



Tamzida Jahan Sunny, a student, speaks at a roundtable titled 'Child rights and environment in the context of Bangladesh' organised by Antorongo Shishu Sangathan at Directorate of Environment (DoE) in the city yesterday.

Eid fails to touch monga-hit

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Although a large number of last-minute Eid shoppers are cramming into markets, the festivity could not touch the poverty-stricken people of the northern region of the country.

The poverty due to crises of job and food have overshadowed Eid celebration of the underprivileged hundreds, many of whom are flocking to shopping centres at district and upazila headquarters for begging alms.

During this period, the poor people usually suffer from monga, a near-famine situation, following lack of agricultural work and food shortage.

The situation is likely to persist till the harvest in December, said the government officials, adding that the situation has however improved a bit following various government measures.

"The main buyers at Eid markets in northern region are the villagers. So the traders are also facing dull markets in their absence. Most farmers and day labourers are still in severe hardships," said Mustafizur Rahman, a businessman.

"The markets are crowded, but the business is still low as the potential buyers are yet to come," said Rabiul Hasan, an owner of garment shop at RDA market.

The situation has aggravated following unaffordable prices of daily essentials.

"Many of those who live at villages, especially on the shoals and banks of the Padma, depend on khud (broken rice), amon and available vegetables as only foodstuffs," said Abul Kalam Azad, a union council member of Khidirpur shol.

Miraj Hossain, a farmer of Talanda union under Tanore upazila, said he had sold his goat to buy a dress for his eight-year-old daughter.

JSD for holding UZ election under CG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing doubt over the holding of a long-desired upazila election under the next political government, leaders of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) yesterday called for holding the same under the caretaker government (CG) on December 24 and 28 as announced by the Election Commission (EC).

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium, they also criticised the government and the EC for yielding to the pressure of some political parties as they moved back from their earlier stand of holding the upazila polls before the national election.

Presided over by Executive President Prof Mohammad Shafiq, the press conference was also addressed by Vice-president Abul Khair Sajjat, Joint General Secretaries Ataul Karim Faruq, Mohammad Siraj Mia and Mohammad Tauheed, and Organising Secretary Sayeed Saadullah Rumi.

Party General Secretary Abdul Malek Ratan presented the keynote paper at the press conference.

He said for democracy election is a must and to make the election a success there should be a healthy trend of democracy at every sphere of national life.

Ratan also stressed on consensus that all political parties will nominate honest and competent candidates and the next

elected government must continue the on-going anti-corruption drive.

The speakers said the retreating tendency of the government is evident from the release of most of the corrupts convicted in lower courts on bail.

They said criminalisation of politics was possible as the previous political governments did not decentralise power from the grip of lawmakers and ministers to grab power of local government institutions.

Businessman robbed of Tk 1.05 lakh in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CIG

Muggers took away Tk 1.05 lakh from a businessman at Jamal Khan intersection in the port city yesterday.

Sources said the businessmen Sirajul Mostafa fell victim of snatching when he was returning to his business house by a rickshaw after drawing the money from Momin Road branch of Brac Bank.

The muggers snatched away the money cutting open the pocket of his pant with a blade and fled the scene immediately.

Call to raise awareness about RTI ordinance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at an orientation programme have called for raising greater awareness about the Right to Information (RTI) Ordinance so that the people can benefit from it.

They also called on the government to form a national information commission immediately.

They congratulated the government for approving the ordinance, and said that it is the outcome of long-standing advocacy by organisations of professionals.

The Centre for Communication and Development (CCD Bangladesh) and Women Empowerment Network organised the orientation programme in the city on Saturday, says a press release.

The speakers said there are several loopholes in the ordinance, which should be closed.

They also said all the government and non-government organisations should play an important role in raising awareness about the ordinance.

Coordinator of Global Health Council Bangladesh GM Murtuza conducted this orientation course. Joint director of CCD Shahana Parveen, Abu Hena Mostofa Kamal, Abu Nasir Md Siddik Hossain, Arafat Ali Siddik, Marufa Jahan and Ayesha Siddika spoke on the occasion.

Ruet admission test on Nov 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The admission test for the first year students at Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) will be held on November 24, says a press release.

The decision was taken at a meeting recently with the Ruet Vice Chancellor Dr Mohammed Fazul Bari in the chair.

