

NEWS IN *brief*

PM's 8-hour stopover in Dubai

UNB, Dubai

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made an 8-hour stopover at Dubai International Airport on her way to New York to attend the 66th UNGA session.

The prime minister boarding an emirates flight reached Dubai at 12:20am (local time).

On her arrival here, she was received by Bangladesh ambassador to the UAE Nazmul Qaunain.

Hasina was scheduled to leave Dubai for New York at 8:30am (local time). She is scheduled to arrive in New York at local time 2:30pm.

Hasina left Dhaka at 9:35pm on Saturday.

Science fair ends at Notre Dame

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-day science festival ended at Notre Dame College in the city on Saturday, says a press release.

The Trust Bank Notre Dame National Science Fair 2011 showcased 284 science projects while competitions were held on sudoku, mathematics, physics, astronomy, web page designing and digital posters, among others.

The festival's award ceremony will be held on October 22 at the college auditorium.

Youth dies under train's wheels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified youth was killed under the wheels of a train at the city's Khilgaon Bagicha yesterday.

Government Railway Police (GRP) sources said the youth, aged about 30, was wearing a jeans pant and white full-sleeved check shirt.

GRP found the body around 6:30am on the rail track and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue.

Cop killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A police inspector was killed in a road crash in front of APBN camp of Old Bus Station area in Rangamati yesterday.

The deceased is identified as Md Abdul Karim Sarker, an inspector (inquiry) of Kotwali Police Station of Rangamati, from Bhaddraghata of Brahmanbaria.

The accident took place at about 11:30am when a motorcycle from opposite direction collided head-on with Karim's motorcycle while he along with a police constable was going to New Court Building area, said police.

Karim was first rushed to the Rangamati General Hospital and succumbed to his injuries on way to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Satkhira flood: BNP concerned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday expressed deep concern and resentment over not distributing relief materials among the flood-hit people of Satkhira district.

"Tens of thousands of people are living in inhuman condition under the open sky without food and drinking water. But the government is busy in making their foreign masters happy," Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, acting secretary general of the party, said in a statement.

He said country is continuously suffering from deluge and drought since India had unilaterally withdrawn water from the common rivers. The government sacrifices the interest of the country by not ensuring just share of river waters.

The BNP leader urged the party leaders and workers to stand by the flood-affected people.

Gold ornaments looted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted gold ornaments weighing 30 tolas worth over Tk 15 lakh and around Tk 25,000 in cash from the flat of a Kuwait expatriate at Japan Garden city in city's Adarbar yesterday evening.

Jakir Hossain Mollah, officer-in-charge of Adarbar Police Station, said two miscreants stormed into the flat of Abdul Khaleque on the 11th floor of building no-11 around 7:00pm.

Jakir said they opened the door through a nearby window and tied Khaleque's wife with rope and took away the valuables. Khaleque was out of the house at that time.



PHOTO: STAR



Residents of South Bakalia in Chittagong city face a hard time crossing this makeshift steel bridge built by Chittagong City Corporation since three bridges over the canal were broken down for renovation nine months ago but the works were stopped. These schoolchildren, *inset*, along with residents of the area form a human chain in front of CCC yesterday to get the attention of the authorities concerned in this regard.

BID TO MAKE WAR CRIMES TRIAL QUESTIONABLE

Lobbyists spread confusion abroad, says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The anti-liberation force and its collaborators appointed lobbyists abroad to spread confusion over the war crimes trial in the international arena, said Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday.

"They have set lobbyists in New York, London and Brussels. They are active to make the trial procedure questionable in the international arena," he said.

The minister was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion styled "Much expected trial of war crimes and all unexpected activities" organised by Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee in the city's WVA auditorium.

Talking about the role of the civil society members on the trial issue, he said, "They (civil society) are remaining silent on this issue for unknown

reasons. They should raise their voice to press the demand for war crimes trial."

On whether Jamaat leader Golam Azam will be brought under trial, he said, "I do not want to mention the name of any particular individual. It is a matter of the tribunal."

In response to criticism of the government's sluggish approach to the trial, Shafique said the government only provides logistic support to the tribunal and it is the tribunals' matter on what procedure and how fast it would work.

