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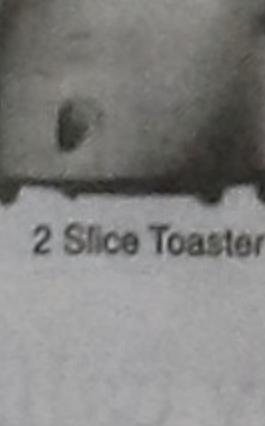
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Depression over Bay

The well marked low over east central Bay and adjoining west central Bay concentrated into a depression yesterday and was likely to intensify further and move in a northwesterly direction, reports UNB.

It was centered at 9 last night about 800 kms southwest of Chittagong port, 770 kms southwest of Cox's Bazar and 820 kms south of Khulna town, said a met office bulletin.

Maximum sustained wind within 44 kms of the depression centre is about 10 kph rising to 50 kph in gusts or squalls. Sea will remain moderate.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to lower distant cautionary signal number one and instead hoist distant warning signal no two.

All fishing boats and trawlers over north Bay and deep sea have been advised to come close to the coast and proceed with caution.

Jubo League men damage buildings as contractor refuses to pay toll

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 14: A group of youths allegedly belonging to the ruling party-backed Jubo League damaged two under-construction buildings of the Directorate of Youth Development on Friday night as the contractor refused to pay toll.

Police and witnesses said the youths, numbering about 15, attacked the buildings with iron rods, hammers and lethal weapons at about 12 midnight and damaged property worth about Tk 10 lakh.

The buildings are located at Laulia, about three kilometers off the town.

According to sources they demanded Tk 10 lakh from the contractor as toll on Thursday night but being denied attacked the buildings.

The same group took away cement, iron rods and other construction materials from the spot a few days ago.

A case has been filed with local police in this connection but none was arrested till filing this report.

KCC mayor allegedly prevented from going abroad

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 14: Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman today condemned the government for preventing him from visiting the Philippines and Cambodia.

It was among three other mayors of the country selected by the government for going to these two countries on an education tour under Urban Primary Health Care Project scheduled to begin October 6. But the government did not issue 'Government Order (GO) in my favour on the pretext of my being one of the accused in a corruption case filed last month by DAB, Khulna," the KCC Mayor told a press conference.

All the four accused are now on anticipatory bail granted by the Supreme Court. Tayebur said he got a letter on October 3 from the ministry concerned expressing its regret for not issuing the GO.

He said the government of Awami League has been trying to politicise Khulna City Corporation only because of my being a leader of BNP. For this I have been insulted in this undemocratic and uncivilised manner, he said.

The city mayor also said an officer of the Military Intelligence DFI was exclusively engaged for taking him to the Prime Minister's Office. I refused to call on the Prime Minister time and again and rejected her proposal to join Awami League," he said.

Body of kidnapped Bangladeshi found near border

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 14: Body of a Bangladeshi national who was shot dead by the Indian forest guards two days ago was recovered by the villagers from near the Sonatal-Punjil Indo-Bangla border last night while three others still remained untraced, official sources said.

It is apprehended that the three either were killed or arrested by the Indian forest guards. A tense situation has been prevailing in the border areas.

Harif Ali, 30, along with three others Abdus Sobhan, Abdul Jalil and Pochon Miah of village Sonatal-Nayakhet under Kanaihat thana were caught from the Zero Line area of Sonatal border Thursday afternoon.

Harif's body was recovered near the Zero Line last night (Friday) by the villagers.

The body was sent to the Sylhet Osmani Medical College for autopsy this afternoon. But three others remained untraced, local UP chairman and police said.

Redesign healthcare system to reach the poor & the needy

By staff correspondent

Discussants at a roundtable in the city yesterday expressed the view that the existing healthcare system in the country is not proper and is highly urban-biased.

There is severe management crisis in the system, causing

waste and misuse of scarce material and human resources, they said.

