

NEWS IN brief

Child marriage bid foiled in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A 13-year-old girl was saved from early marriage in Basail upazila of Tangail yesterday.
Being informed by locals, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Shamsunnahar Swapna went to the teenager's house and foiled the attempt. She also briefed the guardians on the adverse effects of child marriage.
Legal steps will be taken against the responsible people, including the parents, if they again try to marry off the schoolgirl before she turns 18, the UNO added.

Fire breaks out at factory in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Raw materials and valuables were burnt at a cork-sheet factory in the capital's Demra area yesterday evening.
The fire broke out at the tin-shed factory Jamuna Insulation Cork-sheet Company around 5:45pm. Four fire units doused the blaze after an hour, said a fire service official.
No casualty was reported, said Kawsar Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Demra Police Station.
"We can ascertain the damage after an enquiry," he added.

Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Hasan Raimum Wahab (Rimu), a former engineer and an organiser of children's group Khelaghor,
Son of Abdul Wahab Miah, he was an instructor at Technical Training Centre, Rajshahi. A milad and a doa mahfil will be held in Nilphamari and South Begunbari Jame Mosque at Tejgaon in the capital after the Asar prayers today. All are requested to pray for the departed soul.

Man dies from electrocution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man died from electrocution at a fair in Chittagong city's Outer Stadium area early yesterday.
The deceased is Uttam Acharja, 27, son of late Porimal Acharja, hailing from Botala area under Patiya upazila.
Uttam came in contact with a live electric wire while fixing an electric connection of a stall. He was declared dead at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said Shilbrato Barua, assistant sub-inspector of CMCH Police Outpost.



Bangabandhu Jatiya Jubo Parishad forms a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday protesting persecution of the Rohingyas in Myanmar. They also demanded repatriation of the Rohingya refugees who took shelter in Bangladesh. PHOTO: STAR

2 held with Yaba pills

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Detective Branch (DB) of police on Thursday arrested two persons with 5,000 Yaba tablets at Vocational Intersection in Jamalpur town.

The arrestees are Al Amin, 35, of Kingjilla village, and Sujon Miah, 38, of Bhatikashor village.
Tipped-off, a DB team waylaid an Islampur-bound CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying the duo around 10:15pm, said OC Salemuazzaman of Jamalpur DB police.

RUPNAGAR IN DHAKA

Residents prepare action plan to face disaster on their own

BSS, Dhaka

Residents in an area of Mirpur developed an action plan with professional supports to face natural or manmade disasters on their own to reduce dependency on immediate institutional response to catastrophes of any kind.

The residents of Rupnagar Tinsed area of Pallabi exercised "Town Watching Walk" in the neighbourhood with the patronage of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) as part of their preparedness initiative by identifying the disaster vulnerability and risk factors.

"The government has the responsibility to respond to disasters and protect us... but as citizens we also need to prepare ourselves on our own," said Khalilur Rahman, an inhabitant of the area which falls under the jurisdiction of DNCC ward no-6.

Rahman, also the president of the Tinsed Bari Malik Kalyan Samity, said the community joined their hands to identify "all possible dangers of our area that can be hazardous during any disaster".

The Town Watching Walk exercise, however, was encouraged by DNCC as part of its ongoing endeavor to involve residents in preparing their own disaster risk reduction (DRR) action plan.

Several residents of the neighbourhood said the exercise generated a general awareness into the minds of the people, an idea about the risk factors and the expected community role if any disaster strikes.

During the exercise, the ward councillor, ward disaster management

committee members, urban volunteers, religious leaders, teachers, and residents walked around in groups in their locality.

The objectives were to identify risks such as hanging wires, hazardous establishments, vulnerable buildings, narrow roads as well as resources such as open spaces and water sources.

"We didn't only identify the hazardous objects of our area, we also pinpointed the resources and strength of our area like water reservoir and open space that can be utilised after any disaster like fire and earthquake," Rahman said.

After the town watching, the community members prepared their own community hazards map and pointed out both the hazardous and useful features on the map.

"Following the mapping, we sat together to discuss what we can do to reduce risks and utilise resources. As per our discussion and findings we made an action plan on disaster risk reduction," he said.

The main challenge, he said, was to implement the action plan involving the residents while "we will only seek DNCC and other external supports for the tasks which we can't implement ourselves".

Khorsheed Alam, another inhabitant of the area, however, said the government should facilitate the community's information dissemination system for their prompt action during disasters.

He also suggested involving more students in the DRR activities as the young generation use social media widely to disseminate any information

in an effective way.
DNCC and SEEDS Asia, a Japan-based NGO, jointly took initiative under a project titled, "Capacity Building for Community-Based DRR in Urban Areas of Bangladesh".

The project was initiated last year in line with DNCC's proposal to develop local level disaster management plan and its implementation for building a disaster resilient city.

