



PHOTO: BSS

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad meets Awami League (AL) President also Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban in the capital yesterday to have a clear idea on the latter's proposal for forming an all-party election-time government, which he earlier found to be "vague". In late August, the chief of JP, a component of the AL-led grand alliance, had said all had to get rid of the present "unsuccessful" government. He had also refused to join any election under the present Election Commission.

Country's first bone marrow transplant facility launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday launched the country's first bone marrow/stem cell transplant facility, taking a giant leap in treating cancer patients.

Situated on the 9th floor of the DMCH-2, the highly specialised and technology-dependent medical unit will be able to bring down the transplant costs to about Tk 5 lakh. Depending on the patient's state, it takes about Tk 10-12 lakh in India and nearly Tk 1 crore in the US and Singapore.

The unit will eventually open opportunities to cure thalassaemia (both major and minor), several types of bone cancers, and other non-malignant and non-cancerous diseases, the unit head's Prof MA Khan told The Daily Star.

"Although there is no official statistics on the number of people needing bone marrow transplants, we reckon that there are several lakh, many of whom go abroad for treatment," he said.

The unit was set up with technical support from Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), United States, which for the past one year, provided the education and training to physicians, technologists and nurses of the facility.

Bimalangshu R Dey, a Bangladeshi doctor working as an assistant professor at the Department of Medicine at MGH, was one of the key figures who arranged the deal between the Bangladesh government and MGH.

He said, "For the first six months, the unit will only try the simpler methods (autologous stem cell transplant).

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NIZAMI'S WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Defence fails to produce its witness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The defence of war crimes accused Motiur Rahman Nizami could not produce their witness for testimony at International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday.

Yesterday, the first day after vacation, was fixed for recording testimony of the defence witness but the defence filed a petition seeking

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Ctg court orders arrest of railway official Mridha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday ordered the arrest of suspended Bangladesh Railway (east) general manager (GM) Yusuf Ali Mridha and seven other people in two cases filed on charges of corruption in recruitment to different posts of the railway.

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Conduct study on climate-induced migration in Bangladesh

Demand 6 rights, civil society groups

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six rights groups and civil society networks yesterday demanded that the government conduct a survey and assessment on the internal climate-induced migration in Bangladesh before taking the issue to the upcoming international climate negotiations.

The Bangladesh delegation must demand a solid programme on climate migrants in the Poland conference due in November so that there is some agreement in Paris in 2015, said Qumrul Isalm Chowdhury of Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (BEJF), addressing a seminar at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Environment and Forest Minister Hasan Mahumd declared that Bangladesh Climate Change Strategic Action Plan would be revised and money would be allocated there for researches on climate migrants.

He said the developed countries had to take the responsibility of these migrants, and the definition of the UN refugee had to be revised to accommodate them.

At the seminar, "Climate-induced migrants: Responsibilities at national and international level", Dr Ahsanuddin of CGC said that if Bangladesh failed to present the estimated number of climate migrants, it would not get proper response at international level.

Bangladesh must tell the developed world that within its limited capacity, the country is spending almost \$1

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Woman's body recovered from hotel in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the body of a young woman from a hotel in Ashkona of Dakkhin Khan in the capital.

The woman registered at Dhaka International Residential Hotel several days ago under the name Ruby with her alleged husband, whose name was registered as Rahul.

Their room was locked from outside since Saturday night and the man had not been seen since then.

Police, on information from the hotel management, broke into the room yesterday evening and found the body wrapped in a sheet on the bed and with ligature marks around the neck.

Sub-inspector Nitta Chandra Das of Dakkhin Khan Police Station suspects she was strangled and told The Daily Star that the body would be sent to the Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Tiger census thru camera trapping begins Thursday

BSS, Khulna

The census and monitoring of the Bengal Tiger population in the Sundarbans through the use of camera trapping method will kick off on Thursday.

More than 1,000 field workers will use 89 cameras to count the total tiger population in the Bangladesh part of the world's largest mangrove forest, which also covers part of India.

