

NEWS IN *brief*

Body found in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of a rickshaw garage worker who went missing on Sunday night was found at Hujurpara in the capital yesterday.
The victim is Alauddin Tuku, 27, a rickshaw garage worker in the area.
Officer-in-Charge of Kamrangirchar Police Station AKM Nasirullah said local people found the body, bore some marks of stabbed injuries, behind a local school.
Victim's father Osman Gany said an unknown person called his son out of their Hujurpara home

Polls at JU on September 29

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities will hold election to select teachers' representatives at the JU syndicate on September 29 at JU Teachers Club.
Six teachers will be selected among deans, provosts, professors, associate professors, assistant professors and lecturers to be syndicate members.
Elections to academic council and finance com-

e-Traffic Prosecution system launched in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The e-Traffic Prosecution system was launched in the capital yesterday in a bid to bring transparency to the process of collecting fines from vehicle owners and passers-by breaking traffic rules.
Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir inaugurated the modern system at a function at Rajarbagh Police Lines. Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) will operate it.
Under the system, subscribers of Robi will be able to check papers of their cars, driving licenses and other such documents through text messages. Traffic police can file cases against offenders and the law-



US Senator Peter W Galbraith meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite in New York on Sunday.

PHOTO: PID

Govt ensures voting rights: Hasina

BSS, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government has been working tirelessly to further consolidate democracy and establish rule of law in the country along with fulfilling basic needs of the people.
She made the remark when US Senator Peter W Galbraith met her at her hotel suite in New York on Sunday evening.
After the meeting, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporters.
Sheikh Hasina said democratic institutions of Bangladesh, including Jatiya Sangsad, Election Commission and Human Rights Commission, have been strengthened, while voting rights of the people have been ensured due to various pragmatic steps of the government.
In this context, she mentioned holding of

over 6,000 elections in the last three and a half years in a free, fair and neutral manner.
She highlighted various successes of her government in the fields of agriculture, education, health, food security, social safety net and women empowerment.
The US senator praised Sheikh Hasina's firm stance against militancy, terrorism and corruption and said Bangladesh is highly vocal for democratic reforms in South Asia.
The present government honoured Peter W Galbraith with "Friends of Bangladesh Award" for his outstanding contribution to the country's Liberation War in 1971.
Later, leaders of Awami League and its associate bodies of different states of the USA and Canada called on the prime minister at her hotel suite.
Hasina is now in New York to attend the 67th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

No ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE DoE fines high-rise owner Tk 21 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined the owner of a 12-storey commercial building near the capital's Mirpur-10 roundabout Tk 21 lakh for constructing the building without environmental clearance.
Construction of the building, Shah Ali Plaza, began in 2000 on a 30-katha plot, initially a residential one under National Housing Authority but granted commercial use status by Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha in 1995.
The DoE enforcement team barred the building's authorities from constructing two more floors, stating that a DoE clearance was required, says a DoE press release.
Such tall commercial buildings are required to have independent sewer treatment plants, green spaces, car park bays and rain water harvesting provisions, none of which was in the building's layout plan, said DoE Director Mohammad Munir Chowdhury.
The building's Manager Abu Bakar Siddique said, "We planned to obtain the clearance after the construction because none, including the project's consultant, pointed out that such clearance was required."

Gabtoli-Swarighat road to get 4 lanes: Minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 11-kilometre Gabtoli-Swarighat road will be expanded to four-lane and a tender in this regard will be invited in two weeks.
Communications Minister Obaidul Quader announced this while visiting the road yesterday.
He said the expansion work will be implemented in two phases. The six-kilometre road from Gabtoli to Hazaribagh will be upgraded in the first phase, he added.
An estimated Tk 72 crore will be needed to upgrade the road which has been very crucial due to increasing number of vehicles, especially goods carrying trucks. Once upgraded, it will help reduce the existing traffic congestion in the old part of the capital.
Quader expressed his unhappiness to see dumping of waste on both sides of the road, which further narrowed the thoroughfare.

