

Kerry Kennedy to address 'Social Business Day' opening in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Kerry Kennedy, president of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, will join the opening of "Social Business Day" as keynote speaker in Dhaka on Saturday.

The opening session will start at 9:00am in Radisson Blu Water Garden Hotel, says a release issued yesterday by the Yunus Centre.

Kerry hails from the famous Kennedy family, which has a long history of support for Bangladesh. In 1971, her uncle, Edward Moore "Ted" Kennedy, spoke for Bangladesh's independence.

Kerry's father Robert F. Kennedy, known as RFK or SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Bangladeshi dies in accident in Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi worker died after falling from the first floor of a bungalow in Malaysia yesterday.

The 30-year-old unidentified construction worker died near Jalan Timah in Seri Kembangan in Kuala Lumpur, reports The Star, a Malaysian English daily.

He slipped and fell on a concrete gate while he was plastering the interiors of the house, said Serdang police.

He was declared dead at Hospital Serdang. A death case was filed.

The labour counselor at Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, however, said they did not receive any information yet.



Rural Electrification Board (REB) under its master plan installed electric poles stretching over an area of 5km from Ghughur Bazar to Aronkhola village under Madhupur upazila in Tangail district around four years back, but it is still to supply electricity, much to the frustration of the villagers. It is alleged that a syndicate comprising REB employees and officials, locally influential people and contractors took around Tk 26 lakh from them promising to give 323 connections. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

SHYAMNAGAR MANGROVE FOREST HC orders govt to protect

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to immediately take necessary steps to stop cutting down mangroves at Shyamnagar in Satkhira to protect the forest.

In response to a writ petition, the court asked the forest and environment secretary to submit a report, after complying with the order, before it in 15 days.

The court also issued a rule upon the government to explain in two weeks why it should not be directed to take steps to protect the mangrove forest in Shyamnagar, petitioner's counsel Shamsul Huq told The Daily Star.

The HC came up with the order and rule after hearing the petition filed by Humayun Kabir, a resident of Shyamnagar.

Kabir submitted the petition as public interest litigation on June 23 following a newspaper report that said land grabbers, with assistance from local administration, have encroached upon about 1,200 acres of mangrove land to cultivate shrimp at Shyamnagar.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION IN CHT Karbaris, headmen need to up skills

Discussion on baseline survey on them told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The qualification and awareness level of karbaris and village headmen in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) needs to be increased since most people still go to them for local dispute resolution, speakers told a discussion yesterday.

A baseline survey, conducted in seven unions of two upazilas of Rangamati, showed that 85 percent of people went to the karbari, head of indigenous villages or neighbourhoods appointed by the circle chief or king of that community, for resolution of local disputes.

Traditionally, a karbari is appointed for a

single village or neighbourhood and a headman for several villages for better governance of the area.

Parimal Kumar Roy, assistant coordinator of the Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), said the government should work towards increasing the skills and awareness level of karbaris and headmen, since people depended on them to solve their community problems.

At the discussion in the capital's Cirdap auditorium, the findings of the survey, "Enforcement of local institutional laws focusing public awareness through sustainable good governance approach (ELFOS) in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



The passing out parade of the 70th batch of BMA Long Course and the 41st batch of Special Course at the Bangladesh Military Academy playground in Bhatiary of Chittagong yesterday. Chief of Bangladesh Army Staff Gen Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan was present as the chief guest.

PHOTO: ISPR

Vitiligo patients ostracised due to misconceptions

Say physicians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although vitiligo is a non-communicable disease that only leads to loss of skin colour in patches, people often ostracise patients suffering from the disease due to misconceptions about it, said physicians yesterday.

Known as "shwety" in the country, the disease is often wrongly associated with curses or sins, they said, adding that vitiligo actually occurs when the cells responsible for skin pigmentation stops functioning in certain areas of the skin.

While reasons behind the condition are not known, the chance of curing patients of the disease increases if proper treatment is given at the early stage of its occurrence, the physicians told a press conference, organised by Vitiligo Foundation of Bangladesh at Jatiya Press Club.

Dr MU Kabir Chowdhury, the foundation's president, said vitiligo patients often suffer from psychological traumas.

"It is suspected that vitiligo occurs when the immune system of the body is compromised due to some other factors," he added.

Dr Morol Nazrul Islam, general secretary of the foundation, observed that the disease is not necessarily hereditary.

