

NEWS IN *brief*

Two held with pistol

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh held two smugglers with an Indian pistol at Laderner Char of Udaynagar BOP area in the district yesterday.

The arrestees were Abdur Rashid, 25, and Abdur Halim, 37, of Doulatpur in Kustia.

They also seized one bullet and two mobile phone sets from them, says a BGB press release.

A petrol team of BGB led by Nayeub Subedar Yunus Ali chased the smugglers and caught them as they entered into the Bangladesh territory from India illegally.

38 vie for each RU seat

RU CORRESPONDENT

Around 38 admission seekers are contesting for each of the 3,400 seats in 14 units of nine faculties in the first year admission test under 2011-12 academic session of Rajshahi University (RU).

According to the last count on Friday, the last day for registration, 1,30,549 students applied.

Admission test under different units will be held from October 23 to 26.

According to the administration sources, 5,180 students registered for A1 unit, 6,440 for A2 unit, 13,211 for A3 unit, 3,187 for A4 unit, 2,534 for A5 unit, 962 for A6 unit, 16,230 for B unit, 12,670 for C unit, 18,527 for D unit, 20,211 for E unit, 7,152 for F1 unit, 5,901 for F2 unit, 6,965 for G unit and 11,379 for H unit.

2-day free heart treatment begins

METRO DESK

A two-day free treatment for heart patients, arranged by Metropolitan Medical Centre, begins on its premises at Mahakhali in the city yesterday marking the World Heart Day.

The treatment is given to the patients from 10:00am to 5:00pm, said a press release.

Some 152 heart patients were given prescriptions till 2:00pm yesterday. In case of ECG or blood tests, the medical centre is providing 50 percent discount.

Prof Dr MA Zaman, a renowned cardiologist and managing director of the centre, and Dr Lokman Hossain, a cardiac surgeon, also prescribed the patients.

BSMMU starts specialists' consultation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) launched specialists' consultation services on the hospital premises yesterday.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Pran Gopal Datta inaugurated the services that will provide specialist physicians' consultations from 3:00pm to 6:00pm every Saturday to Thursday at the hospital's cabin block.

Professors and associate professors of different departments including Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Skin and Venereal Diseases, ENT (ear nose and throat) and Physical Medicine departments will check up the patients.

The services offer consultations of the specialist physicians through a fee of Tk 200 with a 30-day validity for each department.

BSMMU Director Brigadier General Abdul Majid Bhuiyan told The Daily Star that the main purpose of the services is to ensure treatment for the insolvent patients by specialists.

On the inaugural day, six professors of different departments checked up a total of 89 patients, he said, adding that the authorities will allow not below associate professors to check up.

According to the rule of the newly launched services, a professor or an associate professor will be allowed to check up maximum 20 patients in a day.



Traffic police take the initiative to divide road lanes with bamboo for the easy passage of vehicles at the entrance of Buriganga 2 bridge in the city's Badamtali yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PM calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman has lauded the dynamic leadership and political wisdom of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for unveiling a "peace model" based on the people's empowerment.

The appreciation came when the PM called on him at Bangabhaban last evening and apprised him of her recent visit to the US for attending the 66th United Nations General Assembly.

The president said, "I hope the peace model would help greatly in establishing world peace".

Zillur Rahman also congratulated Sheikh Hasina for achieving the 'South South Award' and said this has brightened the image of Bangladesh in the international arena.

The prime minister addressed the UNGA session at the UN headquarters in New York on September 24 and unveiled her new peace model.

During the visit, Sheikh Hasina received the 'South South Award' for her outstanding contributions for improving the status of women and children by applying the information and communication technology.

The president also thanked the Sheikh Hasina for addressing the UNGA in Bangla as well as taking initiative to include Bangla as an official language of the UN.

Zillur Rahman expressed his hope that Bangladesh would turn into a model of democracy, development, and peace under the dynamic leadership of Sheikh Hasina. The prime minister was accompanied by her younger sister Sheikh Rehana.

Secretaries concerned of the President's Office and Prime Minister's Office were present during the meeting.

Death Anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 22nd death anniversary of pilot officer SM Maksud (15th GDP), Bangladesh Air Force.

He died in a plane crash in Jessore on this day in 1989 at the age of 21, says a press release.

Maksud was a student of Mirzapur Cadet College and was adjudged as the best cadet in academic category from Bangladesh Air Force Academy during his passing out in July, 1989.

Son of an Air Force officer, late SM Ain-ud-din, Tamga-e-Harb and Shamsun Nahar Begum, he was the youngest brother of Grp Capt (retd) MA Mateen, Maj (retd) Dr Shamim Akhter, SMA Rashid (PhD), Dr SM Murad, Dr SM Anwar, and Semina Yasmin.

All, including friends and relatives, are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

OUTDATED MADRASA CURRICULUM

Unemployment forced graduates into militancy

Says Prof Abul Barkat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The outdated madrasa curriculum should be reformed as it forces 75 percent graduates to remain unemployed, providing them the scope to get involved with extremism and militancy, said noted academician Prof Abul Barkat yesterday.

Annually at least five lakh madrasa graduates, mostly from Qawmi madrasas, fail to get a job. A portion of them can get easily involved with militancy, a proven fact of an analysis on the background of militants arrested in the last five years, he said.

The new education policy does not say anything to modernise the Qawmi curriculum. The government should seriously think about the reform, especially of Qawmi madrasa, for human development and establishing a secular state, he viewed.

