

NEWS IN *brief*

**Govt dismisses media reports on Myanmar mosque burning**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday dismissed the media reports that a mosque in the Rakhine state of Myanmar was attacked and burned, confirming that no such incident has happened.

The foreign ministry in a statement cautioned people "against reacting to such unfounded reports and rumours" following the recent violence against Buddhists in Ramu of Cox's Bazar.

The ministry has checked with the Bangladesh embassy in Yangon and the Bangladesh consulate in the capital of Rakhine state and found the reports were "baseless".

The Myanmar government has taken adequate precautionary measures to halt a possible backlash following the Ramu incident, the embassy in Yangon has reported.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has asked people to remain alert to such "provocations by vested

**New envoy to China appointed**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



The government has decided to appoint Muhammad Azizul Haque as the new ambassador of Bangladesh to China.

He is currently serving as the ambassador to Greece.

A career diplomat, Haque also served the Bangladesh Embassies in Sweden, Kuwait and Myanmar, and Bangladesh High Commissions in Canberra and London.

He obtained BA (Honours) and Master degrees in English Literature from Dhaka University and is a BCS (Foreign Affairs) Cadre, said a foreign ministry press release.

**DU admission tests begin Friday**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The admission tests for first year honours courses under 2012-2013 academic session in Dhaka University (DU) will begin on Friday.

The one and a half hour long tests of Ka unit will begin at 10:00am at 77 centres in and outside the university campus, said a press release.

The candidates can find information about their seats and examination halls at the website: <http://kaunit.univdhaka.edu>.

They can also send SMS to 16321 to get the information. Guideline for sending the SMS is available

**Indian forest guards pick up four Bangladeshis**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Four Bangladesh nationals were picked up by Indian forest guards from near Lalakhal border in Sylhet on Sunday afternoon.

The four men are Pakjhidhan Miah of Ujanagar, Sona Miah of Jangalghat and Mainuddin of Goabari under Jaintapur upazila and Alim Uddin of Kanaighat upazila of Sylhet. They were picked up when they went for collecting timber.

Commander Lt Col Md Shafiqul Azam of BGB's 5th battalion said they contacted the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) regarding return of the four Bangladeshis.

BSF informed BGB that the forest guards had



Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pankaj Saran exchanges views with The Daily Star's senior journalists during a visit to The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**Destiny distributors, cops clash hurting 50**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several thousand distributors of Destiny Group clashed with law enforcers in a number of places in the capital yesterday, leaving at least 50 people, including 20 policemen, injured.

The clashes began in Paltan, Kakrail, Fakirerpool, Gulistan and Jatiya Press Club areas when police obstructed the Destiny distributors from attending a protest rally in front of Jatiya Press Club.

Destiny Distributor Forum was to host the rally to press home their demands to reopen the frozen bank accounts of Destiny Group and withdrawal of the cases against the Destiny officials.

The Destiny officials allegedly transferred crores of taka from the company accounts to their personal accounts.

When obstructed, the protesters pelted the

law enforcers with bricks and later got dispersed after police fired teargas and used batons.

Police also detained around 200 of the demonstrators, but freed them later. The clashes caused severe traffic chaos in the areas.

Convener of Destiny Distributor Forum AKM Shafiqullah said police obstructed them and went into action though they were trying to hold a peaceful rally.

Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Syed Nurul Islam, however, said the Destiny distributors brought out several processions and tried to hold a rally without permission.

The Anti-Corruption Commission has sued 22 Destiny officials on charges of siphoning off Tk 3,285.26 crore, and it has been asked to take steps to freeze 532 bank accounts of Destiny Group and Destiny-2000 Ltd.

**GOVT STAFF'S CANDIDACY IN JS POLLS, HC questions RPO restriction**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the validity of a legal provision, which prevents government employees from contesting parliamentary elections within three years into their retirement from service.

In response to a writ petition, the court issued a rule asking the government and the election commission to explain in four weeks why this restrictive provision of the Representation of the People Order (RPO) should not be declared unconstitutional.

According to Article 6 of the RPO (Amendment) Act 2009, if anybody has not finished three years after retirement from government service, he or she cannot contest parliamentary elections.

Abdul Hye, a columnist and former additional secretary, challenged the article by filing the writ petition on October 8, saying the RPO provision was not consistent with the constitution.

**Bangabandhu museum curator passes away**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Syed Siddiqur Rahman, curator of Father of the Nation

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum, passed away in the capital yesterday morning due to old age complications. He was 78.

He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of friends and relatives to mourn his death.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited his residence around 9:30am and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and consoled the bereaved family.

She also announced a two-day closure of the museum in the honour of Siddiqur Rahman, a former joint-secretary of the government and also a member secretary of the museum located in Dhanmondi-32.

He was buried at Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Mirpur following his namaz-e-jaanazas in front of the museum and at Taqwa Mosque in Dhanmondi.

A doa-mahfil will be held for him at the museum after Maghrib prayers tomorrow.

**Death anniversary**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Tahmidul Anwar, former professor of mass communication and journalism department at Dhaka University (DU).

He was also director general of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB).

A doa mahfil will be held in DU central mosque after Zohr prayers for seeking eternal peace of the departed soul.

His relatives, friends, colleagues and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programme.



Nagorik Oikkyo, Chittagong forms a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club in the port city yesterday, protesting the recent attack on the Buddhist community in Ramu.

