

NEWS IN *brief*

IIUC pro-VC sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

International Islamic University, Chittagong (IIUC) Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Abu Bakar Rafeeq was sent to jail yesterday.

Police produced him along with four other Jamaat activists before Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate court with a seven-day remand prayer. The court will hear the remand prayer today.

Other arrested Jamaat activists are Iqbal Sarif, Jamir uddin and Chhatra Shibir activist Osman Gani.

They were arrested in connection with on September 19 incident at Muradpur intersection where Jamaat activists clashed with police at the time of a procession brought out by the party.

Marine Fisheries Academy reopens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Marine Fisheries Academy (MFA) resumed its academic activities yesterday after a closure of three-and-a-half months.

All classes and administrative activities were held, MFA officials and cadets' guardians said. Commander Kamrul Haque Chowdhury has been appointed new principal of the academy.

The academy was closed sine die and the students' dormitories were vacated after an unexpected brutal police attack on the cadets during a demonstration on June 14 night, injuring over 100 cadets.

The cadets staged the demonstration demanding distribution of Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC) necessary for job in ocean-going vessels.

Durga Puja begins  
October 2

Postponement of BCS exams demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the country's Hindu community yesterday demanded postponement of the written tests for Bangladesh Cadre Service (BCS), which fall on the days when their largest religious festival Durga Puja will be in progress on October 2-6.

The written tests on international affairs, mathematical reasoning and mental ability, Bengali-1 and Bengali-2 will be held on October 2-5, according to the examination schedule of the 31st BCS examination under Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC).

The Hindu leaders came up with the demand in a view-exchange meeting with journalists organised by Bangladesh Puja Ujjapan Parishad at Dhakeswari National Temple in the city yesterday.

Mongol Chandra Ghosh, general secretary of the parishad, in a written speech termed the PSC decision "inhumane" and "envious". He said the decision has hurt the sentiment of the Hindu community.

Ghosh said people of the Hindu community will be deprived of the celebration of their biggest religious festival due to the decision. He demanded the examination be deferred.

Advocate Subrata Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh Puja Ujjapan Parishad, said they have sent a written application to the chairman of PSC to reschedule the examination.

"I have even discussed the matter with a member of the commission over phone but am yet to get any reply from their side", said Subrata. He demanded the political parties do not schedule their political programme on the festival days.

Mongol Ghosh said the number of Puja mandaps (pavilion) across the country has been increased this year, with about 28,000 mandaps being erected to celebrate the Durga Puja. Last year around 27,000 mandaps were set up.

Ghosh said, "We have had talks with the home minister and the inspector general of police (IGP) about the preparation of the Durga Puja, and they assured us of providing all sorts of support in celebrating the festival".

At the meeting, the Hindu community leaders also expressed frustration over the 15th amendment to the constitution and reiterated their demand for reinstatement of the original constitution of 1972. Another demand was that the vested property act be passed in the next session of the parliament in line with a seven-point proposal given by them.



Home-bound people resort to feet while some others attempt in vain to avail a bus amid traffic constraint triggered by the opposition BNP's Nayapaltan rally in the city yesterday. The photos were taken from Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. (Story on Page 1)



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

REPATRIATION OF BANGABANDHU KILLERS

Bangladesh seeks US cooperation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has sought US assistance in repatriation of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to bring them to justice, a foreign ministry press release said yesterday.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni made the request during a meeting with US Deputy Secretary of State William J Burns on the sideline of the UN General Assembly in New York Monday.

She also sought US support for the war crimes trial issue while asserting that Bangladesh is committed to ensuring international standard and transparency in the trial process.

Yesterday's press release, however, did not mention anything about Burns' response on the above two issues.

Burns said relation with Bangladesh is one of the highest

priorities for the US, and the US is closely working with Bangladesh in the areas of food security, climate change, counter-terrorism, health, and various development programmes.

The US official described Bangladesh as a model for the impressive progress it has been making in various socio-economic areas.

He also sought Bangladesh's assistance in the rebuilding process of Afghanistan. In response, Dipu Moni said Bangladesh has a close historical bond with Afghanistan, and it would remain engaged in the rebuilding of that country.

Terming the US as Bangladesh's largest export destination, the foreign minister called for ensuring duty-free and quota-free access of Bangladeshi RMGs in the US market.

During the meeting, Burns was accompanied by Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Robert Blake.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni has stressed the importance of the Istanbul Plan of Action in guiding the future negotiation process and demanded an "early harvest package" incorporating the issues of the LDCs by the WTO Council Meeting.

