

NEWS IN *brief*

**125 DU students get Dean's Award**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One hundred and twenty five students of Business Studies Faculty in Dhaka University (DU) were awarded Dean's Award for their outstanding results in BBA and MBA examinations.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique yesterday distributed crests and certificates among 56 MBA students of the 12th batch, and 69 BBA graduates of the 12th, 13th and 14th batches of different departments.

Prof Jamal Uddin Ahmed, dean of the faculty, chaired the programme at the conference room of the faculty.

DU Pro-VC Prof Shahid Akhtar Hossain, and Treasurer Prof Kamal Uddin, among others, spoke on

**Manhole explosion hurts 8**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A manhole explosion injured eight pedestrians at Rampura in the capital yesterday.

Witnesses and police said the manhole, on a lane beside Mollah Tower, opposite BTV Bhaban, all of a sudden exploded around 10:00am. Fragments of tarmac around the manhole hit the eight. However, the manhole cover just flew up, did not hit anyone.

The wounded passersby took first aid in a city hospital.

Officer-in-Charge Delwar Hossain of Rampura Police Station said gas trapped in the sewer might

**Pakistan gives Quran in braille to BNSB**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Pakistani High Commission in Dhaka has presented a number of the Holy Quran in braille to the Bangladesh National Society for the Blind (BNSB).

Pakistani High Commissioner to Bangladesh Afrasiab Mehdi Hashmi Qureshi handed over the gift at a ceremony in his office on Thursday, said a press release.

BNSB (Naogaon District Branch) Chairman Abu Sayeed Chowdhury expressed his gratitude to Pakistan government for providing the gift for visually impaired people in Bangladesh.

Afrasiab, in his speech, termed the presentation as a gesture reflective of the bond of friendship and harmony that exists between the people of Pakistan

**Indian navy vice admiral due in Bangladesh Oct 1**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Southern Naval Command Vice Admiral Satish Soni will pay a three-day official visit to Bangladesh from October 1 to discuss strengthening cooperation between the two countries' navies.

Vice Admiral Soni will visit Bangladesh on the occasion of the goodwill visit of two Indian naval ships -- INS Sujata and ICGS Varuna -- to Chittagong, said a press release.

This visit is a part of ongoing bilateral exchanges between India and Bangladesh, it said.

During the visit, the two sides will hold discussions to strengthen Navy-to-Navy cooperation, particularly in the areas of training, disaster manage-



A pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League activist of Chittagong University unit being brought to Chittagong Medical College Hospital yesterday after being injured in a clash between two factions of the organisation.

PHOTO: STAR

**BANGLADESH CHHATRA LEAGUE Factional clash leaves 6 injured in CU**

CU CORRESPONDENT

Six pro-Awami League BCL activists of Chittagong University (CU) unit were injured after a clash between two shuttle train compartment-based groups of the organisation yesterday.

Afterwards, police detained six Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists from CU's Shahjalal Hall in this connection.

The CU authority, on May 11 last year, banned the activities of 20 or so groups that the CU BCL activists have split into based on 18 compartments of two shuttle trains making seven trips between Chittagong city to CU every day.

The injured are of "Varsity Express" group while the detained are of "69" group.

Two of the injured -- Md Jahidul Islam, a second year student of physics department, and Md Hossain, a third year student of sociology department -- were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with stab injuries.

The remaining Mohammad Robi, a third year student of anthropology department; Rony Sen, a second year student of mathematics department; Rubel Dey, a second year student of English department; and Soumen Dasgupta, a third year student of international relations department; were provided first aid at CU Medical Centre.

Witnesses said the clash erupted over an altercation after a "69" member, Rakib, spilt water on a "Varsity Express" member, Shuvo.

"They attacked us in the CU campus railway station and in front of Shahjalal Hall," said injured Soumen.

CU BCL President Mamunul Hoque blamed "69" members for the attack. "We will take stern organisational action against those who engaged in the fight," he said.

CU BCL General Secretary MA Khaled Chowdhury, without elaborating, said the incident was the outcome of an internal conflict of BCL.

The "69" members could not be contacted for comment.

**Bikolpodhara will not join BNP-led alliance**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikolpodhara Bangladesh (BDB) will not join the BNP-led 18 party alliance, rather the party will make alliance with like-minded organisations, said Mahi B Chowdhury, joint secretary general of BDB, yesterday.

Addressing a meeting of Bikolpo Jubodhara, BDB's youth front, in the Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium in the capital, Mahi also said BDB would wage an anti-government movement with the BNP-led alliance, if necessary.

"We cannot join the BNP-led alliance by leaving our ideals and policies as we want to see honest, competent and meritorious people in the next government," said Mahi, also a former lawmaker.

He said people did not want to see another Hawa Bhaban in the future.

The controversial Hawa Bhaban, BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia's political office while she was in power between 2001 and 2006, was considered the alternative power house of the then government.

"We also want to know how the present home minister (Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir) got the huge amount of money to set up a new bank as he was only a government service holder with a monthly salary of Tk 35,000," said Mahi.

**World Heart Day observed**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urging people to embrace a healthy and active way of life to avoid heart disease and stroke, the National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh (NHFB) observed World Heart Day yesterday.

On the occasion, the foundation held a rally and seminar in the capital! Mirpur to raise awareness of the disease, its prevention and treatment. It also arranged a free heart camp on National Heart Foundation Hospital premises.

