

## Release of five university teachers demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several socio-political and cultural organisations yesterday condemned the arrest of five teachers of Dhaka and Rajshahi universities and demanded their immediate release.

The South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communism made the demand in a statement signed by its President National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, Justice KM Sobhan,

## One dies in Buriganga boat capsizes

UNB, Keraniganj

A middle-aged man drowned when a boat capsized in the river Buriganga near Aganagar in south Keraniganj yesterday.

The victim was identified as Humayun, 50.

Locals said the Dhaka-bound boat, carrying 10 to 12 passengers from Aganagar, sank in the river at about 8:00am due to overloading.

All the passengers but Humayun swam ashore.

On information, firefighters from Sadarghat recovered his body at about 9:00am.

## Robbers kill one in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Robbers, guising themselves as tenants, killed a man and looted cash and valuables from a house in Gazipur on Friday night.

The robbery took place at landlord Abul Khair's house located at Shalish area in Tongi.

The deceased was identified as Oli Ullah, 42, son of Gazi Abdul Malek of Kachua upazila in Chandpur district.

He was married to Abul Khair's daughter Nasim Akhter Josna and used to live at his father-in-law's house with his wife and daughter Jesmine, 8, and son, Nafis, 5.

Family members of the deceased said one Mitali Akhter Hasi, 20, rented a room at Abul Khair's house on August 17 saying that she would live there with her husband.

But the family members of the landlord never saw her husband, and instead they noticed that one Manik, who identified himself as Hasi's brother-in-law, used to visit her frequently.

On Friday night, Abul Khair and his family members became unconscious after having their dinner at around 9:00pm except Oli Ullah who did not take his meal.

At around midnight, the so-called tenants Hasi, Manik and another unidentified member of the gang hit Oli indiscriminately with sharp weapons.

Sohrab, 35, another tenant of the house, came forward to rescue Oli but he was also seriously injured after the robbers chopped him with a machete.

The gang then looted gold ornaments weighing 10-12 tolas, Tk 40000 and two mobile phones and fled the scene.

When the neighbours became aware of the incident, they rushed Oli and Sohrab to Tongi Government Hospital and later to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where Oli breathed his last at around 4:00am.

Abdus Salam, officer-in-charge of Tongi Police Station, said Hasi used to share the same kitchen with the landlord's family and she might have mixed drugs with the meal when no one was present there.

A case was filed by Josna with Tongi Police Station in this connection.

## N Korea to only declare three N-sites: report

AFP, Tokyo

A Japanese newspaper yesterday said North Korea insisted in disarmament talks this month that it would only declare and disable three nuclear facilities -- none of them with atomic weapons.

Under a landmark February deal, the secretive communist state agreed to abandon its nuclear weapons programmes in exchange for aid and diplomatic concessions, and it has already shut down its main Yongbyon nuclear facility.

But in the next stage of the six-nation disarmament deal, the North has committed to declaring and disabling all its nuclear facilities.

In a story datelined from China, where talks on the so-called "declare and disable" stage were held earlier this month, the Tokyo Shimbun newspaper said North Korea had announced it would only list three sites.

human rights activist Hena Das, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Prof Ajay Roy and writer and columnist Shahriar Kabir.

They also condemned the harassment of journalists during the curfew period.

They criticised the government for arresting the academics without any warrants and for not producing them before the court even 30 hours after their arrest.

The rights activists also criticised the government for its treatment of journalists and teachers, comparing the present government's action to that of the BNP-led four-party alliance government.

In another statement, The Edu-Rights and Peace, a human rights organisation of Rajshahi University (RU) students, urged the caretaker government to release the teachers and grant amnesty for general students who violated the state of emergency and staged demonstrations on the RU campus.

They also called for a tripartite meeting between the RU authorities, students and the caretaker government to restore congenial atmosphere on the campus.

Bangladesh Muktojudha Nou Commando Association Chairman Md Shahjahan Kabir Bir Pratik and Secretary General Md Khalilur

Rahman in a statement demanded immediate release of the teachers and condemned the attacks on students.