She said this while making statement at the annual ministerial level LDC Group Meeting on Monday (September 26) in New York on the sideline of the 66th UN General Assembly.

Dipu Moni reiterated her demand for easy and direct access of the "fast start finance" for adaptation for LDCs and for enhanced market access.

She sought support of all including the emerging developing countries for the LDCs to enable them to graduate into middle-income countries.

The Bangladesh foreign minister also had a meeting with Foreign Minister of Ukraine Kostyantyn Gryshchenko the same day (Sep-

tember 26). Both the foreign ministers stressed strengthening relations particularly in the fields of trade and commerce.

The Ukrainian foreign minister offered assistance in energy, transport, and aviation sectors while Dipu Moni sought the support of Ukraine for the candidature of Bangladesh for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council (2016-17).

They agreed to see if reciprocal arrangements could be done, said a foreign ministry press release.

In the Monday evening, the foreign minister also hosted a reception for the ministers and delegations from the countries of the Climate Vulnerable Forum.

Speaking on the occasion, she expressed her hope that the upcoming ministerial meeting in Dhaka scheduled for October 14-15 would be a watershed to forge strong partnership to fight the challenges posed by climate change.

Woman worker killed as factory collapses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One female factory worker was killed and three others were injured when the wooden floor of an aluminium factory collapsed at Uttar Jatrabari in the capital yesterday.

The deceased, Amena Begum, 45, wife of Abdur Razzak, a resident of Maniknagar Khalpar worked at Rahmania Aluminium Factory.

Witness Kawsar Miah, an accountant of the factory, told this correspondent that at around 1:00pm yesterday, Amena and three other workers were arranging silver utensils manufactured in the factory.

At one stage the first floor of the semi-pucca building caved in injuring the four, he added.

In the two-story building, ground floor housed the factory while the first floor was used as the godown.

Amena was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors announced her dead.

Nurun Nahar, 25, one of the injured was admitted to DMCH while remaining two were given first aid at local clinics.

Nahar, who has been working in the factory for last two years, said, the floor may have collapsed under excessive load, adding that the recent earthquake might have weakened the structure.

CU physics students end fast-unto-death

CU CORRESPONDENT

Twenty students of Physics department of 2006-2007 academic session of Chittagong University (CU) withdrew their fast-unto-death programme after six-and-a-half-hour as teacher assured the students to sit with them today.

The programme started around 9:00am in front of the office of the department's chairman demanding to take second supplementary examinations of third year before taking fourth year final.

PROPERTY INHERITANCE

Gender-based disparity exists in Bangladesh

Says WB study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is among 26 countries that differentiate between women and men when it comes to inheritance rights of property, according to a joint study of the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation.

The study report released yesterday says all economies in high-income Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and in Eastern Europe and Central Asia grant equal rights to men and women with regard to property ownership and inheritance.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, all economies grant equal rights to inheritance, and in the majority of economies, married men and married women have equal rights to property.

In East Asia and the Pacific, only the Philippines restricts the property rights of married women. In Sub-Saharan Africa, four economies do so (Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo and Côte d'Ivoire).

Inheritance rights in 26 nations differentiate between women and men, including all countries in the

Middle East and North Africa, seven in Sub-Saharan Africa (Burundi, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Sudan and Tanzania), three in South Asia (Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan), and two in East Asia and the Pacific (Indonesia and Malaysia).

Bangladesh has been also placed among 75 countries that provide small claims courts, making dispute resolution for minor claims easier. Of the countries surveyed, only 75 economies have small claims courts or fast-track procedures for claims of a smaller value, says the report.

The report "Women, Business and the Law 2012: Removing Barriers to Economic Inclusion" finds that women still face legal and regulatory hurdles to fully participate in the economy.

It finds that while 36 economies reduced legal differences between men and women, 103 out of 141 economies studied still impose legal differences on the basis of gender in at least one of the report's key indicators.

The report also identifies 41 law and regulatory reforms enacted between June 2009 and March 2011 that could enhance women's economic opportunities.

Globally, women represent 49.6

percent of the population but only 40.8 percent of the workforce in the formal sector. Legal differences between men and women may explain this gap. The report shows that economies with greater legal differentiation between men and women have, on average, lower female participation in the formal labour force.

"Competitiveness and productivity have much to do with the efficient allocation of resources, including human resources," said Augusto Lopez-Claros, director, global indicators and analysis of World Bank Group.

