

## NEWS IN *brief*

### 6 held with fake notes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six people were arrested along with fake local and foreign currency notes worth Tk 1 lakh 62,000 in the city on Saturday night.

The arrestees are Saber, 32, Abbas, 26, Dulal, 33, Badol Rahman alias Shamim, 30, Sajib, 24, and Swapon, 35.

Detective Branch of police said in a drive on the third floor of a rented flat at Jorakhamba Janatabagh they arrested Saber, Abbas and Dulal with 97 pieces of fake notes of Tk1000 and 30 pieces of fake notes of Indian Rs 500.

Meanwhile, DB police arrested fake note traders Badol and Sajib with 50 fake notes of Tk 1000 near Razmoni Cinema Hall in Kakrail.

According to their information, DB arrested another fake note trader Swapon from North Shahjahanpur at the city's Uttara.

### CU to launch engineering faculty

CU CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Chittagong University (CU) will launch a new faculty named Faculty of Engineering incorporating Computer Science and Engineering department and Applied Physics, Electronics and Communication Engineering department.

The decision was taken in a meeting of academic council yesterday, said acting Registrar Prof Dr Mohammad Shafiul Alam.

## COP ASSAULT OF PICKET JS body asks IGP to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on home ministry yesterday sought explanation from Inspector General of Police (IGP) for assaulting a picket by a policeman during hartal hours on September 22.

Strongly criticising the police boss Hassan Mahmood Khandker, the committee members also wanted to know why and how a police official could assault a picket by kicking him in his chest and throat that tarnished image of the government.

The IGP told the committee that he has nothing to say about the incident at this moment as a police team is investigating the matter.

"Such an incident by police has definitely tarnished image of the government. We don't expect such inhuman attitude of police in the name of controlling pickets during hartal," Mujib-ul-Haque Chunnunnu told the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Talking to The Daily Star, Chunnunnu, a Jatiya Party lawmaker, said the committee asked the IGP whether the policeman concerned intentionally committed such an inhuman incident to tarnish government's image.

"The IGP assured us of informing about the incident after investigation," Chunnunnu quoted IGP as saying in the meeting.

The committee also sought an explanation from the Rab director general about the arrest of a fake Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) member in Sylhet who died in custody.

In reply, the Rab boss told the meeting that the person's health condition was quite normal while Rab members handed him over to the police.

## Appeal not to call drivers 'killer'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transport workers yesterday reiterated their appeal to the people as well as members of the civil society and media not to call the drivers "killer" if any accident occurs.

They said drivers are not solely responsible for the accident as it can occur for various reasons like faulty design of roads, shops and markets on highways and movement of animals on roads. So people should not call the drivers "killer", they added.

They were speaking at a rally organised by Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samaki Federation in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

Federation General Secretary Osman Ali Khan said drivers serve the country and countrymen as they transport goods and carry passengers. The leaders said the federation will hold a grand rally at Central Shaheed Minar on October 23 to press home their demands.



WEATHER  
TODAY

### Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:52pm today and rises at 5:49am tomorrow.**

Country's highest temperature 33.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Srimongal and lowest 22.0 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	32.7	23.7	72	76
Chittagong	31.0	24.6	72	80
Rajshahi	32.6	25.7	85	93
Rangpur	32.5	25.5	83	86
Khulna	33.0	25.0	88	89
Barisal	30.0	25.9	82	92
Sylhet	32.8	24.6	85	78
Cox's Bazar	31.8	24.0	73	92



PHOTO: STAR



Police are trying to drag out Jagannath University's students who took to the street in front of the High Court in the city yesterday demanding government funding of the university and ridding its dorms of illegal occupiers. *Inset*, some of the students are obstructing vehicular movement sitting on the road. (Story on Page 20)

## Qawmi madrasa curriculum outdated

Observes BEI strategy paper

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qawmi madrasas are beset with problems, including having an outdated curriculum and madrasa graduates being unable to gain employment as easily as graduates of regular schools, said a strategy paper.