PHOTO: STAR

**Media workers should be accountable to people: Inu**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The freedom of press will strengthen the democracy in the country and media workers should be accountable for their activities to the people, said Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu yesterday.

Hinting at the media, he said everybody in an elected government including the prime minister should stand before the mirror everyday to know the reactions of their activities.

The minister made the remarks at a launching ceremony of a book titled "Freedom of Press in South Asia" written by Md Akhtaruzzaman, a metropolitan additional session's judge of Dhaka court, at Dhaka Reporter's Unity.

Urging journalists not to publish fragmented, incomplete, or false information that may harm the nation's history, culture

or communal harmony, he said information is not a commodity; rather it should be used as a part of social responsibility.

Pointing out the recent violence on the Buddhist community at Ramu in Cox's Bazar and other places in Chittagong, Hasanul Haque said the media should be responsible in publishing right information.

With Dhaka International University Vice Chancellor Prof Nurul Momen in the chair, National Human Rights Commission Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman, Bangladesh Law Commission' acting Chairman Prof Shah Alam, and former president of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) M Shahjahan Miah also spoke on the occasion.

Prof Mizanur Rahman said a state has no essence without having newspapers. But the media must be responsible to uphold the state's dignity with its freedom.

**EU urges Dhaka to abolish death penalty**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union (EU) has renewed its call for abolishing the death penalty in Bangladesh and contributing to the development of human dignity in the world.

"The death penalty concerns everyone's right to life. The state, with its particular responsibility as the ultimate guarantor of all persons' human rights, should not deprive anyone of his or her life," said a letter signed by nine heads of mission of the EU countries in Dhaka.

"The European Union reaffirms its absolute opposition to the use of the death penalty," it said, marking the observance of European Day against the Death Penalty and World Day against the Death Penalty today.

The EU envoys referred to a 2010 UN resolution, which called upon all states to establish a moratorium on executions aiming at abolishing the death penalty.

"We call upon Bangladesh, as a member of the UN, to take the actions which the resolution calls for, and thereby contribute to the development of fundamental rights and human dignity in the world."

The letter was signed by Danish Ambassador Svend Olling, Swedish Ambassador Anneli Lindahl Kenny, Italian Ambassador Giorgio Guglielmino, Spanish Ambassador Luis Tejada Chazón, British High Commissioner Robert Gibson, French Ambassador Michel Trinquier, Dutch Ambassador Gerben Sjoerd de Jong, EU Ambassador William Hanna, and Germany Embassy Chargé d'Affaires Ralf Matthias Reusch.

**Pvt agencies swindle migrant workers**

Says expatriate welfare secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan yesterday accused private manpower recruiting agencies of swindling migrant workers and overcharging them.

"In the past, the agencies charged twice or thrice the amount, they showed in documents, from the Malaysia-bound workers. This was sheer cheating," he said.

He was speaking at the concluding session of a two-day dialogue styled "National Consultation on UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development", held in the capital's Cirdap Auditorium.

Four Bangladesh 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.

With the aim to end irregularities and ensure that workers are not exploited by unscrupulous middlemen, the government has decided to send workers to Malaysia under state arrangements, said Zafar.

This agreement between Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur was signed on September 12. The private manpower recruiting agencies on September 19 threatened to close manpower export if the government did not withdraw its decision but the government disregarded their threats.

Speaking on migrant workers and development, Zafar said the issue should get more priority in terms of budgetary allocation and other facilities as it is closely related to the country's national development and lives of thousands of people.

**4 held with fake visas**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed Police Battalion (APBn) arrested four people at Shahjalal International Airport in the capital while they were trying to go to Indonesia and Brunei with fake visas early yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Kabir Hossain, 27, of Comilla; Rafiqul Islam, 20, Sohag Hossain, 23, and Alamgir Hossain, 16, of Jessore.

Atiqur Rahman, assistant superintendent of police of APBn, told The Daily Star that the four were arrested at around 1:30am as they tried to pass through the immigration with the fake visas on their passports.

The people were going abroad through a broker against Tk 3.2 lakh for each, he said.

**SC reinstates stay on graft case against Moudud**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court verdict that had cleared the way for continuing the proceedings of a corruption case against BNP leader Moudud Ahmed.

The court passed the order after a petition filed by Moudud yesterday sought a stay on the HC order passed on October 7.

The judge also fixed tomorrow for hearing the same petition before the full-bench of Appellate Division.

On September 16, 2007, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case accusing Moudud of amassing wealth worth more than Tk 7.38 crore illegally and concealing information about wealth of more than Tk 4.4 crore from the commission.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Discussion**  
Bikalpa Chhatradhara will hold a discussion on student politics; Venue: Aparajeya Bangla, DU; Time: 4:00pm.

**Council**  
Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, inauguration of a book on skill development

Dhaka University (DU) unit will inaugurate its 11th council; Venue: Aparajeya Bangla, DU; Time: 11:00am.

**Book launch**  
Ankur will arrange a publication ceremony of a book on skill development

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Rain likely**  
UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dhaka 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 5:37pm and rises tomorrow at 5:54am.**

Country's highest temperature 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Barisal and lowest 23.2 degrees at Srimongal.

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	30.6	26.3	75	87
Chittagong	32.2	24.4	83	77
Rajshahi	31.9	24.9	88	86
Rangpur	27.8	23.6	96	85
Khulna	33.5	25.5	80	83
Barisal	34.6	25.5	84	90
Sylhet	32.0	24.2	86	94