

NEWS IN *brief*

Stalker gets six months' jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

A mobile court yesterday sentenced a man to six months' imprisonment for stalking a 14-year-old girl in Dastampur village under Pirganj upazila.

Executive Magistrate and Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Pirganj Abdur Rauf Mandal handed down the sentence.

The convicted Iynul Haque, 30, is the son of Mohammad Ali of the village.

Officer-in-Charge of Pirganj Police Station Mehedi Hasan told The Daily Star that Iynul often teased the girl on her way to school.

On Thursday, Iynul intercepted the girl and started harassing her in broad daylight. When the girl cried for help, locals caught the miscreant and

DU Prof sent on forced-leave

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A professor of Dhaka University has been sent on forced-leave for an indefinite period for his alleged involvement in sexual harassment of female students.

The syndicate took the decision against Dr Mahmud Hasan, a professor of fisheries department, at a meeting on Wednesday, chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.

The action came after a section of students lodged a written complaint against the teacher.

A five-member body headed by Pro VC Prof Shahid was formed to investigate the allegation.

Quiz on Korea concludes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A quiz competition called "Quiz on Korea" aiming to create knowledge about the country among young Bangladeshis, ended at the embassy of the Republic of Korea in the capital on Thursday.

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Taiyoung Cho presented awards to the top participants of the competition.

The winner of the quiz competition will be travelling to Korea representing Bangladesh, among participants from 23 other countries, in the grand finale of the competition.

The competition began with 150 candidates being selected through online registration. After a written exam, eight candidates qualified among them journalist Samia Shamim was chosen the winner of the

More trains in greater Mymensingh demanded

UNB, *Mymensingh*

Green activists yesterday demanded more intercity trains on different routes of greater Mymensingh.

A large number of people from Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, Jamalpur and Netrakona who travel by trains every day, have to face lot of troubles due to insufficient trains on different routes, speakers said at a human chain.

Poribesh Bachao Andolan (Poba) and United Peace Foundation jointly organised the event at

3 journalist impersonators held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police detained three journalist impersonators at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) yesterday.

The detainees are Humayun Kabir, 60, Ramjan Ali, 36, and Sheikh Abdul Ahad, 45.

Esaraf Hossain Esa, general secretary of Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh (CRAB), said a group of people, introducing themselves as journalists, were trying to hold a roundtable at DRU yesterday under the banner of International Human Rights Crime Reporters Foundation.

When the attending journalists asked for their identity cards, they failed to produce them. Later the journalists handed them over to Shahbagh

Road crashes kill two

METRO DESK

Two people were killed and 41 others injured in road accidents in Pabna, Sirajganj and Patuakhali yesterday and Thursday.

Our Pabna correspondent reports, a Nosimon driver was killed and another injured as a truck hit the three-wheeler at Hengli point on Thursday night.

The deceased was Hazrat Ali, 42, of Chatmohar upazila.

Our Sirajganj correspondent says, an unidentified bus helper was killed and five others were injured as the bus hit two trucks on the west approach road of Bangabandhu Bridge at Konabari yesterday.

Our Patuakhali correspondent adds, at least 35 people were injured as a bus plunged into a roadside ditch in Bakulbaria area yesterday. Of the injured, 10 were admitted to Galachipa Upazila Health Complex.



Symposium

United Nations Association of Bangladesh will organise a symposium; Venue: Wings Centre, Dhanmondi Road No-4A; Time: 5:00pm.

Roundtable

Media Studies and Journalism Department of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) will organise a roundtable; Venue: ULAB Auditorium, Satmosjid Road, Dhanmondi; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Rural Journalist Foundation will hold an open discussion; Venue: Central Public Library; Time: 3:00pm.

Sit-in

Upazila Parishad 4th Class Karmachari Association of Bangladesh will stage a sit-in; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

Bangladesh Probin Hitoishi Sangha O Jara Bigyan Protishtan will organise a seminar; Venue: Probin Bhaban, E-10, Agargaon; Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable

Retired Civil Officers' Foundation will arrange a roundtable; Venue: Hotel Orchard Plaza Conference Room, Nayapaltn; Time: 10:00am.

Rally

TANGENTS
BY IHTISHAM KABIR

The Flower Market

Early one morning I find myself a few hundred yards east of the flower stores in Shahbagh. It is the wholesale flower market, supplying flowers to stores in the city and its outskirts.

