

NEWS IN

brief

### 35 Jamaat men on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed 35 activists of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami on a four-day remand in two cases filed for assaulting police and an attempt to kidnap one of them.

They were arrested from city's Malibagh area on Monday while they got themselves engaged in clash with police.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shahdat Hossain passed the order after Sub-Inspector Zafar Ali, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, produced them before it with a seven-day remand prayer in each case.

### Indian minister due tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Cooperation between India and Bangladesh in power sector is expected to come up for discussion when Indian Power Minister Sushilkumar Shinde visits Dhaka on September 15.

Shinde will leave for Dhaka tomorrow to attend the 4th Saarc Energy Ministers' Meeting to be held on September 15.

He will be accompanied by a high-powered Indian delegation.

The Saarc meeting will review regional cooperation in energy sector and also explore an appropriate regional inter-governmental framework for energy cooperation.

### Woman succumbs to burn injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife succumbed to her burn injuries yesterday morning after fighting for life for 12 days in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The deceased was identified as Jannatul Ferdous Beauty, 27, of Ramganj, Laxmipur.

She was admitted to the burn unit on September 1 with 30 percent burn in her body.

Her sister Rina Begum said Beauty torched herself after a feud with Eman Hossain Emon at her friend's house in the city's Shanir Akhra that day.

### British national confesses crime

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The British national, who was arrested in Sylhet city for allegedly abusing a Bangladeshi boy, gave a confessional statement yesterday before the court in the presence of Senior Judicial Magistrate Shamsuddin Masum.

Sylhet Kotwali Police produced the accused Peter Allison, 55, before the court at the end of his 3-day remand yesterday. He was sent back to the jail later, court sources said.

Sources said Peter admitted the sexual abuse charge brought against him.

### 10,000 Yaba tablets seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Coast Guard arrested three drug peddlers and recovered 10,000 pieces of Yaba tablets from an engine-run trawler near St Martin's Island in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The arrestees are Mohammad Abdus Salam, 60, Mohammad Ilias, 30, and Abdur Rahman, 22.

### Danish businessman in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Haldor Topsøe, chairman and founder of the Topsøe Company in Denmark, came on a five-day official visit to Bangladesh on September 11, says a press release.

He will lay the foundation stone of a new school of Utsho Bangladesh, a social welfare organisation, for the underprivileged children in Sreepur, Gazipur.

Dr Topsøe is scheduled to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today.

Utsho received six bighas of land donated by Dr Topsøe to set up the school. Utsho runs three schools for underprivileged children -- in Badda and Rayerbazar, Dhaka, and in Sreepur, Gazipur.

# Stipend for degree-level girls gets Ecneec nod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved a Tk 343-crore stipend project for degree-level female students.

Around six lakh students will get Tk 200 per month for five years with retrospective effect from July this year under the programme. Each student will also receive Tk 1,500 to buy books and Tk 1,000 for examination fees per year. In addition, their institutions will get Tk 60 per month against the tuition fees of each student, according to the proposal placed by the planning ministry at the meeting.

Chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Ecneec meeting approved 14 projects totalling Tk 4,107 crore including a Tk 184-crore project for constructing two buildings for the Election

Commission. At present, the Election Commission Secretariat is housed at a planning ministry building.

One 12-storey building and another 13-storey building will be constructed for the commission in the capital's Agargaon, Planning Minister AK Khandaker told reporters after the meeting at the NEC conference room at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital.

The stipend project will be implemented in phases till 2016.

The project aims to help the female students of poor families to have higher education and create human resources by ensuring a balanced male-female education rate.

"This is an extension of the government's current stipend programme. The students will start getting the money soon," Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told The

Daily Star over the phone.

Orphans, disabled, children of freedom fighters and extreme poor, and the students whose parents own land less than 75 decimals with an annual income of less than Tk 75,000 are entitled to get the benefit.

## 14 projects worth Tk 4,107cr approved

To get this, students must have a minimum 75 percent attendance in the class and successful completion of their 1st year and 2nd year examinations.

At present, some 40 lakh students of different levels get stipend.

The Ecneec also approved a Tk 1,493-crore "One house one farm" project with a view to reducing pov-

erty and developing the locality through improving the living standard of rural people of the country, a planning ministry press release said.

