

DMP launches 'safety first' campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police launched a campaign, distributing safety leaflets, in a bid to curb crime during Eid holidays in the city.

Police planned the campaign as most of the city dwellers are leaving for their village homes to celebrate Eid.

The leaflet, titled "Safety first", sets out a number of precautionary measures which trippers can take before leaving their homes, as well as advises on what they should do to have a safe journey.

It starts with some simple instructions like the need to switch off lights and fans before leaving homes and to ensure that gas stoves and water taps are not leaking.

The leaflet then urges trippers to move important documents and valuables to safer places and instruct security guards and tenants of their houses to not allow strangers into the premises without verifying identifications.

"Risk of robbers, burglars and break-ins are higher during big festivals," said police, "everyone needs to be vigilant and take some simple precautions to avoid being robbed."

"The idea is to spread the message to as many people as possible, giving a reminder of what to do and not to do," added police.

Around 10 lakh copies of the leaflet have been circulated to households, shops, businesses and among people in different areas of the city.

The leaflet warns businesspeople not to keep cash on their stores in shopping malls or markets, stressing on the need to ensure that

sales persons or security guards of the store is reliable.

"Be extra careful when carrying cash. Use a private car or police protection if required," it urges.

This is the first time the police has launched such a campaign ahead of the country's biggest religious festival.

Tejgaon police said the festival season is high time for snatchers, robbers and swindlers especially from groups like the "ogyan" and "malam" parties, who are on the prowl.

"Citizens need to keep in mind that being careful and cautious about a few simple things will help them avoid any untoward incident," the police added.

The leaflet stresses how trippers should avoid carrying valuables with them while travelling at night and to keep car or bus windows closed while stuck in traffic jam.

It also features sections on safety issues that need to be considered while shopping at malls or leaving cars at parking spaces.

City dwellers welcomed the move.

"Although we usually know what kind of precautionary measures to take, these leaflets would be a useful reminder for many," said Sadeque Hossain from Tejgaon.

"The police should play a major role in creating awareness about safety issues and this is a good example," he said.

Copies of the leaflets are available in police stations and would be distributed to more city areas through newspaper hawkers, said police sources.



Homebound people through the Sadarghat launch terminal yesterday and embark on the launch roofs even risking life to make sure they are at home before Eid.

PHOTO: STAR



Aanoop Singh, director for Asia and the Pacific Department of the IMF, calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

PHOTO: PID

INT'L LITERACY DAY TODAY Call to build illiteracy-free Bangladesh

BSS, Dhaka

International Literacy Day 2010 will be observed in the country as elsewhere over the world today.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday issued separate messages on the occasion.

Zillur in his message called upon all irrespective of party and opinion to step forward with an united efforts for building an illiteracy-free prosperous Bangladesh.

He said the ongoing illiteracy-eradicating programme need to be turned to a social movement for attaining expected success.

The president said it's very important to transform huge illiterate population to skilled manpower through proper education.

"I believe, the equal and sustainable development of the country is hugely depended on it," he added.

Noting that the present government is fully committed to full eradication of illiteracy from the country, Zillur said the one of the major components of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina declared 'Vision

2021' is to build illiteracy-free Bangladesh within 2014.

"The role of private initiatives along with the government programme is also very important in this regard," the president said.

The president expressed his firm belief that building of an illiteracy-free prosperous Bangladesh will possible with an integrated efforts of all.

He wished success of International Literacy Day 2010 to be observed today.

Meanwhile, the prime minister in her message called for educating all people with united efforts for building a 'Sonar Bangla' dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In a message on the eve of International Literacy Day-2010, she said the government has fixed a target of enrolling all children in primary schools by 2011 while eradicating illiteracy within 2014.

Hasina said there is no alternative to educating every citizen of the country to build a 'Digital Bangladesh'.

She wished success of all programmes of the Day.

BEGUM ROKEYA UNIVERSITY Admission test begins December 11

BSS, Rangpur

Admission tests for the first year honours courses for the third academic session 2010-11 in Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur will begin from December 11, and registration of admission forms online from October 5.

The university authorities said 60 students will be enrolled in each of the 15 departments, four of them introduced newly, under three faculties.