Condemning the arrest of teachers, Dilip Barua, general secretary of Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal, said the filing of cases in a bid to harass the students and teachers would only worsen the situation.

Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation denounced the arrest of Prof Moly Kumar Bhowmik who is a dramatist and director. The Federation also urged the government to release him immediately.

Expressing the hope that the caretaker government would seek a peaceful solution to this crisis, Bangladesh Chhatra Maitree said, "We urge the government to stop harassing the teachers and release them immediately."

Dhaka University teachers not only supported all the democratic movements since the language movement in 1952 but also took part in those movements, it observed.

Chhatra Sangram Parishad also condemned the attack on students.

## Outlaw killed in 'encounter' with police in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A regional leader of Lal Pataka, a faction of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML), was killed in a gun battle between outlaws and law enforcers in Mirpur upazila in Kushtia yesterday.

The dead was identified as Anisur Rahman Anis 32, son of late Tayeb Ali of Goropara in Mirpur upazila.

Police said acting on a tip-off, they raided Abdul Haq's house at Goropara village at about 4:00am where members of the banned outfit

were hiding.

The law enforcers cordoned off the house and asked the outlaws to surrender. Ignoring the call, they opened fire on police prompting them to retaliate. Anis was killed in the gun battle while his accomplices managed to escape.

Police recovered a shutter gun and four rounds of bullet from the spot.

Police said Anis was accused in 12 cases on different charges including murder.



A two-day seminar on English Language Teaching began at Presidency University in the city yesterday. Jeremy Harmer, renowned writer and teacher trainer, and other presenters, including William Balsamo, Anne McLellan Howard, Tom Koch, Cecilia Silva, Stephen Philaja and Gregory Rouault are taking part in the seminar jointly organised by the English department of Presidency University and Bangladesh English Language Teachers' Association (Belta).

## Touchstone statue worth Tk 2.5cr recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police recovered a touchstone statue of Buddha worth Tk 2.5 crore and arrested two people in this connection yesterday.

They were identified as Nasir Sharif, 35, of Baghajora village under Nazirpur upazila in Pirojpur district, and Abdul Aziz, 55, of Bhanga upazila in Faridpur district.

They went to Tutul Dakta, a rural medical practitioner of Nazirpur, and

asked him to buy the statue for Tk 2 lakh.

Tutul kept them waiting in the name of collecting money and informed the police who rushed to the spot and recovered the statue by arresting them.

Sub-Inspector Suresh, duty officer of Nazirpur Police Station, confirmed the incident and said the arrestees are being interrogated for filing a case against them.

## WEATHER TODAY

## Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 35.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Syedpur and lowest 24.6 degree Celsius at Dhaka.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:23pm today and rises at 5:38am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.3	24.6	85	77
Chittagong	29.1	25.5	92	92
Rajshahi	34.3	25.4	86	68
Khulna	34.0	26.5	84	88
Barisal	31.0	26.0	92	92
Sylhet	28.0	25.9	96	96
Cox's Bazar	30.7	25.5	93	85

## Road crashes kill two, injure 10

STAR REPORT

At least two people were killed and 10 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka and Khulna yesterday.

UNB from Keraniganj reports: A bus helper was killed and 10 passengers were injured when two busses collided head-on on Dhaka-Mawa road at Kadampur in South Keraniganj yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mufizul Islam, 15.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at about 1:30pm when a Mawa-bound bus collided with a Dhaka-bound bus, killing Mufizul, helper of the Mawa-bound bus, on the spot and injuring 10 passengers.

Police seized two buses, but the drivers managed to flee.

The injured were rushed to local hospital and clinics.

Staff correspondent from Khulna adds: One person was killed in a road accident on BDC Road at Khalishpur in the city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Sirajul Islam, 50, a security guard of the closed Khulna Newspaper Mills.

The accident occurred as he was run over by a BRTC passenger bus while he was crossing the road.

Police seized the bus but driver Liton Sheikh had managed to escape soon after the accident.

## Diarrhoea kills one, attacks 50 in two dists

UNB, Jhalakati

A sexagenarian woman died of diarrhoea at Sadar Hospital on Friday.

