

NEWS IN *brief*

Prime accused in Himu murder case sent to jail on surrender

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday sent two prime accused in the Himu murder case to jail when they surrendered before the court and sought bail. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Hasanul Islam passed the order, rejecting bail prayers of the accused -- Junaid Ahmed Riad and his father Shah Selim Tipu. The High Court granted them bail for eight weeks on August 14 and asked them to surrender before court on expiry of this period. Himadri Majumdar Himu succumbed to his injuries on May 23 in the capital's Square Hospital, 26 days after he was assaulted, attacked by dogs and pushed off a building in Panchlaish Residential Area of Chittagong city. His uncle Prakash Das Asit filed the murder case with Panchlaish Police Station accusing Tipu, Riad,

Korean volunteers arrive in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-member team of Korean Overseas Volunteers (KOVs) arrived in Dhaka on Monday to share their knowledge and experience with Bangladeshis. The members are experts in machinery and electricity, said a press release. Both of the KOVs will stay in Bangladesh for the next two years and provide training to the country's people in machinery and power sector, it said. One of them will work as an instructor at a training centre in Mymensingh, while the other will work at Technical Training Centre in Khulna.

Anti-smoking campaign at family level urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting on Tuesday said awareness building against smoking should start at family level. Every one person out of six in Bangladesh die because of smoking while around 12 lakh people face the risk of death every year due to it, they said. Speakers said these while addressing a discussion meeting titled "Implementation of Tobacco Control Law at Public Places and Transports" organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission at the local parliament member office in the capital's Khilgaon. Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam chaired the meeting while Saber Hossain

2 RHD contractors assaulted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two contractors of the Roads and Highways Department were assaulted by a group of men led by two of their fellow contractors in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday. The mob also vandalised the office of the victims in the area. The injured, Shaheen Mahmood, 35, and Sabuj Mahmood, 36, were given first aid at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The duo said some 12 men, led by their fellow contractors Biddut and Sagor, attacked them with sticks and metal rods in front of Roads and Highways Bhaban. Police said the contractors had an altercation among themselves on Tuesday that might have trig-



People seeking to spend their Eid-ul Azha holidays outside the capital scramble for tickets at Gabtoli Bus Terminal yesterday, the very day advance ticket sale started. The festival will be celebrated at the end of this month.

PHOTO: STAR

EC has to earn public confidence

Say senior journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will have to earn public confidence through its activities before the national election to make it credible and acceptable, senior journalists said yesterday. "Image crisis" is a major challenge for the commission, and it is not possible for it to hold a fair and acceptable poll with a controversial image, said Editor of the daily Manabjamin Matiur Rahman Chowdhury. Referring to the recent Gazipur-4 by-poll, he said, "Low turn out rate in that election has proved a lack of public trust in the commission." Speaking at a meeting with the commission on demarcation of constituencies in the capital's National Economic Council conference room, the journalists also laid stress on dialogues with the political parties, especially BNP, to build good relation with the main opposition and avert further political crisis. Head of News of Channel-i-Shykh Serajs said it was not possible to hold a fair election ignoring BNP. He urged the commission not to increase

the number of constituencies in Dhaka. Boishaki Television Chief Editor Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul said the EC should hold talks with political parties before taking any decision relating to elections. The commission will take the decision on demarcation of constituencies after dialogues with political parties, said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakib Uddin. **ARMY DEPLOYMENT ISSUE** Although EC Secretary Muhammed Sadique, quoting the CEC, on Tuesday said the commission had no plan of army deployment to maintain law and order in the next election, the CEC yesterday said the information was wrongly reflected in media. "Before every election, we take decision on what kinds of law enforcement agencies will be deployed, considering the overall situation. It is not right to finalise the decision so early on what sorts of security measure will be needed in the next general election. We will enforce maximum security considering the situation before the national election," he said.

Social safety net still eludes Dalits, Harijans

Say rights leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Dalit and Harijan communities yesterday reiterated that they were deprived of jobs and Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards despite the prime minister's May 29 directive to ensure the two. The leaders of Bangladesh Harijan Oikya Parishad organised a press conference in the capital's Jatiya Press Club to express their grievances. They said the 56 lakh Dalits of the country were not listed and not provided food in August through VGF cards, a safety net programme of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. "A gazette notification was released from the ministry on June 27 confirming compliance with the directive but we were not even informed during the food distribution," said the parishad Secretary General Nirmal Chandra Das. The parishad, in a statement, also said Harijans were not employed in posts designated for them at Bogra Health Department, Khulna office of the superintendent of police and Pirojpur deputy commissioner's office. The directive also said, "It is essential that city corporations construct residences for Harijan and Dalit communities." However, Harijan colonies in Khulna, Narayanganj and Chapainawabganj were vacated without rehabilitation to expand the cities, said the statement. The ministry Secretary M Aslam said the local authorities were directed to see to anomalies on the VGF list.

289 Rohingyas rescued from Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A contingent of Bangladesh Coast Guard yesterday rescued 289 Rohingya fishermen and 36 boats from the Bay of Bengal. During a routine patrol, the team rescued the fishermen while they were caught up in rough sea near Saint Martin's Island, says a press release. The rescued, all citizens of Myanmar, were provided with food, drinks and other assistance with the help of local administration and Bangladesh Navy. They will be sent back to Myanmar.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Valiant freedom fighter Md Abdul Jalil of village Narayanpur in Pabna sadar died of cardiac arrest on Tuesday. He was 60. He left behind his wife, two sons and three daughters. He was buried with state honour at Balialahat graveyard in Pabna sadar town yesterday.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 4th death anniversary of Dr Shafi Ahmed Sultan, says a press release. On the occasion, a milad mahfil, memorial programme and food distribution in an orphanage has been arranged. Dr Shafi graduated from Dhaka Medical College and served different hospitals in England and USA.



