

NEWS IN *brief*

Action plan to vaccinate dogs soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will announce a national action plan to vaccinate dogs instead of killing them for tackling rabies in the country soon.

In association with the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), an international animal welfare organisation, a vaccination programme is expected to be launched tomorrow on World Rabies Day, said a press release.

Earlier in 2011, the WSPA took a pilot project "Red Collar Campaign" in Cox's Bazar vaccinating thousand of dogs, it said.

Around 2100 people die from rabies, a disease which causes people and animals to go mad and die,

Eight Myanmar citizens held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested eight Myanmar citizens from different areas of Alikadam upazila in Bandarban on charge of illegally entering Bangladesh.

The arrestees are Md Ilias, Hafez Ahmed, Md Ibrahim, Khairul Bashar, Md Azal Mia, Abdus Salam, Nurul Hoque and Syed Alam.

They entered Bangladesh in different times from two to six months back and worked as day labourers,

Rokeya Hall Alumni Association reunion on December 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second reunion of the Dhaka University Rokeya Hall Alumni Association will be held at the hall premises on December 28.

The hall's former students have been requested to become member of the association by October 15 to attend the programme, said a press release.

For registration, interested alumni can contact Binapani Datt at 9675201 at the hall office from Saturday to Wednesday between 10:00am and 4:00pm.

For detail information, call at 01911019020 and

Shafiul Alam Pradhan, 21 others get bail in cases of violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted a month's anticipatory bail to Jatiya Gonotantrik Party President Shafiul Alam Pradhan and 21 activists of 12 Islamist parties in five separate criminal cases.

Police filed the cases accusing them of obstructing the police in discharging their duties, vandalising and torching vehicles and spreading panic in the capital, during clashes with law enforcers on September 22 and 23.

The Islamist parties had called hartal on Sunday to protest an anti-Islamic film and cartoon demeaning

FREEING RIVER TURAG FROM GRABBERS BIWTA knocks down illegal structures

Seizes 2 dredgers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authorities (BIWATA) yesterday knocked down 23 tin-made makeshift structures and seized two sand-unloading dredgers, 100 cubic metres of unloading pipes and 10 piles of sand from the bank of the Turag river.

In a bid to make the river free from grabbers, BIWTA carried out the drive in 15-kilometre area of the river from Sinnirtek to Ashulia.

During the drive, BIWTA knocked down "Monpura", a floating restaurant, and 16 other tin-made establishments raised above the river in Diabari area. They also destroyed six tin-made structures in Nabab Bari area.

BIWTA handed over the two dredgers and 100 cubic metres of pipes to Shah Ali Police Station.

The piles of sand, recovered from Sinnirtek

to Diabari area, will be given to Rupganj and Shah Ali police stations for auctions.

Sand traders have grabbed almost 20 to 25 feet inside the river and filled it up with sand making a permanent place for sand loading and unloading for their business.

The sand-unloading pipes were criss-crossing the Turag blocking any sort of river transports from plying the river.

Armed with tug boat Agropathik and workboat Argoose and 60 workers, Md Shafiqul Haque, director (port) of BIWTA, and Magistrate Abu Sayeed of Dhaka district led the drive.

Grabbers have been filling up the river for many months but newly appointed BIWTA Chairman Dr Md Shamsuddoha Khandakar vowed to make the river around the capital free from pollution and encroachment within a year. The drive will be resumed today.

IMPROVING PRIMARY HEALTHCARE ADB to give \$50 million loan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide \$50 million to finance a project which aims to help improve primary healthcare services for the urban poor.

Iqbal Mahmood, senior secretary to the Economic Relations Division (ERD) and M Teresa Kho, country director of ADB's Bangladesh Resident Mission, signed the loan agreement yesterday, a press release said.

The assistance will help build 12 reproductive health care centres and 26 primary health care centres near slum areas, which will provide 30 percent of all services, free of cost, including drugs.

The project will include weekly mobile outreach services for the homeless and the extremely poor. It will also help local governments strengthen their policies on urban health issues and develop guidelines for managing public-private partnership healthcare contracts.

"With this project, we hope to strengthen maternal and child health, nutrition, and family planning -- all factors that are critical to reducing urban poverty," said Kho.

DoE fines six companies for polluting rivers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined six industrial groups and two brick fields Tk 1.1 crore on charges of polluting and grabbing rivers around the capital.

The penalised industrial groups are -- Pran Group, Akij Group, Niki Dying, Atlantic Industries Ltd, ARS Washing Ltd, PA Knit Composite, and the brick fields NMB, said a press release.

The Pran Group was penalised for polluting the Shitalakhya River with faulty effluent treatment plant in Ghorshal; Akij Group for polluting Bangshai river with solid waste in Dhamrai; Niki Dying for polluting Shitalakhya river with untreated liquid effluent in Kanchpur; while Atlantic Industries Ltd, ARS washing Ltd and PA Knit Composite were fined for polluting Turag river in Tongi.

