



VOL. X NO. 279 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2000

3rd Millennium

KARTIK 13, 1407 BS

RAJAB 29, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : TAKA 6.00

PARC for abolition of quota in govt service

The Public Administration Reforms Commission (PARC) has strongly recommended abolition of quota system in government service blaming the system for an "inefficient and non-functioning" civil service, reports BSS.

The local and international experts now call Bangladesh Civil Service an inefficient service, "the PARC report said.

It added that the quota system had caused an obstacle to meritorious people to enter the civil service, which is entrusted with the responsibilities of performing a wide and complicated work.

"But the members of the service are neither capable to discharge the duties nor have they the knowledge or management efficiency to do that," it said.

The report also termed as "low" the standard of the services of lower ranking aides of civil servants.

Under the current system, 45 per cent of the people in government service comes on merit basis, 45 per cent from the reserved quota for freedom fighters, 10 per cent from women, five per cent from tribal groups and

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Bangladesh, Kuwait to sign accord on manpower export during PM's visit

Bangladesh and Kuwait will sign an agreement on manpower export during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's official visit to the Gulf State from October 30, reports UNB.

A Foreign Ministry official said signing of the agreement on October 31 will facilitate sending more manpower from Bangladesh to Kuwait. At present 160,000 Bangladeshis are working in Kuwait, but unofficial figure is more than two lakh.

The Prime Minister and the Crown Prince will hold official talks on October 30 covering the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and international issues of common interest.

Increased manpower export, investment and trade and commerce will figure in the talks. Bangladesh side may seek Kuwaiti investment in agro-based industry, frozen foods, tourism, oil and gas, and power generation, alongside the export of more manpower.

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AAPP conference likely to be deferred by one month

Star Report

The general assembly and conference of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) is likely to be deferred by at least one month due to heavy flooding in host country Cambodia, sources in Dhaka said yesterday.

The assembly is scheduled to be held in Cambodian capital Phnom Penh from November 5 to 10. Parliamentarians from some 24 Asian and Pacific nations have confirmed their participation in it.

When contacted, Secretary General of the AAPP and acting Secretary of the Jatiya Sangsad M A Wadud said the host country is yet to take a decision on holding of the assembly as scheduled.

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Inside Today

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Bullets Against Stones: Palestinian Uprising

Column: Spotlight on Middle East By Muslehuddin Ahmad Page 4

Prayer Timings

OCTOBER 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Sept 28	4-45	5-15
Sept 29	12-45	1-15
	4-30	4-45
	5-54	6-00
	7-45	8-15

Sun Rises Sun Sets
Sept 28 5.49 pm
Sept 29 5-49 am

Source: Islamic Foundation



Parents of Mohsin and Sayem, victims of Sutrapur double murder, led a procession in the city yesterday demanding trial and punishment of the killers.

Depression: Tidal surge in coastal areas feared

By Staff Correspondent

The depression over North Bay packed up with a wind speed of up to 60 km per hour might start affecting the coastal areas of the country by midnight last night, Meteorological Office forecast.

It might cross the Sundarbans-West Bengal coast near the Raimangal river by this morning, the forecast said.

Under the influence of the depression, low-lying areas in the coastal districts of Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Jhalokati, Borguna, Barisal, Patuakhali and Bhola and their off-shore islands and chars were likely to be inundated by a storm surge of up to three feet above the normal astronomical tide.

When contacted at 9:30 last night, Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong Mohammad Hasan said that the district administration was kept on alert. The port city however faced no major problem till then. The DC reported drizzling and no gusty wind.

Chittagong Port hoisted local cautionary Signal No 4 and Chittagong port and Cox's Bazar to hoist local cautionary Signal No 3.

Meanwhile, different areas of the country including Dhaka experienced moderate rainfall as well as drizzling since early yesterday morning.

There were unconfirmed reports of inundation of some low-lying areas in the coastal region, particularly in Patuakhali, due to high tide.

Yesterday evening, Met Office advised Mongla port to hoist local warning Signal No 4 and Chittagong port and Cox's Bazar to hoist local cautionary Signal No 3.

But if high temperature persists, doctor should be consulted.

Children and old age people are most susceptible to these ailments during change of season.

Patients with such ailments are crowding city hospitals including Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Infectious Disease Hospital, Chest Diseases Hospital and private clinics, sources there said.

Weather was not rough so far and coastline remained safe from tidal sweep, a source at the DC's residence told this correspondent over telephone at 10 pm.

Earlier bulletins from the Met Office said the depression over North Bay was centred about 280 km south-west of Khulna city, 450 km west-south-west of Chittagong port and 430 km west-south-west of Cox's Bazar.

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Chittagong Port hoisted local cautionary Signal No 4, he added.

Cox's Bazar was experiencing a moderate rainfall last night.

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Pre-winter ailments in city

Star Report

Flu, enteric fever (a pre-winter typhoid), pyrexia of unknown origin (PUO), Haemophilus influenza and upper respiratory tract infection, all caused by common cold, have broken out in the city with the change of season.

Mild temperature, headache, cough, running nose, muscle pain, vomiting tendency and loss of appetite are common symptoms of the diseases, which, in most cases, do not need medication for cure. Anti-biotic should not be taken. Nutritious diet and care are enough, doctors say.

But if high temperature persists, doctor should be consulted.

