

2 robbers lynched in Gazipur

**UNB, Gazipur**  
Two robbers were lynched by a mob at Bagbari village in Sadar upazila of the district early yesterday. They were identified as Shahid, 30, and Babul, 32. Both hailed from Barisal district. Police said a gang of robbers, numbering 10 to 12, stormed into the house of Jahar Ali of the village at about 3:00am and started looting. As Jahar's wife cried for help, members of the Village Defence Party (VDP) and neighbours rushed to the scene and chased the robbers. They caught four of the gang and beat up them severely, leaving Shahid and Babul dead on the spot and two others--Siddiq and Selim--critically injured. Locals said the robbers injured Jahar's wife Sajeda as she screamed for help. On information, police reached the spot, recovered the bodies and sent them to Gazipur Hospital for autopsy. They also sent the injured robbers to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital. Police recovered some lethal weapons from the scene.

Repatriation sees no light

Only 92 Rohingyas of remaining 21,000 sent back to Myanmar in one year

**RAFIQ HASAN, Back from Cox's Bazar**

Repatriation of around 21,000 Rohingya refugees in two camps in Cox's Bazar has almost stalled with only 92 of them sent back to Myanmar in the last one year. "The Rohingya repatriation process has almost been stopped and a political decision is required to accelerate the process," said Jim Worrall, head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) sub-office in Cox's Bazar. The process has slowed down because these people are not ready to go back home. Further negotiations between the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh are needed to accelerate the process, he observed. Against this backdrop, the UNHCR is going to build some semi-permanent structures like community centres and toilets for the refugees. These would also help the locals, he mentioned. The refugees are now living in two major camps -- Kutupalong in Ukha and Nayapara in Teknaf.



PHOTO: STAR

Living miserably in a Cox Bazar camp, these Rohingyas eye an uncertain future as their repatriation seems to be a far cry.

PVT TEACHERS TRAINING

Colleges too ill-equipped to breed good teachers

**ASHIQRU RAHMAN**

An astounding number of private teachers training colleges under the National University (NU) in the country are running without maintaining even the minimum academic standards, raising a serious question about the qualification of the so-called trained school teachers they are spawning out. The NU in recent times cancelled one by one the registrations of 11 out of a total 82 such colleges across the country for lack of initiative to comply with the basic academic requirements despite repeated warnings, an NU source said. But the colleges are still in operation by warrant of stay orders obtained from the High Court on the registration cancellation, the source added. Visiting a number of the 17 private TT colleges in the capital, The Daily Star found they realise a fee of around Tk 10 to 15 thousand from a student for a one-year bachelor of education (B.Ed) course. But, the matter of providing proper training to the

teachers hardly gets a priority there. Most of the colleges in the city are housed in rented buildings, though the NU requires at least an acre of own land for establishing such a college. Again, though the NU guidelines dictate that a private TT college must have a minimum of eight classrooms, more than one classroom is rarely seen at these colleges. The NU requires such a college to have 80 percent full-time faculty members. But most of the teachers, according to the students, are part-timers. During the visits, Rajdhani Teachers Training College at Nilkhet in the city was found to be running activities in some rented rooms of the Nilkhet High School building. "We generally run the college after the school period or during the weekly holidays," AKM Mizanur Rahman, principal of the college, said. Asked if the college has any computers, he said, "The computers of the college are kept temporarily in another place for security reasons."

The principal also argued the NU requirement of one-acre campus for a private TT college is not a reasonable one. Abdul Hakim, principal of Mohanagar Teachers Training College at Azimpur, runs his institution in a two-room rented house. One of the rooms is used for classes and the second for rest of the activities. When asked about the mandatory library, he pointed at a medium-size bookcase with a handful of books in front of his table, but he could say nothing specific about the computer facilities his college should have. Principal Hakim rather blamed the NU for the poor condition of his college, saying, "They never give us any financial or other support." In a different note, the principal of Dhaka Metropolitan Teachers Training College at Farm Gate, Kumkum Dhar, said, "I will try to shift the college campus to our own land by the deadline set by the National University on June next year." She said the college has already purchased a land for its

