

## NEWS IN *brief*

### SC reopens today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday reconstituted powers of 22 High Court benches, as the Supreme Court will reopen today after a two-week summer vacation, SC sources said.

The Appellate and High Court Divisions of SC went on vacation on June 26.

During the vacation, a bench of Appellate Division and some benches of the High Court Division heard some urgent matters.

### 2 held with 80kg of marijuana

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested yesterday morning two alleged drug traders in the city's Jatrabari and seized around 80kg of marijuana from their possession.

Arrested are Helal, 30, and Alai, 40.

Police said they stopped a microbus at the check post near Kazla Haq Petrol Pump and found the marijuana and 205 pieces of Indian sarees following a search.

The arrestees told police that the drugs they were carrying belong to a Haq Kazi, and those were meant for a shop at Babubazar in Old Dhaka.

Police seized the microbus. A case was filed with Jatrabari Police Station in this connection.

### Unequal distribution threat to food security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a symposium yesterday identified unequal distribution of food as a threat to food security rather than growing population.

Dr Ahmed AN Neaz, assistant professor of American International University of Bangladesh, presented the keynote paper at the programme.

He said 11.5 million tonnes of food were produced in 1975, and food production tripled to 31.6 million tonnes in 2009-10 when the country's population doubled. Still food security could not be ensured, he said, quoting a report of the United Nations.

The symposium "Population growth and the challenge of food security" was organised by United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) in the city's Bilia auditorium.

UNAB President Prof Muzaffer Ahmed and Secretary General Syed Mohammad Shahed addressed it among others.

## Banned books, leaflets seized: 7 teachers held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested seven teachers including the principal of a school in the city's Kotwali and seized huge number of banned books, leaflets, and other "anti-government" publications from the school compound.

Police claimed the arrestees are the activists of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, who have been working to collect militant activists through motivating people. The schoolteachers were also involved in anti-government campaign, police said.

Mohammad Alamgir Hossain, 52, principal of Dhaka Model Pre-cadet and High School, is the treasurer of Kotwali Thana unit Jamaat-e-Islami and Nure Alam Siddique, 63, works as his deputy, said police.

The other five arrestees are Mohammad Ismail Khan, 29, Mohammad Sirazul Islam, 22, Tazul Islam, 36, Mohammad Obaidullah, 23, and Mohammad Rustam Ali, 25.

Mohammad Razib-al-Masud, assistant commissioner of Kotwali Zone, said Alamgir Hossain and Nure Alam started the school in 1990 to run the party's activities in the guise of teaching kids. "They recruited party activists as teachers and apparently used the school as a den", he added.

The police officer also claimed to have found a flag like that of Pakistan's inside the school office. "The school authority used to clean furniture with our national flag rather than hoisting it", he said.

Police also recovered anti-government booklets and CDs and posters demanding release of the war criminals from the school office.

Filing of a case with Kotwali Police Station was underway in this connection.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Willes Little Flower School and College kept open yesterday, despite Saturday being the school holiday, to make up lessons to students hampered by July 6-7 hartal in the city.

### AUW asks 12 expelled students to leave campus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The authorities of Asian University for Women (AUW) asked 12 expelled students to leave the campus as their expulsion order was upheld following a meeting with the guardians and students yesterday.

On June 12 the students including nine Bangladeshis, two Sri Lankans, and one Indian were expelled for poor academic performance in their second semester.

### 'Cancel 15th amendment'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of pro-BNP young lawyers yesterday demanded cancellation of the 15th amendment to the constitution, saying that the amendment could not fulfil the desire and expectations of people.

The lawyers made the demand at a press conference organised under the banner of Bangladesher Tarun Ainjibi Brindo (Young lawyers of Bangladesh) at south hall of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

Barrister Parvez Ahmed read out a written statement at the press conference.

### Death anniversary

DU CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 20th death anniversary of Advocate Shamsuddin Molla, a former lawmaker and also an organiser of War of Liberation, says a press release.

On the occasion, prayers will be offered and wreath will be placed at his grave.



#### Discussion

National Board of Revenue will hold a discussion. Venue: Officers Club, 1, Baily Road, Time: 10:45am.

#### Rally

Bangladesh Awami Ulama League will arrange a rally. Venue: 23, Bangabandhu Avenue, Time: 11:00am.

#### Meeting

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association will hold a meeting. Venue: Bangladesh Bank Office, Time: 3:00pm.

#### Art competition

Dhakabashi will organise a children art competition. Venue: National Museum auditorium, Time: 4:00pm.