The candidates could collect and submit filled forms of the admission test from October 20 to November 6. The forms will be available at Rupali Bank branch at Ruet from 10 am to 5:00 pm.

The eligible candidates for admission test will be hung on the notice board at the Ruet administration building on November 15.

France embassy to introduce biometry visa on October 6

UNB, Dhaka

French embassy here introduces biometry (by fingerprints) to deliver visas for Bangladeshi visa seekers from October 6.

A release of the French Embassy yesterday said this procedure already implemented around the world will help the bona fide visa holders to travel smoothly to the countries of Schengen areas.

The generalisation of biometry for visas issued by all Schengen States results from the decision taken by the European Council on June 8, 2004, to set out the biometric data to be operational in Europe in 2009.

Heads of state, ministers and their spouses invited by the governments of the member States of Schengen area or by Intergovernmental Organisations or when they call on one Intergovernmental Organisation are exempted from this fingerprints procedure.

Members of official delegations and political personalities (Parliament Members, Leaders of Political Parties) in the same situation will be exempted.

Children less than 6 years old are also exempted from fingerprints.

Yet another falls victim to dowry violence

SHAMIM ASHRAF and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Fahima Begum, a mother of five-month-old boy, managed to save her child from a knife attack but could not protect herself. The attacker is none other than her husband who swooped on them falling to get dowry from his in-laws' house.

With two major stab wounds in her body, the 20-year-old woman is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The incident took place at their rented house at Kathgora in Savar on September 24. Other tenants caught the husband, M Kawser, in the act and have left him tied up in the house since then.

Married for four years, Fahima and Kawser used to work at sweater factories near their house, but she stopped working in December last year when she was five months pregnant.

Her husband also stopped going to factory four months ago due to reasons unknown and started selling muri (puffed rice), which he continued only for two months, Fahima said, lying in her hospital bed.

"After the birth of my baby, my in-laws started pressing me to resume my factory work, but I



Shahinor, mother of Fahima, a victim of dowry violence, sits beside her daughter at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

didn't comply as I wanted to give more time to my son," said Fahima, who used to earn more than her husband.

On September 9, Kawser asked his mother-in-law Shahinor Begum, who lives with her three other children close to his house, to pay Tk 50,000 in dowry, saying that he needed the money to start fire-

wood business.

As she expressed her inability to give the money, Kawser pressed his wife to manage the money.

The next day he met Fahima's uncle Bachchu, a firewood trader, at their village home at Amtoli in Patuakhali and asked him for the money, but to no avail.

Kawser, who had already

stopped looking after his family, also started having his meal at an adjacent mess.

"It was at around 7:30am on September 24 when he called me to come out. As I was breastfeeding my son, I told him to wait for a few minutes. But he rushed into the bedroom, dragged me out and slapped me in front of other tenants of the house," Fahima said.

Her mother Shahinor said, "As one tenant protested the slapping, Kawser started stabbing Fahima with a knife, which he took from my room."

At that time, Fahima's son Mehedi Hasan Bappi was in her lap. She managed to save her son but received two stab wounds in the chest and abdomen.

"Her intestines spilled out immediately. With the help of neighbours, I rushed her to the hospital," said her mother.

Soon after the incident, Kawser tried to escape, but the neighbours caught and tied him to a pillar of their house.