Though the tribunal formed is a domestic one, the trial will be held under "customary law" of Internal Crimes (Tribunals) Act following some international conditions. So international standard will surely be maintained in the trial process, he said.

Addressing the function, noted academician Prof Muntassir Mamoon alleged that the govern-

ment is yet to appoint skilled jurists in the tribunal.

"After seeing the documents collected by the tribunal, I think that it will be difficult for the tribunal to secure the expected result," he said.

The nirmul committee Executive President Shahriar Kabir placed a 10-point demand to accelerate the trial and strengthen the tribunal.

The demands include appointment of more jurists, increasing their facilities and salary, setting up of a library and information technology cell in the tribunal, formulation of guidelines for those appointed in the tribunal and ensuring security for the tribunal officials and witnesses.

The nirmul committee President Justice Mohammad Ghulam Rabbani chaired the function where Ajoy Roy of Sampradayikata-Jangibad Birodhi Mancha also spoke.

DU students damage three buses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Dhaka University yesterday damaged three buses of Mirpur-Motijheel route on allegation of snatching a student's moneybag and cellphone by the staff of a bus Saturday night.

Officer-in-Charge of Shabbagh Police Station Rezaul Karim said a student of Development Studies department locked in an argument with the staffs of Metro Service over grabbing a seat on the way to campus from Kalyanpur.

At one stage, the staffs scuffled with him and snatched his wallet and cellphone, Rezaul said.

His classmates seized four buses of Metro Paribahan from Azimpur yesterday morning following the incident and brought them to the campus. They ransacked three of the buses in front of Bangla Academy around 12:00 noon.

Proctor Prof KM Saiful Islam told reporters that he heard about the incident. University authorities will look into the matter.

Two children drown

UNB, Chandpur

Two children drowned in a pond at South Swarna village at Bakila union in Hajiganj upazila yesterday afternoon.

The deceased were identified as Sayem, 5, son of Jasimuddin and Saamey, 6, son of Dulal Bepary of the village. Both are students of KG I at Bakila Kindergarten.

Locals said they fell on the pond and drowned while returning home from Bakila KG school.

Eat full-boiled, full-fried eggs to avoid bird flu, suggest experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts yesterday suggested consuming full-boiled or full-fried eggs rather than the half-boiled or half-fried ones to avoid exposure to the avian flu virus (H5N1) that may be passed on to the eggs from the flu inflicted birds.

They also advised consumers to wash the eggs and their hands with soap to avoid possible transmission of the virus to human body.

The eggs of birds inflicted with H5N1 contain potential germ of avian influenza in its crust.

The speakers were addressing an orientation programme on Avian and Human Influenza at the conference room of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) in the city.

IEDCR, Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare, UNICEF, Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Ministry of Agriculture, World Health Organisation and Food and Agriculture Organisation jointly organised the programme.

Slaughtering sick poultry without being sure of its disease and throwing out dead poultry or the wastage of slaughtered poultry in the open are common practices of people responsible for the spreading of bird flu, said UNICEF's specialist Shamshuddin Ahmed.

Since March 22, 2007 a total of 524 bird flu cases have been detected throughout the country while 166 cases were recorded this year, according to latest information of DLS.

In Bangladesh, April to September marks the peak season for the spreading of bird flu.

Laboratory confirmed three cases of H5N1 transmission in human body though there is yet no death by the virus recorded in Bangladesh.

However, 564 cases of H5N1 transmission were recorded worldwide and 330 died in the flu since 2003.

"Analysing the nature of the virus, it is found that the virus may take dangerous shape after mutation. That's why scientists are considering bird flu seriously", said IEDCR Director Professor Mahmudur Rahman.

Director of Animal Health and Administration of DLS Dr Mussaddique Hossain said awareness is needed among the people to reduce the spreading of the disease.

He sought media cooperation to create awareness among people on this matter.

Digitisation creates self-employment

BSS, Rajshahi

Speakers at a workshop on digital Bangladesh here yesterday said the on-going digitisation process is creating opportunity of self-employment across the country.