At this unlikely location - a covered area near the stairs of a foot overbridge - a colourful and fragrant scene unfolds before my eyes as the sellers hustle to show and sell their offerings while buyers sniff out the best bargains. Some buy only fifty roses; others fill up entire CNGs with flowers.

I discover that the market has been around for at least twenty years. It starts at daybreak and continues until late morning. At its busiest, it hosts as many as a thousand vendors selling flowers and decoration items.

I see about fifty types of flowers. The market's centre is covered by sensuous and exotic marigold garlands in shades of orange. It is the most popular flower, used as a wedding decoration. Along the edges of the footpath, large bunches of roses are lined up. Smaller flowers such as jasmine - which has several varieties - are sold in garlands.

I ask the vendors where the flowers grow. I am told they are grown all over Bangladesh - Savar, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Jessore - and brought here at four am.

Off to one side, several women sit working with *rajanigandha* flowers. Interspersing the white flowers with roses, their garlands look elegant. Once a woman finishes two or three garlands, she gets up and walks around the market selling them. Then she returns to her seat to make more.

I speak with Ayesha, about sixty, whose band-aid covered fingers swiftly work the needle, coaxing flowers into thread. "I started in flower business around Ershad's time. Before, I used to sell jasmine garlands as a vendor. But I started this work when I saw business picking up. I am my own boss and I taught all of them," she says, proudly pointing to the other women working next to her.

Another seller, Alam, asks me to take his picture. His nursery is in Narayanganj. He grows sixty types of flowers and produces year-round except for one foggy month in winter. He also grows seasonal flowers, including dahlias and cherry.

Conspicuously absent from the offerings is *shefali*, a childhood favourite of mine. I am reminded that it appears during autumn. *Shefali* is popular during Puja, but a seller confides it is difficult to sell because it bruises



Alam shows his flowers.

PHOTO IHTISHAM KABIR

and wilts easily. *Bokul*, also a subject of many childhood memories, is more robust and fares better.

The market offers other wedding decorations, including Styrofoam signs, headdresses and green garlands made from rolled-up leaves. Asma sells the latter. She offers two varieties - dark and light, with *debdaru* and mahogany leaves - at five taka each. Ever the entrepreneur, she pays several women to make them and starts selling at the break of dawn.

Imported flowers are not available here. But for me, the beauty and fragrance of our local flowers are delightful enough.

www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir



Three baby bulbuli birds with mouths wide open eagerly wait for the return of their mother with food. The photo was taken from Moghbazar area in the capital this week.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Book on fifteen eminent personalities unveiled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A book on autobiographical interviews of the country's 15 eminent personalities who have immense contribution to the society was unveiled yesterday.

The launch of the two-volume book, "Jader Safolle Alokito Bangladesh," marked the fifth founding anniversary of the weekly magazine "Shaptahik", which published the interviews on different occasions earlier.

The first volume contains the interviews of late Samson H Chowdhury, former chairman of Square Group; Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of Brac; eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain; eminent lawyer

Barrister Rafiq-ul Haque; engineer Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah; PHP Group

Chairman Mizanur Rahman; Managing Director of Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd Abdul Muktadir, and eminent heart surgeon Dr Jahangir Kabir.

The second volume contains the interviews of Grameen Bank founder and Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, eminent economist late Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, eminent entrepreneur Syed Manzur Elahi, banker Lutfur Rahman Sarkar, economist Dr Akbar Ali Khan, economist Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, and Walton Bangladesh Managing Director SM Ashraf Alam.

The book published by Shomoy Prokashan was dedicated to artist Rabeya Khatun and eminent journalist ABM Musa. The unveiling ceremony was held at Channel I office in the capital.

SYLHET-1 JS POLLS Muhith declares his candidature

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has declared his candidature for the next national polls from Sylhet-1 constituency.

He made the announcement at a meeting after bouncing ideas off the Awami League (AL) men from four unions in Sylhet Sadar upazila on Thursday night at the Circuit House here.

"I contested the 2001 polls for the first time with a little preparation. Since then I started working closely with the common people and finally secured a big victory in 2008 for the grand alliance," he noted.

"It happened mainly due to all-out support from a cross section of people in Sylhet. I will again contest the next polls from this constituency."

The AL should be voted to power again, said Muhith, just for completing its unfinished tasks, which it has started in all the major sectors.