Challenge ahead in fighting terrorism, natural disaster

Morshed says on Saarc summit

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday said South Asian leaders should take practical steps to deal with new challenges of natural disaster and terrorism at the upcoming 13th Saarc Summit in Dhaka. "These are the new global challenges but South Asia cannot live in isolation," he told diplomatic corps at his office on the focus of the summit, which has already been deferred twice. Leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) are expected to make directions at the Dhaka summit on November 12-13 to move the forum

forward, he added. On Saarc programmes for dealing with natural disaster, he said every region should maintain preparedness to face the calamities like tsunami, cyclone or earthquake. He said the summit will greatly focus, among other issues, on how to jointly tackle natural disasters and strengthen early warning system through effective cooperation. On terrorism, Khan said concerted efforts are required to eliminate global terrorism. "We must get over the unfortunate religious division -- terrorists and Islamic terrorists." "We must come out of this mental block," the minister said, asserting

that there is nothing called Islamic terrorist. It is a big challenge for the Saarc leaders to hold the Dhaka summit and implement all its decisions successfully, he added. Morshed admitted the Saarc could not make any major contributions to improving the economic status of the region's common people, who make up one-fifth of the world population. The Saarc comprised of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka was formally launched in Dhaka in December 1985. He said although the intra-

CTG ARMS HAUL Charges framed against 44

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

A court yesterday framed charges against 44 people for arms smuggling in one of the two cases of the sensational Chittagong arms haul last year. The court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge AKM Anwar Hossain framed the charges under the Special Powers Act (SPA). Hafizur Rahman alias Hafiz, Din Mohammad, Abul Kashem Madhu, Haji Sobhan and Haji Yakub are the prime accused in the case. The judge set November 15 for hearing of the case. Earlier, the court framed charges against them in another case lodged under the Arms Act and the hearing in this regard is continuing. The judge also issued an arrest



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Children in a mood of selecting clothes for the Eid-ul-Fitr at an Aarong outlet in Gulshan in the capital yesterday.

Wilma lashes Florida, kills 17 in Caribbean

**REUTERS, Miami**

Hurricane Wilma made landfall on Florida's southwest Gulf Coast yesterday as a powerful Category 3 storm capable of causing structural damage to buildings, the US National Hurricane Centre said. Wilma, once the most powerful hurricane ever observed in the Atlantic, had winds of 125 mph (200 kph) when it came ashore around Cape Romano, near the city of Naples, the center said. A strengthening Hurricane Wilma lashed southern Florida as it raced toward the densely populated Miami area after pounding Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula and killing 17 people on a

Flooding worsens, rail links restored

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The overall flood situation across the country, especially in the northern districts, has worsened due to the increase of water level of different rivers following week-long rainfall, Flood Information Centre said. However, the railway communication between the capital and northern districts was restored yesterday after 36 hours of disruption. There was not much rainfall yesterday but the weather is yet to be normal as there is possibility of rain today, Met office sources said. The water level increased at 59 points, decreased at 14 points and remained steady at three points, with

water flowing above the danger level at two points. The railway communication was snapped on Saturday night as the area in between Vangura and Goyakhara railway stations in Pabna district was reeling under water and the land under the railway track subsided. The sleepers of nearly 200 feet rail track near Denga bridge under Bhangura upazila were also damaged. The railway workers repaired the tracks and the railway communication was restored as a train crossed the place at 7:40am yesterday, said Mostofa Jamil, public

Conspiracy on to destroy RMG sector

**Alleges BGMEA boss**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Garment manufacturers and workers yesterday alleged that some non-government organisations (NGOs) and foreign funded organisations are trying to destroy the country's export-oriented garment industry. Such organisations are creating pressures on garment manufacturers with many compliance issues, they said at a press conference organised by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) in Dhaka. "We feel that a conspiracy is being hatched against our gar-

Loyal cops favoured, the honest punished

AL asks for a commission to review 'wrong treatment' of staff

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The administration and law enforcement agencies have been made partisan, as the ruling alliance axed, transferred or deprived honest employees and favoured the loyal in the last four years, alleged the Awami (AL) League yesterday. At a seminar in Jatiya Press Club, the AL also made a nine-point recom-

mendation that includes formation of a commission to review the 'wrong treatment' of employees. "The activities of the administration and police reflect the violations of the constitution as a result of politicisation," said AL presidium member Mohiuddin Khan while reading out the keynote styled, "The destruction of institutions: Politicisation of police and administration". The administration and police now ignore the directives of the Supreme Court to maintain law and order, arrest criminals and prevent and eradicate crimes. Alamgir cited an example of not obeying the directives of Judge

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Another HC stay on Bac staff screening

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The High Court (HC) yesterday once again stayed the Anti Corruption Commission's (ACC) screening criteria for recruitment of former staff of the Bureau of Anti Corruption (Bac). The court also stayed the func-