They said the digitisation process had already created scope of employment and income generation in various ways including outsourcing, selling products through e-shop and offering different services at the Union Information Service Centres.

They said the process would also help develop a knowledge-based society and good governance.

Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton inaugurated the workshop at the district conference room. Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) organised the workshop under the BSS-A2I media campaign for promoting digital Bangladesh.

Liton said the digital Bangladesh would help generate huge employment opportunity across the country.

He said the digitisation process would also equip people to explore the enormous scope of outsourcing with creating a knowledge-based society.

He called on journalists to write reports, features and articles regularly so that people can know more about the services and the benefit of the vision of digital Bangladesh.

PS to the prime minister Md Nazrul Islam Khan, BSS Chief Editor Ihsanul Karim, Press Institute of Bangladesh Director General Dulal Chandra Biswas, BSS City Editor Ajit Kumar Sarkar also spoke at the workshop.

Tight security during Durga puja

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Security blanket will be put in and around every Durga Puja mandap across the country to facilitate peaceful celebration of the upcoming puja festival, said Home Minister Shahara Khatun yesterday.

She made the comment after holding a meeting at her secretariat office on the law and order situation with the high officials of law enforcing agencies and the leaders of Hindu communities.

The Bodhon ritual, which opens the first chapter of the five-day religious extravaganza, will commence on October 3.

The security blanket will prevail from October 2-6 at the mondaps (a place of worship of Hindu community).

The home minister said the deputy commissioners concerned will hold meeting with the puja mondap committee leaders and law enforcers to ensure security at district level and Upazila Nirbahi Officers will hold similar meetings at upazila level.

This year a total of 28,000 puja mondaps, which is a thousand more than last year, have been set up across the country with 196 located in the capital, she said.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku said old and important mondaps will be provided with special security to avert subversive activities.

Call to start works of two port city bridges

CU CORRESPONDENT

The inhabitants of greater Bakalia in the port city yesterday demanded immediate recommencing of construction works of two under-construction bridges namely Ishaker Pool and Masterpool.

People from all walks of life including teachers and students of various educational institutions in Bakalia made the demand at a human chain programme in front of Nagar Bhawan in the city.

In a protest rally following the human chain, they said the construction works of the two bridges were stalled for nearly two months.

Md Abdul Mannan, convener of 'Sachetan Bakaliabashi', said Chittagong City Corporation has broken the two bridges some nine months back, following which their reconstruction work was started.

But a few months later, the reconstruction was stopped, he said.

Mayor Manjur Alam said the construction works of the bridges were delayed due to the monsoon season. As soon as the monsoon gets over, the works will be continued, he added.

Speakers also demanded immediate repair and maintenance of another bridge named Tulatolee Bridge that is lying in a dilapidated condition, disrupting the transport flow on it for last three months.

As a result, more than a lakh people of greater Bakalia have become isolated from the main city, the convener added.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 10th death anniversary of Abdul Jalil, a former principal of Noakhali Government University College, says a press release.

He was also the editor of now defunct weekly Nobojatok.

On the occasion, qurankhwani, milad mahfil and destitute feeding programme will be held at Noakhali and Dhaka.

Prof Abdul Jalil Education Club will organise a memorial meeting and blood donation programme at Noakhali Government University College.

Ashutosh Chakrabarty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 14th death anniversary of Ashutosh Chakrabarty, a government official, says a

press release.

On the occasion, an annual shraddha was held at the city's Dhakeshwar Mandir on Friday.

In memory of Ashutosh Chakrabarty, his family members will introduce Ashutosh Chakrabarty Memorial Scholarship for the poor and meritorious students of Sarail in Brahmanbaria from this year.



Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at most places over all the seven divisions in 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:59pm today and rises at 5:47am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 33.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 24.0 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	32.3	26.0	89	77
Chittagong	31.1	24.5	87	83
Rajshahi	31.0	25.5	98	100
Rangpur	27.0	25.0	97	96
Khulna	32.2	24.8	93	89
Barisal	32.0	25.4	96	90
Sylhet	51.5	24.0	88	95
Cox's Bazar	31.5	25.6	86	88