Prof Barkat was speaking at an unveiling ceremony of his book titled "Political Economy of Madrasa Education in Bangladesh" at Cirdap auditorium in the city. The data used in the research-based book were collected in 2008.

Non-government organisations Nijera Kori and Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) organised the function.

Talking about the growth of madrasas, he said there were 4,330 madrasas in 1950 in the country, which jumped to 54,130, both Qawmi and Alia, at present. The annual growth is 4.65 percent, while that of mainstream educational institutions is 3.04 percent.

At present there are around 1 crore madrasa students, of whom 67 percent have a background of extreme poverty, while the number of teachers is over

3.64 lakh, he said.

Around 40 percent of madrasa managing committee members are involved with religion-based political parties, 27 percent are with BNP and 22 percent are with Awami league, the research finding said.

Over 50 percent of madrasa students consider religion-based political party leaders as a role model while 70 percent of Qawmi and 60 percent of Alia madrasa students think madrasa is the easy way to reach heaven.

Speaking as the chief guest, noted historian Prof AF Salahuddin Ahmed stressed the need to create mass opinion for reform in madrasa curriculum.

Dhaka University international relations department Prof Amena Mohsin and Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir also spoke at the function.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meets President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

50pc pictorial warning on tobacco packs urged

BSS, Dhaka

Anti-tobacco campaigners yesterday urged the government to amend the tobacco control act by incorporating a provision of 50 percent pictorial warning at all types of tobacco products, including Bidi and cigarette, for reducing consumption of tobacco.

Pictorial warning with harmful and dreadful effects of tobacco will decrease tobacco consumption significantly, they told a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) ahead of a three-day programme, which begins today, on pictorial warning at tobacco packs.

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) in association with Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK) organised the press conference.

CAB President Kazi Faruque, general secretary Advocate Humayun Kabir Bhuiyan, Founder President of Association for the Preventing of Drug Abuse (MANAS) Prof Dr Arup Ratan Chodhury and media and advocacy coordinator of CTFK Taifur Rahman, among others, addressed the event.

Faruque said a total of 43 countries, including India, Pakistan and Thailand, are enjoying benefit of introducing pictorial warning at tobacco packs, saying it is urgently needed to include a provision in the tobacco control law for reducing consumption of tobacco.

Referring to a research on tobacco, he said 97 percent smokers think that they will be encouraged to give up smoking, if the pictorial warning messages are given at the tobacco packages.



Rushanara Ali arrives today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A British parliamentarian of Bangladeshi descent Rushanara Ali, arrives in Dhaka today on a week's visit to talk about climate change impacts on Bangladeshi communities.

She said in a press release issued by herself ahead of the visit that millions of people in coastal Bangladesh have been affected due to weather extremes in recent years.

It is vital to highlight the impending dangers on Bangladeshis ahead of Durban climate summit in December to ensure progress towards providing support to these communities in disaster preparedness, she said.

Rushanara attended a climate tribunal in Dhaka last year and heard people's testimonies on the effects of climate change.

A press release of Oxfam, the organisation that invited the British MP to Bangladesh, said she will be accorded a reception dinner tomorrow and will take part in a climate dialogue, "Expectations from Durban: UK and Bangladesh perspectives", the following day.

Rushanara is expected to join a meeting to mark the 40th anniversary of publication "Testimony of Sixty" at the Liberation War Museum on October 5. Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khondker will attend it as the chief guest.

Prof Golam Rahman new president of DUMCJAA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The new executive committee of Dhaka University MCJ Alumni Association (DUMCJAA)

for the 2011-2013 session was formed on Friday with Prof Dr Golam Rahman as president and Swapan Kumar Das as general secretary.

The 41-member committee was formed at the third annual general meeting and reunion of DUMCJAA at Dhaka University senate building with the association's outgoing president Prof Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam in the chair, says a press release.

Around 500 alumni of Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ) department took part in the reunion while Industries Minister Dilip Barua, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, DU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, justices, secretaries, and editors and journalists of different print and electronic media were also present.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country, said Met Office. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:46pm and rises tomorrow at 5:51am.

Country's highest temperature 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and lowest 23.7 degrees at Sandwip.

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	32.4	28.6	82	89
Chittagong	29.4	25.0	92	86
Rajshahi	34.0	25.9	83	84
Rangpur	34.3	26.7	77	79
Khulna	35.5	27.0	73	79
Barisal	34.2	26.5	83	82
Sylhet	34.7	26.0	74	88
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.0	96	86

DHAKA TODAY

- Consultation**  
Transparency International Bangladesh will organise a national level consultation programme. Venue: Biam auditorium, Eskaton, Time: 10:30am.
- Conference**  
National Productivity Organisation and APO Society for Bangladesh will jointly organise a multilateral conference. Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel, Time: 10:00am.
- Seminar**  
Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities will hold a seminar. Venue: Lecture Theatre, University of Dhaka, Time: 4:00pm.
- Human chain**  
Gono Forum will form a human chain. Venue: In front of Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:30am.
- Discussion**  
Jatiya Gonoatmik League will hold a discussion. Venue: 21/1, Mukti Bhaban, Purana Paltan, Time: 10:30am.
- Seminar**  
Bangladesh Association for the Aged will hold a seminar. Venue: 29, Agargaon, Time: 4:00pm.
- Discussion**  
The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry will hold a discussion. Venue: FBCCI auditorium, Motijheel, Time: 11:00am.