

NEWS IN *brief*

22 Bangladeshis sent to jail in India

STAR REPORT
The court of the chief judicial magistrate of Imphal East in India sentenced 22 Bangladeshi nationals to two-year prison terms on Thursday, reports The Hindu. They were further ordered to pay Indian rupee 10,000 each as fine. In case of default, each prisoner has to undergo an extra prison term of six months. On August 30, the Bangladeshis were picked up from Hatta Golabati in Imphal East district for traveling in India without any travel documents, eking out a living as daily wage earners and hawking various items.

Court sends KCC ward councillor to jail in murder case

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
A Khulna court yesterday rejected the bail prayer of Golam Mowla Shanu, a councillor of Khulna City Corporation, in a murder case. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Khulna Md Zakaria Hossain passed the order and sent Shanu, the main accuse in Shahidul Islam Liton murder case, to jail. On February 1, 2000, Shahidul, who was accused in a criminal case, was gunned down by some unidentified criminals near Khulna Bar Association office when police was taking him to jail after producing him before a court. Police filed a case with Khulna Police Station in this regard on the same night. On August 23, 2000, the police submitted the

DoE fined 19 companies in August

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Department of Environment (DoE) fined 19 factories and commercial organisations for polluting the environment and realised Tk 2.40 crore from them during anti-pollution drives last month. The department carried out 11 enforcement drives at the organisations in four districts including Dhaka metropolitan area, Dhaka district, Gazipur and Narayanganj, said a DoE press release yesterday. The penalised organisations include three dyeing factories, one furnace oil factory, two ceramic factories, one sugar refinery, two pharmaceuticals, four high rise buildings, four brick fields, one chemical warehouse and one fish culture scheme, it said.

Medical college admission aspirant stabbed in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A medical college admission aspirant was stabbed by his friend following a feud over keeping friendship with a female admission aspirant in the capital's Kathalbagan area on September 17. The victim Md Alamgir Hossain, 20, was under going treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Family sources said Alamgir and his friend Sohagh, 20, locked in an altercation over the issue, and at one stage Sohagh stabbed Alamgir injuring him seriously. Both Md Sohagh and Alamgir hailed from the same locality at Goalanda of Rajbari. They came to Dhaka for medical college admission coaching three months back, they said. A case was filed with Kalabagan Police Station in



Work of Hatirjheel-Begunbari road construction project in the capital going on in full swing. The peripheral road along the canals is likely to be opened to the public at the end of the year. The photo was taken yesterday.

Hatirjheel road opens Dec 15
Hopes public works state minister

HELEMUL ALAM
With only 10 percent work remaining, the peripheral road along the capital's Hatirjheel-Begunbari canals will likely be opened to the public on December 15, said State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan yesterday. With the works satisfactorily progressing, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be able to inaugurate the road on that day, said the state minister during a visit to the site. The final layer of the 10-kilometre road, having lanes connecting Banglamotor, Dilu Road, Moghbazar, Ulan, Noyatola, Rampura, Begunbari and Kunipara areas, is being laid, he said. The road will help ease traffic movement from Rampura to Karwan Bazar and Moghbazar, taking "only 10 minutes" from the present one and a half hours, he said. The state minister said the roads will connect four bridges, four overpasses, two-lane expressways and U-loops near Rampura Bridge and have adjoining walkways and waterbus services, he said. On cleaning the water of the canals, Prof Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh University of

Engineering and Technology (BuEt), whose team conducted the project's feasibility study, said it would take over one year. Though 10-km diversion sewage pipes have been constructed on both sides of the canals to take in all the waste being dumped from adjoining areas, the sewage ends up at one end of the canals, he said. As per another project, a pump station, having a drainage capacity of 5,000 cubic metres per day, will be constructed in Rampura to release the sewage in Sutibhola canal, some two kilometres away from Hatirjheel, he said. In the meantime, a sewage treatment plant will be constructed in Dasherbandi, some five kilometres from Rampura. Once complete, the sewage will be drained directly from the canals to the plant and then the harmless liquid would be released in Balu river, situated in the capital's outskirts, he said. The designs for the pump station and sewage treatment plant will be complete by December 2012. Afterwards, the pump station will take one year while the treatment plant two years to be constructed if all goes as planned, he added.

Human and industrial wastes from different adjoining areas are released in the Hatirjheel-Begunbari canals through 11 outlets, making it difficult to keep the canals' water clean, he said. If the residents and industry owners do not change their mindset and the authorities concerned do not take proper steps, it will not be possible to keep the canals' water clean, he added. The Begunbari-Hatirjheel project is of two portions. The south portion comprises a two-way road from Sonargaon Hotel to Tongi Diversion along Begunbari canal and connected to Dilu Road. It also has a road network from Tongi Diversion to Rampura Bridge along Hatirjheel canal, which is comprised of a one-way express road with a two-way side road. A two-lane expressway goes from Tongi Diversion via Gulshan to Pragati Sarani. In the north portion, a road goes from Begunbari power house via Kunipara and Gulshan-1 to Merul Badda. Rajuk, 16 Engineering Construction Battalion of Bangladesh Army, Dhaka Wasa and Local Government Engineering Department are jointly implementing the project while BuEt is the consultant.

