

NEWS IN *brief*

Dhaka, Washington launch 5-year programme for better legal aid

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and Washington yesterday launched a five-year programme to improve legal aid services provided by the judiciary, enhance its self-governance, and raise awareness of the Bangladeshi citizens about their rights and responsibilities.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed and US Ambassador Dan Mozena jointly launched the USAID's \$8 million programme "Justice for All (JFA)" in the capital.

The programme will inform the citizens how to access the funds, initially in five districts: Dhaka, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Rangpur, and Khulna, said a press release.

Girl killed, three hurt in Ctg fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A four-year-old girl was killed and three others of their family were injured in a fire in Chandgaon area of Chittagong city early yesterday.

The deceased was Rodela. The fire originated from an electric short circuit at their rented house on the ground floor of a three-storey building around 1:00am, said Agrabad Fire Service and Civil Defence Station sources.

With burn injuries, Rodela's father Md Zakaria, 30, mother Nasrin Sultana Mukta, 26, and brother Md Mostakim, 2, were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Lightning kills schoolboy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A schoolboy was killed and three others were injured after being struck by lightning in Haladia area of Raozan upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

The deceased Abu Bakar, 8, son of Md Alamgir of the area, was a student of Nandirkhil primary school, run by Rehabilitation Centre for Prostitute and Rootless Children, an NGO.

Bakar, his sister Sonia Akter, 10, and classmates Shilpi Akter, 12, and Peyarul Islam, 8, were struck by the lightning while they were going to school, said Nazrul Islam Manna, chief executive of the centre.

Refrain from dialogue with Jamaat: CPB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Communist Party of Bangladesh yesterday urged the ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance to refrain from sitting at a dialogue with Jamaat-e-Islami which is unleashing atrocities across the country.

In a joint statement, CPB President Mujahidul Islam Selim and General Secretary Syed Abu Zafar said it would be a "gate pass" to legitimise the Jamaat politics, if the alliance would do so.

They made the statement a day after the 14-party declared that "they don't have any objection if Jamaat-e-Islami comes along with the BNP for the talks."

RU EMBA admission test on June 21

RU CORRESPONDENT

Admission test for Evening MBA programme under the Department of Accounting and Information System of Rajshahi University (RU) will be held on June 21.

Admission seekers will be able to collect application forms and submit those to the department from May 7 to June 20 between 8:00am and 2:00pm, said the department's Chairman Suvash Chandra Shil at a press conference yesterday.

For further details, they can contact the department office or call at 01914327087 or 01718824376 or 01718709973.



Dhaka South City Corporation blocks a part of Malibagh-Khilgaon Road and the adjacent footpath by dumping broken brick pieces and debris there. The waste materials are from development works carried out on roads and footpaths of Khilgaon, Shajahanpur and Kamalapur in the capital. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Four Jamaat men arrested in capital

22 bombs, revolver, bullets, jihadi books seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four Jamaat-e-Islami men, including three leaders, in the capital yesterday and seized 22 bombs, a revolver, three bullets and a huge number of jihadi books from their possession.

The arrestees are Chapainawabganj district unit Jamaat Ameer Nazrul Islam, 53; baitul maal (the party fund) Secretary Abdul Latif, 48; and member Shahjahan, 62; and Jamaat's Feni district unit Nayeb-e-Ameer Md Abu Bakar, 42.

Rab officials said they, on a tip off, arrested Nazrul, principal of a Chapainawabganj school, Phulkuri Islamic Academy, and Latif, a teacher at Chapainawabganj's Birshreshtha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir College, at Shahjahan's Uttara residence.

They seized 10 bombs, the firearm and ammunition and jihadi books during the raid in the house around 3:00am, they said.

Bakar was arrested during a simultaneous raid on Hotel Asia International in Motijheel and the remaining bombs and books were seized from his possession, they said, adding that the arrestees were produced before the media in Rab's Uttara headquarters.

Rab's Intelligence Wing Director Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan said the leaders were planning to commit subversive activities in yesterday's 18-party rally in Motijheel.

Dearth of buses hits hard Ctg city commuters

ARUN BIKASH DEY and TAREK MAHMUD, Ctg

Chittagong city commuters, especially service holders and students, are suffering everyday amidst an acute shortage of public vehicles.

The problem gets severe during rush hour in the morning and evening when commuters are forced to wait for hours for a bus.

According to the city's minibus owners, most factories in Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) have no transport of their own and rent around 250 to 300 buses to carry their workers and staff.

The bus owners comply as it is more profitable than plying the vehicles on city routes, said sources.