Local sources said Sahera Begum, 65, wife of Razzak Bhuiyan of Kalabagan area in the town was rushed to Sadar Hospital at about 10:00am where she died two hours after her admission.

Hospital sources said some 88 diarrhoea-affected people were admitted to the Sadar Hospital during the current month.

Another report from Rajbari adds: 50 people were affected by diarrhoea in last 24 hours until Friday night, Civil Surgeon Office said.

## Kushtia BCL secretary held

UNB, Kushtia

Police arrested Saifur Rahman Sumon, Kushtia general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), from Kushtia Government College premises yesterday.

Police shown him arrested under the Emergency Power Rules. Police said Sumon, 28, was wanted in different cases, including extortion.

The BCL leader recently led a procession in the town, protesting the arrest of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, police said.

## Barguna BNP leader sued for extortion

BSS, Barguna

Farhad Hossain Akkas Mridha, former general secretary of Taltali upazila Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has been sued for extortion on Wednesday.

One Oliullah lodged the case against Farhad with the Amtali upazila magistrate's court.

In his petition, the plaintiff said Farhad and his associates took him forcibly to Taltali Degree Collage area from his house in August, 2006 and demanded Tk 50,000 as toll. He also lodged a general diary with Amtali Police Station in this connection.

The magistrate asked the officer-in-charge of the concerned police station to take appropriate measures in this regard after proper investigation.

## Two drown in Bhola

BSS, Bhola

A minor girl and her grandmother drowned while taking bath in a pond at Westernpara in the town yesterday.

The girl was identified as Marjia, 7, and the grandmother as Akiya Begum, 70.

Family sources said the incident took place when they went to the pond for taking bath.

At one stage of bathing Marjia, who did not know how to swim, drowned in the pond. Akiya drowned as she tried to rescue her granddaughter.

Later, local people recovered their bodies from the pond.



Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) President Azizul Barea Helal is being taken to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in the city yesterday.

## Media urged to create awareness about voter registration

3486 registered as voter in first two days in Sitakunda

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Work on preparing fresh voter list with photographs and national identity cards is going on at Sitakunda upazila headquarter amidst great enthusiasm among the eligible voters.

A total of 3486 people were registered as voter in the first two days of the enumeration that started on August 23, sources said.

District Election Office (DEO) with the cooperation of joint forces is conducting the voter registration in the upazila headquarter comprising nine wards.

Major General Md Abdul Mubeen, GOC of 24th Infantry Division, visited the upazila headquarter and a registration centre at Sitakunda Degree College yesterday to inspect the registration work.

He also addressed a view-exchanging meeting with officials involved in voter registration process and local representatives at the upazila headquarter.

Divisional Commissioner Hossain Jamil, Brigadier General Hasan Nasir, Lt Colonel Tofail Ahmed, Deputy Commissioner Ashraf Shamim and Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Akhteruzzaman were present at the meeting.

Major General Mubeen called for completing the work successfully in the whole of Chittagong region with the close cooperation of all including government officials, joint forces, elected repre-

sentatives, non-government organisations and general people.

He also urged both print and electronic media to play a vital role in creating awareness among the people about the project.

Around 81 field-level data collectors under the supervision of 18 supervisors, including teachers of high school and primary schools and assistant officials of upazila headquarter, are working in nine wards to collect data.

"We have already achieved around 43 percent works as our data collectors have collected data of 15000 people by going door to door, said M Akhteruzzaman, upazila nirbahi officer.

Major Mohammad Kamran, who has been supervising the technical support being provided by the army, termed the response of voters encouraging.

"If people continue to come spontaneously and timely to the centres for registration like the first two days, we would be able to complete the job within our deadline on September 7," he added.

Manjura Khatun, 30, of Chowdhurypara, expressed her joyous feeling to have a national ID for her.

She said her husband was hesitating to allow her for photograph, but the Imam of the local mosque convinced him.

Gyan Ranjan Nath, a supervisor, however said they faced problems in taking women's fingerprints on the registration forms and persuading them to come to the centre for digitised photographs.

