

NEWS IN *brief*

**CU teacher 'commits suicide'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg  
A Chemistry professor of Chittagong University (CU) allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from his bedroom ceiling at his residence in CU campus area yesterday evening.  
The deceased is Didaul Islam Chowdhury, 60.  
Quoting family members, CU police sources said Didarul went to his bedroom for saying Maghrib prayers and locked the door. Later, the members saw him hanging by a rope when they looked through the window.  
Police broke open the door and recovered the body around 7:00pm.

**Man killed in road accident**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur  
A man was killed in a road accident before Dinajpur Central Bus Terminal in Dinajpur town yesterday.  
The deceased was Badal Chandra Das, 75, of Barabandar area in Dinajpur.  
Police said Badal died on the spot as a bus hit him when he was crossing the road around 11:30am.

**Two-day CARES conference starts May 25**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The Committee of Action for Research, Extension and Services (CARES) will hold a two-day international conference titled "Applications of Biotechnology in Addressing the Development Needs of Bangladesh" at The Westin Dhaka from May 25.  
In this regard, CARES has invited submission of abstracts covering biotechnological implications on agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, animal and poultry, biomedical and pharmaceutical, nutrition and food sciences, environment and climate change, and economic resources.  
Abstracts should be emailed to Dr SK Roy at skroy1950@gmail.com by April 15.

**International Mother Language Day observed in Florida**

METRO DESK  
One Struggle, a multi-national platform, organised an event in solidarity with the International Mother Language Day at Florida International University in Miami, USA.  
The event was organised on February 22 and it consisted of a panel discussion followed by a cultural programme.  
After discussions, panellists along with the audience lit candles and raised their fists in a message of solidarity with the movement at Shahbagh.  
In the cultural part, several singers, including Farhana Orchi and Piyala Sukla, performed Bangla



Thousands join the anti-war criminal rally of the Gonojagoron Mancha at Shapla Chattar in the capital's commercial hub Motijheel yesterday.  
PHOTO: STAR

LABOUR MARKET FOR BANGLADESH  
**KSA may consider reopening**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Saudi Arabia may consider reopening its labour market to Bangladeshi workers after a discussion with the government in March, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan said yesterday.  
"As a delegation of the Saudi Arabia government is scheduled to visit Bangladesh next month, we hope there will be an effective discussion on reopening of the market and working out other labour related issues," he said.  
Saudi Arabia has unofficially stopped recruiting Bangladeshi workers since 2006, bringing allegations of malpractices in the recruitment process.  
Zafar Ahmed also said the government was trying to reduce the cost of migration.  
He made these remarks at the launching ceremony of the project, "Strengthening Labour migration management capacity in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines for replication in other Colombo Process member States",

organised by International Organisation for Migration (IOM) at the European Commission office in the capital.  
Later, at a press conference on "Kafala System in GCC Countries", the secretary said the government would take reasonable steps to solve the problems with Kafala system, under which migrant workers are closely monitored.  
Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit (RMMRU), which held the conference at the capital's Hotel Purbani International, says huge numbers of Bangladeshi workers in the Gulf countries are being deprived of basic rights due to some unfavourable provisions of Kafala system, which needs reformation.  
As an individual employer regulates the system, the workers cannot enjoy their freedom, said Dr Tasneem Siddiqui, chairperson of RMMRU. The government should raise the issue of reforming the system, she added. Dr Siddiqui also said the Gulf countries were now considering reforming the system as it was widely criticised by international organisations.

DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL DISASTER  
**Government making long-term plan**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
With a long-term vision of 100 years, the government is formulating a holistic and cross-sector plan on how to manage natural resources and reduce negative impacts of natural disasters for ensuring sustainable socio-economic development of the country.  
The Netherlands government is providing technical and financial support to Bangladesh to formulate the development strategy titled "Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100", first of its kind in the country.  
Bangladesh and the Netherlands have already signed a memorandum of understanding regarding the delta plan last year, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen said yesterday.  
The minister was speaking at a workshop titled "Building Climate Resilience in the Bangladesh Delta: Managing for Effective Water Solutions" organised by the Institute of Water Modelling, and the Centre for Environment and Geographical Information System.  
Bangladesh, one of the biggest deltas in the basin of the Brahmaputra, the Ganges and the Meghna, is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world due to climate change, said Samar Kumar Ghosh, joint chief of Planning Commission, adding this prompted the government to make the long-term development plan.  
The general economic division of the Planning Commission would prepare the development strategy while an inter-ministerial national advisory committee would guide them.