The paper titled "Modernisation of Madrasa Education in Bangladesh: A Strategy Paper" of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) launched yesterday at a ceremony at BEI's conference room in the city's Gulshan.

Another BEI's strategy paper titled "Public Information: The role of Intelligence Agencies in Bangladesh" was also launched. Australian High Commissioner Dr Justin Lee launched the papers. BEI prepared the papers under a project "BEI Peoples Peace Building Programme" in association with Australian High Commission.

The paper said there is a gulf of differences between the content of the curriculum and what is actually taught in the madrasa, and stressed

the need for more engagement and dialogue with students and other stakeholders to drive home of inadequacies and lacunae in the quality of education.

Qawmi madrasas' curriculum or pedagogy per se does not propagate militancy, it added.

It also said the societal negative stereotypes about madrasas reflect overall poor quality or education, teaching, inadequate government support for the madrasa sector and lack of proper appreciation of the society about madrasa.

The overall employability of madrasa graduates is lower compared to general education graduates, it said, adding that the scope of employment for Qawmi madrasa graduates is extremely limited mainly because of the curriculum and non-recognition by the government.

To make Aliya graduates competitive, it suggested to undertake crash programmes for promoting expertise in three areas--science subjects including IT, commerce or business and English.

It also said training of the teacher and curricu-

lum development should be given utmost priority. Qawmi madrasas should be engaged in dialogues for their incorporation in the framework of the current education policy.

The paper suggested that madrasa modernisation should be carried out as an integral part of national education policy and be part of modernisation of education sector as a whole.

Apart from upgrading the curriculum and pedagogy, infrastructural development including classrooms and co-curriculum activities should be initiated, it said.

BEI President Farooq Sobhan said the government is preparing a counter terrorism strategy and these papers would serve as important input to that initiative.

Humayun Kabir, senior research director of BEI, gave a presentation on the strategy paper of modernisation of madrasa while Shahab Enam Khan, project director of BEI, presented another one.

### Six doped, mugged by new 'staff'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six staff of a restaurant in the city were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in an unconscious state yesterday.

Their colleagues said a youth, who joined the restaurant on Saturday, doped them that night and mugged Tk 30,000 and four cell phones from them.

According to Kamal, who took the victims to DMCH, the six staff slept inside the restaurant after dinner and, later, staff in the next shift found them unconscious in the morning.

Police said they weren't informed on the incident.



#### Workshop

Bangladesh Institute of Management will hold a workshop. Venue: 4, Sobhanbagh, Time: 11:00am.

#### Seminar

Koica Bangladesh Alumni Associate and Koica will jointly organise a seminar. Venue: Hotel Purbani, Time: 3:00pm.

#### Discussion

Bangladesh Medical Association will hold a discussion. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Time: 11:30am.

#### Workshop

Department of Post, Bangladesh will hold a workshop. Venue: Hotel Riggs Inn, Gulshan-1, Time: 10:20am.

#### Discussion

Islamic Foundation will hold a discussion. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:30am.

#### Meeting

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshti will hold a meeting. Venue: 14/2, Tophkhana Road, Time: 6:00pm.

#### Roundtable

Anando Alo will organise a roundtable. Venue: 40, Tejgaon, Time: 3:00pm.

#### Discussion

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will hold a discussion. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Time: 10:30am.

