



National Professor Nurul Islam speaking at a press conference of the IAHS held at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. One of the patrons of the IAHS Noor-e Alam Siddiqui is also seen.

— Star photo

BRTC staff to be halved, Jatiya Sangsad told

The Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) incurred a loss of about Tk 280.95 crore since its inception in 1961 till last July, Communications Minister Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed informed parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

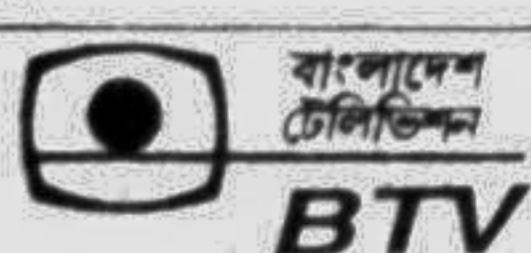
Replying to a question from Mizanur Rahman Manu (AL), the minister said certain steps and plans were taken to bring down the loss.

According to the plan, the minister said, the state-run corporation staff would be nearly halved to 1890 from 3509. Already, 1163 people were relieved through voluntary retirement programme and another 63 went on normal retirement. The total strength of the corporation stands at 2283, he added.

Oli Ahmed said import of 30 double-decker buses had been finalised under the Annual Development Programme, and the buses are expected to reach county this month.

Besides, the authorities also took steps like closing down more bus depots. Four out of 19 depots in the city have already been closed down to cut expenses and coach services in six routes where buses were running at loss also stopped, the minister said.

Replying to another question from Shamsul Haque (AL), the minister said 146 buses of the corporation were now running



Tuesday

5.00	Opening announcement
5.10	Al-Quran Programme summary
5.20	News in Bangla
5.25	Recitation from the Geeta Esho Para Shikhi: Mass education programme
6.00	TV debate competition
7.00	Open University
7.25	Sangeeta: Modern songs
8.00	News in Bangla
8.30	Drama serial: Kothao Keu Ney
10.00	News in English
10.30	Special programme to celebrate the birth anniversary of Sri Krishna
10.55	Film: ENG
11.30	Khabar/The News
11.45	Closing

Notice

Our regular feature Dhaka Day by Day could not be published today due to space constraint. Inconvenience is regretted.

Weather

Light rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

The sky will remain cloudy over coastal regions and partly cloudy elsewhere over the country.

Light to moderate rain of thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna, Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions.

Met Office forecasts day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature of 36.8 degrees Celsius was recorded in Kutubdia while lowest of 22.5 degrees Celsius was recorded in Jessor yesterday.

The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 5:56 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 5:47 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and maximum and minimum relative humidity of some major cities and towns of the country recorded yesterday are:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degrees Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	32.7	26.2
Chittagong	31.0	25.0
Rajshahi	29.1	26.6
Khulna	31.8	24.8
Barisal	31.2	25.0
Dinajpur	33.2	27.0
Cox's Bazar	33.8	26.3
	26.0	78
		73
		82
		86
		75
		83
		93

Metropolitan

Allegations against IAHS sponsors refuted

By Staff Correspondent

Chairman of the Institute of Applied Health Sciences (IAHS) National Professor Nurul Islam yesterday refuted allegations of irregularities against the sponsors of the IAHS terming those to be propaganda by a section of misguided people.

Speaking at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, he announced that the IAHS — a private medical college based in Chittagong — would never be dissolved but function under the newly-formed private University of Science and Technology (UST).

The press conference by the National Professor followed allegations by a section of guardians of the students of the IAHS on August 5.

The guardians, in a press conference accused the sponsors of the IAHS of running a "non-existent" private medical college without affiliation to the Chittagong University.

Prof Islam lauded the present government's decision to open private universities in the country terming it an epoch-making step. He also thanked the Jatiya Sangsad for passing the Private University Ordinance 1992.

He said that the IAHS au-

thorities had tried their best to receive affiliation which was denied by the Chittagong University despite repeated appeals.

Prof Nurul Islam pointed out that the efforts to affiliate the IAHS with the Chittagong University were not approved by the then government and unnecessary debate was raised despite three inspection reports.

The Chittagong University decided to formulate the statute and ordinance on October 1, 1991 — 30 months after the opening of the IAHS, he said.

"We have tried to fulfil all the terms but efforts were made to tarnish our image by not affiliating the IAHS," he added.

Vice Chairman of the IAHS governing body Prof Muhammad Ali and one of the patrons of the private medical college Nure-e-Alam Siddiqui were, among others, present at the press conference.

Launched on May 13, 1989, the IAHS began the first MBBS class with 42 students under the banner of the Janasheba Complex of the Islamic Medical Mission, a national voluntary organisation led by Prof Nurul Islam.

Biswas, Khaleda greet President, PM of Malta

Three die in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has felicitated Dr Vincent Tabine, MD, President of the Republic of Malta on the occasion of its national day, reports BSS.

In a message to the President of Malta, Biswas wished him personal well-being and the people of Malta progress and prosperity.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in a separate message has greeted Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, Prime Minister of the Republic of Malta. In her message to the Prime Minister of Malta, Begum Khaleda Zia wished him good health, happiness and long life and the people of Malta peace, progress and prosperity.

Iranian envoy calls on Keramat Ali

Iranian Ambassador in Bangladesh Mahmood Bayat called on Minister for Religious Affairs Muhammad Keramat Ali at his office at Bangladesh Secretariat Sunday, reports BSS.

Taiwanese team calls on Red Crescent Chairman

The visiting six-member delegation of the Taiwan-based Buddhist Relief Foundation led by Chiayang Ming yesterday called on the Chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Shahidul Huq Jamal, MP, in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Canadian HC meets Huda

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda said here yesterday that the prime objective of the government was alleviation of poverty on a prior basis, reports BSS.

The government aims at spreading the politics of production in the nook and corner of the country extensively for the successful implementation of the poverty alleviation programme.

The Information Minister was talking to newly appointed Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Jon Scott when the latter made a courtesy call on him at his Secretariat Chamber.

Launch dacoity : 25 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 20: Twenty-five passengers were injured, three of them seriously, when a daring dacoity was committed in a passenger launch near Batiaghata here on the river Kazirabha Saturday night, police said.

The dacoits, numbering 25, according to eye witnesses, snatched rifles and ammunition from four on-duty Ansars.



New Resident Representative of UNDP

Ms Eimi Watanabe takes over as Resident Coordinator of UN System's Operational Activities for Development in Bangladesh and Resident Representative of UNDP, reports UNB.

Ms Watanabe is also the Representative of WFP, UNFPA and UNIDO as well as the Director of UNIC. Prior to the assignment she served as the UNICEF Representative in New Delhi.

Ms Eimi Watanabe, a citizen of Japan, arrived here on September 16.

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