The present government has already achieved laudable success in energy, education, agriculture and communication sectors, but the opposition is spreading "misleading propaganda" in the country, complained the finance minister.

He urged all to work together for the party and the nation.

District AL president and Sylhet Zilla Parishad administrator Abdus Zahir Chowdhury Sufian, general secretary Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury MP, Sadar upazila chairman Ashfaque Ahmed addressed the meeting, among others, with Sadar upazila AL president Mofizur Rahman Badsha in the chair.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Jobaida Rahman, mother of Raihan Al Mugni, sports-in-charge of the "daily sun", died of old age complications at her residence in Chittagong yesterday. She was 83.

She left behind three sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

She will be buried at the family graveyard today.

No internet at RU dorms despite funds

AM JAHID

Students of Rajshahi University are yet to enjoy internet facilities at residential halls although two years have passed since University Grants Commission (UGC) allocated the funds for it.

Moreover, the authorities have recently imposed a yearly fee for the internet service.

To implement the government's digitisation process, UGC allocated Tk 4.60 crore to set up the infrastructure for wi-fi for residential students and teachers of the university on July 25, 2010, administration sources said.

The setting up process was under the "Extension and Renovation of Network and Building Automated Office Management System" (ERNBAOMS) project of "Higher Education and Quality Enhancement Project" (HEQEP).

The authorities have already set up internet cable lines on the campus and provided internet facilities in the teachers' residences and hall offices but the residential students were left out due to alleged callousness of the authorities.

Students of various departments remain deprived of internet facilities at present although they need to access their course related materials and topics in the internet every day.

The global education curriculum was changing on a regular basis, incorporating new innovations, ideas and thoughts, but the students were still lagging behind due to a lack of sufficient technological facilities, said the students.

Venting anger, a resident student of Rahmatunnesa Hall, Nasrin Akter, said the much awaited wi-fi for student have turned into a far cry as the authorities concerned did not shoulder the responsibilities seriously.

"We are falling far behind students of other countries in many ways in the era of globalisation as we do not have internet access for academic purposes," said Mithila Farzana, a student of Taposi Rabeya hall.

Termining the charging of fees a burden, students of different residential halls said they were already overburdened with the existing fees of the university, comparable to ones charged at private ones.

"How would the government's digitalisation process be fulfilled if the university authorities rear such an obsolete attitude," asked Kartik Ranjon Roy, another student of the university.

Prof Abul Kalam Fazlul Haque, administrator of RU computer center, responsible for overseeing the university's IT sector, said they were not taking any decision on providing internet facilities at residential halls fearing widespread "misuse".

The students would access illicit sites, he said, adding, "It will be a risky move for the authorities to provide student in the halls with internet facilities although we have the ability to do so."

Earlier they had recommended the authorities concerned to charge the students as they added a bandwidth of 40 mbps to the 64 mbps already made available on the campus to strengthen the internet capacity, he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Raquib Ahmed, sub-project manager of ERNBAOMS, said, according to the proposal of UGC, they provided internet facilities at the hall offices and residences of teachers.

"It is the responsibility of the hall authorities to provide internet access to residential students in the halls as we have already provided the access points in every hall office," he added.

Residential students will get wi-fi if the hall authorities set up the wireless network access points in every building by connecting it to the existing cable lines in the halls, Dr Raquib said.

Prof Mizanur Rahman Khan, provost of Sayed Amir Ali hall and also the convener of provost council, said it was not their duty to provide the residential students with internet as HEQEP was assigned with the job.

He assured to raise the issue in the next meeting of the provost council.

RU Computer Center and HEQEP sources said the university authorities pay Tk 65 lakh every year as internet service charges and US \$ 18,000 for the university's Online Library system where over 7,000 journals from around the world can be accessed.

RU Vice Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan, however, was not available for comment.

On contact, Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad Nurullah told this correspondent that they would seriously look into the matter.

Rain or thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:49pm and rises tomorrow at 5:20am.

Country's highest temperature 35.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.0 degrees at Hatiya.

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	34.3	26.6	82	69
Chittagong	30.0	24.2	96	89
Rajshahi	34.5	25.0	83	88
Rangpur	32.5	26.5	93	90
Khulna	34.8	27.0	89	84
Barisal	34.2	26.3	81	83
Sylhet	32.2	26.5	88	78