KHALAF MURDER Court accepts charges against five

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday took into cognisance the charges against five criminals in a case filed for their involvement in the killing of Saudi embassy official Khalaf Al Ali in the capital.
After scrutinising case dockets and other relevant documents, Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Rezaul Karim accepted the charges against the accused in the case.
The accused are Mohammad Al Amin, Saiful Islam Mamun, Rafiqul Islam Khokon, Selim Chowdhury and Akbar Ali Lalul.
Of them, Selim is on the run while the others are in custody.
The court also issued arrest warrant against Selim and ordered to confiscate his properties.
Detective Branch of police on September 20 submitted the charge sheet against the five to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka, showing 31 people as prosecution witnesses.
In the early hours of March 6 this year, Khalaf was shot dead during a mugging incident near his Gulshan residence.
Accused Al Amin and Lalul had earlier confessed to their involvement, saying they killed Khalaf when he refused to give them money.

DHAKA TODAY

Citizens' rally
Nagorik Sanghati will organise a citizens' rally; Venue: in front of Bangladesh National Museum; Time: 10:30am.

Seminar
Impress Telefilm Limited will organise a seminar; Venue: Channel i Bhaban; Time: 3:45pm.

Discussion
Caritas PERLAM-MJF will hold a

Bangladesh Projonmo Academy will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Seminar
CARE Bangladesh will organise a seminar; Venue: Lake Shore Hotel; Time: 9:30am.

Seminar
Caritas PERLAM-MJF will hold a



Gonotantik Jubo Forum, Hill Women's Federation, and Pahari Chhatra Parishad stage a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday protesting, what they said, an attack on indigenous people by Bangalee settlers in Rangamati town on September 22.

PHOTO: STAR

Two private hospitals sealed off in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

The district administration sealed off two unregistered private hospitals in Rugganj upazila of Narayanganj yesterday.
They are Bhulta Islami Hospital and Borpa Khajababa Faridpuri Hospital. A team, led by Civil Surgeon Dulal Chandra Chowdhury, conducted drives in Murapara, Kanchan, Golakandail, Bhulta and Borpa yesterday afternoon.
Dulal said they have sealed off the two hospitals in Bhulta and Borpa for having no registrations from the authorities concerned.
The hospitals' authorities were asked to receive their registrations within 24 hours, he added.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka 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 5:52pm and rises tomorrow at 5:49am.
Country's highest temperature 36.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 23.8 degrees at Sylhet.
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	26.1	80	80
Chittagong	31.2	25.1	87	86
Rajshahi	34.5	25.0	80	75
Rangpur	32.8	25.3	90	80
Khulna	34.0	27.5	87	84
Barisal	32.5	26.4	95	95

SONIA'S DEATH Mahila Parishad demands probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday expressed deep concern over the death of a female garment worker, who took her own life after an attack on her and her family members in the capital's Pallabi on Friday.
The rights body in a statement said Sonia Ahkter, 17, on Friday committed suicide after a son of their landlady and some local youths attacked their rented house. They made the attack after making an allegation that she had "illicit relationship" with her cousin who was visiting them during the incident, it said.
Mahila Parishad demanded investigation into the incident and urged the authorities concerned to bring the responsible persons to book.
Sonia's family sources said three months ago, they rented two rooms from landlady, Rokeya Begum, who used to keep the electricity shut every day for about 10 hours.
Sonia's father Abdus Salam told The Daily Star on Saturday that Sonia requested the landlady for a resumption of the power supply when Sonia's cousin visited them on Friday. But the landlady rejected the request.
He said around 4:00pm on Friday, Rokeya along with her son and daughter beat up Sonia, her mother, sister Rita, 16, and the cousin. Sonia committed suicide in her room in the evening.
Police arrested Rokeya, her son Tipu, and daughter Sharifa after a case was filed by the victim's mother, Salma Begum.

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