They suggested re-designing of the system to take healthcare services to the poor and the needy.

The Daily Star organised the roundtable titled 'Fallacy of Free Medical Treatment -- for a Genuine People's Healthcare'.

The existing facilities vastly remain under-utilised, which can be used to meet the needs. There

are enough potential and we need not depend on foreign 'prescription' to run our healthcare system, the speakers said.

But there is lack of transparency and accountability in implementation of health sector programmes, they said.

The current five-year plan for the health sector was prepared without considering the needs of those for whom it was meant. Preparatory discussions on all policy documents were limited to a few government officials, high-ups in the health ministry, some selected consultants and the donors.

Dr Dhiraj Kumar Nath, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said the government has brought down the population growth to 1.5 per cent and made significant progress in mass immunization.

However, we are still far behind in addressing maternal and infant mortality."

Referring to giving autonomy for the Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP), Prof Rashid-e-Mahbub, President of Bangladesh Medical Association, said it should be implemented in phases through trial and error.

It would be wrong to think that donors come here to look into our problems. "Are we not serving the

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The Daily Star roundtable on 'Fallacy of Free Medical Treatment for a Genuine People's Healthcare' in progress at the auditorium of the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) in the city yesterday.

-- Star photo

TFCA accord with US to help save Sundarbans & wildlife

From Raffat Binte Rashid

HOUSTON, Oct 14: Bangladesh and the United States have signed the Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) which will help conservation of the Sundarbans and the wildlife there.

This will give Bangladesh a waiver of soft loans it owes to the US government and help it generate funds for conservation of the tropical forest.

Bangladesh will save over 10 million US dollars from loan repayments in the next 18 years and establish a Tropical Forest Conservation Fund with 8.5 million dollars, USAID officials

said in Washington.

State Minister of Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury signed the agreement on September 12 on behalf of Bangladesh, the first country to benefit from the TFCA.

The Fund will be administered by a board, which will include two government representatives, one from the US and the other from Bangladesh. It will also include one member each from environmentalists, NGOs and forestry organizations in Bangladesh, said Jim Hester, Environmental Coordinator, USAID and member of the President's Board

for Tropical Forest Conservation Program.

The Fund will promote activities like restoring parts of a protected area, developing a scientific system to protect natural resources, training and motivation to protect forests and animals, stopping illegal logging and research on medicinal use of plants. It will also help support livelihood of people in and around the forest.

"Conserving the tropical forest does not mean building fences around the Sundarbans, but helping people with the

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Young man slaughtered in city

By Staff Correspondent

Miscreants slaughtered a young man at Tallabagh in the city's Mohammadpur area.

The beheaded body of the victim, aged about 30 was found at a vacant plot yesterday morning. Both the hands of the deceased were tied up with a rope and private parts cut off, police and hospital sources said. The young man was attired in white T-shirt and check lungi.

However, police could not identify the young man or ascertain the reason behind the killing. None came to the police to claim the body, police added.

The body was later sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mohammadpur thana in this connection.



Flood-hit people of Baikali Union in Satkhira sadar upazila moving to safer places, breaking through knee-deep water.

-- Star photo

Gas purchase: Petrobangla to incur Tk 375 cr loss this yr

By Sharier Khan

Petrobangla will incur a loss of Tk 375 crore this year due to purchase of gas from foreign oil companies at a higher rate and sale at much below half that price in the local market.

This loss will be over 10 per cent higher than that in last year.

Petrobangla will be paying around Tk 700 crore to two US oil companies this year, sources said. Payments for gas purchase are made in US dollars.

The recent oil price hike in the world market, with which the gas price of international oil companies (IOCs) is linked, and devaluation of taka have pushed the loss to a higher level.

The government devaluated taka against US dollar by 3 per cent in November last year and again by 6 per cent in August this year. It also increased the gas price by 15 per cent in October.