Doctors, nurses, social workers and people from different walks of life participated in the rally, and it was followed by a seminar held at the National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Centre auditorium.

Cultural Minister Abul Kalam Azad attended the seminar as the chief guest.

Secretary General of National Heart Foundation National Professor Brig Gen (retd) Abdul Malek said one fifth of the country's adults suffer from blood pressure problems. Of them, ten percent people suffer from heart diseases.

**GAZIPUR-4 BY-POLLS BNP wishes Rimi's defeat**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP will try its best to ensure defeat of the ruling party candidate Simeen Hussain Rimi in today's Gazipur-4 parliamentary by-polls though it has boycotted the election.

"I am urging all my voters and supporters not to vote for 'boat' [the ruling Awami League's electoral symbol]," BNP standing committee member Brig Gen (retd) Hannan Shah, who was interested to participate in this by-election, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The BNP standing committee, on July 16, decided not to take part in Gazipur-4 (Kapasia upazila) by-election as the party in principle was against participating in any election during the tenure of the present government and the Election Commission.

Local leaders of the party said they had received instructions from the party high command not to cast votes.

BNP's central leaders however, said there were no such guidelines but they wanted to see the Awami League candidate defeated.

Party insiders said that finally BNP supporters might cast their votes for Rimi's uncle Afsaruddin Ahmad Khan, a former Awami League leader, who is contesting the polls as an independent candidate.

They claimed some upazila and union level leaders of the BNP were indirectly working in his favour.

**Hire more Bangladeshis**

New envoy urges Brunei

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday stressed its readiness to provide Brunei with more human resources for the diversification of the latter's oil and gas based economy and called for establishing direct Dhaka-Brunei air linkage.

Dhaka also asked Brunei to import medicine of international standard from Bangladesh and for Brunei to invest in Bangladesh.

Newly appointed Bangladesh High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam Mohammed Abdul Hye made the call while presenting his credentials to Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah at Istana Nurul Iman Royal Palace in Bandar Seri Begawan.

**China's change required 35 years of reform Says envoy**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China has greatly transformed and developed for 63 years of hard work, especially after 35 years of reforms and opening-up, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jun said Friday.

Over the period, China's GDP has increased 23 folds with an annual growth rate of nearly 10 percent, he told a reception, marking the 63rd founding anniversary of China, at the capital's Radisson Hotel.

Illiteracy rate is down to below 3.5 percent in 2010 from 80 percent before founding of new China in 1949, he said.



Transparent ballot boxes being brought out from the Kapasia upazila election office by Bangladesh Election Commission officials yesterday for distribution among the 102 poll centres in Gazipur-4 constituency. The by-polls of the parliamentary constituency is scheduled for today. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: COURTESY

**WOMEN'S RIGHTS Govt bows down to religious fundamentalism**

Alleges Sultana Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the government has taken some praiseworthy steps to curb militancy, it bows down to religious fundamentalism whenever it comes to women's rights and interests, eminent rights activist Sultana Kamal said yesterday.

Referring to the recently passed Hindu Marriage Registration Act, 2012, she said the government had bowed down to some Hindu fundamentalists through keeping the provision that made Hindu marriage registration optional despite categorical demand of Hindu women to make it mandatory.

"Those, who do the 'politics for vote,' will not take care of us. So we will have to think about our rights and dignity ourselves," she told the inaugural session of the fourth national convention-2012 of Bikoshito Nari Network, an initiative of The Hunger Project-Bangladesh for empowering grassroots level women, in the capital's LGED auditorium.

The rights activist, who was also former adviser to a caretaker government, urged women to continue their struggle against the culture of cornering women with the use of religious excuses.

**TACKLING RABIES 15 lakh dogs to be vaccinated**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to vaccinate around 15 lakh dogs in the country instead of killing them for tackling rabies.

In primary stage, the programme will be launched at city corporations and municipalities in Rangpur, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Dhaka divisions. The vaccination in six districts of Rangpur division has already been completed.

The national action plan was made public at a seminar jointly organised by Directorate General of Health Services, Local Government Division and World Society for Protection of Animal marking World Rabies Day 2012 at MIS centre in Mohakhali of the capital yesterday.

This year the tagline of the day, observed on September 28, is "Together we work to eliminate rabies".

The vaccination will be finished in Rajshahi by October first, in Sylhet within the first half of the month and in Dhaka by November.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Awareness programme**  
Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon will organise an awareness campaign; Venue: Basila Government Primary School, Mohammadpur; Time: 10:30am.

**Discussion**  
Sangbidhanik Adhikar forum will organise a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

**Discussion**  
Bangladesh Youth Forum will organise a discussion; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 11:30am.

**Discussion**  
Resource Integration Centre will hold a discussion; Venue: Girdap Auditorium; Time: 10:00am.

**National seminar**  
Export Promotion Bureau will organise a national seminar; Venue: Ruposhi Bangla Hotel; Time: 10:00am.

**Launching ceremony**  
Plan Bangladesh will hold a launching ceremony; Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, Gulshan 1; Time: 10:00am.

**Painting exhibition**  
Bengal Art Lounge will organise a

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Change in temperature unlikely**

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet 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 05:47pm and rises tomorrow at 05:51am.**

Country's highest temperature 35.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 23.7 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	32.1	28.0	84	79
Chittagong	32.5	25.2	80	81
Rajshahi	34.0	27.0	87	89
Rangpur	33.8	26.7	83	81
Khulna	33.0	27.5	77	92
Barisal	32.2	26.8	88	90