

NEWS IN *brief*

**DoE fines two cement factories**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined two cement industries a total of Tk 31 lakh at Meghnaghat in Sonargaon upazila of Narayanganj for polluting air.

Munir Chowdhury, DoE director (enforcement), fined Unique Cement Industries Limited [Fresh Cement] Tk 19.95 lakh and Madina Cement Industries Limited [Tiger Cement] Tk 11.13 lakh. The concerned authorities were also asked to adapt pollution preventive technology by October 31, says a press release.

The DoE team found Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) measuring 704.20 Microgram/Cubic Meter at Fresh Cement factory and 499.30 Microgram/Cubic Meter at the other factory, which are contributing in filling up the Meghna river.

The standard of SPM is 200 Microgram/Cubic Meter in the country.

**Biman to operate 2 direct hajj flights from Sylhet**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will operate two direct hajj flights from Sylhet to Jeddah on October 11 and October 18.

According to the schedule, about 300 hajj pilgrims would fly from Osmani International Airport in Sylhet on October 11 and 412 pilgrims would fly on the other flight, said Shoeb Ahmed Nizam, district

**Stop to second-hand smoking stressed**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a media briefing yesterday said the authorities concerned should take necessary steps to save people from second-hand smoking.

They said around 57,000 people die and 3,82,000 suffer from various illnesses due to smoking every year.

About 43.3 percent people who are above 15 years smoke and take tobacco products in the country, they added.

The media briefing was jointly organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), Progga and Anti-Tobacco Media Alliance in the capital yesterday.

The programme was chaired by DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam while ruling party lawmaker Dr Mostafa

**Pritilata's memorial sculpture unveiled in Ctg**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A memorial sculpture of Pritilata Waddedar, the first Bangalee woman who sacrificed her life for the freedom of her motherland from British colonial rule, was unveiled in Chittagong city yesterday.

The bronze bust sculpture has been placed in front of Pahartali Railway School, next to former European Club, the place where Pritilata embraced martyrdom on September 24, 1932.

Manjur Alam, Chittagong City Corporation mayor, along with Binod Bihari Chowdhury, another anti-British revolutionary associate of Master-da Surja sen, unveiled the sculpture around 4:00pm to observe the 80th death anniversary of the martyr. The city mayor urged the railway authority to

**ADB to give \$90m to fight climate impacts, train school teachers**

UNB, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide US\$20 million in loan for upgrading infrastructures to help protect rural areas of Bangladesh from climate impacts.

The bank also will provide US\$70 million in loan to further improve the quality of training for secondary school teachers of the country, said another report of the news agency.

An ADB press release said the "Coastal Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Project" is targeted to run for six years, with an expected completion date of December 2018.

The ADB will provide a concessional Asian Development Fund loan of US\$20 million equivalent for the project.

IFAD and KfW will provide parallel co-financing of US\$60 million equivalent and US\$8.8 million equivalent respectively, with additional support of US\$30 million from the ADB-administered Strategic Climate Fund and more than US\$31 million from the government of Bangladesh.

The project targets climate resilience improvements in 12 rural coastal districts--Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Bhola, Gopalganj, Jhalakati, Khulna, Madaripur, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Satkhira and Shariatpur.

An agreement was signed at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) in the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday as the ADB will provide US\$70 million in loan to improve quality of training for secondary school teachers.

Senior Secretary of ERD Iqbal Mahmood and ADB Country Director M Teresa Kho signed the deal on behalf of their respective sides.

Out of the total project cost of US\$85 million, the ADB will provide US\$70 million from the concessional loan (ADF) while the government will provide US\$15 million. The concessional ADF loan has a maturity of 32 years, including a grace period of eight years.

The rate of interest of the loan is one percent during the grace period and 1.5 percent thereafter.

The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education will implement the project from July 2012 to June 2017.

The assistance is expected to improve the overall quality of education in Bangladesh under the Second Teaching Quality Improvement in Secondary Education Project.