### GAS EXPLORATION IN DEEP-SEA BLOCKS

## Call to ensure transparency in deal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should ensure maximum transparency in the production sharing contract signed with US oil company ConocoPhillips for oil and gas exploration from two deep-sea blocks, said noted academician Prof Muzaffer Ahmad yesterday.

Terming the contract "opaque", he said it does not guarantee people's ownership on the country's oil and gas, and that transparency must be ensured to establish people's ownership effectively.

He was speaking at a press conference organised by Bangladesh

Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday.

The government should include a provision in the contract making it mandatory to sell the entire gas except that for recovery cost to Petrobangla to fulfil the country's energy demand, said Prof Ahmad, the president of Bapa.

On the environment issue, he said the nation experienced environmental disasters while exploring gas in the past. "The government should remain alert so the gas and oil exploration does not cause any damage to the environment."

Condemning the police attack on

leaders and activists of the national committee to protect oil, gas, mineral resources, power and ports during the half-day hartal last Sunday, he said all sorts of disagreement should be resolved through dialogues, not through violence or by force for the sake of democracy.

Reading out a written statement, Bapa Joint Secretary Zakir Hossain demanded formulation of a law to ban export of mineral resources in order to solve energy crisis in the country.

Bapa General Secretary Abdul Matin also spoke at the press conference.



PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

A mobile court of Department of Environment tests water of the Louhajang river in Tangail yesterday.

## Articulated bus to reduce traffic jam in city soon

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to introduce articulated buses with higher passenger capacity in a bid to reduce the traffic jam in the city.

Some 50 articulated buses will be imported from India to join the BRTC fleet under the one billion dollar Indian line of credit.

According to sources in BRTC, the government is introducing the articulated bus services under a pilot project to ease the nagging traffic congestion in the city. In fact, introduction of articulated buses was decided by the government a year ago.

The new buses will be pressed into service on Gabtali-Asadgate-Farmgate-Shahbagh-Gulistan route.

The prime minister has recently said government would not take into consideration the loss and profit of the state-owned BRTC as it is for providing services to the people.

At present, the BRTC has 1,031 buses in its fleet. The government has procured 275

buses from China and 255 from Korea.

Another 295 double-decker buses, 100 air-conditioned buses and 50 articulated buses will be procured from India to add to the BRTC fleet. These buses will be purchased under the one billion dollar Indian line of credit.

According to the Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB), there is no alternative to introduction of articulated bus service in Dhaka city, as traffic congestion is getting worse day by day.

Some 4,000 minibuses are now plying in the city and those need to be phased out to ease the traffic jam.

The DTCB also viewed for making the city roads free from rickshaws before introducing the articulated bus services.

Articulated buses (either motorbuses or trolleybuses), also known as tandem buses, bendy buses, banana buses, slinky buses, caterpillar buses or accordion buses (and not to be confused with flexible buses), are the type with an high passenger capacity.

## RIVER POLLUTION IN TANGAIL 3 industries fined Tk 60 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A mobile court of the Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined three mills and industries Tk 60 lakh for polluting the river Louhajang in the sadar upazila.


Penalised are Alauddin Textile Mills in Khudirampur and Universal Yarn Dyeing and Supti Chemical Works in Tangail BISIC area.

The mobile court fined Alauddin Textile Tk 30 lakh for not setting up effluent treatment plant (ETP) properly and polluting the adjacent Louhajang river. It also directed the mill authorities to keep their production shut until the ETP is properly set up.

Universal Yarn Dyeing was fined Tk 22 lakh for operating without the ETP and polluting the river and for not having the DoE clearance certificate renewed.

The mobile court fined Supti Chemical Works Tk 7 lakh as the industrial unit was found running without ETP and polluting the river. Supti authorities were also directed to keep its production shut till setting up of the ETP.

Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, director (monitoring and enforcement) of the DoE, led the drive. Mahbubur Rahman, an assistant director of the DoE, and Hasan Imam, acting assistant director, Tangail, accompanied the team, among others.



**WEATHER  
TODAY**

### Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said.

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degrees Celsius over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:19am tomorrow.**

Country's highest temperature 35.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.5 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	34.2	26.8	75	69
Chittagong	31.0	26.0	79	78
Rajshahi	35.4	26.2	83	74
Rangpur	33.5	26.5	85	65
Khulna	34.7	26.5	81	81
Barisal	33.8	26.5	84	94
Sylhet	32.7	25.7	81	78
Cox's Bazar	32.6	26.0	77	77