

## NEWS IN *brief*

### JS body asks for probe into FP dept recruitment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the public administration ministry to investigate alleged irregularities in the recruitment of 144 employees in the family planning department.

The parliamentary standing committee on the ministry also asked the authorities concerned to extend the age limit of the employees, who are freedom fighters, to 61 from 59.

The committee's urge came following a news report published by a Bangla daily yesterday, which says some 144 employees had failed in the written tests but their names were included in the final list for viva-voce. Later, all the 144 employees were appointed.

### Service of Lt Gen Masud extended

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to extend the service of Bangladesh High Commissioner in Canberra, Australia Lt Gen Masud Uddin Chowdhury for one more year, official sources said.

However, he will have to retire from his service in Bangladesh Army. He was appointed to Bangladesh High Commission in Australia on June 8, 2008.

### Minister sees 8 buses with no papers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Of around 15 buses stopped by Communications Minister Obaidul Quader in the city yesterday to check their papers, three drivers had no driving license, two had fake ones and three buses had no fitness certificate or tax token.

Moreover, the driver of Ena bus, owned by Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity Secretary General Khandaker Enayetullah, present with the minister, presented a fake license.

The minister carried out the random check before Sarak Bhaban and in Farmgate and Chandrima Udyan around 5:00pm with two magistrates and the ministry officials.

Obaidul directed BRTA Chairman Ayubur Rahman Khan to cancel the route permit of the three buses.

### Tiny Tots School donates uniforms

METRO DESK

Setting an example for other well-off private schools to extend a helping hand to the under privileged students, Tiny Tots School donated school bags and uniforms to the students of government backed Bosilla Primary School.

Tiny Tots School Principal Anjum Husain and Director Raihan Husain distributed the goods in a function chaired by Primary Education Deputy Director Mohammed Mahfuzul Islam on Saturday, says a press release.

Participants at a discussion styled "Organ transplantation in Bangladesh: Problems and possibilities" organised by the Bangla daily Prothom Alo in its city office yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



### 3 injured in police-criminal gun battle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gun battle between police and criminals left a police constable and two alleged criminals with bullet injuries in the city's Gulshan last night.

The injured Constable Amjad Hossain, 42, and criminals Mahbubur Rahman, 32, and Sohail Rana, 29, are undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

Police recovered a pistol, two bullets and a knife from the two. Other gang members fled on a motorcycle.

The gun battle ensued just as a three-member police patrol team went to Institute of Public Health canteen in Mohakhali around 8:45pm on information that extortionists were intimidating traders by shooting at them.

DMCH sources said the two arrested were intoxicated.

### ILLEGAL ORGAN TRADE

# Patients suffer for govt's slow response

## Doctors tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government's slow response in checking illegal organ trade is hampering organ transplants in the country and increasing the suffering of patients, observed doctors at a discussion yesterday.

Currently the country hosts only kidney transplantation with 120 transplants being carried out yearly against a demand for 20,000, they said.

The discussion, "Organ Transplantation in Bangladesh: Problems and Possibilities", was organised by the daily Prothom Alo at its city office.

"The government should not delay its decision over kidney transplantation which is the only way a patient with a damaged kidney can get a new lease of life," said Dr Harun-Ur Rashid, president of Society of Organ Transplantation.

Public and private hospitals stopped organ transplants in September last year in the wake of media reports that a syndicate was luring poor people from

Joypurhat into selling their organs -- kidneys and livers.

According to the country's laws, organs can only be transplanted if it is donated by a close kin or spouse or cadaveric donors. One cannot under any circumstances receive money in exchange for organs.

In August, transplantation resumed at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and later at National Institute of Kidney Disease and Urology.

But the government is yet to give any final decision over the recommendations its six-member-committee gave in November, causing the impasse in transplantation.

Speakers yesterday urged the government to finalise the draft regulations formed from the recommendations.

The draft regulations say that a national body must certify the relationship between the donor and the recipient prior to a transplant in a private hospital. Public hospitals, however, can conduct transplants on their own certification.

The speakers also proposed to allow organ donation among emotional relations, for example, among friends and promote cadaveric donors.

"I request the government to take necessary initiatives so that transplantation, at least among first-degree relations (between parents and children), can take place in public and private hospitals without any hindrance," said Harun, a committee member.

Prof Abul Mansur, director of transplant unit, Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, said, "We urge the government to finalise the recommendations in the next two weeks."

Prof Dr Mohammad Ali, Prof Dr Muhammad Rafiqul Alam, Prof Dr Mirza Foysal, LabAid Managing Director Dr AM Shamim, Prof Dr MA Salam, Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council President Prof Dr Abu Sufi Ahmed Amin, Prof Dr AK Azad Khan and Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan spoke at the discussion.

Prothom Alo Joint Editor Abdul Quayum moderated the programme.

## Information Commission rebukes Saidpur OC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Commission yesterday rebuked Saidpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Jamal Uddin for appearing in a hearing at the commission's courtroom without uniform and ordered him to follow the police code.

The OC was also ordered to provide information to the applicant who filed a complaint to the commission against him on October 25 under Right to Information Act, 2009 for not getting sought information from him.

On July 30, housewife Tahera Begum of Shan Ullah Bashunia at Saidpur upazila in Nilphamari did not get information from the OC when she sought data on the number of allegations filed by tortured women from January to June last year.

She also made an appeal to the police super of Nilphamari on October 3 for the same but failed to get information, Tahera said.

## Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the second death anniversary of Md Nurul Hassan, a versatile accountant and former president of Institute of Cost and Management Accountants (ICMA) and South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA).

He is also author of many books on accounting profession, said a press release.

