

NEWS IN *brief*

Security to be tightened at SC ahead of war crimes trial appeal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court and government authorities have decided to strengthen security in the court area ahead of filing and hearing appeals against the verdicts of the war crimes cases. The decision was taken at a meeting of the officials concerned at the SC registrar's office in the capital yesterday. SC Registrar AKM Shamsul Islam said they took the decision to avoid any untoward incident during the case proceedings. Around 200 law enforcers are now deployed on the SC premises, he said.

DU launches online newspaper

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University of Dhaka launched an online newspaper titled "dutimz.com" yesterday. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Secretary Md Nazrul Islam Khan inaugurated the newspaper at the university's Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban. DU Vice Chancellor Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, as the chief guest, and eminent IT specialist Mostafa Jabbar were also present on the occasion. Campus based news on different issues including education, research works and cultural activities will be available in the newspaper run by DU students.

IUCN celebrates efforts to preserve environment in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh country office of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will host an event today to celebrate the attempts that have been made to preserve the environment in the past 40 years in the country. Scientists and experts in the field will participate in the event at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the capital. Environment and Forests Minister Hasan Mahmud will attend the event as the chief guest. Bangladesh became member of the IUCN, a union of governments and NGOs working on environmental issues, in 1972.

FAAB to hold seminar Friday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Fulbright Alumni Association of Bangladesh (FAAB) will hold a day-long conference entitled "Women Empowerment, Environment, and Sustainable Economy of Bangladesh" on Friday. The conference will be held in the capital's Brac Centre Inn from 10:00am to 4:00pm, said a press release. A total of twelve papers prepared by experts will be presented at the conference. All alumni have been requested to attend the event.

Website launched for finding Kolkata doctors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Indian organisation has launched a website with the aim of informing Bangladeshi patients about where they can find particular medical treatments in Kolkata. The website is www.roadforhealth.com. The simple and open for all search options will provide patients all the necessary contact details of their desired specialists in Kolkata along with their area of specialisation within moments, says a press release. The website will also enable people to book appointments online.



The Shahbagh demonstrators marching towards Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday to submit a memorandum to the home ministry demanding arrest of Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman for provoking religious sentiment against the youth movement. The photo was taken near the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) in the capital.

PHOTO: STAR

Provide services to rural people

PM urges ophthalmologists

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the ophthalmologists to go to villages at least a day in a week to spread their services among the rural poor people. She also urged them to provide improved services including cataract operation to the rural people by setting up eye camps in rural areas in every month. Hasina was addressing the inaugural function of the 40th Annual National Conference of the Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. With OSB President Dr Deen Mohammad Nurul Haque in the chair, the function was addressed, among others, by Health Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque, PM's Health Adviser Prof Syed Modasser Ali, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Affairs Capt (retd) Dr Mazibur Rahman Fakir, and OSB Secretary General

Dr Ziaul Islam Mohammad Ali. Hasina said there is no alternative to efficient ophthalmologists to check blindness. "For this, the knowledge you acquired will have to be sharpened through research and training and I call upon you to be more interested in this regard." The prime minister said there are nearly 7.5 lakh visually-impaired people in Bangladesh. "Nearly 80 percent of blindness is due to cataract which is avoidable," she said. This blindness could be cured through operation, she added. She called upon physicians, mass media and social workers to create awareness about this. She said that the rural poor people including women could not take healthcare services timely by visiting the towns due to financial limitation.

3 to die for killing ATN videographer

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced three muggers to death for killing Shafiqul Islam alias Mithu, senior videographer of ATN Bangla, in 2010. The convicts are Md Sujan, Md Ratan and Md Raju. Mithu, 40, was found dead at Mirpur-Uttara embankment in Rustampur, on the outskirts of the capital, on May 9, 2010. Judge Md Akhtaruzzaman of the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court handed down the verdict in a crowded courtroom in presence of the convicts. The convicts can appeal challenging the legality of the sentence within seven days from the day the judgement copy is received. Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 20 out of 36 prosecution witnesses including complainant of the case. According to the prosecution, Mithu, a resident of Madhyapara, fell victim to muggers while returning home by a rented microbus from his office at Karwan Bazar on May 8, 2010. The muggers boarded the vehicle in guise of passengers. After the muggers discovered Mithu's identity, they took him somewhere else, strangled him and dumped his body near the dam.