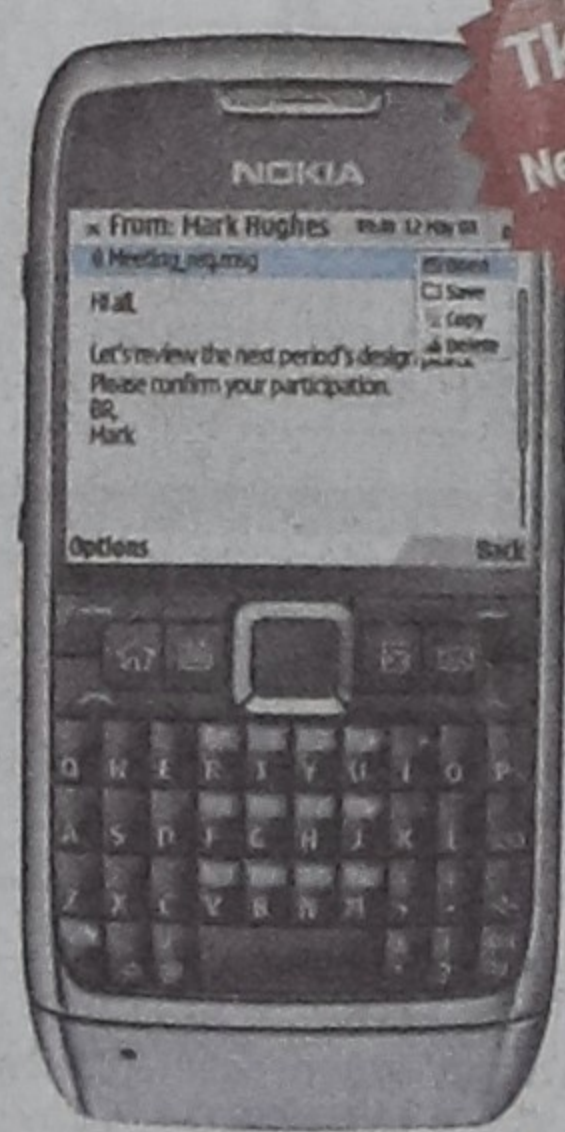
Fahima was operated upon at the hospital. She is now out of danger, doctors said.

"Local people asked us not to file any complaints with the police, saying that they would punish him through arbitration," the victim said, adding that she also wants punishment to him.

do you open e-mails or open minds?

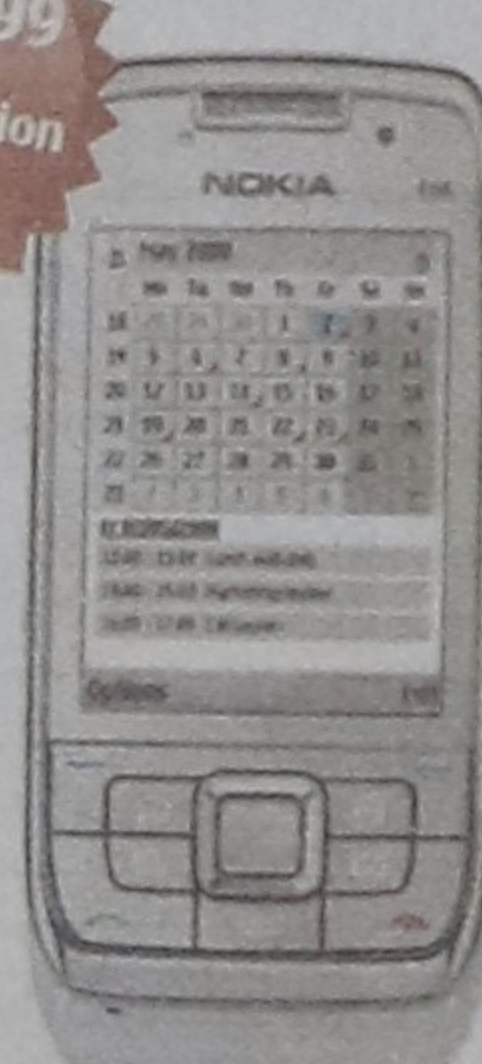
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Admission seekers wait in a long queue to collect MBBS admission forms on Dhaka Medical College campus yesterday.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Slight rise in day temperature is expected over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.2 degrees Celsius at Jessore.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:47pm today and rises at 5:50am 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
Dhaka	33.6	26.6
Chittagong	29.8	24.0
Rajshahi	32.5	24.9
Khulna	33.3	26.4
Barisal	32.7	24.8
Sylhet	31.1	25.0
Cox's Bazar	31.0	23.5

Political parties, leaders convey Eid greetings to people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties, political leaders and religious bodies conveyed greetings to the countrymen for Eid-ul-Fitr.

In two separate messages Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia urged the people to enjoy the Eid forgetting all the differences.

Both the leaders urged the well off people of the society to stand beside the poverty stricken people.

Jatiya Party (Monju), ASM Abdur Rab, Bangladesh Chhatra Juba Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP), Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Christian Association and mayor of Dhaka City Corporation also greeted the countrymen.

On the occasion of Holy Eid-ul-Fitre



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wishes all the Consumers, Partners and Well Wishers

Heartiest Greetings