A four-year project to solve the stagnation problem of the Kobadak river will be implemented at a cost of Tk 262 crore. The project includes dredging of the Kobadak and digging of a number of canals in Khulna belt and construction of embankments.

Some of the other projects approved include construction of fisheries diploma institutes in Gopalganj, Kishoreganj and Sirajganj districts at Tk 123 crore, widening and development of Barguna-Betagi-Neamati-Bakerganj road at Tk 107 crore, farmers' training for disseminating technology at upazila level at Tk 99 crore and strengthening governance management project at Tk 135 crore.



(From left) Shipa Hafiz, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, Dr Mahub Hossain, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin Choudhury, and Prof Kazi Faruque Ahmed take part in a view exchange meeting on the role of teachers and guardians in ending sexual harassment, organised by Meyeder Jonno Nirapad Nagorikotto (Mejnin) at Brac Centre in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## One killed in Cox's Bazar gunfight

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

At least one was killed and five others injured in a 'gunfight' between a gang of illegal loggers and forest guards in Tulabagan on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Road yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Kabir Hossain, 33, an alleged logger from Chowkidarpara of Ramu upazila of the district.

Bipul Krishna Das, divisional forest officer of Cox's Bazar (DFO) said the incident occurred when some forest guards spotted a gang of 100 illegal loggers felling trees in the area.

Following the guards' protests, the loggers launched an attack on them which triggered the gunfight, said the DFO.

Kabir was caught in the line of fire and died on the spot while five others were hurt, including Nazrul Islam, a forest guard, he added.

Khushi Mohan Das, a local forester filed a case with Ramu Police Station accusing over 100 unidentified people including an injured logger Md Yousuf.

## Shipping minister sues Jugantor editor

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned the editor, executive editor and a reporter of the Daily Jugantor asking them to appear before the court on October 18, hours after a defamation case was filed against them by the shipping minister.

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan filed the defamation case against editor advocate Salma Islam, executive editor Saiful Alam and reporter Jashim Chowdhury Shabuj yesterday morning on charge of running two news items against him in the newspaper.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate AGMAI Masud, recorded the statement of complainant taking into cognizance the defamation charge against them and asked them to appear before the court on the scheduled date.

Shahjahan Khan mentioned in the case statement about two reports the daily ran on August 24 and 25 with headlines saying "Wastage of crores of money by shipping minister in name of experience" and "14 trips abroad".

Terming the news reports as false and fabricated, the minister said it was published in a bid to tarnish his image.

The items were published to damage his reputation, name and fame in the political arena, the minister added.

Advocate Sheikh Hemayet Hossain appeared before the court on behalf of the minister.

## NEWBORN'S DEATH SC stays HC order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court order till October 16 which earlier directed police to arrest the officials, doctors and nurses allegedly responsible for the death of a newborn at Ibn Sina Hospital.

Justice MA Wahhab Miah, chamber judge of the SC, passed the order after holding hearing on a petition filed by the hospital authorities seeking stay on the HC order.

The HC directed police on August 25 to arrest the trustee board members, two doctors and two nurses of Ibn Sina Hospital, who attended the delivery of the newborn.

The doctors and nurses allegedly neglected their duties in treating the baby and committed an offence as they did not allow the parents to see the baby in the hospital on August 9.

The HC passed the order following a report on the incident aired by a private television channel on August 15.

Idris Sikder, father of the deceased, filed a case with Dhanmondi Police Station on August 24 accusing two doctors and two nurses of the hospital for their negligence in duty. The newborn died on August 9.

## Pran staff found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A private company employee was found dead on rail track in the city's Banani on Monday evening after three days into his missing.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Sabbir Sheikh, 20, sales representative of Pran group. He used to live at Kaliganj in Gazipur, police said.

Family members of the deceased suspect that Sabbir was killed.

## MARITIME DISPUTE WITH MYANMAR

# Bangladesh ends first round of arguments in int'l court

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has concluded the first round of its arguments on its claim in the maritime boundary dispute with Myanmar at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in Hamburg, Germany.

Dhaka will present the second round of arguments on September 21 after Myanmar presents its case beginning September 15, according to a Foreign Ministry press release from Hamburg.

Bangladesh began its arguments on September 8.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Additional Foreign Secretary Rear Admiral (retd) Khurshid Alam, and Bangladesh appointed international lawyers made strong arguments in favour of Bangladesh's claim.

