

3 Tahrir men held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Three alleged members of banned Islamist outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir, Bangladesh were arrested in the capital yesterday. Detective Branch (DB) of police also recovered some jihadi magazines and leaflets from Md Kutub Uddin Mamun, 39, Md Nazmul Haque Saki, 22, and Md Khalequr Rahman Mintu, 30. Mashiur Rahman, additional commissioner of DB police, said a DB team arrested them from Baridhara at 10:35am. They confessed to their involvement with the banned Islamist outfit, he added. Meanwhile, Hizb ut-Tahrir leader Syed Golam Maola, also a Dhaka University teacher, and its activist Maksudul Rahman were yesterday shown arrested in a case filed against them for conducting anti-state activities. A Dhaka court also fixed October 3 for hearing a 7-day remand prayer sought by DB police to quiz them. Golam Maola and Maksudul were arrested in the capital on September 24.

GHULAM AZAM IN ICT Defence quizzes 13th witness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Defence counsel for war crimes accused Ghulam Azam, former Jamaat-e-Islami chief, yesterday completed cross-examining the 13th prosecution witness behind closed doors. The witness, wife and mother of two martyrs of the 1971 Liberation War, gave her deposition at the tribunal on Sunday. Ghulam Azam, facing five charges based on 60 incidents of crimes against humanity committed during the 1971 Liberation War, was brought to the tribunal but not produced before the court. The case proceedings were adjourned till today.



Drug traders block Mitford Road in Old Dhaka yesterday protesting alleged demand for bribes by Detective Branch personnel during a raid on some drug stores yesterday. Inset, a vandalised drug store, SA Traders, situated at BCDM Bhaban on the road, where three DB men took shelter after being chased by the traders. (Story on Page 20)
PHOTO: STAR

TORTURE IN CUSTODY Khoksha OC to face court on Oct 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday summoned the officer-in-charge of Khoksha Police Station in Kushtia to appear before it on October 16 in connection with the torture on a woman and her daughter in police custody. An HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar in its own move (suo moto) passed the order following a report published in the Prothom Alo on September 28. The report says, police detained the duo from Rajbari on suspicion on September 9, and tortured them in the police station and the office of the Detective Branch of police in the district for six days. Police also implicated the victims in three separate murder cases, it said. The HC also asked the government and police authorities to explain in 10 days why they should not be directed to take action against the responsible persons. Supreme Court lawyer Fahima Nasrin Munni placed the report before the HC.

Why Gazipur not city corporation

HC asks govt
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday asked the government to explain in four weeks why it should not be directed to declare Gazipur as a city corporation as per its earlier proposal. The court came up with the rule after hearing a writ petition jointly filed by chairmen of four union parishads of Gazipur. The chairmen of Kaultia, Pubail, Bason and Kashimpur unions also sought HC's directives on the government to exclude the four unions from the proposed city corporation, saying that they were elected chairmen in 2002 but could not work now, as no election was held there due to the government's announcement. In response, the court asked the government also to explain why it should not be directed to exclude the four unions from the proposed city corporation. In March 2010, the local government and rural development (LGRD) ministry officially informed the chairmen that Gazipur would be made a city corporation incorporating Gazipur and Tongi municipalities and some unions of Gazipur. Yesterday's rule was passed by the HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar.

Road accidents kill 8 in 5 districts

METRO DESK
Eight people were killed and six others injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj, Chittagong, Khulna, Magura and Chandpur on Sunday and yesterday. Our Sirajganj correspondent reports, three people were killed and two others injured as a microbus rammmed a human hauler on Bogra-Nagarbari road at Raninagar in Ullapara upazila on Sunday night. The deceased were Akter Hossain Tota, 45, Haider Ali, 35, and Ershad Ali, 25; all of them of Raninagar village in the upazila. The injured were taken to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital. In Chittagong, Rubina Yasmin, 17, daughter of Md Yousuf Ali, hailing from Notunpara village in Baluchora area and a first year HSC student of Kulgaon College, died as a truck ran her over in Battoli area of the city yesterday afternoon. In Khulna, a schoolboy was killed as a

Nurture humane qualities

Nahid tells students
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Speaking to students who got GPA-5 in this year's HSC examination from Government Science College, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid on Sunday urged them to nurture humane qualities aside from attaining academic knowledge. He also advised the students to engage themselves in gaining world class education, said a press release. Nahid was addressing a reception programme organised by Government Science College for GPA-5 achievers. Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Prof Nurjahan Begum, principal of Government Science College, among others, addressed the reception.

Violence on women in custody condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A group of human rights activists yesterday condemned and protested repeated police violence on women in custody. They urged the authorities to take immediate action to restrain the law enforcement agencies from acting against their constitutional obligations and inflicting violence on women, said a joint statement sent by Hameeda Hossain, Advocate Sultana Kamal, Ayesha Khanom, Khushi Kabir and Shaheen Anam. They protested the recent incidents of rape, unlawful detention, and torture of women in Kushtia and Madaripur prisons, in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and on a Dhaka court premises. "Clearly legal procedures have been violated in detaining the women in police custody, and we urge the government to take immediate action to ensure the safety of the women in custody and prevent further violence by police," the statement said. The constitution guarantees protection for all, yet the victims have been reportedly subjected to custodial torture, it said. The rights activists are also concerned with police victimisation of press correspondents who have reported the incidents. This is a violation of the right to freedom of expression and freedom of the media, they said.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Today is the 23rd death anniversary of SM Maksud, former pilot officer of the Bangladesh Air Force. Maksud, the youngest son of BAF officer SM Aindud-Din, died in a tragic plane crash near Matiur Rahman base in Jessore during a routine flight in 1989. He received Best Academic Performance Award during his passing out from the BAF academy, says a press release. His relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for his departed soul.



Teachers of secondary and higher secondary level educational institutions not included in the government's Monthly Pay Order (MPO) bring out a procession in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital demanding that the government brings the institutions under MPO.
PHOTO: STAR

14-member Jica team arrives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A 14-member volunteers' team of Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) arrived in Bangladesh on Thursday with a two-year long working assignment on the country's different development sectors. Another three-member team, which arrived on Sunday, will also be assigned for 10-month work in Bangladesh, said a press release. The 17-member batch will work in different sectors including infection control, environmental education, computer education and rural development. Since 1973, Japanese volunteers have been working in Bangladesh to support its effort to improve the lives of people with diversified field of expertise.

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