(From left) Director (rights) of Manusher Jonno Foundation Rina Roy, Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Chairperson of Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) Hameeda Hossain, and Executive Director of ASK Sultana Kamal at a press briefing at Cox's Bazar municipality office yesterday. The three organisations jointly hosted the programme to protest the recent violence against Buddhists in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong. (Story on Page 3)

PHOTO: STAR

Fear of unrest prompts Cuet to close early

STAFF CORRESPONDENTS, Ctg

Eight days ahead of schedule, Cuet's Academic Council yesterday closed the university till November 12 to avoid any untoward situation centring an alleged assault on a student by a BCL activist. Coming up with the decision in a meeting around 4:00pm, Cuet gave male students around one and a half hours and female students till 10:00am today to vacate the halls. Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuets) was scheduled to close on October 17 for Durga Puja and Eid-ul Azha holidays. The assault took place inside a Cuets bus around 1:00am yesterday after a fourth year student of electrical and electronics engineering department, Bappy, told a second year student of the department, Naimul Islam, to stop smoking. Naimul, a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist, then physically assaulted Bappy. Within an hour, some 200 students, protesting the assault, staged a sit-in before Bangabandhu Hall, where BCL activists armed with iron rods and sticks attacked them. The hall provost and some teachers prevented the attack. The students, in their fourth year in four departments, then boycotted classes and staged another sit-in before the Cuets administrative building from 6:30am to 4:30pm demanding a ban on political activities on the campus and exemplary punishment to Naimul. Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Jahangir Alam said a five-member probe committee was formed to investigate into the assault. Cuets unit BCL President Mashiul Kabir Misu said BCL was not involved in the matter.

The Daily Star to hand over historic exhibits to CU museum today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Daily Star authorities will hand over some historic exhibits of Chittagong to Chittagong University (CU) Museum today. The relics, which were exhibited at "Chirayato Chattagram Prodarshani" organised by The Daily Star as part of its "Odommo Chattagram" festival in March and April, will be formally handed over at a programme in the auditorium of business administration department of CU. With CU Vice-Chancellor Anwarul Azim Arif in the chair, Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, Professor Dr Imran Hossain, dean of faculty of arts and director of the museum, and Dr Shamsul Hossain, former deputy curator and one of the founders of the museum, are scheduled to speak at the ceremony. A cultural programme has also been organised where Proma Abonti and her troupe will perform a dance, and Manosh Paul Chowdhury will sing folksongs.

Mother gets ten years' jail for killing daughter

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a woman to ten years' rigorous imprisonment for killing her three-year-old daughter in the capital on June 25 last year. Judge Shamsul Arefin of the Special Judge Court-3 handed down the sentence to Hamida who was working as a housemaid at a residence in Gulshan during the incident. According to the prosecution, Hamida strangled her daughter Suraiya because the girl annoyed her during sleep. Dr Fatiha Kabir Meem, owner of the house, informed police about the murder who later arrested Hamida. A case was filed against her with Gulshan Police Station in this connection. Police pressed charge against the accused on September 29 last year. During the trial, eight prosecution witnesses were cross-examined.

Google starts recruitment drive on Buet campus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Google, for the first time in Bangladesh, held recruitment tests on the campus of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) to employ the university's aspiring computer engineers. Some 150 students of the outgoing batch and graduates of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering appeared in the test, conducted by a delegation led by Ashwani Sharma of University Program, Google India, on Tuesday. "Now the Google engineers will evaluate the answer sheets and the following selection procedure would begin," said Prof Latiful Hoque, head of the department. "Alumni students of the department who are currently engaged in jobs in foreign countries recommended Google officials to recruit Buet students. "Buet students performed outstandingly in recent international programming contests. This is also a reason behind Google's interest in campus recruitment," he said.

Rotary world leader due in Dhaka today

METRO DESK

Rtn Ashok Mahajan, world leader of Rotary TRF Trustee, is due to arrive in Dhaka today, said a press release. He will attend as chief guest the Rotary TRF Seminar to be held at Hotel Sonargaon in the city tomorrow. During his visit, he will meet President Zillur Rahman. He will also attend a meeting with the leaders of the business community.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Bangladesh Institute of Planners will organise a seminar, "Changing Cities: Building Opportunities"; Venue: its premises; Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion
Sangbidhanik Adhikar Forum will hold a discussion on the recent attack on Buddhist communities in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

Bonsai exhibition
Bangladesh Bonsai Society will inaugurate a four-day bonsai exhibition; Venue: WVA Auditorium; Time: 11:00am.

Seminar
Coalition for the Urban Poor will organise a seminar on reducing poverty and urban development; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 10:30am.

Debate
United Nations Population Fund and Debate for Democracy will hold a debate marking the International Day

WEATHER TODAY

Temperature likely to rise

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said. Day and night temperature may rise by 1-2 degrees Celsius over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:36pm and rises tomorrow at 5:55am. Country's highest temperature 34 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.4 degrees at Hatiya. 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	30.5	24.0	91	73
Chittagong	29.2	24.4	88	92
Rajshahi	31.0	23.8	92	100
Rangpur	29.6	23.3	78	79
Khulna	32.5	25.3	80	86
Barisal	30.3	23.5	95	99