

NEWS IN *brief*

2 muggers held after 'gunfight' with police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two alleged muggers were arrested with a car after a "gunfight" with police in the capital's Kalyanpur yesterday evening.

They were Kabil Howlader, 34, and Noor Hossain. Mirpur police SI Rakibul Islam said a team of five policemen gave signal to stop their moving car near Technical intersection but the vehicle did not follow it, rather it hit two constables.

Police shot a tyre of the car. As it stopped, the snatchers fired back and tried to escape. Later, police

Defamation suit filed against lawmaker Reza

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A defamation case was filed yesterday against HM Golam Reza, a Jatiya Party lawmaker who was recently expelled from the party, for his derogatory speech against Jatiya Party president HM Ershad that was published in a national Bangla daily on October 3.

Abu Taher, a convening committee member of Chittagong city unit of Jatiya Party, filed the case with Chittagong Additional Judicial Magistrate against Reza demanding Tk 100 crore as compensation, said Advocate Mridul Kanti Guha, a lawyer for the plaintiff.

Ershad expelled Golam Reza, lawmaker from Satkhira-4, from his party, allegedly over business

CPB 10th congress begins Oct 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 10th congress of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will begin on October 11 at the capital's Mohanagar Natya Mancha to constitute a new executive body of the left-leaning political party.

The schedule of the congress was announced at the party's office on Sunday.

Japan photo contest invites entries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All Japan Association of Photographic Societies and Asahi Shimbun will jointly hold the 73rd International Photographic Salon of Japan to be held in Japan this year.

The closing date for arrival of entries for the photography contest is October 31, said a press release yesterday.

Interested persons are requested to browse at the web link - <http://www.photo-asahi.com/english/fb6a3b000001t2u.html> - and



Residents of Ramu upazila of Cox's Bazar get lucky as its roads, battered and full of potholes for long, were suddenly fixed on an emergency basis due to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit yesterday. (Story on Page 1, 3)

PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka, Delhi to review \$1b credit tomorrow

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and New Delhi will tomorrow review the progress of implementation and the current state of the \$1 billion Line of Credit extended by India to Bangladesh.

The credit component of the \$1 billion loan has been reduced to \$800 million following the conversion of \$200 million to grant.

Twelve projects, aggregating to \$655.1 million, have so far been included under the credit line.

The review meeting will discuss on the speedy implementation of the loan in line with the mutually agreed guidelines.

An Indian delegation, led by Radhika Lokesh, joint secretary of Development Partnership Administration of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, has arrived in Dhaka for the meeting, said a press release of the High Commission of India yesterday.

Poor bargaining troubles migrant workers

Says Sultana Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi workers face many difficulties abroad due to poor bargaining capacity of both the government and private organisations of the country, said noted rights activist Sultana Kamal yesterday.

"Due to a lack of this capacity, the workers are not contacted properly, their necessary documents are not preserved and salaries are not provided.

"Even during incidents of beheading of Bangladeshi workers abroad, we could not play a significant role regarding the matter," she said.

Sultana Kamal was addressing as chief guest the inaugural session of a two-day "National Consultation on UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development" in the capital's Cirdap Auditorium.

Four Bangladeshi partners of

Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) organised the consultation. They are Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), WARBE (Welfare Association for the Rights of Bangladeshi Emigrants) Development Foundation, Association for Community Development, and Ain O Salish Kendra.

Sultana Kamal, also a former adviser to a caretaker government, stressed the need for enhancing the bargaining capacity of countries sending the migrant workers to solve the difficulties the workers face abroad.

The government and civil society members should strengthen monitoring on the process of sending workers abroad to curb corruption in this sector, she said.

On developing the lives of migrant workers, she said development of their rights should be given top priority and taken very seriously for their overall development.

Delivering the welcome speech, RMMRU Coordinator Dr CR Abrar said the private sector, especially civil society members, have an important role to play for the development of migrants workers and protection of their rights.

The first "High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development" was held in 2006 and the second one is scheduled for September 2013.

Yesterday's consultation was a preparatory meeting aimed at bringing together key migration and development organisations, networks, trade unions, media representatives and related government bodies to coordinate and jointly strategise efforts relating to the upcoming second dialogue.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General Shahidul Haque and MFA representative Tattee Macabuag also spoke at the consultation.

List heritage sites in Dhaka: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday directed the government to prepare a complete list of all heritage structures in Dhaka city and file a report with the court within three months.

Following a writ petition filed by Urban Study Group (USG), the HC issued the direction on the ministries of cultural affairs, housing and public work and local government.

The heritage conservationist group filed the petition on October 2 in the wake of a move by Dhaka Zilla Parishad to tear down a colonial era building on Johnson Road the previous day to make way for a 20-storey commercial building.

The court however withdrew its earlier temporary stay order on the demolition work and disposed of the petition.

In 2009, the government made a primary list of 93 age-old buildings and 13 roads in four areas for conservation in the capital city.

Though the government was supposed to update the list by including the remaining significant buildings, no more structures have been brought under conservation efforts over the past years.

Chief Executive of USG Taimur Islam said the HC direction was a landmark achievement in the heritage conservation movement.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar

National Front of Teachers and Employees will organise a seminar on right to education; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:00pm.

