

NEWS IN *brief*

**Bazlur Rahman seen as example of positive journalism**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Iconic journalist late Bazlur Rahman set an example of journalistic ethics through representing positive news in a positive way, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

Bazlur had enriched journalism in our country through positive features in addition to negative ones, said Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman.

He made the remarks at a programme at Kochi Kanchar Mela in the capital to mark the 72nd birth anniversary of Bazlur Rahman.

In 1989, when there was acute food scarcity in Jamalpur, Bazlur asked the renowned journalist Monajat Uddin to cover the news, the governor said.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, wife of Bazlur Rahman, among others, attended the programme.

**Fire guts warehouses in capital**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight tin-shed warehouses containing jhut (garment waste) were gutted in a fire in the capital's Mirpur-13 area early yesterday.

Officials at Fire Services and Civil Defence suspect that the fire was originated from an electric short-circuit around 12:55am.

Six units of fire fighters from different fire stations doused the flames after about two hours' effort.

Abdul Latif, officer-in-charge at Kafrul Police Station,

**Fire burns 18 houses in Ctg**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Fire gutted 18 houses in North Sorai Para area in Chittagong city early yesterday.

Jasim Uddin, deputy assistant director at Fire Control and Civil Defence Head Quarters at Agrabad in Chittagong, said the fire originated from an electric short-circuit at one of the houses, and soon engulfed the neighbouring houses around 1:00am.

On information, four units of fire fighters from Agrabad and Bandar fire stations went to the spot and extinguished the fire around 2:25am.

According to the Fire Service and Civil Defence

**DUMCJ's golden jubilee celebrated in North America**

METRO DESK

Dhaka University Mass Communication and Journalism (DUMCJ) Alumni Association North America has celebrated golden jubilee of the department in Toronto, Canada.

As part of the celebration, the association organised a discussion meeting on "50 years of journalism education in Bangladesh" at a restaurant at Danforth Avenue on Thursday, said a press release.

Prof Golam Rahman, former chairperson of Mass Communication and Journalism Department at Dhaka University, made a keynote presentation while former teachers and students of DUMCJ and

**Summerfield School signs deal with Core Knowledge**

METRO DESK

Summerfield International School and Tiny Tots School have recently signed an agreement with Core Knowledge Limited for implementation of DigiClass solutions at different campuses of the schools.

Under the agreement, the Core Knowledge, a venture of Rahimafrooz Group, in partnership with education company Pearson Education Services, will provide to the schools DigiClass solution -- an ICT-based solution that combines modern hardware with syllabus-compliant, multimedia-based interactive content, said a press release.

The DigiClass will allow students of the schools to learn in a multimedia environment, and help to develop an intuitive understanding of Math, Science



The National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital remained in darkness from 8:00pm on Friday till 1:00pm yesterday, causing sufferings to patients, as medical instruments, inset, lay useless. The hospital suffered the blackout due to glitches in the main fuse. The photo was taken at 12:00noon yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



**Govt urged to ensure safe Eid travels**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the government to ensure safe travels for thousands of people who will start leaving the capital ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

There has been a tendency of using unfit launches and buses that often cause accidents before and after Eid days, they said, calling on the authorities to check the incident.

The discussion on "safe Eid journey" was organised by ptbnews.com, an online news portal, at the capital's Mukti Bhaban.

The best and cheapest modes of transport in Bangladesh are rail and waterways, but for the last four decades the authorities instead developed highways for vested interests of both internal and external forces.

Communist Party of Bangladesh President Manzurul Ahsan Khan said private transport owners backed by politicians did not want the public transport sector to flourish. In addition, Bangladesh has been a vehicle market for some other countries, which also bars development of rail and waterways, he said.

Ashis Kumar Dey, chief editor of the ptbnews.com, presented the keynote paper.

**POLICE FIRING AT JU VC calls for probe**

JU CORRESPONDENT

Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Anwar Hossain yesterday requested the government to open a judicial investigation into Wednesday night's police firing, which left five students injured and led to widespread violence on the campus.

Speaking at a press conference at the senate hall, he also termed the violence and vandalism on the campus by students as "terrorist activities" and regretted the incident.

Immediately after the police firing at Mir Mosharrif Hossain Hall, protesting students vandalised the administrative building, the university main gate, and the residences of the provost, proctor and former VC Prof Shariff Enamul Kabir.

On Wednesday night, police went to the dormitory to arrest a third year student named Nahid on charge of stabbing another

student, Tahmidul Islam Likhon, who allegedly belongs to a group opposing the ex-VC.

Nahid and two other students-- Ashrafuzzaman Liton and Mahub Riaz-- are said to be loyal to Prof Shariff and have led some 10-12 youths who stabbed Likhon.

As police went to the hall to arrest Nahid, the resident students resisted them, prompting police to fire rubber bullets on them.

Prof Anwar said the policemen were not directed to arrest the student [Nahid] or open fire on them. They did not maintain due procedure during the action, he added.

Asked if he would bring any change in the administration which is predominantly loyal to the ex-VC, Prof Anwar said he would do that as per the university act if necessary.