DoE seizes illegal polythene bags in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday in a drive seized around 13,000kg of polythene bags and plastics beads and machineries from a factory in Hosni Dalan area of Chawkbazar in the capital. When the mobile team of the DoE reached the factory named Zannati Super Packaging, all staff of the factory fled the scene. Later, the mobile team also seized four blower machines, two cutting machines and more than 8,575kg of plastic beads to be used for producing the illegal polybags. Mustafizur Rahman, deputy director of DoE, said the team sealed the factory and issued a notice asking the factory owner to be present at the DoE office in Dhaka today. According the section VI (a) of Bangladesh Environment Conservation Law (amendment 2010), it is illegal to produce, use and market polybags thinner than 55 micron for packaging purpose. But, some factories, mainly located in the old part of the capital, have been producing and selling polybags without permissions from the Department of Environment (DoE), said a DoE press release.

3 get death penalty for killing youth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A Narayanganj court yesterday sentenced three persons to death for killing a youth in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj in 2009. The convicts are Javed, Deen Islam and Lokel Mia of Dakhin Rupashi area of the upazila. After examining records and 11 witnesses, Justice Foyzul Azim of the Second Additional Sessions Judge's Court handed down the verdict. According to the prosecution, the convicts killed Billal Hossain of Ruposhi area in the upazila after calling him out of his residence on October 7, 2009 over previous enmity. Later, the body of Billal Hossain was recovered from the Sitalakkhya River. Police also arrested Javed and Deen Islam from the spot while the other convict was arrested later. A murder case was filed with Rupganj Police Station in this connection.



A Rouf Chowdhury, chairman of Bank Asia; and Prof Pran Gopal Dutta, vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), at the foundation plaque unveiling ceremony of multi-storeyed Nursing Student Hostel of BSMMU on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital's Paribagh yesterday. The hostel is being constructed with financial assistance from Bank Asia. Prof Shahana Akhter Rahman, dean of nursing faculty of BSMMU; AM Nurul Islam, director of Bank Asia; and Md Mehmood Husain, president and managing director of the bank, are also present.

PHOTO: COURTESY



Visitors looking at architectural designs at an exhibition at the National Museum in the capital. The Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) organised the week-long exhibition highlighting Bangladesh's rich architectural heritage and showcasing award-winning designs that ended yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Architectural heritage exhibition ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A week-long exhibition highlighting Bangladesh's rich architectural heritage and showcasing award-winning architectural designs ended in the capital yesterday. The Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) arranged the exhibition on the occasion of its 20th three-yearly assembly at the National Museum in Dhaka. Best architectural designs, those of the CAA member countries and those awarded by Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), by students were featured at the exhibition that began on February 18. Noted architects Shamsul Wares and Dr Abu Sayeed took part in a discussion on the exhibition making a point that the architects are responsible for creating conscientious architecture through their designs. The CAA and IAB arranged the international conference titled "Architecture, Response and Responsibility" to share ideas and enhance networking among the architects in the world. The conference of the 23-member association was attended by Australia, New Zealand, England, Pakistan, South Africa, Singapore, Kenya and Uganda, among others. The assembly elected Sri Lanka as the new president of CAA and architect Jalal Ahmed as an alternative vice president from Bangladesh. Outgoing president architect Mubasshar Hussein of Bangladesh will remain in the executive body.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country till 6:00pm today. Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:00pm and rises tomorrow at 6:22am. Country's highest temperature 34.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 13.7 degree Celsius at Sreemangal. Highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.0	20.6	54	35
Chittagong	32.5	19.8	43	57
Rajshahi	29.8	15.5	73	56
Rangpur	29.8	15.5	70	57
Khulna	32.2	18.6	56	51
Barisal	31.6	16.5	68	52
Sylhet	33.9	18.6	67	35