

NEWS IN *brief*

Spices worth Tk 7.59 lakh seized

CU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh coast guard personnel recovered various kinds of spices worth about Tk 7, 59,500 from Madhyam Chaktai area under Bakalia Police Station in the port city early yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, members of Bangladesh coast guard conducted drive in Madhyam Chaktai area around 2:15am and recovered 1,625 kgs of sweet cumin (misti zira) worth about Tk 4,87,500; 280 kgs of thin cumin (chikan zira) worth about Tk 1, 40,000 and 110 kgs of poppy seeds (Postodana) worth about Tk 1,32,000 from a warehouse in an abandoned condition, says a press release of coast guard.

Robbery in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of robbers looted cash, gold ornaments and valuables from the residence of deputy registrar of Supreme Court at Matuail of the city's Jatrabari early yesterday

They also beat up the family members, leaving three of them injured. The injured are--Deputy Registrar Ishak Miah, 55, his wife Monwara Begum, 48, and his son Millat Hossain, 22.

Ishak said a gang of 8 to 10 robbers, covering their faces with masks, entered his residence after cutting the grill of the window of kitchen at around 3:30am.

The robbers tied up them at gun point and looted Tk 5 lakh, five tolas of gold ornaments, three mobile sets and other valuables.

Man takes his own life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man allegedly committed suicide at a house in Modhubagh of the city's Moghbazar area yesterday.

The deceased is ASM Naim, 42, of Noakhali Sadar.

Ramna police recovered the body from the house of Naim's brother ASM Kamruzzaman at around 3:00pm. The body was hanging from a window grill with a quilt.

Kamruzzaman told the police that Naim borrowed several lakh taka from different persons at Noakhali Sadar and became mentally ill being unable to pay the debt.

He said Naim was brought to Dhaka some days ago for treatment.

PM goes to Natore today

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will visit Rajshahi and Natore today.

In Rajshahi, the prime minister will visit the Sarda Police Academy and take salute of the 28th batch of Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP). She would distribute medals among the best police officers of the 28th batch.

In the afternoon, she will go to Natore to inaugurate a power plant and address a public rally.

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop

Geology department of Dhaka University will arrange a workshop on earthquake. Venue: Department of Geology auditorium, Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

Bangladesh Institute of Health Sciences will hold a seminar. Venue: BISH campus, Darussalam, Time: 9:30am.

Roundtable

Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish will hold a roundtable. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

Asia Human Rights and Journalist Foundation will hold a discussion. Venue: National Museum auditorium, Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable

Jagrata Janata Forum will hold a roundtable. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Time: 11:30am.

Seminar

Brazilian embassy and Annesha group will hold a seminar. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel, Time: 9:00am.

Rally

Bangla Mountaineering and Trekking Club will hold a rally. Venue: Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, Time: 9:00am.

Seminar

Malaysian Aviation Training Academy will hold a seminar. Venue: All community club, Time: 3:00pm.



WEATHER TODAY

Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary or partly cloudy sky over the country in 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins elsewhere over the country during mid night till morning, Met office said.

