture to the international community.

RAMU'S BUDDHIST HERITAGE

Germany grants Tk 52 lakh for restoration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The German government yesterday gave a Tk 52 lakh grant for the restoration and preservation of the culture and heritage of the Buddhist community in Ramu, Cox's Bazar.

On September 29, 2012, Muslim zealots destroyed 18 Buddhist monasteries and pagodas and over 50 houses in Ramu over a faked Facebook page insulting the Quran.

The agreement was signed by German Ambassador Dr Albrecht Conze and Bangladesh Buddhist Samity, Cox's Bazar President Prof Parikshit Barua in the capital's German embassy.

The money will be used to rebuild the Jetoban Buddhist temple, restore its library and procure traditional musical instruments.

Boi Mela ready to celebrate language day

DU CORRESPONDENT

The capital's Bangla Academy is all set to observe the International Mother Language Day with thousands of people imbued with the spirit of nationalism likely to flock to the book fair there today.

On the occasion, publication houses have equipped their stalls at the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela with a wide range of new books while law enforcers have beefed up security in and around the academy premises for safe movement of visitors.

The fair will remain open from 8:00am to 10:00pm today.

With the ongoing mass movement at Shahbagh, huge flow of visitors to the book fair is likely on this historic day.

It was on this very day in 1952 that the language heroes of Bangladesh embraced martyrdom to establish Bangla as the state language.

Meanwhile yesterday, a total of 89 new books hit the book fair while several publishing houses said they made good sales.

So far, a total of 2,128 new books of different types came out in the fair this year with books on poems topping the list with 523 already out.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with recipients of the "Ekushey Padak 2013" in Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

CHRISTIAN YOUTH MURDER HC upholds death penalty of JMB man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld the death sentence of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leader Salahuddin alias Salehin, who was convicted of killing a Christian youth in Jamalpur 10 years back.

Salahuddin, a Majlish-e-Shura member of the banned Islamist outfit, is now in Dhaka Central Jail's condemned cell, Deputy Attorney General Md Selim told The Daily Star.

Led by Salahuddin, a group of JMB men killed Hriday Roy of Sonarchar in Jamalpur's Sarishabari upazila on April 23, 2003, as he allegedly converted poor Muslim locals to Christianity, says the case statement.

A murder case was filed with Sarishabari Police Station following the incident without naming any suspects.

On August 20, 2007, the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 of Dhaka passed a death sentence on Salahuddin after the investigation revealed that JMB men were behind the killing.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad upheld that verdict as the charges against Salahuddin were proved beyond doubt.

On January 15, the HC upheld Salahuddin's death sentence in another murder case.

BID TO SAVE LOHAGARA FOREST HC orders to stop operations of 22 brickfields, 20 sawmills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities to immediately stop the operations of 22 brickfields and 20 sawmills in the reserved forest area of Lohagara upazila in Chittagong in order to save the forest, environment, and biodiversity.

The court declared operation of those brick kilns and sawmills illegal and directed the government to find out if there were any other brickfields and sawmills operating illegally in the reserved forest area.

Delivering verdict on a writ petition, the HC observed that the ministries of environment and forest, and local government and rural development (LGRD) should be more cautious in issuing licences and clearance certificates for establishing brickfields and sawmills.

The relevant law and rules should be implemented properly to save the envi-

ronment from degradation and pollution, it observed.

The HC bench of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar came up with the verdict after hearing the writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela).

Bela filed the petition with the HC on December 12, 2011 seeking its directives on the government to stop the operations of the brickfields and sawmills to save the forest, environment, and biodiversity.

According to the Bela petition, the brickfields and sawmills, which were established violating the Forest Act 1927 and Sawmill Rules 1998, have been destroying the reserved forest and environment in the area.

Advocate Iqbal Kabir Lytton appeared for Bela, while Advocate Md Mostafa stood for the owners of the brickfields and sawmills.

Kader Siddiqui sued in Ctg for calling home minister 'razakar'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A defamation case was filed yesterday with a Chittagong court against Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata League (BKSJL) President Kader Siddiqui on charge of terming the home minister "a razzakar".

MA Taher, a freedom fighter and also a local leader of ruling Awami League (AL), placed the complaint before Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Hasanul Islam, court sources said.

The court took the case into cognisance and ordered assistant commissioner (Kotwali) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) to submit a report before the court within March 28, they said.

Quoting the case's First Information Report (FIR), Tapan Das, a counsel of Taher, said Kader at a party conference in the capital's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) on February 9 said, "It is impossible to complete war criminals' trial keeping a "razakar" home minister in the government".

At the conference, Kader also said Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir was additional deputy commissioner of Mymensingh during the Liberation War in 1971 and he [Kader] could prove that Alamgir was a "razakar", he said.

The comments have tarnished the image of the home minister as well as MA Taher, as both of them are freedom fighters; and also the image of the government and AL.