

NEWS IN *brief*

**Cuet students boycott classes**

CU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) yesterday boycotted their classes demanding immediate appointment of a vice-chancellor (VC) for the university.

Students said the post of VC was lying vacant for more than a month after the tenure of former Cuet VC Prof Dr Shyamal Kanti Biswas expired on January 28.

Stalemate is prevailing in the academic and administrative activities of the university in the absence of VC, they alleged.

Contacted, Cuet Registrar Engr Md Shafiqul Islam admitted that most of the students boycotted classes yesterday.

He, however, said the academic activities are not being hampered in the absence of VC.

He expressed hope that the new VC will be appointed soon.

**Tk 6.5 lakh mugged in Sylhet**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An employee of a distribution company was mugged of Tk 6.5 lakh in the city's Jharnarpar area near the shrine of Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) yesterday.

Police said a gang of six miscreants riding on three motorcycles intercepted Ferdous Chowdhury, employee of Nexus Distribution Company, on his way to a bank at about 3:00pm.

They snatched the bag containing the money, some cheques and other papers at knife point.

The muggers fled the scene, leaving one of the motorcycles, as the pedestrians reached the spot hearing shouts of the victim.

Ferdous filed a case with Sylhet Kotwali Police Station.

**265 cans of 'contraband' beer seized**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday seized 265 cans of beer, allegedly smuggled into the country and worth to be around Tk 1.25 lakh, from Dakkhinpara area in Patenga of Chittagong yesterday.

On information, a police team raided Oli Ullah Mosque area around 3:30am and found the alcoholic beverages packed inside four plastic sacks near a pond, said police, adding that no one was arrested in this connection.

**50,000MT wheat purchase approved**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet committee on purchase yesterday approved a proposal for purchase of 50,000 tonnes of wheat.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith presided over the meeting of the committee at the Cabinet Division.

Rokeya Automatic Flour Mill Ltd was the lowest bidder. The price of wheat will be \$306.95 per tonne.

The committee yesterday also approved import of 3,56,000 tonnes of various petroleum products from Petrochina International (Singapore) Pvt Ltd of China, Petronas Trading Corporation of Malaysia and Emirates National Oil Co of UAE.

**MOVE TO EASE TRAFFIC JAM  
100 double-deckers for students soon**

UNB, Dhaka

The government will provide 100 BRTC buses to different educational institutions in the city as part of its efforts to reduce traffic jam.

"The double-decker buses will be provided within four months," said Communications Minister Obaidul Quader at a meeting at Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

The meeting was held with the heads of different educational institutions on the issue of resolving the city's traffic jam and development of transport system.

"Coordination is needed between the programmes of different ministries and departments to make a solution to the city's traffic jam as it has now become intolerable," Quader told the meeting.

The speakers stressed the importance of implementing awareness-building programmes involving guardians for lessening traffic congestion near the educational institutions which have greater number of students.



Prime minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi at a 4-day-long exhibition, 'Kizuna', at the National Museum in the city yesterday, organised to mark 40 years of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and Japan.

PHOTO: STAR

**Teachers' registration exam result published**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The result of the 7th Non-government Teachers' Registration Examination, a pre-qualifying exam to appoint teachers in schools, colleges, madrasas, and technical institutes, was published yesterday with 22.44 percent pass rate.

The result is available at the Non-government Teachers' Registration and Certification Authority's (NTRCA) website: (www.ntrca.gov.bd). The candidates can also get their results from the teletalk's website: www.ntrca.teletalk.com.bd.

A total of 57,203 candidates, out of 4.24 lakh, passed in the examination held under the NTRCA on December 2 and 3 last year.

Among the passed candidates, 34,961 passed for high school level posts and 22,242 for college level posts, says a handout. The pass rate for school and college are 21.14 percent and 23.73 percent respectively.

For school level posts, some 14,318 male candidates or 23 percent, out of 62,167, were passed while 7,924 female candidates or 25 percent, out of 31,547, crossed the hurdle.

For college level posts, the pass rate of male is 20.61 percent while female is 22.09 percent. Some 1.06 lakh male and 58,859 female candidates took the exam.

**USTC area becomes battlefield over trifling matter**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Students of University of Science and Technology Chittagong (USTC) and Omar Gani MES College yesterday engaged in a brawl over a trifle creating panic in the port city's GEC intersection area.

The clash that started around 6:30pm spread outside the USTC campus. The students of USTC put up barricades on the street and traffic in front of the campus came to a halt for over an hour.

Sources at the USTC said a freshers' reception programme of pharmacy department was underway on campus when several MES College students, who were friends of some USTC students, joined.

The brawl started over sitting on a motorbike that had an anti-theft alarm, said Sub-Inspector Shah Paran of Khulshi Police Station.

During the programme, when someone sat on the bike, which belonged to an MES College student, the alarm went off.

A few students of USTC claimed that they just sat on it while chatting and the alarm went off but some of the students of MES College alleged that they were trying to steal the bike, said witnesses.

Students of MES College allegedly beat up a student of USTC during the altercation.

After that, some 500 students of USTC took to the streets and put up barricades stopping traffic between GEC and AK Khan intersections.

Police rushed to the spot and removed the barricades around 8:00pm. A significant number of police were deployed there, said Obaidul Hoque, inspector (investigation) of Khulshi Police Station.