Mourning rally

Jatiya Press Club will hold a mourning rally on journalists Ataus Samad and Fazle Rashid; Venue: its premises; Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar

Forum for the Rights of the Elderly, Bangladesh will organise a seminar on Older Persons; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

National Forum of Organizations Working with the Disabled will hold a discussion on mental health; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Dhaka Ahsania Mission will organise a discussion on tobacco control law; Venue: 287/12-C, Khilgaon, Sabujmati Bhaban; Time: 3:30pm.

Human chain

Garments O Dorji Sramik-Karmachari Welfare Association will form a human chain demanding a stop to the import of readymade garments; Venue: in front of Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Bangladesh Youth Forum will organise a discussion on current political trends; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Workshop

Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Buet will hold a workshop on urban problems; Venue: Room 208, URP Bhaban, Buet; Time: 2:45pm.

Memorial meeting

DoE fines factory, hotel Tk 36 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday penalised a textile dyeing factory and a residential hotel with a fine of Tk 36.62 lakh in total for environmental pollution, said a DoE press release.

Of them, ML Dyeing Ltd at Bhaluka in Mymensingh was fined Tk 32 lakh.

A DoE enforcement team detected that the factory has been running without environmental clearance since 2010 and has a non-functional effluent treatment plant (ETP).

The factory has released around 10 crore litres of untreated chemical effluents into Khiro river during the past two years, said Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, director of DoE who handed down the penalty to the factory's managing director.

Meanwhile, DoE fined Bijoynagar Hotel in Dhaka Tk 4.62 lakh on charge of releasing sewage drain on the premises of the Bangladesh Scouts headquarter.

On receiving a complaint in this regard, DoE personnel investigated the matter and handed down the penalty to the hotel's managing director.

Scouts authorities said the Scouts Bhaban premises and adjoining areas were subject to severe pollution due to the sewage released by the hotel in the past several days.

Munir said the 22-year old hotel also had no environmental clearance.

The DoE ordered the hotel authorities to rectify their sewage disposal system within three days.



Tanvir Mahmud, managing director of Hall-Mark Group of Industries, and Tushar Ahmed, general manager of the company, being brought to the Anti-Corruption Commission by police yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

WEATHER TODAY

Change in temperature unlikely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Rangpur 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 5:38pm and rises tomorrow at 5:54am.

Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 23.9 degrees at Madaripur.

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	26.4	87	65
Chittagong	32.4	25.8	87	73
Rajshahi	36.0	25.2	84	80
Rangpur	31.5	26.4	87	81
Khulna	32.6	25.5	73	97
Barisal	31.7	25.0	76	92
Sylhet	33.9	24.7	74	77

Remove Suranjit SCBA president urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court Bar Association President Zainul Abedin yesterday demanded the government arrests Suranjit Sengupta, minister without portfolio, after removing him from ministerial charge within 24 hours.

"Whistleblower driver Azam Khan's statements broadcast by television has cleared that he [Suranjit] has looted money and was involved in corruption while he was the railway minister," he said.

Zainul was addressing a meeting organised by Jatiyabadi Ainjibi Forum (JAF), a body of pro-BNP lawyers, in protest of arrest of Jubo Dal President Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal, at the bar association premises.

Azam, driver of Suranjit Sengupta's sacked assistant Omar Faruk Talukder, told Rtv in an interview aired on October 4 and 5 that the money found in the microbus at Pilkhana headquarters of Bangladesh Border Guard was being taken to Suranjit's house.

The SCBA president yesterday demanded immediate release of Alal and withdrawal of cases filed against the opposition leaders and activists. JAF President Rafiqul Islam Mia also spoke.

DHAKA, DELHI HOME SECRETARY LEVEL 3-day talks begin Oct 15

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A three-day long home secretary-level talks between Bangladesh and India will begin in Dhaka on October 15, where issues like security, land boundary agreement and killing along the border would figure prominently.

Home Secretary CQK Mustaq Ahmed will lead the Bangladesh delegation comprised of senior officials from the ministries of home and foreign affairs, Department of Narcotics Control and Border Guard Bangladesh.

His counterpart RK Singh will head a 10-member Indian team to the 13th round of home secretary-level talks.

Sources in home ministry said during the meeting Bangladesh will take up a host of issues with India. The issues include early implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement aimed at exchange of enclaves, adversely possessed lands and demarcation of 6.5 kilometre border, a halt to the killing of innocent Bangladeshis along the border and

curbing smuggling of arms and drugs, and trafficking of women and children.

The Indian side, on the other hand, is expected to raise the issues of handing over top Ulfa leader Anup Chetia to India and signing an extradition treaty.

The two home secretaries will visit Agartala-Akhaura international border outpost to review the border infrastructure.

During his visit to Dhaka, the Indian home secretary is likely to call on the foreign minister, home minister, commerce minister and minister for disaster management and relief.

Ahead of the secretary-level meeting, senior officials of the two countries will meet in Dhaka on October 14.

A meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Working Group on Security will be held on Oct 15. Additional Home Secretary Kamal Uddin Ahmed and Indian Joint Secretary (North East) Shambhu Singh will lead their respective sides at the meeting.