

NEWS IN *brief*

DMCH doctor 'assaults' patient

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A senior doctor of the surgery ward at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) allegedly assaulted a patient in the hospital yesterday.

Ariful Haque Chowdhury Ripon was admitted to the DMCH on June 29 following a road accident.

The doctor pulled Ripon off his bed, slapped him and discharged him from the hospital after an altercation between Ripon and a female interneer doctor over dressing his wounds on July 17, the hospital sources said.

Ripon's wife Dilara Chowdhury told The Daily Star that, following the feud, Ripon was being deprived of getting stitches he was scheduled to have yesterday.

DMCH Director Mustafizur Rahman told the reporters that the discharge letter had been withdrawn.

The doctor could not be contacted for comment.

WFP gets \$1.5m for Rohingyas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has received \$1.5 million from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to continue providing food and nutrition support to 31,000 Rohingya refugees living in southeastern Bangladesh.

A WFP press release issued yesterday said the donation would enable WFP to continue its work to improve food security and reduce under-nutrition among registered refugees living in Kutupalong and Nayapara in Cox's Bazar until the end of this year.

Protect Cox's Bazar hills: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Declaring all kinds of hill cutting in Cox's Bazar illegal, the High Court yesterday directed the government to immediately take steps to continuously safeguard the hills and take appropriate legal action against those who were cutting hills.

An HC bench passed the verdict after hearing a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh on June 21, 2011 following a Prothom Alo report published a day before.

The petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid said Cox's Bazar deputy commissioner and superintendent of police, upazila nirbahi officers of Teknaf and Ukhiya and officers-in-charge of Teknaf and Ukhiya

Four 'JMB men' held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four suspected members of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) were arrested with books on militancy from the capital's Uttara early yesterday.

Shamsul Huda, 25, is an ehshar (full-time member), Fatik alias Badsha alias Abdullah, 40, and Badrul alias Badar alias Badal, 28, are gayeri ehshar (part-time members) and Abu Bakkar, 26, is an active member.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Detective Branch of police arrested the JMB men from an under-construction building at Sector 10 in Uttara, said Md Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

"A good number of books and leaflets containing instructions on militant training and bomb-making were seized from the den," he added.

During primary interrogation, Shamsul Huda, a Kamil first-year student of Chapainawabganj Alia Madrasa, admitted that he had long been working as JMB chief in the Uttara area, said officials at a press briefing at DB headquarters on Minto Road.

Shamsul Huda, a former leader of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir, is a charge-sheeted accused in JMB IT chief Ruhul Amin murder case. Ruhul was killed on April 26 this year.

"They gathered in the house from different parts of the country to conduct acts of sabotage during Ramadan," said a DB official.

Monirul Islam, deputy commissioner of DB, said the JMB men were trying to reunite at the field level.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain or thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Moderately heavy to very 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 6:47pm and rises tomorrow at 5:23am.

Country's highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.0 degrees at Teknaf.

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	32.5	25.2	80	87
Chittagong	29.7	25.5	90	87
Rajshahi	30.5	26.0	88	87
Rangpur	30.0	25.5	97	84
Khulna	30.5	25.0	96	86
Barisal	31.4	25.6	92	81



Students of Dhaka University come out of the Arts Building as classrooms are locked during yesterday's strike called by a group of students under the banner of Dhaka Bishwabiddaloy Shikharthi Odhikar Mancha. The group is demanding election to Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu). PHOTO: STAR

WAR CRIMES TRIAL Hearing on division for Kashem held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday heard a prayer of detained Jamaat-Islami leader and war crimes suspect Mir Kashem Ali seeking division facilities in jail.

Placing the submission before Justice Md Nizamul Huq, Kashem's counsel, Barrister Abdur Razzaq, said his client was an educated and socially recognised person.

Since Kashem was a leader of a political party having representation in parliament, his status fell in the criteria for division-1 as per the jail code, he said.

Earlier, they sought the division facilities with the district magistrate, who sought the tribunal's direction in this regard, he added.

Prosecutor Zead Al Malum said the application should have been taken to the magistrate as it was a matter of the jail code.

Justice Nizamul fixed July 22 to pass order on the matter.

Kashem was arrested from the office of Bangla daily Naya Diganta in the capital's Motijheel area on June 17.

The tribunal-1 yesterday also recorded the cross-examination of the investigation officer of a case filed against Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee, facing 20 specific charges of committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

It also rejected four petitions of the defence counsels of Delawar and adjourned the proceedings of the case till July 22.

THREE AND HALF YEARS OF GOVT 50m poor uplifted to middle class: Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday claimed that 50 million poor people had been uplifted to the middle class group during the present government's tenure due to developments in many sectors.

The developments include rise of agricultural productions through the reduction of prices of agricultural inputs. The government would build agro-based industries in every region of the country to boost agricultural production, she said.

Hasina, also the president of the ruling Awami League, was addressing a national council of the party's associated body, Krishak League, at Bangabandhu International

Conference Centre in the capital.

Talking to The Daily Star, former finance adviser to a caretaker government, Mirza Azizul Islam, said it was true that some people had been uplifted to the middle income group as remittance, overall growth and per capita income rose in the country.

But coming up with a figure like that requires holding a household income and expenditure survey and the last survey of this kind was held in 2010, said Mirza, also a renowned economist.

Hasina, responding to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's announcement to construct two Padma bridges if they were voted to power, said when the AL-led government could not build one bridge in their five-year tenure,

how would BNP build two.

"There should be a limit to fraud and deception," she said.

Hasina, in her speech, said food production, per capita income, Gross Domestic Product, exports, foreign reserves and investment increased due to sincere efforts of the government.