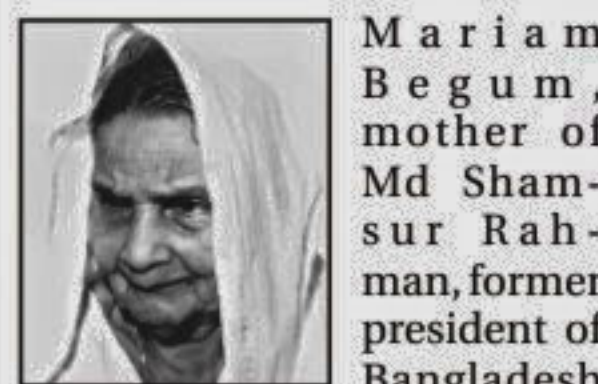
The university authorities have launched registration facilities online of the admission forms for the first time.

Admission seekers are required to reach admission forms on www.brur.ac.bd, download them, and get registered in an easy way, the university sources said. Forms will be available on the website from October 5 to November 12.

The 15 departments are mathematics, computer science and engineering, Bangla, English, economics, history, management, marketing, statistics, geography and environmental science, accounting and information system, physics, chemistry, political science, and social science.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



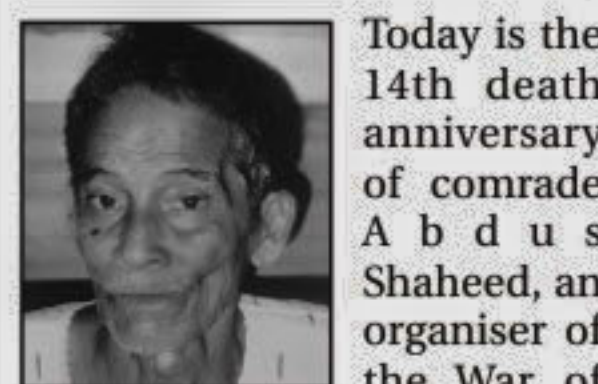
Mariam Begum, mother of Md Shamsur Rahman, former president of Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers' Association (BPTA), passed away due to old age complications at her Savar residence on Monday at the age of 106, says a press release.

She left behind her three sons, two daughters and a host of well-wishers to mourn her death.

She was laid to rest at the Imandipur graveyard in Savar after Zohr prayers yesterday.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 14th death anniversary of comrade A b d u s Shaheed, an organiser of the War of Liberation, politician, journalist and writer, says a press release.

Different socio-cultural organisations have taken different programmes to observe the day.

Abdu Shaheed Sangsad will hold a discussion at the National Press Club conference room in the city at 4:00pm on September 25, marking the day.

All have been requested to attend the discussion.

Investing in most disadvantaged children can save millions

Says new Unicef study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The global community can save millions of lives by investing first in the most disadvantaged children and communities, says a new Unicef study released yesterday.

The study was presented in two publications titled "Narrowing the gaps to meet the goals" and "Progress for children: Achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs) with equity".

They suggest that such an approach would also address the widening disparities that are accompanying progress toward the MDGs.

"Our findings challenge the traditional thinking that focusing on the poorest and most disadvantaged children is not cost-effective," said Anthony Lake, Unicef's executive director.

By comparing the effectiveness of different strategies for delivering critical health interventions to those in greatest need, the study states that targeting the poorest and most disadvantaged children could save more lives per \$1 million spent.

"An equity-focused strategy will yield not only a moral victory, right in principle, but an even more exciting one, right in practice," he added.

Key findings of the Unicef study states that equity focused approach improves returns on investment and averts many more child and maternal deaths, a US \$1 million investment in reducing under five deaths in a low-income and high mortality country could avert an estimated 60 percent more deaths than the current approach and ill health and illiteracy are concentrated in the most impoverished child populations.

Providing these children with essential services can greatly accelerate progress towards the MDGs and reduce disparities within nations, says a Unicef press release.

"The results of the Unicef study made me think that the equity focus can be persuasive on an instrumental as well as a values basis," said Lawrence Haddad, director of the Institute of Development Studies.

"Progress for children: Meeting the MDGs with equity" presents evidence of disparities across a range of key indicators, including between developing and industrial nations, richest and poorest quintiles within nations, between rural and urban populations and between boys and girls.

The study states that children from the poorest 20 percent of households in the developing world are more than

twice as likely to die before reaching their fifth birthdays as children from the richest 20 percent of households.

The study also focuses on other factors that may affect the progress toward the MDGs, such as children in the poorest quintiles of their societies are more than twice as likely to be overweight. They face a much greater risk of stunting compared to children from the richest quintiles.

Despite strides towards achieving gender parity in primary education over the past decade, girls and young women in developing regions remain at a considerable disadvantage in access to education, particularly at the secondary level.

Out of 884 million people who lack access to improved drinking water sources, 84 percent of them live in rural areas.