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The Daily Star talked with Prof See page 11 col 8

Timing of 5 trains changed for PM's Dinajpur rally

Star Report

Schedules of three trains in the Railway's West Zone have been changed and two others with their departure points and destinations changed will be kept stand-by at Dinajpur in view of the 'freedom fighter-peoples grand rally' there today.

Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will address the rally at Gora Shahid Maidan at 2 pm.

A special train with 20 compartments has been arranged in the Ishwardi-Parbatipur-Ishwardi route.

At least 50 compartments will be added to these trains today.

The changes for a day have been made on orders from State Minister for Communication Anisul Haq Chowdhury to carry people of northern districts to and from Dinajpur, a highly placed BR official told this correspondent yesterday requesting anonymity.

The wholesale revision of schedules, departures and destinations for a day will affect the routine that

our commuters follow," he said.

When asked BR Director General Abdur Rahim said, "The (State) minister has made the payment for the special train."

He however could not say how much the state minister paid and from which account, his personal or the government's.

General Manager of our West Zone knows the details as the payment was made to him," Rahim said.

The BR DG refused to comment regarding keeping the two trains stand-by at Dinajpur.

One of the two trains, running in the Raimanbari-Parbatipur route will start from Kurigram instead of Rambanabazar and will be stationed at Dinajpur on arrival there to carry people after the rally. The other running in the Lalmanirhat-Parbatipur route will go beyond Parbatipur and remain stationed at Dinajpur to carry the people.

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Double murder Try killers, demand parents

By Staff Correspondent

More than five hundred people of Sutrapur area brought out a procession and demanded arrest of Sumon, allegedly responsible for the double-murder inside Sutrapur Rifles Club on September 16.

The processionists including parents of both the murdered boys carried posters displaying photos of mutilated bodies of the victims.

They marched up to the Jatiya Press Club about 4:30 pm and chanted slogans demanding arrest and trial of Sumon.

At a brief rally there the processionists alleged that Sumon visits Sutrapur area

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310 shops gutted at Gulistan: 20 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

At least 310 shops were gutted and more than 20 people were injured in a devastating fire at Gulistan Purana Bazar market yesterday morning, fire brigade sources said.

The fire originated from a short circuit at a shop at about 6:30 am and quickly engulfed other shops.

The 310 gutted shops were full of garments and plastic goods, market authorities claimed. There were about 1800 shops in the market.

Witnesses said it was very difficult for the fire fighters to enter the market with their equipment through the narrow alleys.

More than 20 people were injured as those staying in the market scrambled for safety.

Nine fire fighting units from the headquarters, Sadarghat, Palash, Goran, Teggar, Postogola, Mohammadpur, Mirpur and Kurmitola took part in the operation. They took about three hours to bring the situation under control.

Motijheel police said that they were yet to estimate the loss of property in the fire. But market sources said their leaders would file a complaint with police after calculating the losses.

Mohammad Shahjahan, vice president of the market committee, said that at least 400 shops were gutted in the fire. It might have originated from an electric short circuit, he added.

The loss of property would be worth about Tk 20 crore, he said.

He urged the authorities to help rebuild the gutted shops.

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Shamsi murder Zia brought back to city, being interrogated

By Staff Correspondent

Ammar Shamsi's step brother Ziaur Rahman Zia, who is one of the four arrested for abducting and killing him for ransom, was brought back to the city from Chapainawabganj yesterday and taken to the DB office for interrogation.

A team of DB police from the city went to Chapainawabganj where Zia was arrested on Thursday morning and brought him back.

Ammar Shamsi, an O-Level examinee from Nalai Memorial Fleur Tutorial at Dhamondi, was strangled allegedly by the four men at the national park in Gazipur on October 16.

The case was handed over to DB on Wednesday and they

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Dacoits stab driver, 5 killed as bus falls into ditch

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 27: Five passengers, including the owner of a night coach were killed and 36 others injured, nine of them seriously, in a road accident near Kanapukuria under Sajlikupa upazila of the district early this morning.

Police and witnesses said the driver of the coach lost control over steering and fell into a roadside ditch when a gang of dacoits attacked him at Garaganj bus stand at about 5 am.

The dacoits who boarded the night coach in guise of passengers from Gabtali in Dhaka, stabbed the driver and some of the passengers to take control of the vehicle.

Police quoting passengers said the bus belonging to FK Paribahan left Gabtali Bus Terminal with over 40 passengers on board at about 9:30 pm yesterday.

Four passengers died on the spot while another succumbed to injuries on way to hospital. Of them, four were identified as Firoz Kabir, 40, owner of the coach, Rahman, 32, bus helper, Shah Jamal, 30, of Bheramara and Diraj, 38, of Haripur, Kushita. The identity of another passenger could not be known.

The bodies were sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital for autopsy. A case was lodged with Sajlikupa thana in this connection.

Our Staff Correspondent from Barisal adds: Four people were killed and four others injured when an onion loaded truck fell on a trawler breaking the railings of a bridge at Bhurjhata on Barisal-Faridpur highway today.

The dead were identified as onion trader Shahid Mollah, 47, his

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Fire at Gulistan Purana Bazar yesterday gutted more than 300 shops of garments and plastic goods.

Twenty people were also injured.

Star photo

Amit doing fine Functioning of pacemaker to