NEWSIN brief

Ensure good governance: TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday at its annual meeting at a hotel in the capital urged the government to ensure good governance in the society by establishing the rule of law and human rights.

Speakers also demanded, among others, proper completion of the trials of abduction, forced disappearance and murder; transparency and accountability in the Padma bridge project and use of national resources; cancelling the scope of legalising black money.

The meeting also urged the government to form a roadmap for implementation of the National Integrity Strategy of Bangladesh.

5 arrested for impersonating cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of Police in a raid on Tuesday night arrested five people in Khilgaon of the capital for impersonating detectives to take away valuables of people.

They also seized a microbus, a police uniform, a walkie-talkie and two knives from their possession, said Inspector Rais Uddin of DB police.

The arrested are Elias Mia, Manik Sheikh, Yasin Mollah, Farid Mridha, Farhad Hossain.

The arrestees confessed during primary interrogation.

Crude bomb hurled at RU VC's house

RU CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants hurled a crude bomb at the residence of Rajshahi University Vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad Mizanuddin on the campus which exploded before the main gate Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, another crude bomb went off before the third science building of the university.

None was reported injured. Police are trying to arrest the miscreants.

Islami Chhatra Shibir activists yesterday called a strike on the campus for today demanding immediate arrest of the BCL leaders who allegedly severed an ankle of a Shibir leader on June 16.

RMG workers demonstrate for safe drinking water, arrears

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Workers of Hoop Loom Apparels Ltd demonstrated on the factory premises at Sataish in Gazipur City Corporation demanding filtered drinking water and production intensive bonus due for last three months yesterday.

The authorities closed the factory for yesterday.

The workers claimed that the tap water that they have to drink at the factory makes them sick frequently. They also demanded that lunch allowances be introduced for them.

Additional police were deployed.

Murad acting attorney general till June 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza yesterday started carrying out duties as acting attorney general in the absence of Attorney General Mahbubey Alam. Reza will continue as acting attorney general till June 30, as Mahbubey Alam will stay in Singapore till that day on a personal visit, said a law ministry notification.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Manobadhihar O Samaj Unnayan Sangstha-Mosus has organised a seminar on "International Day in Support of Victims of Torture"; Venue: Supreme Court Bar Auditorium; Time: 3:30pm.

Human chain
Dhaka Adventist Pre-Seminary and School has organised a human chain to create awareness about food adulteration; Venue: Janata Housing Road, Mirpur-1; Time: 9:30am.

Law enforcers getting

FROM PAGE 3

Nannu, who also claimed to be vice-president of Jessore District Tarun League, said three to four police led by Soyeb picked him up from his shop. After blindfolding him, they took him to an unknown place in a microbus and shot him there, he said. He alleged that police shot him taking money from some of his rivals in the Awami League.

Both victims said police told them that they acted on the order of their top officials.

Regarding this, the NHRC chief drew the attention of the state minister for home and the inspector general of police, and asked, "Who are the top officials ordering this?"

Denying the allegations, SI Soyeb said both of them were criminals. Biki was found with the bullet injury after a "gunfight" between police and muggers, he told The Daily Star. About Nannu, he said he was not aware of that incident.

Our Jessore Correspondent said at least two people were killed and 29 others were injured allegedly in recent police firing but police claimed these were "gunfights".

Sources said Jessore police had recently launched a crackdown on muggers and other criminals and got success in some cases. But some police personnel got involved in the "business of detention" taking this advantage, they added.

Reshman Sharmin, senior assistant superintendent of police in Jessore, said Biki was a top criminal but locals dared not to sue him fearing retribution, while Nannu was accused in eight cases, including murder cases, with Kotwali Police Station.

War crimes suspect

FROM PAGE 3

Abdul Qader Jamaddar, AL activist Yazuddin Khalifa, Dr Debendranath and his wife and some minority people in the area during the liberation war.

After police investigation, the case was sent to Patuakhali District and Sessions Judge's Court which issued the warrant against Forkan last year. The court ordered to send him to jail.

Superintendent of Police of Patuakhali Rafikul Hasane said police informed the matter to the investigation agency designated to probe war crimes.

Senior member of the agency Sanaul Huq told The Daily Star that they had appointed investigation officer Satya Ranjan Roy to investigate the allegations against Forkan. Satya Ranjan said he would soon begin investigation.

The Daily Star Spelling Bee Season 3

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