

# ROW OVER MRP, MANUAL PASSPORT UAE assures of meeting complexities

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The United Arab Emirates have given assurance of addressing the complexities that arose over machine readable passport (MRP) and manual passport recently, said a foreign ministry spokesperson in Dhaka yesterday.  
The assurance came when Bangladesh Ambassador to the UAE Nazmul Quaunine met top immigration officials in Abu Dhabi on Monday, said Saida Muna Tasneem, director general of the foreign ministry's external publicity wing.  
The ambassador met the UAE immigration authorities, as they were refusing to issue visas to the Bangladeshi jobseekers without MRPs. The authorities also questioned why there were no names

of legal guardians of the jobseekers in the MRPs.  
"The UAE authorities said a confusion arose when Bangladeshi jobseekers were submitting both MRP and handwritten passports."  
"The authorities also said that there was nothing to worry about it," Tasneem told The Daily Star referring to a report sent by Nazmul Quaunine to the foreign ministry in Dhaka yesterday.  
If any confusion arises over the passport of any Bangladeshi jobseeker the UAE authorities would contact the Bangladesh mission there and solve the problem, Tasneem said quoting the report.  
The UAE authorities got an impression that Bangladesh was issuing MRPs for all

When the Bangladesh ambassador explained that MRPs would replace the manual passports in phases, they appreciated it, the spokesperson said.  
India and Pakistan also had to go through the same transition when they first introduced MRPs, she said adding, "The discussion ended with a positive note."  
The meeting was held just a day after Foreign Minister Dipu Moni convened a meeting with 12 labour-receiving countries at her office and requested them to accept both types of passports until MRPs are fully introduced.  
Dipu Moni also sought their opinion on how some additional information, including legal guardians' names and addresses could be incorporated in the MRPs.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presides over the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) at NEC conference room in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

# CUSTODIAL DEATH Three cops suspended

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) authorities yesterday suspended a sub-inspector (SI) and two assistant sub-inspectors (ASIs) of Darussalam Police Station in connection with the custodial death of a man on Thursday night.  
Admitting the suspension order, Officer-in-charge Abdul Malek of the police station said SI Hekmat Ali and ASIs Mashur Rahman and Abu Sayem have been suspended on charges of tarnishing the image of police.  
Another police official said apart from the involvement in the custodial death of Mujibur Rahman, the three policemen have also engaged in various irregularities in the area.  
A senior police official of Mirpur division said the three policemen have been suspended as part of the preliminary punitive measures. Departmental actions will also be taken against them if they are found guilty in the enquiry report, he added.  
Earlier on Sunday, the DMP authorities closed Gulshan Police Station SI Anisur Rahman in connection with the custodial death of businessman Mizanur Rahman early Thursday.  
Meanwhile, both the enquiry committees formed for probing the custodial deaths of

Mujibar and Mizanur Rahman are investigating the incidents.  
DMP Joint Commissioner (Crime and Operation) Humayun Kabir, who is probing the Darussalam incident, said they are carrying out enquiry as part of their executive investigation.  
Kabir said they launched the enquiry before the High Court verdict asking to probe by other personnel out of the police department.  
Gulshan division deputy commissioner AKM Hafiz Akhter, who is leading the probe of Gulshan incident, said, "Our report will be submitted to the DMP headquarters."  
Meanwhile, Home Minister Sahara Khatun yesterday said the home ministry will form probe bodies to investigate the custodial deaths after getting the copy of the HC directives.  
Earlier on Tuesday, the HC directed the home secretary to form within a week a committee to investigate officials other than police personnel to comprise the three deaths.  
It also ordered the DMP commissioner to turn in a report within two weeks on measures to prevent lock-up deaths and submit inquest reports on the deaths of Mizanur Rahman, Mujibur Rahman and Babul Kazi under the custodies of Darussalam, Gulshan and Ramna police.

