



PHOTO: STAR
Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a discussion organised by the Dakkhin Bangla Jubo Kalyan Samity in observance of the death anniversary of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy in the city yesterday.

Block raid to nab criminals in southwestern region soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Block raids clamping curfew will be launched shortly in southwestern region to nab criminals and recover illegal arms and ammunition.

Sources in Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) said necessary preparations are underway in view of the rise in crimes including murder, abduction for ransom and extortion. Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and

Ansars have been asked to remain standby for the crackdown.

According to sources in the intelligence agencies, crimes in the region are increasing at an alarming rate mainly due to political backing and corruption in police administration.

Crackdown on smugglers, black marketeers and drug traffickers will also be launched, sealing the borders with India of the region.

Police sources said action will be taken against 40 crime syndicates that were involved in 41 murders committed here in the last month.

The Mongla Port has become the safest route for smuggling of arms and ammunition from India, Thailand, Myanmar and Sri Lanka through the Sundarbans on sea routes, sources in the intelligence agencies said.

Rajshahi city water supply project Work on 2nd phase progressing fast

BSS, Rajshahi

Work on the implementation of the second phase of Rajshahi city water supply project is going on fast to provide safe drinking water to the city dwellers.

The Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) is executing the project at a cost of about Tk27 crore.

The project is being funded by the government and the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) has been supervising the implementation work scheduled to be completed by June 2006.

Sources said implementation of the project started in 1996 and the first phase of the work was completed in June last at a cost of about Tk 20.54 crore.

Forty-six percent of the city dwellers are now getting 21,000 cubic meter of water daily.

Officials told BSS that there is a provision for purification of surface water through two water treatment plants under the second phase which will help reduce pressure on ground water.

Eighty percent of the city dwellers will get safe drinking water on completion of the second phase of the project.

For the city dwellers who will remain beyond the coverage of the second phase of the project, ten deep tubewells will be

installed for safe drinking water.

RCC Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu MP held a meeting with the project officials at his office here yesterday and asked them to complete the project on time.

Toymur's tenure as BRTC chairman extended

BSS, Dhaka

The government has extended the tenure of Advocate Toymur Alam Khondoker as chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) for one year.

The new appointment will be effective from December 20 or from the day of his joining the office.

As chairman of the BRTC, Advocate Toymur took various steps to develop and strengthen the activities of the corporation in the last two years.

At present, the BRTC is operating 764 buses, including 50 Volvo luxurious buses, said a press release yesterday.

Toymur is the general secretary of Narayanganj district BNP. He is also associated with socio-cultural organisations.



PHOTO: STAR
The National Federation of Youth Organisations took out a procession in the city yesterday to mark the International Volunteers Day.

Three robbers held in Ctg

UNB, Chittagong

Police arrested three robbers with firearms at Uttar Banshbaria in Sitakundo in the early hours of yesterday.

Police raided the area at around 5.30am when a gang of robbers was taking preparation to commit robbery in a bus. One pistol and one double-barrel gun were recovered from their possession.

The arrestees -- Alauddin, Abdul Moteb and M Idris -- were taken into police custody for interrogation.

Two separate cases were filed with police.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Dry weather is likely to prevail over the country in the next 12 hours till 6.00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Met Office said.

The highest temperature of 29.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 12.0 degree Celsius at Ishwardi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:11 pm today and rises at 6:28am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.0	15.7	75	72
Chittagong	29.2	15.8	62	53
Rajshahi	25.7	12.5	88	86
Khulna	27.8	15.4	90	80
Barisal	27.6	14.8	89	90
Sylhet	28.6	16.0	67	62
Cox's Bazar	29.4	16.5	71	74