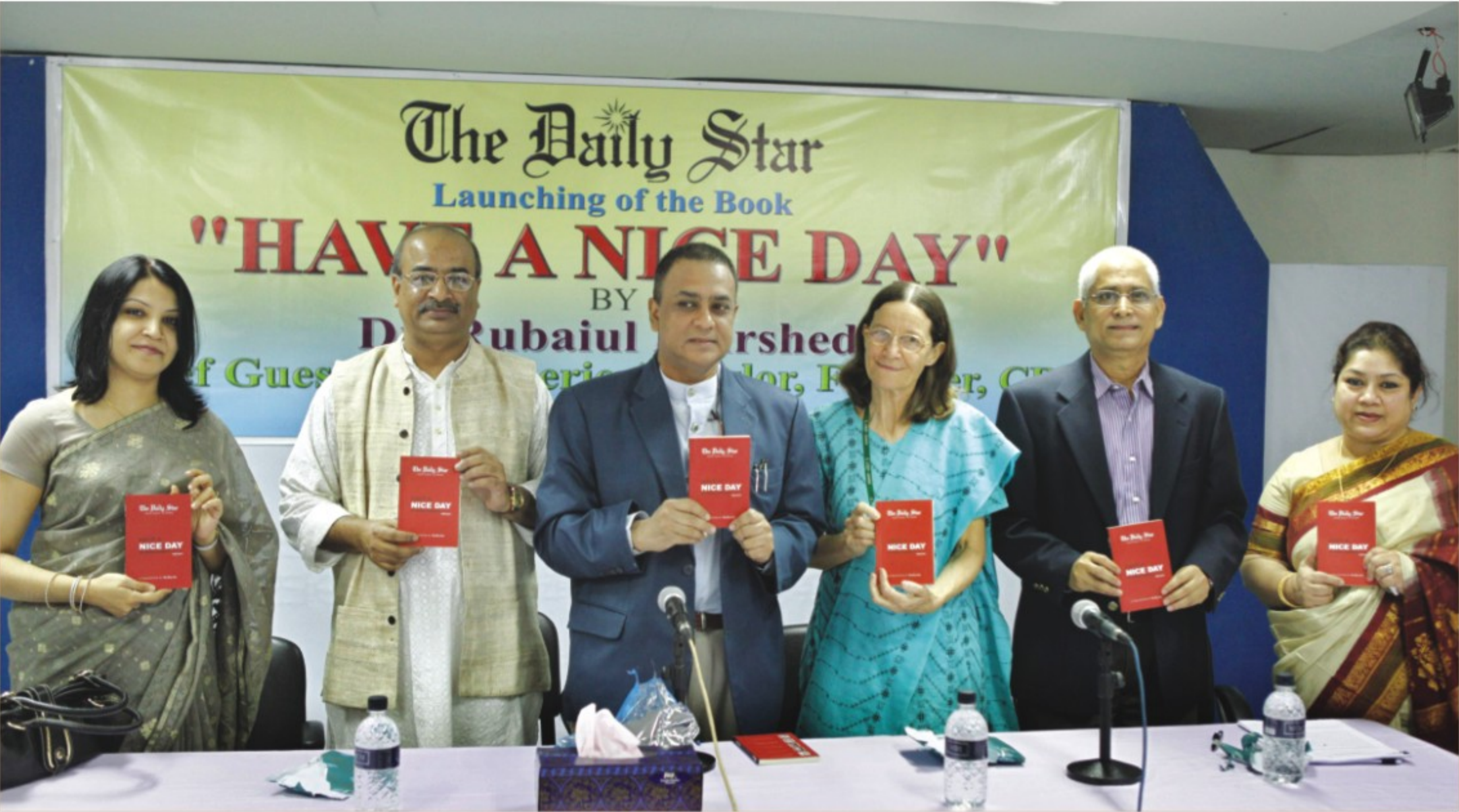
Day and night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:12pm today and rises at 6:31am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 30.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 13.8 degrees Celsius at Ishwardi.

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	26.2	15.3	96	78
Chittagong	27.5	17.8	91	69
Rajshahi	23.8	14.6	100	85
Rangpur	21.4	15.8	85	77
Khulna	28.0	15.5	100	75
Barisal	28.5	15.5	100	90
Sylhet	26.9	17.4	100	86
Cox's Bazar	30.2	17.6	71	73



Dr Rubaiul Murshed, the author of the book 'Have a Nice Day', *third from left*, and Valerie Ann Taylor, *third from right*, hold copies of the book at its launching ceremony at The Daily Star Centre in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

'HAVE A NICE DAY'

Lucid presentation of healthy living habits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A book cluing on healthy living habits and explaining healthcare in easy-to-understand language was launched in the city yesterday.

The book titled "Have a Nice Day" is a compilation of The Daily Star's popular weekly health tips column written by Dr Rubaiul Murshed under the same title.

"It is a major challenge to present health related subjects in a simple and easy-to-understand way," said Faruk Ahmed, director of Brac Health Programme at the launching programme in The Daily Star Centre.

"The writer of the book shows how it can be done in a lucid and novel way," he said.

Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam termed the book "an effort to

demystify health problems".

Speaking as the chief guest, Valerie Ann Taylor, founder and coordinator of Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed, said the book is beautifully presented and is lovely to see.

Referring to the book's title, she said enjoying every single day and having fun should be the essence of life.

Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services Vice President Farhana A Rahman said the readers will really appreciate the way the writer managed to explain health related topics using really simple words.

The book's author Dr Rubaiul Murshed, WaterAid Country Representative Khairul Islam and Bangladesh Palliative and Supportive Care Foundation Chairperson Dr Rumana Dowla also spoke at the launching.

DU Cha unit admission test results published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of first year admission tests for honours of Cha unit of Dhaka University (DU) were published yesterday evening.

A total of 289 out of 1,844 students have passed. One hundred and nineteen students including 107 for seven practical departments and 12 for the department of History of Fine Arts, according to merit position, are called for viva on December 18 and 19 from 10:00 am-4:00pm at the dean office of the faculty, said a press release.

They are asked to send filled-up Preference and SIF forms through online at www.univdhaka.edu.



Bangladesh Dalit and Banchito Jonogosthi Odhikar Andolon forms a human chain in front of National Museum in the city yesterday demanding an end to social discrimination.

PHOTO: STAR

City to get second launch terminal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The shipping ministry has taken the initiative to construct a new launch terminal in the city's Postogola to reduce the excessive pressure of passengers on Sadarghat Launch Terminal, the lone river terminal of the city.