# 2 children found dead in pond

**Father arrested**  
**A CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj**  
Bodies of two children were recovered from a pond at Kadamtoli in Siddhirganj upazila of the district yesterday.  
Their father Abul Khasem was arrested in this connection.  
Police said two children--Simanto and Shimu--were killed following a family feud.  
Officer-in-charge of Siddhirganj Police Station Badrul Alam said Khasem got married with Salma about 7-8 years ago. On Monday night, Salma and Khasem went to the bed after taking their meal.  
In the morning, Salma found that her two children were not in the bed. After a search, locals found the bodies in the pond and informed police of the matter.  
Police recovered the bodies and sent to those to the hospital morgue for autopsy. A process was underway to file a case in this connection.

# PM'S JAPAN VISIT LIKELY IN OCT-NOV Japan keen to help construct Padma bridge

**Envoy tells home minister**  
**UNB, Dhaka**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to visit Japan in October-November, said Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Tamotsu Shinotsuka here yesterday.  
The ambassador said this at a meeting with Home Minister Sahara Khatun at her ministry, said a spokesman for the ministry.  
Shinotsuka said Japan wants to extend cooperation in economic and social sectors of Bangladesh.  
Saying that Japan is the largest donor of Bangladesh in South East Asia, the ambassador said a good number of high-tech Japanese companies have invested in Bangladesh.  
Japanese companies also made investment in garment, leather, fertiliser and fishing sectors. Recently, a Japanese company made 30 percent investment in Rabi (former Aktel) mobile operator.  
"We always encourage Japanese companies to make investment in Bangladesh," he said, adding, "We want to increase bilateral trade and investment."  
The ambassador noted that Japan also contributed to the construction of the Bangabandhu Bridge and the Meghna Bridge and expressed his government desire to assist the construction of the Padma Bridge.  
On traffic congestion in Dhaka City, he said JAICA is conducting feasibility study on a project and steps would be taken on its recommendations.  
Describing human resources as assets for Bangladesh, the ambassador stressed the need for appropriate training of the human resources, which can impact on overall development of Bangladesh.  
Presently, he said, more than 1,700 Bangladeshi students are studying in Japan. The home minister requested the ambassador to increase the scholarship of Bangladeshi students.  
Sahara also sought assistance to procure police vans and IT equipments from Japan.

# Mannan Bhuiyan to be brought home from Singapore today

**Condition deteriorates**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Former secretary general of BNP Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan who was under undergoing treatment in Singapore is scheduled to bring back home early today.  
Physical condition of Bhuiyan, a veteran politician and also a former minister, has deteriorated and he has been provided with artificial oxygen, as he cannot breathe naturally, said his family members yesterday.  
Mariom Begum, wife of Mannan, told reporters that he is scheduled to reach here early today through an air-ambulance and then he will be admitted to the city's Square Hospital.  
He will be brought back to home based on the advice of his doctors at Singapore, said Mariom. She requested the countrymen to pray to the almighty for his immediate recovery.  
The former minister was undergoing treatment at Coronary Care Unit of the Singapore National University Hospital and provided with the artificial life support since last Monday.  
Mannan has served the BNP as secretary general for 11 years but expelled by the party chairperson before her arrest in September 2007 during the caretaker government.

# Hizb stages rally in Ctg: 4 arrested

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong**  
Four activists of banned Islamist outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir were arrested yesterday while fleeing from a rally in the port city's Love Lane area.  
The arrested are Kazi Ahmed Irfanul Karim, a second year student of mechanical engineering department at Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET) and Mozammel Hossain, Mohammad Hossain and Badsha Mia, all fifth year students of BGC Trust Medical College.  
Of them, Irfanul introduced himself as an activist of Hizb ut-Tahrir. Hossain and Badsha claimed to be school student and garment worker respectively.  
Deputy Commissioner (north) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Banaj Kumar Majumder said some 50 Hizb ut-Tahrir men brought out an procession from Love Lane intersection at around 12:30pm and staged a rally.  
They also distributed leaflets, containing anti-government propaganda, among the journalists.  
The outfit members fled the scene when a police patrol approached them, said the DC.  
Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station Shakhawat Hossain said process was underway to file cases against the detainees.  
On April 15 this year, Hizb ut-Tahrir brought out another procession from Charagi Pahar intersection at Jamal Khan and fled after hanging banner and festoons at boundary grills of Chittagong Press Club.