**Planned efforts on to ruin RMG sector**

*Alleges PM*  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in parliament yesterday said various efforts, including torching of garment factories, are being planned to ruin the garment sector and create political unrest in the country.  
She made the comments when the ruling Awami League lawmaker Nur Afroz Ali wanted to know whether any political party or group is involved in this regard.  
The premier also said a ten-member cabinet committee led by labour and employment minister has been formed to monitor the situation in the garment industries sector constantly and give directives to improve the situation in the garment sector.  
Besides, 15 teams are visiting the garment factories to ensure fire safety, she added.  
During the question answer hour, the premier also spoke about her government's measures and achievements to establish good governance and rule of law and to improve communications network.

**Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina distributes cheques at her office yesterday among the families of the army officers slain in the BDR mutiny. A total of 74 people, including 57 army officers, were killed during the mutiny in Palkhona on February 25-26, 2009.**



PHOTO: BSS

**JS body spurs communications ministry for road safety**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
A parliamentary body yesterday asked the communications ministry to intensify the drive for ensuring fitness of vehicles and strictly maintaining the procedure of issuing driving license in order to prevent road accidents.  
The parliamentary standing committee on the communications ministry also asked the ministry for ensuring that none uses mobile phone while driving, said a press release issued by the parliament secretariat after a meeting.  
The committee observed that Nasimon and Karimon can not be allowed to ply on the highway as those are also responsible for the high-way accidents. So, actions should be taken to ban the three-wheelers on the highways, the committee added.  
It also asked the ministry to take effective measures to stop haphazard parking of vehicles in the capital to reduce traffic jam.

**Meghna, Gumti bridges to close again from March 15**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Meghna and Meghna-Gumti bridges will remain closed for a week from March 15 for repair works.  
For once again, the traffic movement on the two key bridges will remain suspended from 8:00am of March 15 until 8:00am of March 21, said Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday at a review meeting held at the Secretariat. Bangladesh Army will carry out the repair works.  
People will use an alternative route during the repair time. Vehicles of Chittagong-Comilla-Dhaka route may use Chittagong-Comilla-Mainamati-Brahmanbaria-Sarail Biswa road crossing, Ashuganj-Bhairab-Tarabo crossing (Rupganj), or Kanchpur bridge.  
While those of Dhaka-Chittagong route may use Dhaka-Kanchpur bridge, Tarabo crossing (Rupganj), Narsingdi-Bhairab-Ashuganj-Sarail Biswa road crossing or Brahmanbaria-Mainamati-Comilla-Chittagong road as alternative routes, he said.  
The meeting reviewed the progress of Mirpur-Banani flyover and upgrading works of Joydevpur-Mymensingh road. Army is implementing both the projects.  
Quader said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will open the Mirpur-Banani flyover by the end of next month.

**Don't follow western nations' development path: Greens**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Rather than following the path to development taken by the western nations, Bangladesh should learn from their mistakes and avoid those, said speakers yesterday stressing on conservation of natural environment.  
They were addressing the inaugural session of a daylong event titled "40 Years of Environmental Conservation in Bangladesh" organised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at a hotel in the capital marking the 40th anniversary of the organisation's works in the country.  
"We need both industrialisation and development, but we also need to conserve nature for future generations and make our development sustainable," said Kartikeya V Sarabhai, director of Centre for Environment Education, India, also the keynote speaker.  
Taking the nature of infrastructure in Dhaka as an example, Kartikeya said, "No matter how many flyovers and roads you make in the city, the traffic congestion will not ease in the long run if you don't change your approach to development."  
In his opinion, different modes of public transport, namely railway services, are more sustainable than using private cars that take up a lot of space on the road but can carry only a few persons.  
Pointing out the importance of sustainable development models, Sarabhai said, "The development model borrowed from the west is completely backdated and unsustainable."  
Environment and Forests Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud inaugurated the event and also underscored the importance of conserving nature in his speech.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Discussion**  
Bangladesh Diabetic Samity will hold a discussion. Time: 12:30pm. Venue: Birdem Auditorium.

**Policy Dialogue**  
Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat and UNFPA will jointly organise a policy dialogue on the population policy 2012. Time: 9:45am. Venue: Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

**Protest Rally**  
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a rally to protest desecration of the national flag and Shaheed Minar. Time: 3:00pm. Venue: Swaparjita Swadhinata, Dhaka University.

**National Workshop**  
Oxfam will host a national workshop on flood and sanitation. Time: 9:30am. Venue: Lakeshore Hotel.

**Awareness Meeting**  
Jute Diversification Promotion Centre will organise an awareness meeting on potentials of jute

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Dry weather likely**  
UNB, Dhaka  
Weather is likely to remain dry over the country till 6:00pm today.  
Night day temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.  
The sun sets in the capital today at 6:01pm and rises tomorrow at 6:21am.  
Country's highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 12.4 degrees at Srimongal.  
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	31.2	20.2	58	40
Chittagong	32.0	21.0	55	59
Rajshahi	31.3	15.5	75	41
Rangpur	30.7	17.0	74	44
Khulna	31.3	17.0	61	59
Barisal	30.6	16.0	63	65
Sylhet	34.2	16.6	60	38