Asked, Prof Shams-ud-Doha, registrar of USTC, said he had heard about the matter, but did know any details.



Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia unveils a CD on songs performed by Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha at the party's Gulshan office in the city yesterday as part of the party initiatives to make the March 12 road march to Dhaka a success.

PHOTO: BNP

**RLY TICKET ON BLACK MARKET IN CTG  
Body to probe allegations**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The railway authorities yesterday formed a two-member probe committee to investigate the allegations of ticket-selling on the black market by railway officials at Chittagong Railway Station.

Md Rokanuzzaman, divisional commercial officer of Bangladesh Railway (East Zone), and Shah Alam Bhuiyan, security commandant of Bangladesh Railway, are the members of the committee.

The committee was also asked to submit its report as early as possible, sources at Bangladesh Railway (East Zone) Head Office in Chittagong said.

Rokanuzzaman on Saturday suspended three officials of Chittagong Railway Station for their alleged involvement in selling tickets illegally.

The suspended officials are Kamruzzaman Monir, booking clerk of a ticket counter, and Mezbah and Laltu, security men of the railway station.

Contacted, Rokanuzzaman said, "The officials were suspended following information from a journalist, who went to the station to purchase a ticket and noticed that they were selling tickets illegally."

"The railway authorities also formed a two-member probe committee to investigate the incident," he added.

Yusuf Ali Mridha, general manager of Bangladesh Railway (East Zone), confirmed the incident saying that the committee had been asked to submit its report as early as possible.

DAMAGE TO 2 MADARIPUR TEMPLES

**HC orders fresh probe**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the law secretary to form a committee led by a deputy secretary of his ministry to investigate the incident of damage to two century-old Hindu temples at Palita of Rajoir upazila in Madaripur.

During the hearing of a suo moto rule, the court said the deputy secretary make a comprehensive probe report by talking with the people concerned of the temples -- one of Goddess Kali and another of God Gopal, and submit the report to it by April 8.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Jahangir Hossain Selim ordered the deputy commissioner (DC) of Madaripur to maintain status quo in the temples area till further orders.

It directed the DC to allow the Hindu devotees to perform religious functions, including Dol Purnima, at the temples on March 8.

The people involved with the temples cannot be disturbed in any manner, it said. The court came up with the order after

an intervener of the case expressed no confidence in a part of a probe report submitted by the DC of Madaripur to the HC, saying that the temples were not demolished by any authority or any person, but had been damaged due to lack of proper maintenance.

Advocate Manzill Murshid, counsel for Pulin Baidya, one of two Sebaitis (worshippers) of the temples, yesterday challenged the DC's report before the HC, saying that he had earlier presented to the court some photographs on the demolition of the temples and felling of trees on the temple land.

The HC asked the DC to investigate the incident on the basis of those photographs and prosecute the perpetrators behind the incident, but the DC had prepared the probe report without talking with the people concerned and the perpetrators were saved, he said.

Deputy Attorney General ABM Altaf Hossain told the court that the Madaripur administration had already evicted one Nirmal Halder, who had been occupying the land of the temples for several years illegally.

**Ease admission process**

**Ctg mayor urges UK educational institutions**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor M Manjur Alam yesterday urged British educational institutions to ease the admission process for Bangladeshi students.

He was addressing as chief guest the inaugural ceremony of the daylong 9th Education UK Exhibition 2012 organised by British Council at a hotel in the city.

A total of 21 educational institutions took part in the exhibition.

British Council has been assisting Bangladeshi students since 1953. Completing their education from British educational institutions, students are availing better job opportunities both at home and abroad, said Manjur.

British Council Bangladesh Director Rosemary Arnott said, "The exhibition will be bigger and better than ever before. We look forward to welcoming all those who will take the benefits and opportunities that we have to offer at this fair."

The exhibition provided advice on undergraduate and post-graduate degree courses, scholarship opportunities and a glance into what it is like to live and study in the UK, said British Council Bangladesh Education Programme Officer Shanjida Khatun.

Information on the UK visa application process and opportunities offered by the British Council to learn English and complete internationally recognised qualifications from the UK were also available at the exhibition, she said.

**JU teachers start fresh agitation today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of Jahangirnagar University (JU) teachers yesterday announced a five-day fresh agitation programme, including laying siege to the registrar building and holding rally on the campus to meet their demand.

Prof Nasim Akhter Hossain, spokesperson of the teachers' platform named 'Shikkhak Samaj', announced the programme at a press conference at Jahangirnagar University Journalists' Association office.

The programme begins today with a mass campaign against alleged irregularities of the university administration. The teachers will set up a "mass complaint centre" for lodging complains against the JU authorities on March 6 and hold a rally in front of the registrar building on March 8.

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Rise in temperature likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Sylhet division and the regions of Tangail, Mymensingh and Comilla and weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:03pm today and rises at 6:16am tomorrow.**

Country's highest temperature 34.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and Mongla and lowest 12.3 degrees Celsius at Chuadanga.

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	32.0	21.2	71	24
Chittagong	27.7	19.5	73	85
Rajshahi	32.6	13.7	49	45
Rangpur	28.4	13.8	74	50
Khulna	34.0	18.8	56	45
Barisal	33.0	20.7	82	53
Sylhet	30.1	16.0	79	45
Cox's Bazar	29.5	18.4	78	86