The DoE ordered the authorities of Pran Group to rectify its effluent treatment plant within a month.

It also asked the authorities Akij Group to remove solid wastes from the river within a week.

While the brick field owners were asked to clear the river of illegal encroachment by this morning.

Contacted, Sheikh Wares, chief operating officer of Pran Group, said, "Probably, the effluent treatment plant was not defective."

But officials of other companies could not be contacted despite tries over cellphone.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Transport workers with sticks and brick chips attack Dhaka Polytechnic Institute in the capital's Tejgaon Industrial Area last night during a fierce clash with its students. *Inset*, a damaged truck, which was set on fire during the melee that left at least 40 people injured. (Story on Page 20)



SAGAR-RUNI MURDER Journos start fresh agitation Oct 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding the arrest of journalist couple Sagar-Runi's killers, journalists yesterday declared fresh agitation programmes from October 7.

Leaders of different journalists' organisations will hold a views-exchange meeting on October 7 and a memorial meeting on October 11 at Jatiya Press Club marking the passing of eight months since the couple's murder.

If the killers are not arrested and brought to book by October 10, journalists will hold a rally on October 15 before the club to announce tougher movements.

On Tuesday, Home Minister MK Alamgir assured that the motive behind the killing would be unveiled by October 10.

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, president of a faction of Federal Union of Journalists, made the announcement at a rally before the club.

Sagar Sarowar, a news editor at Maasranga, and his wife Meherun Runi, a senior reporter of ATN Bangla, were found murdered in their West Raja Bazar residence on February 11.

School dropout rate higher in three hill districts: Study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to linguistic barriers and improper academic curriculum, school students of the three hill districts are being deprived of quality education, which causes high dropout rate in the region compared to the national level dropout, a study has revealed.

While the average dropout rate is around 30 percent at primary schools at national level, it is 59 percent in the region, it said.

The study, carried out on 19,446 students of 126 schools in Khagrachhari, Bandarban and Rangamati, also said the dropout rate was 24 percent at the junior level and 17 percent at secondary level in the hill districts.

"The students are being deprived of quality education due to a lack of teaching facilities through their mother tongues, faulty

textbooks, shortage of teachers, unfavourable school environment," it said.

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), a non-government organisation, has conducted the research this year. About 75 percent of the surveyed students were from indigenous communities while 25 percent were from Bangalee families.

Prof Mong Shano Chowdhury, chief researcher of the study, "Situation of primary and secondary education system in Chittagong Hill Tracts", unveiled the findings in the capital's Cirdap auditorium yesterday. MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam chaired the programme.

The study recommended implementation of the CHT accord, construction of residential or boarding schools, awarding stipends to students, and recruitment of community based teachers to improve the situation.

Sust students demand resignation of Eng dept head

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

English department students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) yesterday laid siege to the main gate of the registrar building demanding resignation of department head Md Atiullah over different irregularities.

The agitating students also staged a sit-in before the building's main gate and held a rally there.

On September 3, the students padlocked Md Atiullah's office and handed over a memo to Vice-Chancellor Md Saleh Uddin.

Contacted at 6:30pm, Sust Registrar Ishfaul Hossain said he, acting VC Prof Ilyas Uddin Biswas and other officials are still confined in the registrar building.

The VC is on leave.



Students of University of Information Technology and Sciences (UITS) in Chittagong city vandalise its building demanding their permanent campus yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Free heart camp

LabAid Group will organise a free heart camp; Venue: Sanjeebani Manobik Unnayan Sangstha, Road 13, House 12/Ka, North Bishil, Mirpur Section 1; Time: from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Roundtable

Prothom Alo will hold a roundtable; Venue: its premises; Time: 3:00pm.

Tourism fair

Bangladesh International Tourism Fair will organise a tourism fair; Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre; Time: 12:30pm.

Book launch

Chandrabati Academy will unveil a book "Krisi Sangbadikata"; Venue: Jatri Auditorium, Level 12, TK Bhaban, 13, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue; Time: 11:00am.

Discussion

Mobaswer Ali Foundation will organise a discussion; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 4:00pm.

Seminar

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha will hold a seminar; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 9:30am.

Hunger strike

Shikhhak Karmachari Oikyajote will observe a hunger strike; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

Bangla Academy will organise a seminar; Venue: its premises; Time: 3:30pm.

Presentation

Research and Development Collective and Brac will hold a presentation; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 2:00pm.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Khulna 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 5:50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:50am.

Country's highest temperature 35.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.1 degrees at Srirangal.

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	33.0	26.6	75	74
Chittagong	33.2	25.9	77	78
Rajshahi	35.4	25.4	79	77
Rangpur	32.5	25.5	83	75
Khulna	35.0	26.2	88	95
Barisal	33.6	26.0	96	86