The IOC gas price follows a formula linked with the price of high sulphur fuel oil at the Singapore market. But there is a floor rate and a ceiling rate. Under the formula, Petrobangla pays a minimum price of around 1.2 US dollars (when the global oil price is low or even lowest) and a maximum of around 2.9 dollars (when the oil price is high or the highest) per unit (one thousand cubic feet of gas).

Petrobangla is paying Shell for the Sangu gas and Unocal for the Lalababla gas at a ceiling rate of around 2.9 dollars per unit for nearly a year now.

Even the 15 per cent gas price hike is of no help to Petrobangla as 55 per cent of it is being taken by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) as tax and the remaining is absorbed by the recent devaluation of taka, the sources said.

Coupled with this, poor gas revenue collection by Petrobangla's distribution agencies has put it into a tight financial position.

"Ironically, the distribution agencies owe Petrobangla Tk 850 crore," said a Petrobangla official. The situation calls for improving the revenue collection system drastically, he added.

Before taking a decision to devalue taka, the government never considered its impact on the gas sector, a financial expert involved in the sector said.

"While devaluing taka, the government should not only consider country's exports but also the loss to be incurred by different agencies", he said.

Students, employees clash at IU 20 hurt: 45 rooms ransacked: Vehicles damaged

From IU Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Oct 14: At least 20 people including four policemen were injured in a clash between the staff and students of the Islamic University today.

Trouble broke out at around 8 am when the employees of the transport section beat up a student who along with a group of students went to the section to press for immediate repair of one of the two buses which went out of order in the morning.

Only two buses carry the students to and from the campus.

The students and staff had an altercation over the issue and at one stage, the employees assaulted Habibur Rahman, student of the Electronics Department.

Later, a large number of students gathered in front of the administrative building and demanded punishment to the employees responsible.

The employees took shelter on the rooftop of the administrative building and hurled stones at the students. The agitating students entered the building breaking through police barricade and clashed with the employees leaving 16 from both sides injured. Four policemen were also injured.

The students also ransacked at least 45 rooms in the building and set fire to the vehicles.

Police took three hours to bring

the situation under control.

The injured were rushed to university medical centre. A committee has been formed to investigate the incident.

The students gave the authorities a 24-hour ultimatum to

suspend the employees responsible for the incident. Otherwise, they threatened to call on indefinite strike at the university.

Additional police force have been deployed on the campus to avert further clash.

ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা
সচিবালয়
রাণী উদ্যোগ বুরো
১১২-১২৮, মতিঝিল বা/এ

ঢাকা

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা-২০০১ উপলক্ষে ৮০০০ (চার হাজার) কম্পিউটারের সুযোগের জন্য ৮০০০ (চার হাজার) কম্পিউটারের নিমিত্তে মুদ্রণকারী এবং স্বাভাবিক ছাপানোর লক্ষ্যে বিজ্ঞাপন সংগ্রহের জন্য বিজ্ঞাপন সংগ্রহক নিমিত্তে খ্যাতনাম বিজ্ঞাপনী সংস্থাসমূহের নিকট থেকে আগামী ৩০-১০-২০০০ তারিখ রেখা ৩০০ টার মধ্যে সীলমোহরিকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরপত্রের প্রথম পৃষ্ঠাক প্রতিটি টাঃ ৮০০/- (অফেরতযোগ্য) ম্যালে প্রতিদিন অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে আগামী ২৯-১০-২০০০ তারিখ পর্যন্ত বুরোর সাধারণ শাখা হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।

২। স্বাভাবিক দেওয়ালে পূর্বাভিজ্ঞাতামস্মূল প্রতিষ্ঠান ও বেসাকোরী প্রতিষ্ঠানের জন্য আন্তর্জাতিক মানের প্রকাশনার ফোন্টে পূর্বাভিজ্ঞাতামস্মূল প্রতিষ্ঠান ও বেসাকোরী প্রতিষ্ঠানের জন্য বিজ্ঞাপন সংগ্রহের প্রতিষ্ঠ