

NEWS IN brief

Woman 'commits suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A pregnant woman allegedly committed suicide in the capital's Mirpur Section-12 yesterday.

The deceased Shilpi Akhter Riya, was a first year degree student of Mirpur University College.

Her husband Imam Ahmed told reporters that their relationship was in a crisis over a family dispute. "Shilpi told me over phone that she did not want to live anymore and switched off the phone at 6:00pm," Imam said.

Later, he came home and found his wife hanging with the ceiling fan with a scarf.

Shilpi was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on arrival.

291-member JCD central committee approved

DU CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday approved a "full-fledged" 291-member central committee for the pro-BNP student body Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal last night.

She had announced names of the first five committee members, including the president and general secretary, on September 3, 2012.

Yesterday's 286 members comprise 31 vice presidents, 21 joint secretaries, deputy secretaries and assistant secretaries, said JCD Assistant Organising Secretary Jahangir Alam Jahangir.

Party sources, however, said the members include over 100 former students.

Article 19 condemns attack on female journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condemning attacks on journalists reporting on the recent long march of Hefajat-e Islam, rights organisation Article 19 called on the government to urgently initiate investigations to bring those responsible to justice, says an April 10 press release.

"Attacking women because they are speaking out about issues of vital public importance is not only an attack on freedom of expression. It impedes the progress of women in Bangladesh and must be met with an unambiguous response," said Director of Article 19 for Bangladesh and South Asia Tahmina Rahman.

Int'l folklore conference ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day long international folklore conference ended at Bangla Academy in the capital yesterday.

The conference titled "Folklore Archives and Information Technology and the Impacts of Globalisation on Folklore" was organised by the academy on April 13.

Numerous locals and foreign poets and laureates attended the conference.

On the final day, seven different essays were presented by many writers.

TV Camera Journalist Association forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding arrest of and exemplary punishment for those who attacked on-duty journalists recently, and security for journalists at work.

PHOTO:
STAR

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Expansion of coastal dev activities a must

Discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expansion and coordination of development activities in the country's coastal areas are necessary for the welfare of the victims of climate change, said speakers at an experience-sharing meeting yesterday.

"Twenty eight million people live in coastal areas and their lives and livelihood are challenged due to ground water salinity," said Md Abdul Qayyum, additional secretary and also national project director of disaster management department's comprehensive disaster management programme-II.

He said the solution is not migration to big cities rather they should come up with a comprehensive solution to protect the coastal communities.

Practical Action, a UK-based development organisation, organised the programme at Spectra Convention Centre for disclosing experiences gathered during a pilot project carried out in Shyamnagar and Kaliganj upazilas in Satkhira.

The two year-long project began in 2011, with Asian Development Bank's assistance, to improve the resilience of vulnerable communities living in south-western coast of Bangladesh.

Teresa Kho, country director of Bangladesh Resident Mission of ADB, among others, spoke.

Held bloggers' bail hearing Apr 17

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed April 17 to further hear the bail petitions of the four bloggers arrested for allegedly hurting religious sentiments via social media.

The court also asked the two investigation officers of the cases against the bloggers to submit their probe reports by that date.

The arrestees are Subrata Adhikari Shuvo, 24, a master's student of Dhaka University, Russel Parvez, 36, a teacher at an English medium school, and Mashiur Rahman Biplob, 42, a blogger, and Asif Mohiuddin, 28, a former student of American International University, Bangladesh (AIUB).

Metropolitan Magistrate Tarique Mainul Islam Bhuiyan fixed the date after hearing from both the defence and the prosecution on the bail petitions.

Shuvo, Parvez and Biplob were arrested in the capital on April 2 for their online posts deemed insulting to Islam and Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). The fourth blogger, Asif, was arrested the next day on the same charge.

The arrest of the bloggers drew huge criticism from people across the board as it followed a campaign by radical Islamist groups that "atheist bloggers" were involved in the Shahbagh movement to demand the death penalty for war criminals.

D-8 chief praises Dhaka's role

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Commending Dhaka's role in the D-8 activities and its institutional development, the secretary general of the body sought support and guidance from Bangladesh for widening and deepening the impact of the D-8 on the socio-economic development of the member states.

Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, secretary general of the Organisation of Developing Eight (D-8), made the remarks when he paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at the foreign office in Dhaka yesterday.

Dipu Moni remarked that with vast human and natural resources, and complementary economies, the D-8 countries collectively had a great potential to emerge as a powerful economic bloc. The D-8 offers an excellent platform for cooperation for realising that potential, she added.

The secretary general sought support and guidance from Bangladesh in his efforts for the socio-economic development of the member states, based on the new D-8 Charter and new paper on D-8 GlobalVision.

Dipu Moni reiterated Bangladesh's commitment to the D-8 process.

Mousavi, now on a two-day official visit to Bangladesh, is meeting the government and private sector officials to explore ways to further enhance cooperation between Bangladesh and the D-8.

The D-8 involves eight major developing countries-- Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey.

AIRPORT FIRE
Inefficient handling of welding cause
Says Caab probe report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inefficient handling of welding at Royal Asia Courier Service's warehouse caused the devastating blaze at the Courier Cargo Building in Shahjalal International Airport on April 5, a Caab probe report revealed yesterday.

It also blamed poor security measures, for which welding was going on without proper permission and precautionary measures. It suggested demolishing the airline offices around the building and shifting the building from the "high security area".

Probe bodies of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) and the fire service submitted two reports to the civil aviation ministry yesterday.

Caab Chairman Air Vice Marshal Mahmud Hussain told journalists yesterday that the extent of damage was "big" as Biman, after hiring the building from Caab, had sublet it to nearly double the number of tenants it could accommodate. Caab will demand compensation from the courier and Biman, he added.

HACKING OF BUET STUDENT

Class boycott continues

DU CORRESPONDENT

Hours later, the students, accompanied by Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders, had locked up the main gate that day and the new academic building on April 13 protesting the attack.

The protesters also demanded that Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) security officials state their stance regarding the attack and that they, if found negligent in duty, be removed.

Directorate of Students' Welfare Director Delowar Hossain, against this backdrop, had submitted his resignation letter to the vice-chancellor on April 13.



DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Bangabandhu Parishad will hold a discussion marking Mujibnagar Day; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Seminar

Dhaka University (DU) will organise a seminar on non-commercial movement in South Asia; Venue: 3:00pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, and Chittagong divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Day and night temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met officer said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:20pm and rises tomorrow at 5:36am.

Country's highest temperature 36.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khepupara and lowest 20.5 degrees at Srimangal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity percentage		
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.4	24.8	40	46
Chittagong	32.2	27.0	76	62
Rajshahi	33.6	24.4	51	47
Rangpur	29.2	23.7	56	62
Khulna	34.8	24.6	67	53
Barisal	34.7	24.5	68	55
Sylhet	31.0	21.0	79	81
Cox's Bazar	34.0	24.5	69	71



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২৭০ জন শিল্পী, ৪ হাজার লিটার রং ও হাজার বঙ্গদের নিয়ে আবারও রঙিন হলো ৩ লক্ষ বর্গফুট
আয়তনজুড়ে মানিক মিয়া এভিনিউ। তোমাদের ছাড়া এই বিশাল আল্লতা তো impossible!

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