The Unicef reports are being released in conjunction with a report by Save the Children, "A fair chance at life: Why equity matters for children," which focuses on MDG 4, reducing under five mortality by two thirds between 1990 and 2015.

The Save the Children report examines the disparities in progress on child survival between the wealthy and less well off in countries around the world.

It asserts that reaching marginalised communities is key to reducing inequities and achieving MDG 4.

"The millennium declaration was designed to improve the lives of the world's most disadvantaged people," said Lake.

"We believe this study's findings can have a real effect on global thinking about how we are pursuing the MDGs and about human development generally, helping us to improve the lives of millions of vulnerable children," he added.



Abdullah Bin Beah, vice-president of World Association of Muslim Scholars and former minister for religious affairs and waqf in Mauritania, calls on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in Saudi Arabia yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP

DU online admission website launched

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka University (DU) launched its online admission website on yesterday.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique inaugurated the website

at a ceremony at the Administrative Bhaban of the university.

Deans of different faculties, teachers, high officials and others were present on the occasion.

Addressing the occasion, Dr Arefin hoped that different difficulties faced by the admission seekers will be reduced following the launching of online admission system.

He sought cooperation from media for presenting the whole online admission process in an easy manner to the students.



No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:10pm today and rises at 5:43am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 25.4 degrees Celsius at Rangamati and Sylhet.

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	34.0	27.4	80	69
Chittagong	32.5	25.9	79	78
Rajshahi	35.0	26.5	80	84
Khulna	34.5	27.4	74	84
Barisal	32.5	27.2	84	76
Sylhet	31.4	25.4	98	81
Cox's Bazar	33.5	25.5	80	80

Schoolboy murder: 2 held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two 22 year olds were arrested Monday night on charges of kidnapping and murdering a schoolboy in May this year in the port city.

The kidnappers continued to demand ransom, four months after murdering the victim, which was revealed when police arrested the criminals on Monday night.

The arrestees are Saiful Islam, 22, and Ruhul Amin Raju, 22.

The victim was identified as Ashraf Hossain Babu, 16, the only son of Asgar Hossain, proprietor of Jan Optical Company located at the city's Laldighi area.

A joint team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Detective Branch (DB) and Halishahar Police Station, after relentless attempts, arrested Saiful from in front of Agrabad Women's College.

Acting on confessions made by Saiful, the law enforcers arrested Raju from MA Aziz Stadium area the same night.

Sources said Babu went missing on May 16 at around 7:00pm on his way back home at Kotwali after he left his aunt's residence at Block-A, Halishahar.

A person rang up Asgar over cell phone at around 9:30pm on the same night, telling him that his son has been held hostage and demanded Tk20 lakh as ransom.

"The same person phoned me again the next morning at around 10:30am and since then I found the cell phone switched

off," said Asgar. He added that he filed a case with Halishahar Police Station when Babu did not return home within two or three days.

Saiful, while talking to reporters at DB office yesterday, confessed to the kidnapping.

He said he knew Babu as Asgar was a friend of his father Shafiqul Islam, a wholesaler of spectacles.

Saiful said he requested Babu over cell phone to come to Dewanhat intersection from where he and his friend, Raju, met the boy.

The two took Babu to an apartment on the ground floor of a five storey building, Sarkar Mansion, at Rangipara under Halishahar.

Saiful rented on the fourth floor while Raju had recently rented the ground floor of the apartment as part of the plan to keep Babu hostage there, he added.

He said, once at the apartment, they tied Babu's eyes and hands and gave him soft drinks mixed with eight sleeping pills to drink and went out.

They went to the apartment the next morning at around 11:00am and found Babu dead, he added.

They put Babu's body in a paper carton, took it to Oxygen-Quaish road on a CNG-run auto rickshaw and dropped it on a roadside ditch on May 18, Saiful said.

According to police and Babu's family members, Saiful demanded Asgar on August 17 and demanded payment of the ransom if he wanted to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr with his son.

Saiful phoned Asgar several times in the last couple of weeks and fixed the ransom at Tk2 lakh.

Asgar went to three places of Sadarghat, Lucky Plaza and Agrabad CDA residential area with the money on Monday evening according to Saiful's directions before the law enforcers, who were tracing Asgar, could arrest Saiful.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) of Rab 7 Saiful Hasan said they faced problems in tracking Saiful by his mobile phone since he used two sim (Subscriber Identity Module) cards.



Saiful Islam, left, and Ruhul Amin Raju, right, were arrested on Monday night on charge of murdering schoolboy Ashraf Hossain Babu, inset.

PHOTO: STAR