# Eight promoted to secretaries

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The government promoted eight additional secretaries to the position of secretaries yesterday.  
They had been carrying out their responsibilities as acting secretaries in different divisions in the ministries, says a gazette notification of the establishment ministry.  
The officials who have been promoted are: Abu Alam Shahid Khan from Primary and Mass Education Ministry, Nurul Haq from Labour and Manpower Ministry, Abdul Mannan Hawlader from Shipping Ministry, Abdur Rob Hawlader from Ministry of Science and Information Technology, Zafar Ahmed Khan of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry, Masud Ahmed of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Ministry, Mejbah Uddin of Energy and Mineral Resources Division and acting member of Privatisation Commission Mridul Bhattacharya.  
Of them, Abu Alam was elevated to the top most rank in administration during the tenure of the current government.  
However, his career growth had become stagnant during the era of the four-party alliance government as well as the caretaker government's regime.

# Appeal for help

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Nasir Uddin Sujjan, a student of Govt Bhawal Badre Alam College, sought financial help from the well-off section of the society for his treatment as he has been suffering from Perthes disease for one and a half years.  
Sujan's Treatment Fund committee sought the help at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday.  
Sujan is now undergoing treatment under the supervision of Dr Md Mustafizur Rahman professor (ret'd) of the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation.  
Physicians have advised him an immediate surgery abroad. But it is impossible for his family to afford the treatment cost of Tk 15 lakh.  
It appealed to generous people and organisations to extend a helping hand to save his life.  
Contributions can be sent to savings A/C No. 002057765, Sonali Bank, Court Building Branch, Gazipur or through money orders to Shihir Printer, 12, Madina Market, Munshipara Road, Jaydebpur, Gazipur.  
The coordinator of the treatment fund can be reached at 01713109130.

# 11 ASIAN MINISTERS' MEET IN CITY OCT 20 Migration cost cut, workers' dignity to top agenda

**UNB, Dhaka**  
The fourth ministerial meeting of the "Colombo Process," a regional consultative process on the management of overseas employment and contractual labour for countries of origins in Asia, will begin in Dhaka on October 20.  
After three successful ministerial consultations held in Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Indonesia, Bangladesh, for the first time, will host the two-day ministerial meeting on labour migration at Sonargaon Hotel, Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Engr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said after an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday.  
Talking to the journalists at his secretariat office, he said during the meeting they would give priority on lessening migration cost and making the entire process hassle-free. "We've already asked BAIRA to send a report on migration cost within two months to figure out cost of sending workers to a particular country."  
Mosharraf said after evaluating the report of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) they would discuss how the migration cost can be reduced and how they can ensure "life with dignity" for the migrated workers.  
The Colombo Process platform was initiated with the primary objective of facilitating greater regional dialogue and cooperation on the management of labour migration amongst the major labour exporting countries.  
Twenty countries are expected to join the meeting of the "Colombo Process", which will focus on the progress and challenges in the overall migration process sector.  
The participating countries are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam (under labour sending states category), Bahrain, Italy, Kuwait, Qatar, Korea, Saudi Arabia and the UAE (under countries of destination category).  
Before the formal ministerial meeting, senior officials of the member countries will meet on October 19 as part of final preparation for the ministerial meeting.  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the meeting as the chief guest while Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain will inaugurate the meeting of senior officials.  
Over 2.5 million Asian workers leave their countries every year under contracts to work abroad.  
In response to calls from several Asian labour sending countries, the ministerial consultations for Asian labour sending countries were held in 2003 in Colombo.  
Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam at the consultation made recommendations for the effective management of overseas employment programmes and agreed to regular follow-up meetings.  
Since then, the member states of the "Colombo Process" had met in Manila in 2004 and Bali in 2005 to review and monitor the implementation of previous recommendations and identify areas of future actions.  
Bangladesh took over the rotational chairmanship of this regional consultative process on December 14 in 2009.  
A further consultation between Europe and Colombo Process countries is scheduled to take place in early 2011.