Sehri-Iftar			
Ramadan	Oct	Sehri	Iftar
20	25		5-28
21	26	4-40	5-27



Prayer Timing		
October 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	4-46
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-28	5-43
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

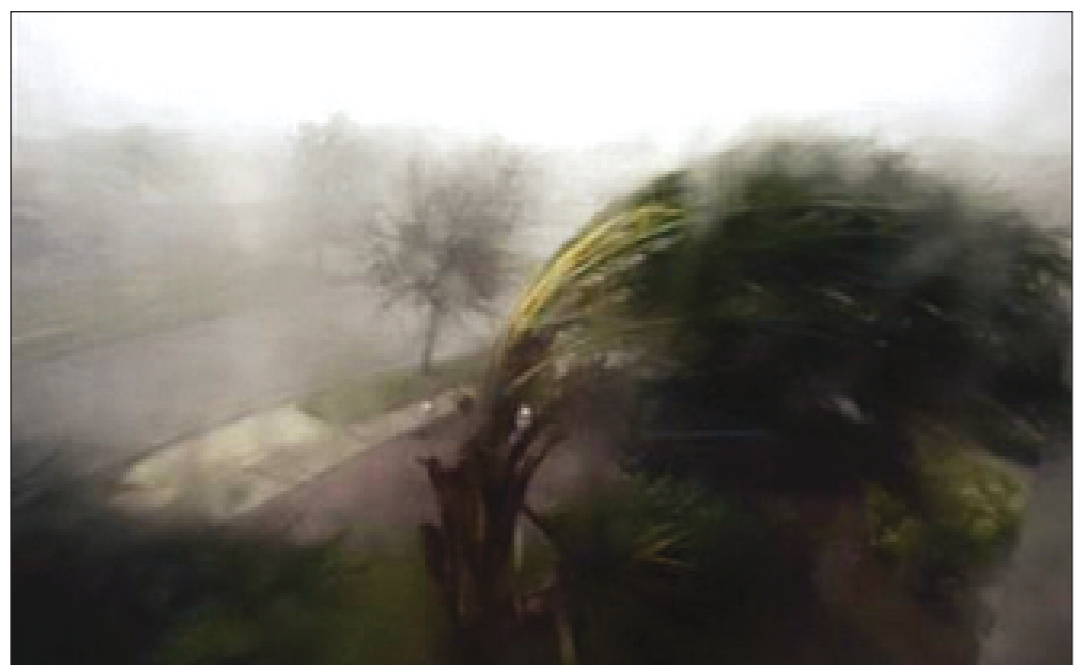


PHOTO: AP

A palm tree blown by Hurricane Wilma in Pembroke Pines, Fla. The hurricane that crashed ashore early yesterday as a strong Category 3 storm battered southwest Florida with 125 mph winds and pounding waves.

Pirates loot 14 trawlers, abduct 7 fishermen

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

Pirates looted 14 trawlers, abducted seven fishermen and crew, and injured at least 17 others at Char Tajammul in the Meghna estuary in Bhola district early yesterday. The fishermen rescued after the pirate attack said a gang named Tiger Bahini led by Bashar looted fish and other goods worth Tk 20 lakh from 14 fishing trawlers. The pirates chopped 17 fishermen and threw 35 others into the river who were later rescued by other fishing boats. They also hijacked eight trawlers along with seven fishermen. Of the injured, the conditions of Kalam, Rahim and Mannan were critical.

Dying witness testifies against Saddam

**AFP, Baghdad**

A key witness dying of cancer gave testimony Sunday to the Iraqi court handling murder and torture charges against ousted Iraqi president Saddam Hussein. Arab League chief Amr Mussa, meanwhile, addressed the Kurdish regional parliament in northern Iraq as part of his efforts to organise a national reconciliation conference.

The Iraqi Special Tribunal which is trying Saddam feared that Waddah Khalil, a former senior intelligence officer in the fallen dictator's regime, could die before its next session. Court officials "recorded the testimony of this individual," a source close to the court told AFP. "His words were recorded and written down on paper." Khalil occupied a key post in Saddam's intelligence services at the

time of the Dujail massacre. "He then left the service to pursue his trade as a lawyer," the source said. The ill man is under arrest on separate charges described as "non-political," the source said, giving no further details. Saddam and seven co-defendants face charges related to the killing of 148 Shias from the village of Dujail following a failed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3