Town watching is a widely used tool of DRR education as well as community capacity building for DRR around the world while SEEDS Asia project coordinator Miharu Sato said, "Knowing the risk and one's own community is the first step in DRR."

"In Japan, it's understood as residents' responsibility to take preparation for disasters and to participate in DRR activities as we have learned from the past disasters how important it is for each individual, household, and communities to be able to protect themselves," she added.

DNCC Superintending Engineer of Environment, Climate Change, and Disaster Management Circle Dr Tariq Bin Yousuf said the Town Watching was a very effective tool to involve community in disaster preparedness activities.

"Generally the ward councillors are used to roam around in their respective areas to identify different problems... now the town watching gave it an institutional shape," he said.

Currently, the DNCC is encouraging all ward councillors to replicate the town watching model to involve people in making action plans and implement them, he said.

Ctg boy killed in road mishap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A teenage boy was killed on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Mithachara area of Mirsarai upazila in Chittagong yesterday afternoon.

The deceased is Mohammad Sohel, 17, son of Joyal Abedin Bablu, of Kotwai area of Comilla, said Sub-inspector (SI) Ekramul Islam, in-charge (IC) of Joraganj Highway Police outpost.

Sohel died on the spot after a bus hit him when he was talking on his mobile phone standing on the road, said the SI.

The driver of the bus managed to flee, said Ekramul.

Sohel along with his friends went to visit the waterfalls in Sitakunda upazila, the SI added.

WORLD STANDARDS DAY President, PM for accurate standards

BSS, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have laid emphases on following precise standards in manufacturing products and providing services to achieve consumers' satisfaction and attain desired success in business.

They made the call through separate messages on the eve of World Standards Day.

Aimed at highlighting the significance of the day, Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) is going to observe World Standards Day today along with other national standards organisations across the globe.

This year, the theme of the day "Standards Makes Cities Smarter" was selected by three organisations -- International Organization for Standardization, International Electrotechnical Commission and International Telecommunication Union.

President Hamid in his message welcomed the initiative of BSTI to observe the day, adding, "This year's theme of the day is time-befitting from Bangladesh's perspective."

In a separate message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said she is delighted to know that BSTI is observing World Standards Day like other ISO (International Organization for Standardization) member countries.



Visitors admiring bonsai trees at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy yesterday. The three-day bonsai exhibition started on October 12. The event is organised by Bangladesh Bonsai Club, Chittagong. PHOTO: STAR

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The SAARC Development Fund having its Secretariat in Thimphu, Bhutan, invites
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Benjamin Costa passes away

FROM PAGE 5

been suffering from lung disease.

He also suffered from Chikungunya couple of months ago and doctors found infections in his lung. As his condition was not improving despite treatment in Dhaka, he was flown to Singapore on September 27, Father Adam S Pereira, registrar of NDUB, told The Daily Star.

After treatment at Mount Elizabeth Hospital, he was flown back to Dhaka yesterday morning and was admitted to City Hospital. But he had respiratory problem since noon and died due to respiratory failure and pneumonia around 3:45pm.

Father Adam also said a funeral mass will be celebrated today at Ramna Cathedral at 9:00am with Cardinal Patrick D'Rozario presiding over it. Another memorial mass will be held at Tejgaon Church at 1:00pm. He will be buried at Holy Cross Community cemetery in Gazipur at 4:00pm, he said.

Fr Benjamin was born in Gazipur on September 26 in 1942, but his family moved to Chatmohor of Pabna when he was five years old. However, he spent a major part of his life in Dhaka, said Father Adam, who had been with him since 1976.

He served as Notre Dame College principal from 1998 to 2012. NDUB was estab-

lished under his leadership as he took the responsibility of the university as its acting VC since its inception in 2013, he added.

In August, Fr Benjamin handed over the responsibility to a new VC.

"He was not only an academician, but also a strict administrator. He always put utmost priority on quality education during his leadership at the college," said Father Adam.

"We have been able to give a strong foundation to the university under his leadership," he said.

Fr Benjamin launched a movement called "Sammilito Prochesta" with the principals of around 15 Dhaka colleges around 10 years ago for improving the standard of education.

Fr James Cruze, CSC Provincial Superior, said, "His many years as principal of Notre Dame College and his service as the first acting vice chancellor of Notre Dame University Bangladesh have made an incalculable contribution to education and human development, especially among the young people of Bangladesh."

Students and teachers of Notre Dame College expressed profound shock at his death. They requested all to pray for his departed soul.

icddr,b gets Hilton

FROM PAGE 3

icddr,b Executive Director Prof John D Clemens said they were honoured to receive the award. He also highlighted humanitarian aspects and activities of icddr,b in his speech.

Eric Garcetti, mayor of Los Angeles; Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairman of Brac; Dr Alaa Murabit, a high-level UN commissioner; and Dr Roger I Glass, director of Fogarty International Center, were present at the event.

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