The press release said Bangladesh on the 4th day of its presentation yes-

terday covered entirely the issues related to the delimitation of the outer continental shelf, which extends up to 390-460 nautical miles (NM) in the Bay of Bengal.

Bangladesh counsel Dr Lindsay Parson of Maritime Zones Solutions Ltd of UK began Bangladesh's presentation in the morning and another counsel, R Parson, presented to the Tribunal a vivid overview of geological evolution of the Bay of Bengal, the distinctive features of the tectonic plates on which Bangladesh and Myanmar situate.

Parson also explained provisions of Article 76 of the Convention and entitlement of Bangladesh to the outer continental shelf (OCS).

Also yesterday, Khurshed Alam presented the data and methodology used by Bangladesh in preparing the Article 76 continental shelf submission

which was lodged with the United Nations on February 25, 2011.

Prof Boyle then took up the podium to discuss the methods and principles of outer continental shelf delimitation in legal perspective.

Prof Boyle referred to the provisions of Article 76 and decision of International Court in the North Sea Case to define natural prolongation which is fundamental for a country to claim OCS.

He then proposed that since Myanmar does not have any entitlement to geological outer continental shelf after 200 NM, the entire overlapping area should be given to Bangladesh.

However, Prof Boyle also said, in case, the Tribunal decides otherwise regarding Myanmar's entitlement to the OCS, the delimitation has to be effected equitably as per Article 83 of the Convention.

# ACC starts action against 448 self-confessed corrupt people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has launched action against all the 448 people who were exempted by now defunct Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac) for confessing their involvement in corruption and surrendering the ill-gotten wealth.

In its routine monthly meeting with the media, ACC Director General (admin and establishment) Farrukh Ahmed briefed journalists on the decision at its headquarters yesterday.

About 270 of the total self-confessed corrupt were accused in corruption cases filed by the ACC at the time when they sought clemency from Tac, halting the proceedings of all the cases against them midway.

Former chief engineer of Sylhet City Corporation Saiful Islam and his wife

Rozina Sultana Rimi, a self-confessed corrupt couple exempted by Tac, had their case stalled just ahead of submission of charge sheet.

On September 13, the ACC pressed charges against the couple accusing them of amassing wealth worth Tk 17.04 crore and concealing information of wealth worth Tk 5.80 crore.

"The ACC cases stalled midway would be dealt with priority as the number of self-confessed corrupt is very big", said ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman. "We, however, would examine all the cases and initiate legal proceedings thereby".

The Supreme Court in May announced the Truth and Accountability Commission illegal, paving the way for the ACC to revive the cases.

Replying to a question, the ACC DG said Tarique Rahman and Arafat

Rahman Koko, sons of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, might be questioned if investigation finds their complicity in abusing power to establish Zia charitable trust.

The ACC is currently investigating the case it filed in early August this year. Besides Khaleda Zia, Tarique and Koko are also trustees of the trust.

Meanwhile, the commission selected 123 allegations out of total 645 submitted in August this year for preliminary enquiry. The commission approved filing of 49 cases against 94 people in the same month on charge of amassing wealth from beyond known sources of income and concealing information about their wealth.

The commission also approved submitting charge sheet against 93 people in 47 cases during the same period.

WEATHER TODAY

Moderate to heavy rains likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over southern parts of the country and it may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:04pm today and rises at 5:45am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 37.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.5 degrees Celsius at Cox's Bazar.

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	36.2	29.4	66	83
Chittagong	32.8	27.7	84	86
Rajshahi	36.6	27.5	75	66
Rangpur	36.0	28.0	65	59
Khulna	35.2	28.5	81	96
Barisal	33.2	27.5	84	92
Sylhet	37.8	27.8	68	60
Cox's Bazar	30.5	24.5	94	83

Roundtable

Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh will hold a roundtable. Venue: Plot No-16, Road No-10/A, Block-H, Banani, Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Oxfam and CSRL will jointly organise a discussion. Venue: Cirdap auditorium, Time: 10:00am.

Meeting

Jatiya Gonotantrik League will hold a meeting. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion

Sammlito Islami Jote will hold a discussion. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 4:00pm.

Meeting

Onneshan will hold a meeting. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

ADD International will hold a discussion. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

Meeting

Bangladesh Youth Forum will hold a meeting. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 4:00pm.