The Wednesday violence led to the clo-



Rows of people break their dawn to dusk fast at a mass iftar programme at Andarkilla Shahi Jam-e-Mosque in Chittagong city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**2-day int'l conference on dev model begins today**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A two-day international conference on "People's Empowerment and Development", aimed at empowering billions of voiceless, marginalised and deprived people worldwide, begins in Dhaka today.

The conference is based on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's "People's empowerment and a peace-centric development model", which was presented and adopted at the 66th session of the UN General Assembly.

Addressing a press briefing, Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes yesterday said one of the main objectives of this conference was to move this innovative concept based on PM's experiences in politics over four decades.

The prime minister will inaugurate the conference at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel at 10:00am, while Foreign Minister Dipu Moni will preside over the session. Around 80 foreign delegates from 62 member states of the UN are expected to attend the conference to give this model a global shape, Quayes said.

He said the conference's seven areas of focus are eradication of poverty and hunger,

reduction of inequality, mitigation of deprivation, creation of jobs for all, inclusion of excluded people, acceleration of human development, and fighting terrorism.

The foreign delegates, including Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal Narayan Kaji Shrestha, External Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka GL Peiris, Minister of Rural Development and Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation of India Jairam Ramesh, Minister for Works and Human Settlement of Bhutan Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba, and Deputy Foreign Minister of Maldives Ali Hameed, will also address the opening session.

The UN delegates include Under Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT Dr Joan Clos; Under Secretary General and Deputy Director General, Unesco, Paris Getachew Engida; and Director, UN Secretariat in New York Nikhil Seth.

Among civil society members from home and abroad, who will be panellists are Barkha Dutt, managing editor, NDTV, India; Ana Mangas, editor, Foreign Policy on Espanol; economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud; and Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam.

**Rajshahi drug store owners observe 5hr strike**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Drug store owners observed a wildcat strike in Rajshahi city for five hours yesterday protesting a drive conducted by the Department of National Consumer Rights Protection (DNCRP).

A team, led by DNCRP Deputy Director Sukumar Chandra Kundu, started raiding the drug stores in the city's Laxmipur area around 11:00am.

It fined Drug Centre Tk 8,000 on charge of selling drugs of physician samples and not hanging medicine price chart.

Assisted by police, the team consist of different government officials, BSTI officials, and Consumers Association of Bangladesh General Secretary Golam Mostafa Mamun.

Soon after the drive, the drug store owners of the area started the strike and took to the streets. Later, all other owners shut down their stores for indefinite period around 12:00 noon.

Later, a large number of the attendants of patients who came to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and other clinics in the city fell into a crisis.

Following the crisis, Rajshahi city Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman called the leaders of Bangladesh Chemist and Druggist Association of Rajshahi, and the DNCRP deputy director at his office around 4:00pm.

Following a negotiation in the meeting, the drug store owners ended their strike around 5:00pm.

**BAR COUNCIL Khandker Mahub Hossain elected vice-chairman**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khandker Mahub Hossain, an adviser to the BNP chairperson and former president of Supreme Court Bar Association, was elected vice-chairman of the bar council yesterday.

The newly elected executive members of the Bangladesh Bar Council, the statutory autonomous body to regulate the country's lawyers, took the decision unanimously at a meeting held at its office building in the capital's Shahbagh.

The attorney general of the state is the ex-officio chairman of the bar council. In the absence of chairman, the council's vice-chairman will practice almost all powers.

Besides, nine standing committees of the bar council were formed for the next three years. Nine elected executive members of the council will lead the committees.

The members include Khandker Mahub Hossain, AJ Mohammad Ali, Mahub Uddin Khokon, Sanaullah Mia, Golam Mostofa, Kabir Chowdhury, Md Kaimul Haque, Mohammad Ishaque and AKM Hafizur Rahman.

They were elected from Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Panel, a body of BNP led 18-party alliance lawyers, in the bar council election held on July 18.

**DEPORTATION US citizen seeks reasons from PM**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A US citizen, who was denied entry to Bangladesh on July 23, has requested the Bangladesh prime minister to explain the reasons for the denial and to withdraw restriction on him to travel Bangladesh in future.

Thomas Christian Eskildsen, co-president of Jumma-net, a Japanese NGO working for indigenous people in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), made the request through a letter to the premier, dated July 30.

He was detained at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on July 23 and deported to Bangkok the next day over allegation of "controversial activities in CHT".

"I did not receive full explanation of the reason for my detention by the airport police and deportation to Bangkok...I ask that I be given a full explanation of the reasons for denial of my entry to Bangladesh," he said in the letter.

On January 3, Eskildsen was ordered to leave Bandarban after detention and interrogation by intelligence authorities.

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Rain or thundershowers likely**

UNB, Dhaka

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

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

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

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:39pm and rises tomorrow at 5:30am.

Country's highest temperature 36.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 24.3 degrees at Simangal.

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	33.5	26.3	69	64
Chittagong	31.8	26.5	78	83
Rajshahi	35.3	27.0	80	65
Rangpur	34.8	27.0	71	67
Khulna	32.0	26.5	90	97
Barisal	31.0	26.6	81	86
Sylhet	36.4	25.5	73	76