

NEWS IN brief

Political violence biggest cause of unusual deaths in last 9 months : ASK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The highest number of unnatural deaths was caused by political violence in Bangladesh in the last nine months, according to an Ain o Salish Kendra report published yesterday.

The report on Statistics on Human Rights Violation, prepared between January and September on the basis of newspaper reports, shows that 147 people died while 13,075 were injured in 533 incidents of political violence.

The report also mentioned that 99 people were beaten to death by mobs, 54 died in jail custody and 32 were killed in "crossfire" between law enforcers and alleged criminals.

Besides, 702 women were raped. Among them 69 were killed and 12 committed suicides.

Two regional newspapers awarded for children issue coverage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Sylheter Daak, published from Sylhet, and The Dabanal, another daily published from Rangpur, were awarded the "PIB-Save the Children Shishupata Puroshkar" for their coverage on children's issues.

Mozibur Rahman Fakir, state minister for health and family welfare, handed over a cheque for Tk 50,000 and a crest to each of the winners in the capital's PIB on Thursday.

Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, chief news editor of Boishakhi TV; Golam Rahman, professor of Dhaka University; and Liana J Gertsch, chief of party, Save the Children; were also present.

IGP leaves for US to attend workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker left the country on Sunday night to attend the Sixth Annual Meeting on Indicators of Justice and Safety in Development at the Harvard University in the USA.

Deputy Inspector General Md Saiful Alam of Criminal Investigation Department is accompanying him in the five-day workshop that starts today.

Organised by the Harvard Kennedy School, the conference is funded by the Department for International Development (DFID).



Students of Willes Little Flower School and College form a human chain before the school in the capital's Kakrail yesterday marking National Girl Child Day with the theme "Women's emancipation is not an impediment to religious practices and values, rather it complements those".

PHOTO: STAR

Road crashes kill seven

CITY DESK

Seven people were killed and 33 others injured in separate road accidents in the country yesterday and Sunday.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent reports, a person was killed and 27 others were injured when a Dhaka-bound Al Baraka bus plunged into the Titas river from Rampur Bridge in Bijoyagar upazila at 8:45pm on Sunday night.

The deceased was Alek Jan. 35, a cloth trader. The accident occurred at the bus with 45 passengers veered out of control after hitting a tractor.

Of the injured, 17 were sent to Brahmanbaria Sadar hospital while the others to nearby Madhabpur Upazila Health Complex.

Following the accident, a 10-km tailback clogged the bridge for two hours.

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LACK OF POST-HARVEST HANDLING KNOWLEDGE Tonnes of vegetables, fruits go to waste annually

Says Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute scientist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of tonnes of vegetables and fruits go to waste annually in Bangladesh due to a lack of sufficient technologies and knowledge on post-harvest handling, packaging, storage and transportation, said a Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) scientist yesterday.

Cramming such goods into overloaded vehicles is one reason behind the drop in their freshness, said BARI Chief Scientific Officer Md Rezaul Karim at a dialogue.

"Sometimes, traders pack 600 kilogrammes of a fruit or vegetable in a single package which is very difficult to handle and subsequently causes huge damage," he said.

The dialogue, "Bridging the Knowledge Divide in Agriculture and Food Security",

was organised by Centre for Development and Competitive Strategies (CDCS) in the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

Referring to a Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics report, Rezaul showed that post-harvest losses among 12 fruits and vegetables ranged from the lowest 8.1 percent (litchi) to 32.4 percent (jackfruit) in 2010-11.

The second highest loss was in banana (30.8) followed by tomato (27.64), cabbage (24.44) and country bean (24.29). The other crops were mango, orange, pineapple, brinjal, cucumber and cauliflower.

The report shows that the national level loss of jackfruit, banana and tomato were 3,25,673; 2,52,022 and 64,252 tonnes respectively in 2010-11.

Losses of crops are much higher at traders' SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Border pact with India 'win-win' deal: Hasina

PTI, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday asked the opponents of the Land Boundary Agreement in India to give up their opposition to the historic measure, saying settling the vexed issue would be a "win-win" situation for both the countries.

The issue of the agreement, which is stuck because of stiff opposition by some Indian political parties, was discussed when she met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New York on Saturday.

When asked about the issue, Hasina told Press Trust of India (PTI), "People of India, all the political parties should take some positive steps, what we expect from them."

The Indian government has mooted a bill to ratify the agreement under which the two countries will exchange territories but the proposed legislation could not be passed during the last session of parliament as some political parties strongly opposed it.