"This project will strengthen teachings, and help deliver quality education that will prepare Bangladesh's students for the job market or to pursue further education," said ADB's Country Director M Teresa Kho.

**BUS RAPID TRANSIT Route construction may begin in a year Says project official**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The construction of the route for faster bus service, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), stretching from the capital's Shahjalal International Airport to Keraniganj is likely to begin within a year, its project director said yesterday.

The final design of the project is expected in a year, and the construction will begin shortly afterwards with an estimated deadline of 2015, Anisur Rahman told a workshop on the final feasibility report on the proposed 22-km route.

The World Bank is likely to fund the \$277 million scheme, he told The Daily Star.

Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority organised the workshop at a city hotel.

The BRT is a dedicated, improved transport service with articulated (conjoined) buses to carry an estimated 20,000 passengers per hour in one direction. It would help ease the horrendous traffic jam in Dhaka city, say experts.

The sooner the BRT is in place, the better it is for addressing the traffic problem, said noted transport planning expert Dr M Rahmatullah.

Two central lanes of the existing road will constitute the BRT route, and there will be an adequate number of stations along the route for short-distance travellers.

The entire BRT route however will require a dozen elevated overpasses and coordination with other upcoming transport projects.

The airport-Sadarghat route makes up one part of the 45-kilometre BRT route from Gazipur to Sadarghat.

A Spanish consultation firm Advanced Logistic Group carried out the feasibility study and has prepared the preliminary design with World Bank fund.

The same firm did the feasibility study on the 23-km Gazipur-airport section that is now under construction.

**BSF kills one Bangladeshi**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) stabbed to death a Bangladeshi cattle trader and injured four others on Shibganj frontier in Chapainawabganj early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Enamul Haque, 25, son of Abul Hossain of Monakasha union in the upazila. One of the injured was identified as Imam, 22, of the same village.

Lt Col Monjurul Alam commanding officer of 9 Border Guard Bangladesh Battalion, said BSF men stabbed Enamul to death and injured Imam and three others when they were crossing the Padma river along Masudpur frontier on their way home with a consignment of cattle.

BGB personnel and local people said the Indian troops of Daulatpur camp of 20 BSF Battalion killed the cattle trader and injured others around 3:30am.

The injured managed to flee the scene immediately after the incident. Local people recovered the body.

BGB officials strongly protested the incident and sent a letter to their Indian counterpart.

**CLIMATE CHANGE Dipu Moni calls for global partnership**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni called upon the international community to provide adequate support to the countries which are vulnerable to climate change.

She also called for a new global partnership, "covering from London to Washington", which will respond to the plights of millions affected by the climate change, said a Foreign Ministry press release yesterday.

On Monday, the foreign minister led the Troika team of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), comprised of Bangladesh, Maldives and Costa Rica, at the programme organised by Climate Vulnerability Monitor in Washington DC.

She also stressed the financial and technological support for the CVF countries and is hopeful of the Monitor for arresting the global attention, especially from Washington DC circles, including the IFIs, to work on the effect of climate change.

Abdus Samad Abdullah, foreign minister of Maldives, Muni Figures, Costa Rican ambassador to the US and policy makers attended the programme, read the press release.

**Expatriate murdered**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some unidentified youths killed an expatriate and injured another in the capital's East Rampura last night.

The deceased was Salamat Ali Rupok, 26.

Rampura police told The Daily Star that the youths chopped them in Kunjaban Residential Area around 8:30pm, killing Rupok instantly.

Injured Jewel, 30, was admitted to a local hospital.



A group of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists take position with sharp weapons and sticks during a clash with the members of the rival faction at Omar Gani MES College in Chittagong yesterday. The infighting reportedly ensued from an altercation between two BCL activists over a trivial matter.

PHOTO: STAR

**Six DB men closed over drug stores 'raid'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two inspectors and four constables of the Detective Branch have been closed, as they did not take order from their superiors before conducting Monday's raid on some drug stores in Old Dhaka, which resulted in a violent protest.

