

NEWS IN *brief*

Muggers shoot man in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot a man and snatched Tk 2000 at Uttara in the city yesterday.

The injured is Saiful Islam, 35, a contractor, of Gulbagh of Motijheel.

He suffered bullet injuries in his chest and abdomen. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Victim's friend Anwar Hossain, who was with him during the incident, said four armed muggers with a private car shot them several bullets and snatched the money when they refused to give

DU extends time for admit cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authority of Dhaka University (DU) has extended admit card collection time for admission in the university for the academic year 2011-12 till October 7, says a press release.

The applicants who have completed all procedures through online and submitted money but could not collect admit card, now can collect admit card till 12:00pm of October 7.

JU admission test schedules available online

JU CORRESPONDENT

The authority of Jahangirnagar University has published on the university website the admission test schedules for the first year honours programme under the 2011-12 academic session.

The schedules and related details are available on www.juniv.edu while the admission tests in eight units will be held on October 8-13.



Participants at a roundtable on child labour elimination policy at The Daily Star Centre in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) and The Daily Star jointly organised the event.

PHOTO: STAR

DAILY STAR-BSAF ROUNDTABLE ON NAT'L CHILD LABOUR ELIMINATION POLICY
Action plan to implement policy urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eradicating child labour from Bangladesh by 2015 seems elusive as neither the government nor NGOs have a definitive knowledge of child labour conditions in the country, a roundtable held at The Daily Star Centre observed yesterday.

Speakers at the discussion stressed the need for an immediate action plan to implement the National Child Labour Elimination Policy adopted in 2010 with a view to ending children's employment in labour by 2015.

"The vision of eliminating child labour by 2015 is ambitious since no one in the country knows of the actual status of child labour," said Associate Professor Ridwanul Hoque of Dhaka University while presenting the keynote paper at the programme.

The keynote speaker noted that in Bangladesh, at least 6.5 million children aged 5 to 14 are employed, with 40 per cent of them engaged in

hazardous jobs.

Titled "Execution of National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2010, compliance of ILO Convention 182 and importance of ratification of ILO Convention 138 to eliminate hazardous child labour", the event was jointly organised by The Daily Star and Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) in association with International Labour Organization (ILO).

ILO Director Andre Bogui underscored the necessity of political will in bringing about a change in the state of child labour. "If there is really political will, then the challenge is to translate the will into action," he said.

The ILO official, along with more than 20 participants from different NGOs involved with rights of children, labour and development, also observed that the government should ratify ILO Convention 138, which advocates fixing a minimum wage for children.

"The government has no reason to abstain from ratifying ILO Convention 138 as the matter [minimum wage] has been addressed in the national child labour policy," said BSAF president Emranul Huq Chowdhury.

Unicef representative Carel De Rooy drew attention to the role of investment in child labour. Explaining, he said the investment would mean breaking the circle of poverty by allowing children to grow skilled enough to be on their own, unlike their poor parents.

"It does not have to take a long time. It is just a strategic shift in making investments or utilisation of resources," said Rooy.

Roy Ramesh Chandra, general secretary of Jatiya Sramik League, brought up the issue of children working in the agriculture sector. "One of the large sectors of child labour is agriculture. But child labour in agriculture is not covered by any law."

Mahmudul Kabir, country director of the aid organisation Terre des Hommes, Netherlands, proposed preparing a list of hazardous jobs where children are involved.

"Children working as domestic help are being abused or violated or exploited in large numbers and so the jobs they do deserve to be regarded as hazardous," he said.

The participants also recommended creation of social awareness against child labour, media intervention in checking the problem, reform of laws related to child rights, fixing of minimum wages for child labourers, banning child labour till the age of compulsory education, effective family planning programmes and arrangement of proper recreation facilities for children.

The programme was moderated by BSAF Secretary Kafil Uddin. The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam welcomed the participants to the roundtable.

The Daily Star Defence and

Strategic Affairs Editor Brig Gen (ret'd) Shahedul Anam Khan, ILO chief's Technical Adviser Sophea Mar, its programme officers Sharfuddin Khan and Kabir Mia, senior research fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies Abdul Hye Mondal, Monitoring officer of Terre des Hommes Italia Priti Elizabeth Halsona, Village Education Resource Centre Associate Coordinator Shahnaz Rahman, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Executive Director Ehsanur Rahman, Aparajeyo-Bangladesh Programme Manager Aminul Islam, Wave Foundation Assistant Project Coordinator Kaniz Fatema, BASTOB Executive Director Ruhi Das, Campaign for Popular Education's Ghasiuddin Ahmed, Ain O Salish Kendra Coordinator Nargis Akter, TCM Executive Director Dilara Afroz and BSAF Adviser Md Fazlul Hoque were among those who took part at the roundtable.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, said Met Office.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:43pm and rises tomorrow at 5:52am.

Country's highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 23.0 degrees at Majidhee Court.

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	33.4	26.4	75	66
Chittagong	30.5	25.9	92	80
Rajshahi	34.0	24.3	83	82
Rangpur	32.5	24.6	72	75
Khulna	34.7	26.1	77	68
Barisal	33.3	26.0	88	88
Sylhet	33.8	25.2	72	72

US Embassy closed Oct 6, 9

METRO DESK

The United States Embassy will remain closed on October 6 in observance of Durga Puja, a Bangladeshi holiday, and on October 9 in observance of Columbus Day, an American holiday.

NARAYANGANJ POLLS Observers asked to apply to EC

UNB, Dhaka

Election observers from home and abroad, who intend to observe the Narayanganj City Corporation polls, have been asked to submit application to the Election Commission by October 20.

Election to the city corporation will be held on October 30. Local registered election observation organisations and foreign observers will be allowed to observe the poll, said an EC release.

No center-based observer will be allowed. Only mobile observer teams will get approval. Each mobile observer team will have to keep minimum five members in their team, it said.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ejaz Ahmed Siddique, founder president of Bangladesh Mohajir Welfare and Development Committee, died of a cardiac arrest Monday night. He was 75.

He left behind his wife, only son, and well wishers to mourn his death, said a press release.

The Urdu-speaking people living in Bangladesh expressed deep shock at his death and expressed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Committee to check road projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has formed a six-member committee to check whether transparency was maintained in formulating projects and their tender process under the road division of the communications ministry.

Comprising of representatives from communications and finance ministries, Economic Relations Division, Central Procurement Technical Unit and Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Department, the committee will evaluate all the projects and submit a report in this regard to the road division secretary by October 20.

The fall of two STAR wickets
Star bachelors on the verge of extinction
Congrats to Arun Devnath and Bishakha Devnath They are to tie the knot

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Death anniversary

METRO DESK



A do a mahfil on the occasion of the 23rd death anniversary of former secretary MA Rashid and the 4th death anniversary of his wife Sultana Rashid will be held today after Maghrib prayers at their son's Gulshan residence in the city. Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

Wahedul Islam Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 7th death anniversary of Wahedul Islam Khan (Akib), son of Bangladesh Japan Federation Association Chairman Amirul Islam Khan Bulbul, said a press release.

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