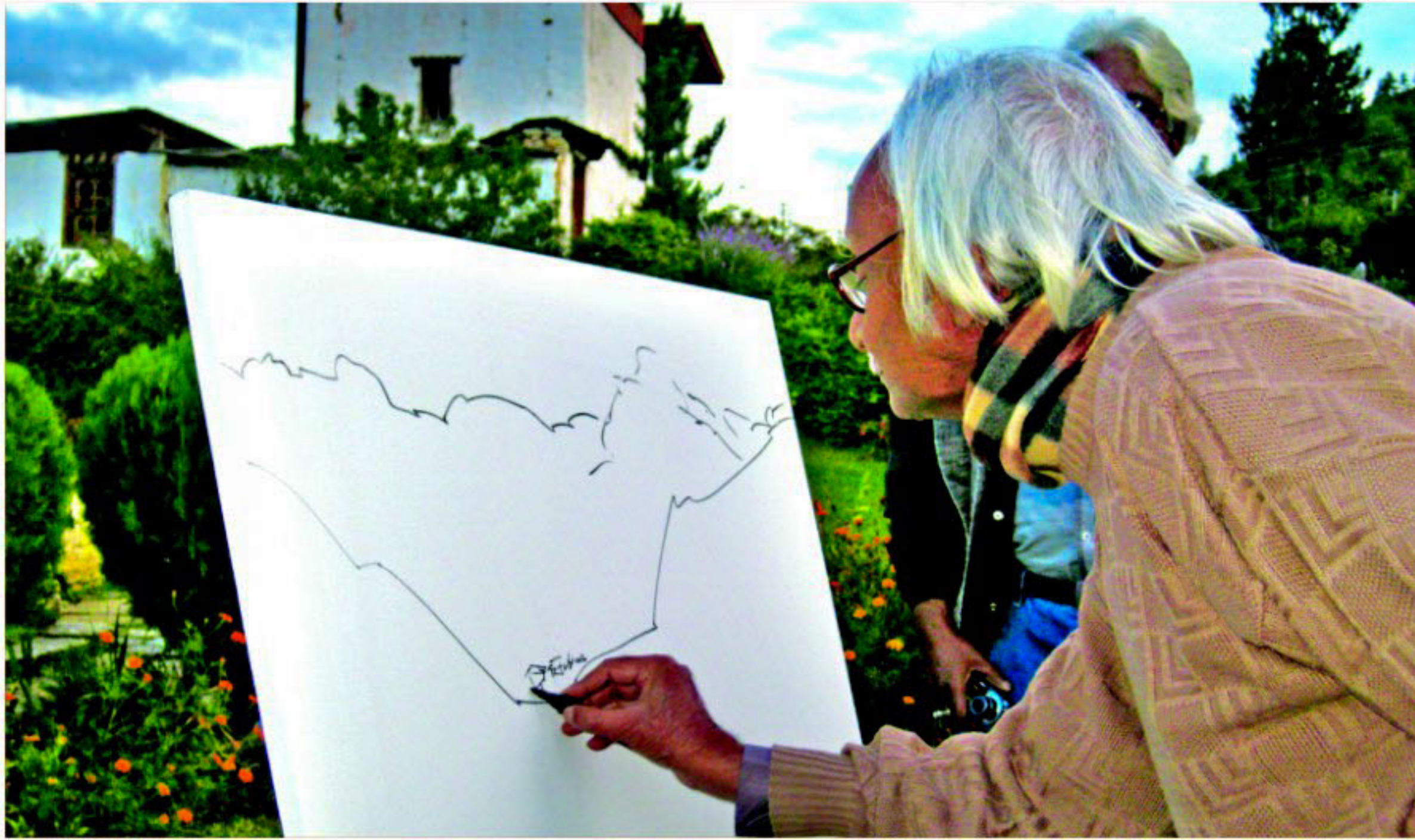


PHOTO: COURTESY

Qayyum Chowdhury along with nine other eminent artists from Bangladesh joins a weeklong art camp in Paro city of Bhutan on Friday. Other artists are Rafiqun Nabi, Samarjit Roy Chowdhury, Monsur UI Karim, Ranjit Das, Hamiduzzaman Khan, Tahera Khanom Chowdhury, Mahmudul Haque, Tarun Ghosh, Shishir Bhattacharjee, Goutam Chakroborty and Nagarbashi Barman. Bangladesh Ambassador in Bhutan Imtiaz Ahmed was present at the event organised by Gallery Kaya.

### EDUCATION POLICY

## Fund constraints hamper implementation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Implementation of the country's education policy is in jeopardy due to poor allocation of funds in the sector, a parliamentary body observed yesterday.

The parliamentary standing committee on education ministry therefore called upon Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina to allocate at least 20 percent of the national budget to the education sector.

