

NEWS IN *brief*

**Beating of students condemned**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday expressed concern and condemnation over the incident where three former army officers and a sergeant beat up four students at a park in Baridhara DOHS for walking in the wrong way.

In a statement, the organisation said if the students had committed any illegal activity, they could have faced charges under the country's existing laws.

"We are expressing deep concern and condemning the act of taking the law into their own hands," read the statement signed by Sultana Kamal, executive director of ASK.

According to newspaper reports, the four students Mushfiqur Rahman, Tasbir Islam, Prithu Amin and Fahad Hossain, due to appear in their A Level examinations from Scholastica School and College, were roped and beaten last week.

**British envoy meets PM**

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government is working hard to well establish a democratic system in the country to safeguard rights of the people.

Hasina made the remarks when new British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert Gibson paid a courtesy call on her at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

"We want to set up a democratic system that must be strong enough to preserve all democratic rights of the people," she was quoted as saying by her Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

Hasina said the government never tried to manipulate elections that have been proved in the recent by-elections and all local body polls.

**Dyeing factory fined**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Environment fined a dyeing factory Tk 12 lakh for discharging untreated chemical waste into the Turag river in Gazipur yesterday.

A DoE team, led by its director (monitoring and enforcement), Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, in a drive found that the effluent treatment plant of the factory kept shut causing a huge quantity of untreated toxic waste was discharging into the river.

**World Mental Health Day today**

UNB, Dhaka

The World Mental Health Day will be observed in Bangladesh as elsewhere across the globe today, aiming to raise public awareness about mental health issues.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the occasion.



Marking National No Tobacco Day, Bangladesh Tamak Birodhi Jote brings out a procession from in front of the National Museum in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**PM stresses social protection through developing rural economy**

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has vowed to ensure social protection of the country's people through developing rural economy across the country.

"To ensure the success of our social safety net programmes in poverty reduction, our government is determined to boost economic growth and promote a more equitable distribution of income," she told the inaugural session of a high level conference yesterday.

The two-day conference on 'Scaling up social protection in Bangladesh: Providing ladders out of poverty and social safety nets' was held in the city's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

The Planning Division arranged the conference in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Department for International Development (DFID), Australian Aid, UKAID and World Food Programme.

The conference aims to shed light on the role of social protection in Bangladesh in promoting inclusive growth and securing people against risks.

Addressing the opening session, the PM urged the development partners including the UNDP to continue their support towards Bangladesh in developing and implementing the strategies set out in the Sixth Five-Year Plan (SFYP).

She mentioned that the government expanded the social safety net projects to 84 this fiscal, costing the national exchequer an estimated Tk 226 billion, which is 2.51 percent of the GDP.

During the last fiscal year, the government spent Tk 209 billion in implementing 82 such projects, she said.

Hasina said the projects aim to provide direct support to more than half of the country's population who are in need of aid and thus facilitating their transformation towards middle income status. The programmes are also supportive of the Millennium Development Goals.

She said, despite the recent global economic downturn, Bangladesh was able to maintain 6.7 percent growth rate in the last fiscal while aiming for 7 percent growth this year.

"Our SFYP covering the period 2011-2015 is designed to achieve eight percent growth in 2015," she said.

Referring to data from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey, 2011, the PM said coverage of the safety net programmes has improved.

"Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics cites this as a major factor in reducing poverty rate from 40 percent to 31 percent of the population," she added.

With Planning Minister Air-Vice Marshal (Retd) A K Khandaker in the chair, the session was also addressed, among others, by UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Neal Walker.

In his speech, Neal Walker reiterated UN's commitment to poverty reduction and highlighted the emerging role of social protection around the globe to reduce poverty and promoting social inclusion.

Walker appreciated Bangladesh's impressive success in implementing effective social protection programmes.

Meanwhile, DFID country representative Gwen Hines said, "Social protection will make a significant contribution to overcoming extreme and chronic poverty in Bangladesh and to strengthening the basis for continued and broad-based economic growth."



**Hasanuzzaman passes away**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Shah Mohammad Hasanuzzaman, one of the country's pioneer agriculturalists, passed away at his Indra Road residence in the city yesterday morning due to old age complications at the age of 86.

Dr Hasanuzzaman, a former member of the Planning Commission, left behind his two daughters, one son and a host of relatives, admirers and disciples in rice breeding science to mourn his death.

He was a recipient of Independence Day Award.

Dr Hasanuzzaman, an emeritus scientist and former director general of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), who led development and release of nearly two dozens of high yielding rice varieties in the country.

His namaz-e-janaza was held on the premises of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council yesterday afternoon.

He will be buried at his family graveyard at Narinda in the city today.

Krishibid Institution, Bangabandhu Krishibid Parishad in separate messages condoled his death.

**Death anniversary**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the first death anniversary of Major General (Retd) Moinul Hossain Chowdhury, Bir Bikram and a former adviser to a caretaker government.

On the occasion, qurankhwani and destitute feeding programme will be held, says a press release.

The Liberation War Museum will organise a memorial meeting in remembrance of the freedom fighter on its premises today at 3:30pm. Major General KM Shafiqullah, the first army chief of Bangladesh is scheduled to chair the programme.

Moinul Hossain Chowdhury played an important role against the Pakistani occupational force in 1971. He led the first and second East Bengal Regiment in the war.

Moinul also served as a diplomat for 16 years and worked as an ambassador of Bangladesh in several countries.

**Mahmudun Nabi Tarek**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 26th death anniversary of Mahmudun Nabi Tarek, former district registrar and brother of Anwarul Kabir Shahjada, the editor of the Daily Financial Times and Daily Crime News, says a press release.

He passed away due to brain tumor at the age of 16. On the occasion, doa mahfil will be held at their ancestral mosque of Chhagalnaiya upazila in Feni and Gulbagh Jame Mosque in the city.

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



Students of Jagannath University celebrate after returning from the Puja holidays yesterday as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed officials to continue government funding for the university.

PHOTO: STAR

**Two arrested in SC lawyer murder**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police on Saturday arrested a woman and a man for their alleged involvement in the killing of senior lawyer of Supreme Court Advocate Nazir Hayat Khan at Dhanmondi in the city on September 30.

DB officials said they arrested Shammi Islam alias Nipa, 27, and Nitai Roy alias Shaon, 23, from Faridpur.

They were presented at a press conference in the city's DB office yesterday where they confessed to their crimes.

DB officials said they are now looking for their accomplice Anup Chatarjee.

Shammi said they killed Nazir for money which he got from selling his land at Dhanmondi.

Shammi said she doped him with liquor and called Shaon and Anup to the flat over phone.

They forced Nazir to sign his bank cheque book and beat him to death, she said.

Later, they fled with Tk 2,000 and some property-related papers and withdrew Tk 20,000 from the bank using the cheque book, she added.

Advocate Nazir, 60, used to live alone at a flat in a six-storey building on Road No 9/A of Dhanmondi residential area.

Police recovered his body on October 3 by breaking open the door of the flat in cooperation with his relatives.

His wife Sanjida Khanam used to live along with her relatives at Lalbagh as she and her husband were not on good terms. Their two children are staying abroad.

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**No change in temperature**

UNB, Dhaka

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:38pm today and rises at 5:54am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Faridpur and lowest 23.6 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	32.8	25.3	76	85
Chittagong	31.6	25.3	74	73
Rajshahi	34.5	26.4	83	80
Rangpur	33.6	25.0	76	80
Khulna	33.5	26.2	84	84
Barisal	33.2	25.5	78	89
Sylhet	34.2	25.6	80	80
Cox's Bazar	33.0	24.5	66	76