Nahid for use of nanotech

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday urged the country's technologists to use the knowledge of nanotechnology in the industrial sector to develop the nation. Nahid was addressing the closing session of a three-day long international workshop on nanotechnology at Dhaka University's Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building. Nanotechnology can bring a revolutionary change in different fields including energy and garment sectors of the country, he said. With Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique in the chair, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences President Prof Mesbahuddin Ahmed, and BuEt VC Prof SM Nazrul Islam, among others,

Rajshahi MP beats up ward councillor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
Lawmaker of Rajshahi 6 constituency (Bagha-Charghat upazilas) allegedly beat up the ward councillor of Arani municipality in Bagha upazila yesterday for hurling abuses at a madrasa teacher. Talking to journalists over phone, councillor Muktar Ali, also the panel mayor of Arani municipality, said the lawmaker, Shahriar Alam, used a sandal to beat and drive him out of the latter's residence in Arani. On why he had hurled the abuses at Kamruzzaman, the superintendent of the upazila's Ummeh Kashemul Ulum Kawmi Madrasa, Muktar said, "Everyone knows that JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh) men frequent the madrasa." "But our MP does not pay any heed to our complaints as one of his relatives is the president of the madrasa's governing body," said Muktar, also the Arani unit Jubo League president. On contact, lawmaker Shahriar Alam said he had always taken Muktar as a "little brother" and "punished" him for misbehaving with elders. Muktar and Kamruzzaman were coming out of his house when Kamruzzaman greeted the former. Muktar replied using abusive languages, he said. Muktar was angry with the madrasa authority as one student of the madrasa stole mangoes from Muktar's orchard, said Shahriar. He also refuted Muktar's allegations, stating that the madrasa dealt with nothing but Islamic teachings. "The allegations of training JMB men are not true," he said.



Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital carried out health-screening of The Daily Star staff at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday as part of World Health Day.

RTI Forum demands neutral CIC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Right to Information (RTI) Forum yesterday demanded that the government nominates a strong, credible and neutral person as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) to replace the recently retired CIC, said a press release. The forum also requested to make the process of CIC appointments transparent as a selection committee selected the previous two CICs and the process was not made public. Mentioning the age bar of 67 years, the forum said that the CIC should be selected so that he or she is able to continue till full-length tenure of five years. It urged the authorities to nominate the CIC as soon as possible in order to avoid any disruptions in the Information Commission's activities. Meanwhile, RTI Forum commended the government for setting up the Information Commission and taking steps to implement the RTI Act. The forum hoped the commission would also be a proactive advocate of the RTI Act. RTI Forum is a network-based organisation comprising of 56 individuals and organisations to monitor, facilitate and assist in the implementation of the RTI Act in Bangladesh.

TORCHING OF BUS IN NARSINGDI
Agartala-Dhaka Maitree service suspended

UNB, Dhaka
Maitree bus service on Agartala-Dhaka route has been suspended following torching of the Indian bus by a mob in Narsingdi on Friday, reports Press Trust of India (PTI) yesterday. The bus service would resume after an investigation and repairing of the old bus, said Tripura Road Transport Corporation (TRTC) Managing Director Rabindra Reang. Following the suspension, no bus would leave for Dhaka from Agartala from today, but the service of a Bangladeshi bus "Shyamali" would continue, said TRTC sources. Maitree, with 12 Indians and 10 Bangladeshis on board, was torched in a case of "mistaken identity" during a political clash in Narsingdi, Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Pankaj Saran has informed Tripura

Chief Secretary Sanjoy Kumar Panda. A two-member team of TRTC would leave for Narsingdi today to lodge a complaint with the police station concerned and investigate the incident, said TRTC chief Reang. "Maitree" plies from Agartala to Dhaka on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, while "Shyamali", shuttles on the rest of the days, except on Sundays. The authorities had to discontinue the service of "Maitree" due to lack of spares as the only other spare bus was now under repair, the sources said. Meanwhile, the driver and his assistant of "Maitree" returned Agartala on Saturday and reported to the authorities that the passengers had reached their destinations on Friday with the help of local police, he said. The driver and his assistant received minor injuries



Obituary
METRO DESK
Mustafa Adil, an advocate of the Supreme Court, died at 3:45pm on Saturday. He left behind his wife, two sons, and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death. His Qulkhwani will be held at Baitul Aman Mosque at Road No 7, Dhanmondi, Dhaka after Asr prayers today.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
The Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue of Dhaka University (DU) and the International Association for Religious Freedom, Bangladesh will organise a seminar; Venue: Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities, DU; Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion
Janata Prototasha will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Reunion
Sonargaon Hotel Sramik o Karmachari Union will arrange an Eid reunion; Venue: Grand Ballroom, the hotel; Time: 6:00pm.

Discussion
Samjantrik Mohila Forum will hold

Rally
BNP-led 18-party alliance will

organise a rally; Venue: before Nayapalton office, BNP; Time: 3:00pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely
UNB, Dhaka
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rangpur, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today. Moderately 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 5:53pm and rises tomorrow at 5:49am. Country's highest temperature 35.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 24.5 degrees at Rangamati. 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	34.2	27.4	74	75
Chittagong	31.5	26.0	85	81
Rajshahi	33.4	25.5	88	77
Rangpur	32.7	25.0	83	91
Khulna	34.0	27.4	90	92
Barisal	32.7	25.7	95	88