

NEWS IN *brief*

Newspaper holiday on April 14

UNB, Dhaka

The Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) will observe holiday on April 14 on account of Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla calendar.

Therefore, no newspaper will be published on

Exhibition on technology, machinery begins at DU

UNB, Dhaka

A three-day exhibition on technology and machinery began at Energy Park of Dhaka University (DU) in the capital yesterday.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the exhibition, which has been jointly organised by the Institute of Renewable Energy of DU and Bangladesh Solar and Renewable Energy Association.

A daylong national seminar on renewable energy was also held yesterday.

A total of 15 institutions are taking part in the exhibition, which will remain open for all from

Rab recovers cocktails, bombs in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered seven Molotov cocktails and seven hand-made bombs at a graveyard in the capital's Paikpara yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab team recovered the Molotov cocktails and bombs, which were left abandoned beside a grave on the burial ground adjacent to Madhya Paikpara Mosque around 6:00pm, said Capt Mostafizur Rahman of Rab-4.

Criminals might have hidden the bombs, he

ELT admission test of DU now Apr 12

UNB, Dhaka

The written test for admission to MA in ELT programme for academic session 2012-13 of the Institute of Modern Languages under Dhaka University, scheduled for yesterday, will now be held on April 12.

According to the fresh schedule, the written test to the programme will be held at 3:00pm on the day. The authorities postponed the test for unavoidable

CVASU holds 10th Annual Scientific Conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) yesterday held the 10th Annual Scientific Conference at BGMEA conference hall in Chittagong city.

The theme of the conference was "Zoonoses and Ecohealth at human-animal-environment interface". A total of 19 papers were presented in the event.

Vice-chancellor of Chittagong University Prof Anwarul Azim Arif was the chief guest in the inaugural session while Prof Ayyappan from Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University

Woman 'commits suicide' in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A woman allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a tree near her house at Hizla village in Raozan upazila of Chittagong early yesterday.

The deceased was Shaheda Akter, 35, of the upazila. Her husband lives abroad.

Raozan police said Shaheda committed suicide following an altercation with her mother-in-law over a family matter. Police recovered the body from the tree yesterday afternoon. A case was filed



Leaders and activists of Gonojagoron Mancha bring out a procession during their blockade programme in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Hartal observed in Ctg peacefully

STAFF CORRESPONDENTS, Ctg

People of Chittagong city spontaneously and peacefully observed a 27-hour shutdown from 3:00pm on Friday to resist the long march of the radical Islamist group, Hefajat-e Islam.

No buses from Chittagong city left for the other districts and upazilas, while train operation went on normally although some of them left Chittagong station behind the schedule.

The city streets were almost desolate except a few auto-rickshaws and public transports. Private vehicles seemed to be off the street, but there were a good number of rickshaws.

The educational institutions and major shopping centres remained closed, and a few people attended the private offices and factories.

Meanwhile, activists of Gonojagoron Mancha started to gather at the New Market intersection from 6:00am yesterday and held a rally there at 1:00pm to support the hartal called by Ghatak Dalal

Nirmul Committee and to resist the Hefajat long march.

Yesterday morning, the Chittagong unit of the Nirmul Committee started a sit-in in Chittagong City Gate area. The participants chanted pro-liberation slogans and demanded banning of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir and highest punishment for the war criminals.

The Nirmul Committee held a rally there in the afternoon where the speakers criticised Hefazat, asking "who are they to declare bloggers atheists". They are not authorised for that, they added.

"A Muslim cannot declare another Muslim atheist," said Showkat Bangalee, assistant organising secretary of the central committee of the Nirmul Committee.

As soon as the clock struck 3:00pm, people from all walks of life began streaming to the Gonojagoron Mancha in front of Chittagong Press Club. The crowd grew larger and larger with the passage of time and got abuzz with anti-war criminal and anti-Jamaat-Shibir slogans.

RENEWABLE ENERGY Increased use stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar on "Strategic Priorities for Green Energy" yesterday emphasised the increased usage of sustainable and renewable energy to save the environment.

They said educational institutes, NGOs, and private and the public sectors should work together to develop alternative power sources.

Prof Saiful Huque, secretary of Bangladesh Solar Energy Society (BSES), said 20 lakh solar home systems were installed in the country and every month 1,200 homes were getting connected.