During the raid, drug traders in Mitford Road area took to streets and confined and beat up three plainclothes detectives who allegedly took bribes from them in the name of raiding the stores for contraband drugs. Around eight DB men took part in the drive.

The closed DB men include Inspectors Md Ashrafuzzaman and Fazlur Rahman. The names of the constables could not be obtained.

Deputy Commissioner of DMP Masudur Rahman yesterday said an investigation committee had been formed and asked to submit its report within three working days. He said the traders complained that the DB team harassed them and demanded bribes from them.

A DB official seeking anonymity said they found the names of some law enforcers, including DB men, who used to visit the drug stores now and then and collected money regularly from those shop owners who sold contraband drugs.

**ATTACK ON BUDDHISTS It was pre-planned Say protesters**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of organisations yesterday joined the condemnation of the recent attack on Buddhist temples and monasteries in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong and said in unison that it was pre-planned.

From different protest programmes, they demanded arrest and exemplary punishment for the perpetrators, compensation to the victims, and security to the minorities. The perpetrators have to be brought to book to maintain communal harmony and peace in the region, they said.

It is clear that the attack was pre-planned as many people got united and started the vandalism within half an hour into the posting of the Facebook photo, said Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad.

"The number of people belonging to the minority communities in this region has dropped to 9.6 percent now from 29.7 per-

cent in 1947 due to continued repression," he told a joint press conference organised by the Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Puja Ujjapan Parishad and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

An anti-communal platform of teachers, writers, artists, and cultural and political personalities held a rally in front of the National Museum and gave a three-day ultimatum to the government for identifying the culprits through forming a judicial inquiry committee with a high court judge.

Protest programmes were also held at Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University and in Barisal.

The organisations include Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, Sector Commanders Forum, Workers Party of Bangladesh, Gonotantrik Bam Morcha, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha, Human Environment Rights Society, Bangladesh Film Director's Association, Bangladesh Chhatra League, and Jatiyatabadi Sangskritik Dal.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Views exchange meeting**  
Manusher Jonno Foundation will organise a views exchange meeting; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 3:00pm.

**Human chain**  
Communist Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesher Samjtantrik Dal will form a human chain; Venue: Jatiya

**Discussion**  
The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) will hold a discussion; Venue: FBCCI conference room, Motijheel; Time: 3:00pm.

**Discussion**  
Bangladesh Heart Research Association will hold a discussion;

Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Rain likely**

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna 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 5:44pm and rises tomorrow at 5:52am.

Country's highest temperature 35.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 23.0 degree Celsius 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	33.8	27.0	76	69
Chittagong	31.4	26.0	81	95
Rajshahi	34.0	26.5	87	79
Rangpur	32.1	25.2	87	83
Khulna	34.7	26.7	77	88
Barisal	33.0	26.0	80	96



Nagorik Samaj forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday protesting the recent attack on the Buddhist community and temples in Ramu and other places in Chittagong.

PHOTO: STAR

**Foreigners complicating CHT situation**

Says Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreigners running different activities in the name of development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) are complicating situations in the region, which hinders implementation of the peace treaty, Deputy Leader of Parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury said yesterday.

"Implementation of the peace accord in the CHT region is not only a challenge for Awami League government. Rather it is a national issue. So all political parties need to sit together to find ways to protect the country," she told a seminar on "CHT: Revisiting the Peace Accord" in the capital.

In his keynote paper, Maj Gen Mohammad Ashab Uddin, who was previously stationed in the CHT, said the armed groups of tribal (indigenous) political parties were involved in destructive activities in the region.

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIIS) organised the seminar, while Prof Syed Anwar Husain, former ambassador Shamim Ahmed, The Daily Star's Defence and Strategic Affairs Editor Brig Gen (ret'd) Shahedul Anam Khan, and BIIS Director General Maj Gen Muhammad Imrul Quayes, among others, spoke on the occasion.