

NEWS IN *brief*

JnU students continue agitation for recovery of dormitories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Jagannath University (JnU) continued their agitation for the third consecutive day yesterday to realise a five-point demand, including recovery of its residential halls from grabbers and construction of new ones.

Boycotting classes and examinations, several hundred students formed a human chain around 10:00am on the campus.

They also staged sit-in before the vice-chancellor office and later blockaded the English road for about 20 minutes.

The agitators at a press conference yesterday said they will resume their programme on Thursday morning with road blockade in Rayshaheb Bazar area of the Old city.

Singer Abdur Rahman Bayati seriously ill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted folk music singer Abdur Rahman Bayati is in a critical condition and was admitted to Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital on Sunday.

He has been suffering from old-age complications for quite some time and was earlier admitted to the same hospital but returned home healthy, said a press release.

This time he has been admitted to the hospital with serious neurological and urological problems. He is currently under the treatment of neurologist Dr Uttam Kumar Saha and urologist Dr Saiful Islam Dipu.

As in previous times, Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital has undertaken the full responsibility of the treatment of the eminent singer, stated the release.

Rampal power plant deal condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports yesterday condemned the deal signed by Bangladesh and India on April 20 to set up a 1,320 MW coal-fired power plant at Rampal in Bagerhat.

Both countries violated international laws by inking the deal, which would destroy the biggest mangrove forest that safeguarded people during devastating natural calamities, said the committee.

It urged people of both countries to wage united movement against the project, says a press release of the committee.


Killing of boy spurs roadblock

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Agitating students of AK Janata High School and locals of Balaganj upazila in Sylhet yesterday blockaded the Balaganj-Tajpur road for two hours demanding immediate arrest of those responsible for the murder of a student of the school.

They agitators dispersed after the upazila nirbahi officer assured them of arresting the culprits within 24 hours.

Dilder Hossain Narju, 16, died at a Sylhet hospital hours after he was stabbed on Sunday. Narju's family said he was stabbed by his classmate Noman Ahmed and his friends following an argument the two had at a religious gathering.



Discussion

Deshpremik Jonogoner Mancha will hold a discussion on the way of holding a fair and acceptable election. Time: 3:00pm. Venue: Sangskritik Bikash Kendra.

Award Ceremony


The education ministry will award the most meritorious secondary and higher secondary students. Time: 9:30am. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Presentation

Goethe-Institut Bangladesh will present the outcome of a workshop with dancers of Shadhona and children of Shishu Neer Bangladesh. Time: 7:30pm. Venue: Goethe-Institut.

Seminar

The cultural affairs ministry will hold a seminar to mark World Book and Copyright Day. Time: 10:00am. Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. Day temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:23pm and rises tomorrow at 5:30am.

Country's highest temperature 33.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 19.3 degrees at Dinajpur.

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	29.6	23.0	74	65
Chittagong	32.0	25.3	72	59
Rajshahi	31.8	19.4	89	51
Rangpur	28.4	20.4	78	65
Khulna	29.0	20.6	87	67
Barisal	27.0	21.8	91	74
Sylhet	27.2	23.2	71	69
Cox's Bazar	33.7	24.5	75	62



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Jagannath University continue demonstrations near the university in the capital yesterday to realise their five-point demand, including recovery of residential halls from grabbers and construction of new ones.

GREENHOUSE GAS PM urges rich nations to cut emission

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the developed nations to demonstrate their leadership to reduce emission of greenhouse gases to address the greatest challenge confronting mankind and the globe.

"Adaptation is only a part of the solution. The real solution lies in reducing the root cause of climate change -- the emission of greenhouse gases. More delay in mitigation will mean greater need for adaptation and more sufferings for the communities and the poor," she said.

The premier was addressing the inaugural session of the 7th International Conference on Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change (CBA7) at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital.

"Justice demands that the climate problem should be addressed through the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respected capabilities," she added.

It is difficult for the people of many countries like Bangladesh to face the double burden of poverty and impacts of climate

change, she observed.

"Why should some rich people's lifestyle threaten the lives and livelihoods of poor communities?" questioned Hasina.

The poor communities, local government and non-governmental organisations of climate vulnerable countries should have access to science-based knowledge to solve the climate induced problems, she mentioned.

She called upon the scientists and practitioners from all over the world to strengthen the process of mutual learning on adaptation to prepare themselves to take the correct measures.

Climate experts, scientists, civil society members, community people and media joined the four-day conference, jointly organised by Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

Environment Minister Hasan Mahmud, senior fellow of IIED Saleem UI Haq, Executive Director of BCAS Atiq Rahman and Youssef Nassef of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change spoke, among others.

HC bars Rajuk from tree felling in Purbachal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday barred Rajuk from cutting any tree in its Purbachal housing project area at Kaliganj upazila in Gazipur till further order.

The court passed the order after hearing a petition which claimed that Rajuk has been chopping trees from some areas at Kaliganj for the housing project although it has no environment clearance from the Department of Environment (DoE).

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) submitted the petition on April 18 to the HC following reports published in The Daily Star and some other newspapers at different times of this and last years.

Earlier in February last year, the HC following a writ petition issued a rule upon the government to explain why it should not be directed to declare the project area as ecologically critical.

Yesterday's HC order will remain in force until its earlier rule is settled, Bela's lawyer Iqbal Kabir Lytton told The Daily Star.

The Daily Star in its report published on August 25 last year said that around 1,300 acres of forest will be wiped out to make way for the Purbachal housing project in Gazipur.

A DoE report in 2010 said the housing project would ruin the area which is rich in biodiversity.

HSC exams of today, tomorrow rescheduled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The higher secondary certificate and its equivalent examinations slated for today and tomorrow have been rescheduled due to the countrywide 36-hour hartal called by BNP-led 18-party opposition.

Inter-Education Board Coordination Sub-Committee in a statement said today's examinations will be held on May 11 while tomorrow's on May 10.

On May 11, the morning shift exam will be held from 10:00am to 1:00pm and the other afternoon exam from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. The exams for May 10 will be held from 9:00am to 12:00pm, said the statement of the sub-committee.

PADMA GRAFT I was not involved

Claims Abul Hasan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury in a statement yesterday said he was not involved in any wrongdoing centring on the Padma bridge project.

Referring to a report of The Daily Star published on April 21, the ex-minister said, "Upon a request from an elderly relative Mr Ziaul Huq I merely introduced the persons concerned who sought an assurance that their proposal would be evaluated justifiably and that there would be no breach of the principal of level playing field.

"Neither the Hon'ble Minister Syed Abul Hossain nor anyone else ever broached any dishonest or unethical proposal."

Abul Hasan said the report based on the content of an individual's diary is both "unfortunate and hurtful."

Five Shibir men held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five activists of pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir were arrested in the capital's Adabar and Dhaka University campus.

During a drive at a house in Shekhertek area, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-2) arrested Mobarak Hossain, education secretary of Shibir, and Russell Ahmed, Shibir Central Committee member, with computers and books and CDs on jihad.

Mobarak had been plotting subversive activities in different districts during hartals, said Rab sources.

The two are accused in various cases filed with different police stations.

UNB reports: Bangladesh Chhatra League men detained three Dhaka University students at Bangabandhu Hall on the campus, suspecting them as Shibir members, said campus sources.

The detainees--Abu Saleh, Nazmul Ahmed and Saidur Rahman--were handed over to Shahbagh police.



PHOTO: BSS

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses the inaugural session of "The Seventh International Conference on Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change", organised by Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies in a hotel in the capital yesterday.

CHT peace accord yet to be executed

Seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen years have elapsed since signing of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord in 1997 but it is yet to be implemented due to lack of good political will, bureaucratic tangles and longstanding land disputes, observed speakers yesterday.

They were addressing a national seminar titled "Current implementation status of the CHT Accord 1997" held at Dhaka University's Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban.

They said the government has eluded the hill district authorities by giving them control of less important departments including fishery instead of the major ones like police [local] and education.

Apart from these there are over 500 temporary camps for army, Ansar, armed battalion police and other agencies which should be removed in line with the accord, they said at the seminar which was arranged by National Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh with the help of International Labour Organisation.

Urging withdrawal of such temporary camps, NHRC Chairman Mizanur Rahman said a feeling of mistrust prevails among army and locals in the hill tracts, so the commission will work there till June to eliminate the feeling and promote human rights issues.

He asked why the peace accord is yet to be implemented with Awami League in power as it was arranged by party chief Sheikh Hasina.

Lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon said forces against the peace accord are uniting and strengthening by taking advantage of the government's lengthy implementation process.

DU Prof Shourav Sikder, in his keynote paper, said with the Bangalee settlers' CHT land grabbing, the indigenous communities are becoming the minority.

In 1909, there were only five percent Bangalee settlers there but now they make up 51 percent, he said, adding that the government is yet to prepare voter lists for indigenous people for holding elections in the three CHT district councils.

FATIKCHHARI MAYHEM Probe body completes hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A probe body on the April 11 mayhem in Bhuijpur, Fatikchhari completed hearing of all depositions yesterday and has started preparing an investigation report.

The five-member probe body recorded depositions of 40 people.

Anjana Khan Majlish, Fatikchhari UNO and also a member of the probe committee, told The Daily Star that they would be able to prepare the report and submit it by the deadline that ends today.

Meanwhile, police arrested five more in the mayhem case in Chittagong in the last two days.

With the arrest, police have so far held 93 people in this connection.

MIRPUR BCL LEADER MURDER Wife of prime accused detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday detained the wife of a prime accused in the murder of AK Fazlul Haque Patwari Babu, president of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) ward no-94.

Iti, wife of Golam Mahadin Titu, was detained from her Savar residence so as to trace Titu's whereabouts, said police, adding that Babu's father filed the case yesterday accusing four named persons and several unidentified others.

Two unidentified youths shot dead Babu, 24, at east Kazipara in the capital's Kafrul on Sunday. He was buried at Azimpur graveyard Sunday night.

Meanwhile, BCL Dhaka city (north) unit brought out a procession from Mirpur 1 to Mirpur 10 demanding arrest and trial of the murderers.

Babu had been looking after a five decimal piece of land his relative bought from Titu's father for Tk 15 lakh in 2005. Titu was threatening to forcibly take back the land, now worth over Tk 2 crore, said the locals.

Two months ago, the relative gave Titu Tk 2 lakh to settle the issue, they said, adding that Titu had been accusing Babu for a beating the locals gave him in March for extortion.