# SCBA protests police search

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) president and secretary yesterday strongly protested the search incident at the Nayapaltna chamber of Abdur Razzaq, principal counsel for the detained Jamaat leaders, by policemen on Monday.  
SCBA president Khandaker Mahbub Hossain and its secretary Md Badruddoza in a statement also expressed serious concern over comments made by policemen during the search.  
Two plainclothes policemen entered Razzaq's chamber at about 12:00noon on Monday and started searching the room, saying they had information that bombs are made there.  
This amounts to a threat to the lawyers doing their jobs, the SCBA leaders said.  
The lawyers don't support the offences but take the responsibility to prove whether the accused are guilty or innocent on the basis of evidence and documents, they observed.

# Death anniversary

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Today is the third death anniversary of Sheikh Shahadat Hossain (Abdul Hai), a lifetime member of Munshiganj Bikrampur Samity and former senior official of Sonali Bank Limited.  
On the occasion, doa and milad mahfil will be held at his village Shimulia in Munshiganj and at the Malibagh Jamey Mosque in the city after Asr prayers.  
Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the milad mahfil and pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.



Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurates a tree plantation programme in front of Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhavan on the campus yesterday. (Story on Page 3) PHOTO: DU

# WEATHER

## Thundershowers likely

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi division with moderately heavy falls at places in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.  
Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.  
**The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:17am tomorrow.**  
Country's highest temperature 35.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.4 degrees Celsius at Rangamati.  
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	32.9	25.6	73	65
Chittagong	31.7	25.5	82	76
Rajshahi	35.0	26.6	77	75
Khulna	33.0	26.5	77	76
Barisal	32.4	26.6	76	76
Sylhet	33.0	26.6	75	73
Cox's Bazar	32.7	25.0	73	80

# Army man among 3 killed in road accidents

**METRO DESK**  
Three people, including an army man, were killed in separate road accidents in three districts on Tuesday and yesterday.  
Chapainawabganj correspondent adds: An army man was killed in a road accident on Rohonpur-Naogaon road at Dhulauri in Gomostapur upazila on Tuesday.  
The dead was identified as Tohidul Islam, 22, son of Zalat Uddin of Rosulpur village in Neyamotpur upazila under Naogaon district.  
Tohidul was a sepoy of Dhaka cantonment and he was on leave, said police.  
Police said the accident took place when a Nasim (locally made vehicle) hit bicyclist Tohidul around 1:30pm while he was returning home from his father-in-laws house at Rohonpur.  
Locals rushed him to Gomostapur health complex where he died.  
The body was sent to the sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.  
Dinajpur correspondent adds: A muazzin of a

mosque was killed in a road accident in Dinajpur yesterday noon.  
The dead was identified as Kamal Hossain, 22, son of Ismail Hossain of Nashipur village in Sadar upazila.  
After the death, villagers blocked the Dhaka-Dinajpur highway for an hour.  
Police said Kamal was critically injured when a Dinajpur-bound bus hit him while crossing the road in front of Dinajpur Soil Testing Institute.  
He was rushed to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital where he died around 12:45pm.  
Our Khagrachhari correspondent says: A man was killed when a motorbike hit his motorbike near Buyachhari Ansar Camp in Sadar upazila at 11:30am yesterday.  
The dead was identified as Amar Jyoti Chakma, 24, son of Birbahu Chakma of Sadar upazila.  
Another motorbike rider Mintu Bikash Chakma, son of Wanchai Chakma from Ramgor upazila in the district was also injured in the accident.  
The injured was admitted to the Sadar hospital where his condition was stated to be critical.

# Moudud threatens addl attorney general

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Former BNP law minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday threatened Additional Attorney General (AG) Murad Reza on the High Court premises for opposing a writ petition challenging the detention of a Dhaka City Corporation ward councillor from his party.  
Soon after the hearing on the petition by an HC bench, Moudud, a counsel for petitioner Chowdhury Alam, told Murad that BNP will come to

state power three and a half years later, and "I will then see you (Murad)."  
Mahbub Uddin Khokon, who assisted Moudud in the case, told the AG that they will take revenge after BNP comes to power. "One swallow does not make a summer," he said.  
Murad replied that he is ready for everything.  
The HC bench comprised of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain heard the writ petition.