Many also blame the bus owners for plying their vehicles outside the city though their route permit was for within the city.

Regional Transport Authority, Chittagong, headed by the Chittagong Metropolitan Police

commissioner, in a recent survey found 519 out of 856 buses, which took permits to ply the city's 11 routes, complying with the permit.

With a lack of vehicles of their own, police requisition public vehicles ahead of and on hartal days. Plus, requiring regular maintenance, many buses are left garaged for long hours, adding to the dearth of public vehicles.

A banker, Sajal Ashraf, residing at Chandgaon said he was often late for his office at Agrabad, some six kilometres away, despite starting off much earlier. "I have to wait for at least one and a half hours in the morning everyday to catch a bus."

Women too face a hard time as there are no public vehicles designated for female commuters. Buses usually reserve four or five seats for them, a figure quite inadequate for the huge number of female commuters.

Moreover, during rush hour, it

becomes really hard for them to elbow their way to board crowded public vehicles.

One Shahana Akter said she has to change buses twice to reach her work in Bandertilla from her residence in Oxygen Mor, a distance of some 12 kilometres. "I have to wait for at least an hour at each bus stop," she said.

Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, a former vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, admitted that vehicles were needed for factories located in CEPZ and Kalurghat.

Abul Kalam Azad, president of Brihattara Chattagram Sarak Parishad, said, "Transport business is not doing good nowadays. Many owners are incurring losses."

"Moreover, prices of motor parts are increasing that resulted in many buses not being repaired and being kept off the roads," he said.

Two buildings on Dinobondhu Sen Road in Barisal city have tilted and are now leaning on each other. Both the buildings have been declared risky by Barisal City Corporation. The photo was taken recently.



PHOTO: STAR

NURSING SYSTEM Japan keen to give assistance

BSS, Dhaka

Japan is keen to provide assistance to Bangladesh for building capacity of the country's nursing system through providing various kinds of skill development training as well as institutional support to nurses.

The Japan government is planning to provide the support through Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica).

This was revealed yesterday when President of University of Kochi of Japan Dr Hiroko Minami delivered a special lecture at Dhaka Medical College in front of nearly 700 nursing faculties, nursing students, doctors and nurses.

Dhaka Medical College, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Dhaka Nursing College, KEIAI Machizukuri Foundation and Jica Bangladesh jointly organised the lecture titled "Nursing in the World: Reflections on the past and the present for the future".

BCC forms team to identify risky buildings

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal City Corporation has formed a five-member team to detect risky buildings in the city following the collapse of the nine-storey Rana Plaza in Savar on April 24.

BCC sources said the team led by Tariqul Islam, chief engineer of BCC, began working on Monday and had already identified 37 buildings that were in a precarious state and ordered the authorities concerned to issue final notices to those.

Sources at the city corporation said there were over 2,000 buildings in the city, including 24 ten-storey and 258 five to

nine-storey, which are in a vulnerable state.

Most of the high rises were built without fire safety exits, which was a violation of building construction codes, said Motaleb Hossain, executive engineer of BCC, adding that thirty percent of these buildings were under severe threat as they were not built following the building construction code.

He said some of the buildings under threat included Mansur Bhaban on Circular road, Khanika Bhaban of Medical Collage Lane, Siraz Mahal on Kawnia Road and Jalal Mansion on Kalu Shah Road.

Channel i launches business reality show

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In order to encourage entrepreneurship and business leadership among business graduates, Channel i launched a television reality show yesterday.

Participants of the show, "The Future Leaders Programme in Business 2012-13", will be a select group of business graduates from 30 public and private universities. Of them, the three toppers will get scholarship for higher education in the UK.

The show will be screened from June 2 on Channel i with the assistance of London-based The Future Leaders Ltd, according to a statement.

At a press briefing at the capital's The Westin Hotel, Managing Director of Channel i Faridur Reza Sagor said his channel always linked the toppers of the reality shows to real life. This time it will help the toppers for higher study, he added.

He said the channel would air 23 episodes every Sunday and Thursday at 9:45pm.

The contestants will be given different business related assignments, while a team, including a camera crew, will follow him.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain or thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Day and night temperatures may fall slightly over Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:29pm and rises tomorrow at 5:21am.

Country's highest temperature 39.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 18.0 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

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	32.5	28.0	70	67
Chittagong	28.0	27.0	86	95
Rajshahi	39.0	25.6	65	56
Rangpur	29.3	23.5	85	72
Khulna	35.5	28.5	71	66
Barisal	33.5	27.7	68	93
Sylhet	27.8	18.0	86	71
Cox's Bazar	33.2	26.5	79	98