Majority of the solar home systems came from the private sector, said Abdur Rauf, director general of Sustainable Energy Power Cell.

Dhaka University's Institute of Renewable Energy, and the BSES organised the seminar at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban.

An exhibition on renewable energy was also inaugurated by DU VCAAMS Arefin Siddique which will be open at Khondokar Mokarram Hossain Bhaban and adjacent energy park till tomorrow.

Shibir calls hartal in 3 northern dists today

BNP extends support

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Islami Chhatra Shibir has called a daylong hartal in three northern districts today demanding release of all arrested Jamaat-Shibir leaders, including Dr Mohammad Jahangir.

According to an email sent on Friday night by Rajshahi unit of Shibir, district units of the pro-Jamaat-e-Islami student body will observe the hartal in Rajshahi, Natore and Chapainawabganj from 6:00am to 6:00pm.

HSC and its equivalent examinations will remain out of the purview of the hartal, it said.

On Friday, Police and Rapid Action Battalion personnel arrested Jahangir, acting secretary of Rajshahi city unit of Jamaat, from Islami Bank Medical College and Hospital at Naodapara in the city.

Meanwhile, local BNP has extended its support to the hartal protesting an alleged attempt of murdering BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

BNP's Joint Secretary General Mizanur Rahman Minu in a press briefing at BNP's Rajshahi city unit office at Malopara announced the support yesterday.

He demanded immediate arrest of the persons who fired gunshots before the Gulshan office of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last Sunday night.

He also demanded release of the arrested Jamaat-Shibir leaders and activists.

US 7th Fleet commander arrives

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



US Seventh Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Scott H Swift

arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three-day visit to meet the Bangladesh navy chief and military and government officials to discuss maritime issues.

His last visit, this being the second, was to attend a weeklong "Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training" (CARAT) exercise of the US and Bangladesh navies in Chittagong's Naval Base Issa Khan from September 17.

CARAT contributes to regional maritime security by enhancing capabilities in areas such as maritime interception, information sharing, anti-piracy, anti-smuggling, and combined operations at sea, said a US embassy press release yesterday.

Swift will be addressing the press today.

Seventh Fleet's area of responsibility includes over 124 million square kilometers, extending from the Kuril Islands in the north to the Antarctic in the south, and from the International Date Line to the 68th meridian east, running down from the India-Pakistan border.

At any given time, there are 60-100 ships, 200-300 aircraft and 40,000 navy and Marine Corps personnel assigned to the Seventh Fleet.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

The foot overbridge at Mirpur-1 roundabout has a gaping whole which might cause accident at any time. The photo was taken recently.

Govt to modernise madrasa education

BSS, Dhaka

The government has launched a project aimed at improving the learning system of the country's madrasa education.

"The main aim of the project is to improve the learning environment of 95 selected madrasas across the country especially in the flood-prone areas," a planning ministry official has said.

The selected madrasas will have new academic buildings under the project.

Besides, the teachers of these madrasas will have the opportunity of enhancing their professional skill through English, Arabic and ICT based training, he has added.

The project titled "Enhancing the Learning Environment of Selected Madrasas in Bangladesh" involving Tk 100 crore is scheduled to be completed by June 2015. Education Engineering Department is entrusted to implement the project across the country.

Of the total project cost, Islamic Development Bank will provide Tk 83 crore while the government will give Tk 17 crore from national exchequer, the official has said.

The main activities of the project are to construct academic buildings, procure furniture and provide ICT training to the madrasa teachers.

Officials have said a total of 11,032 educational institutions have been affected by the flood in 2004 and 2007.



WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. Mild to moderate heat wave is sweeping over the regions of Tangail, Faridpur, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Pabna, Khulna, Jessore, Kushtia, Patuakhali and Bhola and it may continue.

Day and night temperatures may stay nearly unchanged countrywide.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:16pm and rises tomorrow at 5:44am.

Country's highest temperature 38.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 16.6 degree Celsius at Sreemangal.

The 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	35.8	23.8	47	20
Chittagong	31.8	25.2	86	81
Rajshahi	37.3	17.6	31	28
Rangpur	33.8	19.9	44	28
Khulna	36.2	22.0	69	31
Barisal	35.5	22.4	80	49



Supporters of the hartal called by 23 pro-liberation organisations blockade the road in front of Prantik Gate of Jahangirnagar University in an attempt to resist the long march of Hefajat-e Islam yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR