

## DRIVE AT KITCHEN MARKETS

## 16 traders fined for selling essentials at high prices

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and a mobile court conducted joint drives in two kitchen markets in the city yesterday and filed 17 cases against traders for tampering with weights, selling adulterated food products and selling essential items at high prices.

During the four-hour drive from 11:30am to 3:30pm at Shantinagar and Kamalapur AGB Colony kitchen markets, the court led by Magistrate Rokon-ud-Doula fined 16 traders Tk 95,000.

Bacchu Mia, 30, a meat seller, was arrested from Shantinagar

kitchen market for selling rotten meat.

Representatives of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) and Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) were also present during the drive.

Customers of the markets said the traders reduced the prices of essential items following the drive by the mobile court.

The traders were selling onion at Tk 40 per kilogram in the morning, but the prices came down to Tk 36 when the mobile court and Rab members came to the market, they said.

Although the joint forces fixed the

prices of essential items, traders at different kitchen markets were selling them at a higher price yesterday.

Aubergine was sold at Tk 35 to Tk 40 instead of Tk 18 fixed by the joint forces.

When asked about the differences in the price, the traders said that they bought aubergine at a high price.

Rab-3 Commanding Officer Sultan M Noorani told The Daily Star that they held meetings with the presidents and general secretaries of kitchen market traders' associations and asked them to sell essentials with small profit.

## Prof Taher murder case shifted to speedy trial tribunal

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Prof S Taher Ahmed murder case has been shifted to Rajshahi divisional speedy trial tribunal.

The district and session judge's court sent the case documents to the tribunal on Wednesday following a gazette notification published on September 17 in this regard.

But the tribunal could not receive the documents due to an error in the case date in the gazette notification, court sources said.

The trial of the case had started at the public safety tribunal on July 3. Later, Judge Jahangir Alam Mollah refused to conduct the trial citing "unavoidable circumstances" and transferred the case to the district judge's court on August 20.

Prof Taher, a senior teacher of geology and mining department of Rajshahi University, was killed on February 1, 2006 and the police recovered his body from a sewer behind his house on the campus on February 3.

Prof Mia Muhammad Mohiuddin of the same department and Mahbubul Alam Salehi, former RU Shibir president, are the prime accused in the case.

Three other accused -- Jahangir, Salam and Nazmul -- in their judicial confessional statements mentioned the involvement of Mohiuddin and Salehi in the killing. Azimuddin Munshi is another accused in the case.

Twenty-six witnesses, out of over 60, have given their depositions in the public safety tribunal. The police had submitted the charge sheet on March 18 and the charges were framed on June 18.

## Obituary

Humayun Kabir Khandaker, vice-chairman of Nitol Insurance Co. Ltd., passed away on September 8 in USA, says a

press release.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Dhanmondi Road # 7 Masjid after Juma prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the janaza. He will be buried at Azimpur graveyard.

## Death anniversary

Today is the first death anniversary of Mahmuda Haq, former president of Bangladesh Lioness District-315A and a member of management board of Mirpur Shishu Hospital, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at Plot no-20, Road no-68/A, Gulshan in the city after Juma prayers.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## Hafizuddin Master

The sixth death anniversary of Hafizuddin Master, father of Advocate Mizanur Rahman, will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his Dhakhin Khan (Chalabond) residence at Uttara in the city.

## Chehlum

Chehlum of Anju Ahmed, wife of late Mezahah Uddin Ahmed and the eldest daughter of Abu Nasir Ahmed will be held at 1/3 Lalmatia, Block-D at 3:00pm today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Roushan Ara Begum, former general secretary of Gandaria Mahila Samity and wife of AKM Aminur Rahman, a retired deputy magistrate, will be held at Ananda Community Centre near the Gandaria Dhupkhola playground in the city after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

She passed away due to old age complications on Saturday morning at the age of 76.



PHOTO: STAR

This dilapidated manhole without cover in the middle of a road near the Kamalapur container depot in the city poses danger to passengers as well as pedestrians.

## BSF kills one

## OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) yesterday shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader and injured another near Jawrani Border in Lalmonirhat.

The dead was identified as Abdur Rashid (32) of Daikhowa Jawrani village under Hatibandha upazila.

BSF took away the body while injured Gopal Chandra (25) was undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

BDR sources said when a group of cattle traders tried to smuggle cattle into Bangladesh from India through Jawrani Border near pillar No 911, BSF members of Gidal Dah camp fired on them killing Rashid on the spot and injuring Gopal.

Gopal managed to escape the scene.

Lieutenant Col Makbul Quader, commanding officer of Lalmonirhat 31 Rifles Battalion said BSF agreed to hand over the body to them, after they sent a letter to BSF.

BDR members were put on high alert after the incident.

## MADHUPUR NAT'L PARK COMMITTEE

## Six indigenous members resign

## OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

All the six indigenous members of Madhupur National Park Committee have resigned.

The 12-member committee was formed during a visit to Madhupur by Forest and Environment Adviser Dr CS Karim on March 9 to solve the problems of the national park and local indigenous people.

The committee was headed by Madhupur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Dr MA Parvez Rahim.

The indigenous leaders quitted their posts in the committee on Wednesday alleging that the forest department was planting tree forcefully on the land of indigenous people.

Those who resigned are President of Joinsahai Adibashi Unnayan Parishad Ajoy-a-Mre, local indigenous leaders Ugin Nokrake, Shekhor Mrang, Stephen Chambu Gang, William Dazel and Pronath Mring.

They submitted their resignation letters to the UNO of Madhupur upazila.

Ajoy-a-Mre told The Daily Star that the forest department did not stop filing false cases against the indigenous people despite the formation of the committee.

"The forest department filed a case against the local indigenous people including their leaders on September 17 as they resisted the department's bid to planting tree on their land at Beribad area on the same day," he added.

When contacted, the UNO told The Daily Star that the committee could not work properly as there are many problems still to be solved between the forest department and the local indigenous people.

"However, efforts are on to bring the resigned committee members back to the committee," he added.

DOUBLE MURDER  
Two to die in Chuadanga

## UNB, Chuadanga

A court here yesterday sentenced two people to death and nine others to life imprisonment in a double murder case.

Judge SAM Shahjamal Mashreki of District Additional Sessions Judge's Court pronounced the judgement.

The court also fined two condemned convicts -- Tahazzel Hossain Noto and Robzel of Titudaha village -- Tk 2 lakh each, in default, to serve one year more in prison.

According to the prosecution, UP member Abu Mosa of Chhotoshalua village in Sadar upazila and his friend Shamsul Haq were killed at a nearby field in the village after they were abducted on Jan 9, 1999.

## No question raised about stealing of relief goods

## Says army chief

## UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday said this is for the first time that no question was raised about stealing of relief goods and it has been made possible thanks to cooperation from all quarters.

"In the past it was a perception that relief means stealing. But for the first time this did not happen and no question was raised about it. It was made possible thanks to everyone's cooperation," he said while receiving donations for flood-affected people from individuals and organisations at the Army Headquarters.

General Moeen also said that they are thinking about permanent solution to river erosion problem.

He said that it cannot be a solution that every year there will be erosion and every time the government will distribute relief among the victims.

The army chief said paddy seedlings are being raised in Jessore Cantonment like in Savar Cantonment and the seedlings would be distributed among the farmers.

Individuals and different organisations have so far donated over Tk 89.44 lakh to the Army Chief's Relief and Welfare Fund in aid of the flood victims.

Another report adds: Islam group handed over a cheque for Tk 30 lakh, Bangladesh Re-Rolling Mills Association a cheque for Tk 20 lakh, MGH group a cheque for Tk 10 lakh, Continental Liner Agencies, SM Knitweaves Ltd, Bangladesh Professional Football League Club and Bangladesh Film Actors' Association, Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers' and Dealers' Association and Priyanka Entertainment Network each cheques for Tk 5 lakh.

WESTIN Dhaka handed over a cheque for Tk 1.95 lakh, Shaheed Anwar Girls College a cheque for Tk 1,14,547, USA Expatriate Mohammadullah Mamun, Rizvi Ahmed and Dr Ferdousi Begum a cheque for Tk 50,000, Ehsanul Kabir a cheque for Tk 50,000 and Bangladesh Education and Resources Network a cheque for Tk 35,000.

Senior Army officers were present on the occasion.

## Attack on migrant workers in Kuala Lumpur condemned

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday condemned the attack on the striking migrant workers on the premises of Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday and demanded punishment to the attackers.

They urged the government to bring the culprits to book through a negotiation with the Government of Malaysia as they were allegedly the agents of the fake manpower agencies.

The press conference was organised by Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre (BDPC) at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) auditorium.

In a written statement, Director of the Centre Sharif A Kafi said manpower export and trafficking are two different terms and situations.

It should be called trafficking if a group of people use fake documents and snatch the money of aspirant migrant workers in the name of manpower export, he added.

Expressing deep grief over the attack on the workers, the speakers placed some recommendations to stop such unwanted incidents and protect the aspirant migrant workers from being cheated in future.

## Schoolgirl drowns in Bhairab river, two missing

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A schoolgirl drowned and two others were feared to have drowned while taking a bath in river Bhairab at Milky Diarha village in Rupsha yesterday.

Kajol, 8, Puja, 11, and Mukta, 13, were taking a bath at around 1:30pm but were swept away by a strong current.

Divers recovered the body of Puja at around 2:15pm. She was the daughter of Dilip Harjan, a sweeper of Khulna Press Club.

Two other girls still remain missing.

Puja was a student of class four of Belfulia High School at Rupsha. Mukta and Kajol are also students of the same school.

## Prothom Alo has shown responsibility by seeking apology

## Says Khelafat Andolan

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Welcoming Prothom Alo's apology for carrying the controversial cartoon titled Naam in its satire magazine Alpin, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan yesterday asked the government and the people not to do anything that might jeopardise the livelihoods of hundreds of employees of the newspaper.

The Prothom Alo authorities have shown responsibility and nobility by seeking apology, withdrawing the "uncalled-for" cartoon and assuring punishment to the persons involved without any delay, a Khelafat statement said yesterday.

"We also welcome the government's decision to arrest the persons involved," reads the statement signed by Kazi Azizul Haq, international affairs secretary, and Hamidullah Ibne Hafezzi Hujur, Nayeb-e-Amir-e-Amel of Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan.

All types of media should be controlled for the sake of the country, nation, humanity, decency and honesty. However, before intervening in any media, its impact on the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of employees need to be considered seriously, added the statement.

"The survival and dignity of many employees of daily Amar Desh have been at risk as the owners of the newspaper were sent to jail and their bank accounts frozen," the statement said.

"In the meantime, the lives and livelihoods of the employees of CSB have been threatened due to its closure. Besides, many journalists and employees of Akker Kagoj have also become jobless due to its shutdown yesterday," the statement added.

"About five hundred more journalists and employees will become jobless instantaneously if Prothom Alo is shut down. The government and the pious people will have to think responsibly about the livelihoods and security of so many people," said Khelafat Andolan in its statement.

**Protest by Khelafat Majlis**  
UNB adds: Khelafat Majlis yesterday demanded ban on the publication of the Prothom Alo for publishing the cartoon.

"The declaration of the Prothom Alo has to be cancelled and its editor and publisher are to be given exemplary punishment in order to preserve the image of the country and maintain peace," said Shaikhul Hadith Azizul Huq, ameer of Khelafat Majlis, at a press conference at his Purana Paltan office yesterday.

## Govt authorises DMP to sue cartoonist Arif

## Bss, Dhaka

The government yesterday authorised Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) to file a regular case against detained contributing cartoonist Arifur Rahman of the Prothom Alo for publishing a completely unacceptable cartoon in the daily's weekly satire magazine Alpin, an official press release said.

It said the officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station was authorised to file the case under Section 295A of the Penal Code against the cartoonist.

## Prothom Alo editor, cartoonist sued in Ctg

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An official of a private Islamic university yesterday filed a case against the editor, publisher and freelance cartoonist of Prothom Alo for hurting religious sentiment of Muslims.

Mohammad Reza, chief estate and administrative officer of Jamea'atul Islamia, a private Islamic university, filed the case with the Metropolitan Magistrate's court.

The court took the case into cognisance and fixed September 30 for hearing.

The plaintiff alleged that the cartoon 'naam' (Name) published in the Bangla daily's satire magazine "Alpin" on September 17 was derogatory to Prophet Mohammad (SM).

It hurt the belief and sentiment of Muslims and was aimed at creating conflict between Bangladesh and other Islamic nations, said the plaintiff.

## Body of woman found floating in Buriganga

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of a slain woman was found floating in the river Buriganga yesterday afternoon.

Keraniganj police recovered the body from Char Mirerbagh area after local people informed them at about 4:00pm.

The identity of the slaughtered woman aged about 25 could not be known immediately.

The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy.



PHOTO: STAR

Admission seekers wait in a queue on Dhaka Medical College premises yesterday to collect admission forms for this year's medical admission test.

## COAL POLICY

## Govt body to visit mine, coal rich areas today

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The committee tasked with finalising a coal policy for the country will be visiting today Barapukuria coal mine, Phulbari, Khalashpir, Dighipara and a few other areas that are rich with coal deposits.

The members of the committee, accompanied by the energy secretary, will talk with the officials of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company as well as with the locals of Phulbari, including the ones who have been opposing the coal-mining proposal of Asia Energy, said sources.

On the way, the committee will visit the Dighipara and Khalashpir coal zones, the sources added.

The committee also intends to visit and survey the area of

## International Day of Peace today

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Day of Peace will be observed in the country today as elsewhere in the globe with a call to 'make peace not just a priority, but a passion'.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has decided that from now on the International Day of Peace on September 21 would be 'A day of global ceasefire and non-violence'.

On the eve of the day, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in a message said, "Peace is one of humanity's most precious needs. It is also the United Nations' highest calling. It draws together all of our worldwide work, from peacekeeping and preventive diplomacy to promoting human rights and development. This work for peace is vital. But it is not easy."

"On this International Day, let us promise to make peace not just a priority, but a passion. Let us pledge to do more, wherever we are in whatever way we can, to make every day a day of peace," he added.

Different socio-cultural and political organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day through holding seminar, symposium and discussion on peace and democracy.

United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) will organise a symposium at Cirdap Auditorium in the city at 4:30pm.

Foreign Secretary Md Touhid Hossain will attend the programme as chief guest while Chairman of Bangla department at Dhaka University Prof Abul Quasem Fazlul Huq will be the keynote speaker.

UNAB Vice-president Prof Muzaffer Ahmad will preside over the function.



## Rain likely

## UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

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

Highest temperature 36.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.8 degree Celsius at Rangamati and Sitakunda.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:57pm today and rises at 5:47am 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	34.9	26.3	67	65
Chittagong	32.0	26.3	73	78
Rajshahi	34.7	26.0	77	72
Khulna	35.0	27.0	84	98
Barisal	34.8	25.0	90	92
Sylhet	35.9	25.8	72	51
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.8	73	80