She reiterated that the next parliamentary elections in Bangladesh would be held in the way other parliamentary democracies in the world hold theirs.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, General Secretary of All India Kishan Sabha, the farmers' wing of the CPI(M), Atul Kumar Anjaan and Krishak League General Secretary Mottahar Hossain Mollah spoke at the programme, chaired by its President Mirza Abdul Jalil.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presents Hiroyuki Ishige, chairman and CEO of Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), with Bangabandhu's autobiography "The Unfinished Memoirs" at her office in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: PMO

Govt fails to keep doctors in rural areas: Minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite adequate supply of medicines to the public hospitals at union parishad level, the government is failing to encourage the doctors to stay and serve in rural areas, stated Health Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque yesterday.

He said the doctors leave the rural areas by managing high profile persons that should not be done considering the fact that this noble profession aims at serving people.

Ruhul said this as the chief guest at a reception and farewell programme at Shaheed Dr Milon Auditorium of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Teachers Association (BSMMUTA) organised the event.

The health minister urged the doctors to give priority on research for enriching their knowledge.

BSMMU Vice-Chancellor Prof Pran Gopal Dutta, at the event, asked doctors to serve patients considering them as their guests.

Dr Kanok Kanti Barua, acting president of BSMMUTA, chaired the function.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mujibur Rahman Fakir, and Bangladesh Medical Association Secretary General Prof Sharfuddin Ahmed also spoke.

Investigate journalist Jamal murder: Unesco

STAR REPORT

The head of the United Nations agency tasked with defending press freedom on Wednesday denounced the murder of a Bangladeshi journalist, Jamal Uddin.

"I condemn the murder of Jamal Uddin," the Director-General of the Unesco, Irina Bokova, said in a news release.

"It is essential that the authorities investigate this outrageous attack on freedom of expression and on press freedom, which is its corollary."

Jamal, a reporter for Gramer Kagoi, was hacked to death by a group of men in a market in Sharsha under Jessore district on 15 June, it said.

Reporters without Borders said Jamal had been the target of death threats for his reporting on drug trade.

Bangkok for road link with Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

Thailand is interested to expand trade and commercial relationship with Bangladesh through establishing a road-link via Myanmar.

"Thai trade with Bangladesh will increase after the establishment of a road-link with Bangladesh," newly appointed Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh Madurapochana Ittarong said yesterday while presenting her credentials to President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the capital.

During the meeting, Madurapochana said Thailand put emphasis on increasing trade and commercial activities with Bangladesh as a member country of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec).

"Thailand is keen to extend its cooperation, particularly in agriculture, fisheries and IT sectors in Bangladesh," she said.

Zillur said Thailand is the next-door neighbour of Bangladesh, and the two countries are enjoying excellent relations.

The president through the ambassador invited the King of Thailand to visit Bangladesh at his convenient time.

Secretaries to the President's Office and Foreign Secretary, among others, were present.

DU students lock doors demanding Ducsu polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University students under the banner Dhaka Bishwabiddaloy Shikharthi Odhikar Mancha (Dhaka University Students' Rights Forum) observed a strike and sealed the entrance of the Arts Building, Institute of Business Administration and Curzon Hall yesterday demanding Ducsu polls.

Ducusu (Dhaka University Central Students' Union) and Hall Union polls have been suspended for over 20 years.

The university's authorities said academic activities remained halted for one hour till they broke the locks, the keyholes of which contained superglue and thin iron rods.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique said most of the agitators, numbering 20 to 25, were not students.

"It may be a conspiracy to bring instability in public universities. Students have their right to demand something from the authorities but they do not have the right to disturb others through their activities," he said.

Rejecting the allegations of tampering with the locks, one activist of the forum, Nure Alam Durjoy, said all of the activists were students.

BAR COUNCIL POLL BNP backed lawyers win most posts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatobadi Ainjibi Oikya Panel (Jaop), a body of BNP led 18 party alliance lawyers, unofficially has won nine posts out of 14 in Bangladesh Bar Council election held on Wednesday.

Sammilito Ainjibi Samannoy Parishad (Sasp), a forum of Awami League led alliance backed lawyers, has got five posts in the Bar Council, the statutory body to regulate the country's lawyers.

The elected members from Jaop are-- Khandker Mahbub Hossain, AJ Mohammad Ali, Mahbub Uddin Khokon, Sanaullah Mia, Golam Mostofa, Kabir Chowdhury, Md Kaimul Haque, Mohammad Ishaque and AKM Hafizur Rahman.

Five elected members from Sasp are -Syed Rezaur Rahman, Abdul Matin Khosru, Tania Amir, HR Zahid Anwar and MM Mujibur Rahman.

Some of the elected lawyers said the unofficial results were received from their agents in polling centres.

RU teachers want VC's removal

RU CORRESPONDENT

Over 100 Rajshahi University teachers under the banner "Nationalist Teachers' Forum" formed a human chain on the campus yesterday demanding removal of Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan.

They said the VC-led administration failed to ensure security on the campus, leading to the death of Abdullah Al Hasan Sohel, joint convener of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Sher-e-Bangla Hall unit. He died after being shot during a gunfight between two BCL factions at RU on July 16.

DHAKA TODAY

Human chain
Bangladesh Shikharthi Samity and Shikharthi-Karmachari Oikya Parishad will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Seminar
24th BCS (Sadharan Shikha) Forum will organise a national seminar; Venue: Jatiya Natyashala Auditorium, Segunbagicha; Time: 10:00am.

Rally
Communist Party of Bangladesh will arrange a rally; Venue: Shantinagar