Imams and local representatives played an effective role in this regard, he added.



Unilever Bangladesh managers distributed relief materials, including rice, pulse, salt, biscuits, oral saline and water purifying tablets, among flood-affected people in 14 areas across the country through the company's regional offices in Dhaka, Sylhet, Bogra and Khulna recently. They have made the contributions from their salary.



Students of Uttara University under the leadership of Dean Eaysmin Ara Lekha distribute foods, medicines and clothes among 500 flood-affected families at Louhajang in Munshiganj recently.



Officials of Maersk Bangladesh Ltd, a subsidiary of the AP Moller Maersk Group, headquartered in Copenhagen, distribute relief among the flood victims at Badda in the city recently. They distributed rice, potato, pulse, salt, biscuit, oral saline and water purification tablets among 1000 families.

## Sherpur judge stabbed, mugged in city

UNB, Dhaka

Armed muggers stabbed the Additional District and Sessions Judge of Sherpur and took away his cash and cellphone set near Shahbagh Police Control Room in the city yesterday evening.

Witnesses said Additional Judge Mahmudul Karim, 45, fell victim to the muggers when he was heading towards Shahbagh crossing after crossing Matshya Bhaban intersection in an auto-rickshaw at about 7:00pm.

Three to four muggers got into his auto-rickshaw as it stopped at Shishu Park, yards away from the Police Control Room.

The muggers applied balm to his eyes, stabbed him in his right thigh and sped away with his cellphone set and cash, throwing him out of the three-wheeler.

Pedestrians rescued the judge and took him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

## EXTORTION CASE: Journo, 2 others sent to jail in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A journalist and his two associates arrested on charges of extortion in Bagerhat were sent to the district jail yesterday.

The joint forces arrested General Secretary of Bagerhat Union of Journalists (BUJ) Shawkat Shimul and his two associates Kazi Shihabul Islam Shihab and Ataur Rahman Ata on Friday noon when they were receiving Tk 10,000 from businessman Tapash Saha.

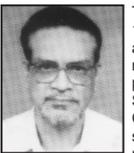
Sub-Inspector Abdul Aziz of Sadar Police Station yesterday submitted a prayer to a court for a seven-day remand for the three. The hearing on the petition will be held today.

Shawkat Shimul, also a correspondent of Bheror Kagoj, was caught red-handed from the office of BUJ.

The joint forces also recovered forged identity cards of The New Nation, Dainik Banglar Chokh and four weekly magazines and a document of outlawed BPCP Janajuddho faction from his possession.

Tapash Saha lodged an FIR with the Sadar Police Station.

## Death anniversary



Today is the 11th death anniversary of renowned physician Prof S G M Chowdhury, says a press release.

On the occasion, Samorita Hospital will hold a Quarkanhwani at the Samorita Physical Mosque in the morning, distribute food among orphans at noon and hold a doa and milad mahfil after Maghrib prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the milad mahfil.

## Md Tafazzal Hussain

Today is the 6th death anniversary of Md Tafazzal Hussain, a former secretary, industrialist, litterateur and columnist, says a press release.

He was also the founder of Durgapur High School at Jhenidah. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

## DHAKA TODAY

**Roundtable**  
Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies will hold a roundtable on 'Policy makers and policies: From the past into the future' with Finance and Planning Adviser Mirza Md Azizul Islam as chief guest. Venue: Brac Inn, Mohakhali. Time: 9:00am.

**Workshop**  
A national workshop on 'Draft ordinance in respect of National Human Rights Commission' will be held with Law Adviser Barrister Mainul Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 9:30am.

**Cultural programme**  
Kamjibbi Nari and Gallery Chittrak organise a drawing and cultural programme to observe the Yeasmin Day as the National Day of Resistance for Violence against Women with Foreign Affairs Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Gallery Chittrak, Dhanmondi. Time: 4:30pm.

**Convocation**  
The first convocation of Dhaka International University will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-e-Banglanagar. Time: 10:15am.

**Discussion**  
Deshpremik Sacheton Nagorik Samaj will hold a discussion on 'Patriotic role of the present caretaker government.' Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.