## Qulkhwani

METRO DESK



The qulkhwani of Kazi Khairul Basha (Babul), ar director and one of the founder members of Adcomm Ltd, will be held at his own residence after Maghrib prayers today.

He died in the city's Samorita Hospital on January 7 at the age of 66.

### CLIMATE CHANGE

## US congresswoman assures full support

UNB, Dhaka

US Congresswoman Betty McCollum yesterday praised the energy and enthusiasm of the people of Bangladesh, particularly the women, in advancing the socio-economic condition of the country.

She assured of extending her full support for Bangladesh's fight against climate change debacle saying it is an international responsibility to address the problems.

She made the assurance during a meeting with Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at her ministry.

McCollum, now in Bangladesh to see the country's progress in promoting the role of women and girls in politics and society, praised the progresses Bangladesh has been making in social sector, including the empowerment of women.

Dipu Moni urged the congresswoman for bringing back the killer of Bangabandhu from the US to ensure justice.



(From left) Former Dhaka University vice-chancellor Dr Emazuddin Ahmed, Columbia University professor Rawnak Jahan, Advocate Sultana Kamal and eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain at a discussion on democracy, human rights and good governance. Ekattor, an upcoming private television channel, organised the discussion in the city's Chhayanaught Sangskriti Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Dr Kamal for caretaker restoration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday suggested restoring the caretaker government system, which was cancelled following a Supreme Court verdict last year, for the sake of a free and fair general election.

"The constitution could be amended on the basis of discussion", he said, at a time when the government stands firm in holding the next parliamentary polls under the present government and the main opposition, BNP, is waging movement against it.

"Cancellation of the caretaker government (CG) system was done in a supersonic way without any discussion. The Supreme Court also gave only a brief order, not a full verdict, on the issue", said Dr Kamal, also an author of Bangladesh's constitution.

Referring to the unacceptable elections of 1986, Magura by-elections of 1994, and the general elections of 1996

and their bad consequences, he said, "We must ensure that the elections be free of black money, communalism, and rigging".

It is a question if the Election Commission (EC) alone can hold fair polls or it requires other assistance, he said, adding that these issues are to be discussed, and the CG issue should not be a closed issue.

Dr Kamal, also president of Gono Forum, made the remarks at a discussion on democracy, human rights and good governance at the city's Chhayanaught Sangskriti Bhaban, organised by an upcoming private television channel, Ekattor, yesterday.

Barrister Amir Ul Islam, another author of the constitution, however, said the CG, which has already put the Chief Justice's office in crisis, cannot be a permanent feature in democracy.

"It is the EC, which is a permanent solution. I think, now the EC has

restored its credibility. Alongside, the media is playing a very strong role. So none can hamper a fair poll even under a political government", he said.

Referring to media's role, Rawnak Jahan, a professor at Columbia University, said presently most of the media outlets are urban and seminar-centric. Ekattor should focus more on people's issues, going beyond the capital and bring out the news behind the news, and involve the grassroots leaders, she suggested.

A rights activist, Advocate Sultana Kamal, said choosing a newspaper or watching a television channel means that one elects it the way people elect their political leadership. "So the media should act responsibly keeping in mind the people's interests".

Former vice chancellor of Dhaka University Dr Emazuddin Ahmed and Ekattor television's Managing Director Mozammel Babu also spoke.

## SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMME PM seeks Unicef's support

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday sought assistance from the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) for introducing midday meal and school feeding programme to check the dropout of students as well as meet their nutritional demand.

"The government is going to introduce the midday meal and school feeding programme very soon to check the dropout of students and meet their nutrition demand. We seek Unicef's support to this end," she said when visiting Unicef Executive Director Dr Anthony Lake met her at her official residence Gano Bhaban in the afternoon.

After the meeting, deputy press secretary to the Prime Minister M Nazrul Islam briefed reporters.

The prime minister also said Bangladesh considers Unicef as a strategic development partner and attaches utmost importance to the works of the UN body in supporting children's health, nutrition, education, sanitation and protection of their rights.

Dr Anthony Lake said Unicef is going to undertake a programme in collaboration with the ICDDR,B in strengthening a campaign to check diarrhoea in the country.

He expressed Unicef's interests in assisting midday meal and school feeding programmes as well as addressing stunted growth of children in the country.

The Unicef executive director lauded Bangladesh's success in immunisation programme and said it is a unique example for other developing countries.

## Unicef aid to continue: ED

UNB, Dhaka


Visiting Unicef Executive Director Anthony Lake has assured that the aid flow for the development of mothers' and children's health and reducing their mortality rate will continue.

The assurance came during the Unicef boss' meeting with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque at his secretariat office yesterday.

Melinda Gates, Co-chair of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), who is also visiting Bangladesh, accompanied Lake and attended the meeting.

Praising Bangladesh's achievement in substantially reducing the mortality rate of both the mother and the child, one of the main targets of the Millennium Development Goal that the UN set to be achieved in the next few years, Lake said Unicef's assistance to materialise the goal will continue.

Both Lake and Melinda Gates laid emphasis on strengthening the nutrition project which is run under Unicef assistance and is aimed at qualitative improvement of children's health.



WEATHER  
TODAY

Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or thundershowers is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during midnight till morning, said Met Office.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:29 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43 am.

Country's highest temperature 29.2 degree Celsius was recorded today at Cox's Bazar and lowest 11.8 degrees at Rangpur.

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	20.4	18.7	86	86
Chittagong	26.8	17.7	84	75
Rajshahi	24.4	16.3	93	90
Rangpur	22.2	11.8	78	69
Khulna	19.5	17.5	100	94
Barisal	20.4	17.0	96	94
Sylhet	19.8	17.0	73	89
Cox's Bazar	29.2	17.8	76	74