"The committee members will call on the finance minister soon to allocate more money to education sector to implement some major tasks," said Rashed Khan Menon, chief of the committee, following a meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the city.

"If necessary, the committee will meet the PM on the matter," added Menon, also president of Workers' Party.

He said the ministry could not implement Monthly Pay Order (MPO) to teachers of the public educational institutions due

to fund scarcity.

"Tk 1,000 crore is needed to implement MPO in the current fiscal, while the ministry has only Tk 15 crore," he said.

Also, Tk 327 crore is needed on a ministry project to give Time Scale incentives to the qualified teachers who have completed eight years or more of service, but no money was allocated in this regard, said lawmaker Menon.

"If needed, we have asked the government to curtail funds from any unproductive sector to allocate those in the education sector," he also said.

Meanwhile, the House watchdog formed a sub-committee to enquire into alleged corruption in the Tk 600 crore-project to improve teaching quality in secondary education.

Headed by Abdul Wohab, also an Awami League MP, the three-member sub-committee was asked to place the enquiry report at the earliest.

## Schoolboy dies in brick fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A minor schoolboy succumbed to his injuries around 11:45pm yesterday after fighting for life for over nine hours at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The boy identified as Ashikur Rahman Emon, 9, son of tyre trader Anwar Hossain, sustained injuries as a brick fell on him from the roof of a building at Namapara in the city around 2:30pm. Emon was a student of class four of Mahila Samity School at Dhupkhola in the city's Gandaria.

Victim's maternal grandmother told The Daily Star that after taking lunch, Emon was playing in a lane near their house. A boy who lives in a nearby house came to their residence and informed that Emon was lying on the lane and bleeding profusely.

He was rushed to National Medical College Hospital at Sutrapur from where he was shifted to DMCH as his condition deteriorated.

Emon's father Anwar Hossain told The Daily Star that the doctors at the DMCH have advised him to take Emon to the ICU of the hospital which he could not manage.

Sub-Inspector Raju Ahmed of Gandaria Police Station said they came to know that a boy was injured critically as a brick fell on his head from a nearby building.

Police picked up rickshaw van puller Nasir in this connection.

During interrogation, Nasir told police that he had gone to the roof to oversee chilis following a request by a resident of the building. He said he knew nothing about the falling of the brick.

## Tennessee Williams' contribution recalled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Viewing to generate more interest towards the works of the renowned American playwright Tennessee Williams, the English department of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday organised daylong programmes celebrating the birth centenary of the writer.

The organisers said one of the main targets of celebrating the day was to make students and academics familiar and interested toward the classic works of Williams.

At the opening session, scholar Prof Niaz Zaman presented a keynote paper on the eventful life and works of Williams in front of scholars and students at RC Majumder auditorium at DU.

Faculty of Arts Dean Prof Sadrul Amin and the department's Chairperson Rebecca Haque spoke at the session.

Teachers and students of the department, Independent University and East West University joined the day's programmes which included discussion and screening of films.

A special commissioned documentary on the life and achievements and a play of Williams "A Streetcar Named Desire" were shown during the afternoon session.

Williams, born on March 26, 1911, worked principally as a playwright in the American theatre while writing short stories, novels, poetry, essays, screenplays and a volume of memoirs.

Williams received virtually all of the top theatrical awards for his works of drama, including a Tony Award for best play for The Rose Tattoo (1951) and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for A Streetcar Named Desire (1948) and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (1955).

Williams, acknowledged as one of the most accomplished playwrights in the history of English speaking theatre, died on February 25, 1983.

### Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the first death anniversary of Hafizunnesa Chowdhury, a language

movement veteran and wife of industrialist Shamsul Karim Chowdhury of Narayanganj, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and qurankhwani will be held at her residence at Daovog of Palpara in Narayanganj.

Besides, doa mahfil will also be held at different institutions founded by Hafizunnesa Chowdhury in Narayanganj on September 30.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the programmes and pray for salvation of the departed soul.