"They (political parties of India) should solve (the issue). That will bring the two countries closer. Because we know there is nothing to lose, nothing to gain, it is a win-win situation. So the opposition should understand and play their due role," Hasina said.

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Sabbir Ahmed's book on mango launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a book launching ceremony in the capital's Bon Bhaban yesterday regretted that many local mango varieties are becoming extinct due to commercial farming while application of harmful chemicals has also become a common practice.

The book "Jatiya Brikkho Aamgach", written by Sabbir Ahmed and published by Porichoy Prokashon, is a detailed scientific study on mango trees and accounts the cultural and commercial aspects.

Language Movement hero Kamal Lohani said during the Language Movement in 1952, students of Dhaka SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable
The Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh will organise a roundtable "Enforcement of BNBC: Role of Building Construction Rule and its Appropriation"; Venue: its premises; Time: 5:00pm.

Human chain
Protibondhi Nagorik Odhikar Parishad will form a human chain over three demands for people with disabilities; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 09:00am.

Roundtable
Manusher Jonno Foundation will organise a roundtable on the "draft land law"; Venue: LGED Auditorium; Time: 10:00am.

Human chain
Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik will form a human chain demanding to resolve the present political crisis and make the Election Commission stronger; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.



Some of the 444 birds rescued by Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division from a residence of illegal bird traders in Palerpara in Gazipur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

444 birds rescued in Gazipur

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division yesterday rescued some 444 birds of various species from Palerpara area in Gazipur town.

Md Shahab Uddin, Dhaka zonal officer of the wildlife management division, said acting on a tip off, officials of the division conducted a drive at the rented house of one Golam Mostafa in the area around 6:00am yesterday and rescued the birds.

However, the alleged bird traders -- Polash, Meraj, Md Kawser and Fazlur Rahman -- managed to flee.

The rescued birds, of both native and foreign species, include 350 Munias, 16 Rose-ringed Parakeets and 78 Heng-ging Parakeets.

A case was filed under wildlife conservation act. With permission from the court, the birds will be freed at Bangabandhu Safari Park in Gazipur, said Md Shahab Uddin.

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CELEBRATING LIFE 2013 GALA

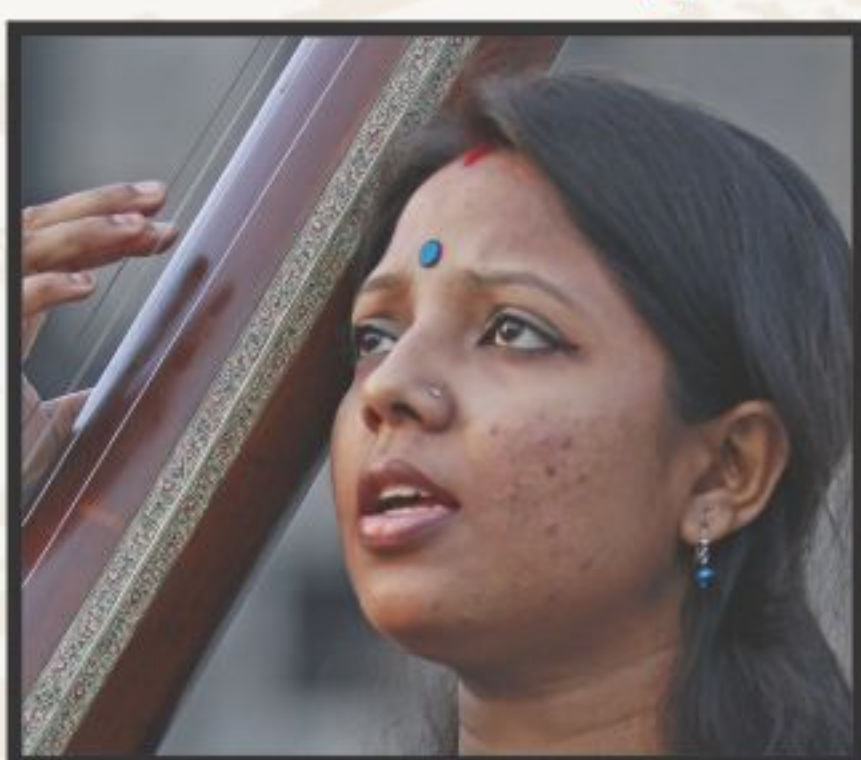
Award Giving Ceremony & Cultural Event



Rezwan Ali Lablu



Sheuli Bhattacharjee



Priyanka Gope



Labik Kamal Gaurob



Nishit Dey



Tropa Majumdar

6:00 pm, 4th October (FRIDAY)
Shaheed Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium, Mirpur

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Iffat Ara Nawaz