"The economy suffers when half of the world's population is prevented from fully participating. It is certainly no surprise that the world's most competitive economies are those where the opportunity gap between women and men is the narrowest."

The report measures such things as a woman's ability to sign a contract, travel abroad, manage property, and interact with public authorities and the private sector. In all economies, married women face more legal differentiations than unmarried women. In 23 economies, married women cannot legally choose where to live, and in 29 they cannot be legally recognised as

head of household. Every region includes economies with unequal rules for men and women, although the extent of the inequality varies widely. On average, high-income economies have fewer differences than middle- and low-income economies.

The Middle East and North Africa have the most legal differences between men and women, followed by South Asia and Africa.

The project measures how regulations and institutions differentiate between women and men in ways that may affect women's incentives or capacity to work or to set up and run a business. Women, Business and the Law objectively measures such legal differentiations on the basis of gender in 141 economies around the world, covering six areas -- accessing institutions, using property, getting a job, providing incentives to work, building credit, and going to court.

By measuring where the law treats men and women differently, Women, Business and the Law sheds lights on how women's incentives or capacity to work are affected by the legal environment. And what gets measured gets done, said the study report.

Ruet admission process begins today

RU CORRESPONDENT

Registration for the admission test of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) for the academic sessions 2011-2012 starts today and will continue until 5:00pm on October 12.

The admission tests will be held on October 26.

Admission seekers can register for the test by sending a message (SMS) through any number of telecom operator Teletalk.

Details of the admission test, registration procedure, fee payment, student eligibility are available on the university website www.ruet.ac.bd.

Students can seek assistance in completing the application procedure by dialling the university's hotline numbers - 01555555021 or 01555555022.

Korea to increase dev aid

Envoy tells Koica seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Korean Ambassador in Dhaka Taiyoung Cho said Bangladesh could get an increased volume of official development assistance (ODA) from Korea as it will increase its assistance significantly by 2015.

He said this while addressing a seminar jointly organised by Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) office in Bangladesh and Koica-Bangladesh Alumni Association (KBAA) under its knowledge sharing initiative at Hotel Purbani in the city on Monday, says a press release.

Three scholars who studied in Korea under Koica scholarship presented three papers in the seminar on E-Governance: Bangladesh Context, ODA: Opportunity for Bangladesh, and Remittance: Its impact on Economic Development of Bangladesh respectively.

The presentation reveals e-governance, remittance and Korean ODA are contributing significantly for the development of Bangladesh.

The Korean ambassador, who attended the seminar as the chief guest, highlighted about many similarities between Bangladesh and Korea and expressed his hope that Bangladesh could achieve similar growth pattern through sharing of knowledge and experience from Korea.

Koica Resident Representative Lee Jung Wook in his speech expressed his satisfaction on the contribution of Koica Alumni in different sectors of the government and hopes that the bilateral relations between these two countries could be further strengthened through Koica Alumni.

KBAA President and Secretary of the Ministry of Planning Monzur Hossain presided over the function. Mohammad Ataul Haque, general secretary of KBAA, Ehasan Shamim, former president of KBAA and former secretary of the government, Wan Kyu Park, deputy resident representative of Koica Bangladesh office and other senior government officials and academicians were present on the occasion.

JnU students continue protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jagannath University (JnU) students yesterday staged angry demonstrations on the campus to press their demands including continuation of government funding for the university and release of 14 arrested fellow students.

Witnesses said hundreds of JnU students resumed their agitation in the morning bringing out processions on the campus.

They also held the JnU vice-chancellor (VC) hostage for about an hour by locking the VC office around 1:00pm, witnesses added.

Among the student demands were recovery of the dormitories from illegal occupants, removal of the Bangladesh Bank branch office and arrange adequate buses for students' transportation, and release of the 14 students who were arrested during Monday's agitation on the campus.

JnU Proctor Ashok Kumar Saha told The Daily Star that the students were calmed after the VC assured them to immediately release the arrested students and to fulfill their demand of government funding continuation after consulting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The proctor also said the 14 students were released from the court premises on bail.

JNU students clashed with the law enforcers and vandalised around 50 vehicles during the violence on Sunday and Monday.

 WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions.

Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:50pm today and rises at 5:49am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna 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	33.0	25.7	93	69
Chittagong	31.0	25.6	98	83
Rajshahi	31.2	25.5	85	78
Rangpur	31.5	25.0	88	80
Khulna	34.5	26.0	82	78
Barisal	33.5	25.9	79	83