This is the first time that census of the Bengal tiger population and its monitoring will be done through camera trapping instead of the pugmarks (footprints) method.

Funded by the World Bank under "Strengthening Regional Co-operation for Wildlife Protection Project", the census will continue till June 2014.

The one-year project will be implemented with the financial assistance of Tk 30 lakh, said Md Mobinul Hasan, assistant conservator of forests (ACF) in charge of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation, talking to the news agency.

He said 89 automatic infrared cameras would be planted at different points of the Sundarbans to capture movement and take pictures of tigers. One camera has a capacity to take pictures within an area of about 300 square kilometres for 20 days at a stretch.

Accordingly, the project cannot be implemented fully before June 2014 to take the snaps of tigers moving in the forest, which sprawls over an area of 6,000 sq-km in Bangladesh. The actual number of tigers can be ascertained after analysis of the pictures, he said.

"The major threats to the Bengal tiger are poaching of tigers and its prey, deer, and habitat loss." Bangladesh has taken several steps for tiger conservation including Tiger

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PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Piled up garbage takes up nearly half the width of the Dhaka-Chittagong highway, before Hazi Nekbor Ali Supermarket under Siddhirganj, obstructing traffic. Moreover, the stench had drowned the whole area. The photo was taken yesterday.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia chairs a meeting of her party-led 18-party alliance at her office in the capital's Gulshan last night to discuss the alliance's next course of action regarding its face-off with the Awami League-led government over the process of the next general election.

PHOTO: BNP



Pass amended CHT land dispute resolution act

CHTC urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission (CHTC) yesterday called upon the government to pass the bill containing amendments to the CHT Land Dispute Resolution Commission Act 2001 during the parliament's current session.

In a letter sent to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, CHTC also expressed concern on the recent arson attack on houses of 30 indigenous families in Khagrachhari's Matiranga upazila.

It also expressed concern on attempts by Bangalee settlers to grab lands of around 50 Mro families in Bandarban's Lama and plans to deploy a Border Guard Bangladesh battalion in Khagrachhari's Dighinala on a 31-acre land, which would evict another 50 families.

The letter was signed by three co-chairs of

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BILATERAL RELATIONS Bangladesh, India must fight challenges

Pankaj Saran tells Bangladeshi youths who leave for India today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pankaj Saran yesterday stressed the need for facing the challenges between the two neighbours to achieve common development.

"We are neighbours--that's a matter of fact. How we can be good neighbours--that's the challenge," he told a Bangladeshi youth delegation at Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in the capital.

The 100-member team including young male and female doctors, engineers, management graduates, business people, entrepreneurs, journalists, musicians and students will leave for India today on a weeklong visit at the invitation of India's government.

The initiative is part of India's policy to further people-to-people contacts and exchanges between India and Bangladesh. This is the second 100-member Bangladesh

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BEATING OF TWO OVER COW PURCHASE 9 more accused get bail, victims don't

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A magistrate's court of Rangpur yesterday granted bail to nine more accused including two village police of Badarganj upazila in a case filed for beating two villagers over a cow purchase.

The court, however, rejected the bail prayer of the main accused, Shahidul Haque, chairman of Kalupara Union Parishad.

Meanwhile, another magistrate court denied bail to Amjad Hossain and Sahirul Islam, the two victims, and fixed today for hearing the remand prayer for them.

On Thursday, Abdul Gofur, father of Amjad Hossain, a victim, lodged a case against 12 persons, including the chairman and four village police. The next day, police arrested two village police--Abdul Mannan and Abdur Rahim.

Later in the same day, a magistrate's court

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Obituary



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Monoranjan Saha, former deputy chief of Water Resources Planning Organisation, died of a cardiac arrest at the upazila health complex in Daudkandi of Comilla on Wednesday.

He was cremated at Postogola on the same day. Monoranjan is survived by his son Sanjay Kumar Saha, a teacher of Habibullah Bahar College in Dhaka.

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