The main aim is to ease passengers' suffering and reduce the gridlock in Sadarghat area, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan told The Daily Star yesterday.

The final decision to start construction will be taken within this week or the next, he said.

"Launches of two or three southern districts like Bhola, Borguna and Patuakhali would anchor in the new terminal. Some portions of Sadarghat Launch Terminal would also be shifted to the new terminal," said Shahjahan.

Although the minister did not say anything about the estimated cost, an official of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) said it might be around Tk 8 crore.

"We will hold a meeting with the stakeholders on Wednesday. We will then chalk out the next course of action," he said.

The shipping minister and other BIWTA officials visited the spot for the new terminal on Friday and directed to evict temporary kitchen markets erected on the roads from Shyambazar to Sadarghat.

War heroines look for solace in trial of war criminals

BSS, Dhaka

Twenty-one Biranganas (war heroines) of Sirajganj, who survived after being dishonored by the Pakistani military junta and their collaborators in 1971, now eagerly wait to see some of those perpetrators being punished in the ongoing war crimes trial.

Sharing their horrific stories of torture and survival during the War of Liberation, these war heroines longed to witness the verdict against the war criminals before their death.

During the nine-month long war, Pakistani soldiers along with their collaborators like Razakars, Al-Badars and Al-Shams dragged away women from their homes, subjecting them to sexual abuse and extreme physical torture at the army camps.

"I was repeatedly raped and tortured by four Pakistani army personnel who forcibly dragged me away while I was going to the field to feed my brother," said a war heroine.

Another war heroine said she was picked up from her house by 11 Pakistani army men and Razakars when she was preparing to flee after witnessing the killing of 80 innocent

people in her area.

"I can not sleep at night when I recall the number of men, women and children killed in front of me at that time," she said.

Many of these war heroines were officially honoured by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who addressed them as 'mother' at a meeting on the Sirajganj Government College premises in 1973.

There hope for punishing the war criminals was however shattered after Bangabandhu's assassination on August 15, 1975.

In 2010, the Awami League-led government under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina set up the International Crimes Tribunal to hold trial of all those who committed gruesome acts like murder, rape, arson and looting during the liberation war.

"This time I am really optimistic about the trial of the war criminals. If required, I am ready to deposit my witness," said another war heroine of Sirajganj.

She demanded exemplary punishment of the Razakars, Al-Badars and Al-Shams who collaborated with the Pakistani army in committing crimes against humanity in 1971.

Call to reduce dependency on middlemen for safe migration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dependency on middlemen should be reduced and efforts should be united to provide the right services to migrant workers and ensure their safe passage abroad, said speakers at a workshop yesterday.

The workshop titled "Expansion of Labour Markets and Decentralising Services for Migrant Workers" was organised by Brac Safe Migration Facilitation Project in the city's Brac Centre Inn, says a press release.

Tyranny of middlemen caused migration costs to rise over the years. Moreover, they harass people who are hoping to work abroad, they observed.

Director of Manpower, Employment and Training Bureau Dr Nurul Islam presided over the programme where Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry Joint Secretary Kazi Abul Kalam also spoke.

Rokeya Memorial Lecture held

BSS, Dhaka

The Rokeya Memorial Lecture marking the Begum Rokeya Day was held at the Dhaka University (DU) Senate Bhavan yesterday.

Women and Gender Studies Department organised the function with its Chairperson Soheli Khadiza Azad in the chair.

Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof Harun-or-Rashid addressed the function as the chief guest while Social Sciences Faculty Dean Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed as the special guest.

Professor of English Department Niaz Zaman and writer Selina Hossain delivered the memorial lectures while Professor Emeritus Nazma Chowdhury delivered the welcome address.

Mentioning Begum Rokeya as the pioneer of the women renaissance of this subcontinent, Prof Harun said her contributions to the women education and social reforms will be ever remembered.

Workshop on eSIF of Comilla Edn Board held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A day-long workshop on the filling up of electronic Student's Information Form (eSIF) organised by secondary and higher secondary education board of Comilla was held at Annada Government High School in the district on Thursday.

Md Nizamul Karim, college inspector under secondary and higher secondary education board of Comilla, inaugurated the workshop as chief guest with Farida Nazmin, headmaster of Brahmanbaria Annada Government High School in the chair.

The headmasters and the computer skilled teachers from each of all secondary schools of the district under the board attended the workshop which was monitored by Engineer Md Al Hasan, representative of Teletalk.

The workshop was also addressed, among others, by Shumesh Kar Chawdhury, school inspector under the board, Md Nazrul Islam Sarker and Md Kamruzzaman, deputy inspectors.

Following the workshop, functioning of registration of JSC and SSC students of all schools here have entered online system.