

NEWS IN *brief*

HC upholds Suranjit's status as minister without portfolio

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summarily rejected a writ petition that challenged the legality of Suranjit Sengupta's "appointment" as a minister without portfolio.

The court passed the order on the ground that Suranjit was not appointed as minister without portfolio rather he was given responsibility of a minister without portfolio after he was shifted from the office of railway minister.

Suranjit had taken oath as a railway minister and he did not need to take oath anew for holding the post of minister without portfolio, the court said.

Petitioner Tuhin Malik said he will move an appeal before the Supreme Court against the

JCI delegation meets president

UNB, Dhaka

A delegation of the Junior Chamber International (JCI) Bangladesh met President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Headed by JCI world president Bertilt Daems, the delegation members apprised the president of their humanitarian activities in Bangladesh that include providing education to slum children, assisting farmers with fund and information services on agriculture, rehabilitating drug addicts and blood donation.

Zillur thanked the JCI leaders for their activities in the country and urged them to expand their works in

Unilever staff visit schools to raise awareness about handwashing

METRO DESK

Officials of Unilever Bangladesh Limited have visited different schools in the country on the occasion of Global Handwashing Day to be observed on October 15.

They conducted different interactive demonstrations at the schools to raise awareness about handwashing with soap among the school children, said a press release.

During the sessions, the children pledged to wash hands with soap on the five occasions -- before breakfast, lunch and dinner, after using the toilet and while taking a bath, it said.

Managers from Unilever, Adcomm Limited, Asiatic Mindshare Limited, Market Access Providers Limited and Searchlite Communications Limited participated

Ashraf's solo art exhibition opens today at Galleri Kaya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A solo art exhibition titled "Trauma & Time" by artist Ashraful Hasan opens for public today at Galleri Kaya in the capital's Uttara, Sector-4.

Eleven oil and acrylic on canvas and nine drawing along with 17 lithography and etching prints on paper will be showcased for public, says a press release.

The exhibition, sponsored by aamra companies, will remain open from 11:00am to 7:30pm till



The electric pole has remained dangerously tilted for the last three months on the capital's Beribadh Road in Mohammadpur area, posing risks of accident anytime. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

2 MPs sued for derogatory remarks

UNB, Sylhet

Two lawmakers on Wednesday were sued by two persons for making derogatory comments about Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad and a local Awami League (AL) leader in Sylhet.

The accused are HM Golam Reza, the JP MP of a Satkhira constituency, and Mahmud-us-Samad Chowdhury Kayes, the AL MP of Sylhet-3 constituency.

Abdullah Siddiqui, central organising secretary of JP (Ershad), lodged a defamation case with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court yesterday accusing Reza of terming Ershad fraud and faker in an interview published in a Bangla daily.

Meanwhile, local AL leader Shoaib Ahmad Chowdhury filed a libel suit yesterday with the same court accusing Kayes of making derogatory comment against him on July 21.

'Child kidnapper' lynched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mob lynched a man while he along with two others was allegedly trying to kidnap a baby girl at Sonakanda in Keraniganj yesterday.

Before his death, Babul Hossain told police that he was a son of Kamal Hossain of Shibchar in Madaripur district.

OC of Keraniganj police Mainuddin Khan said Babul entered the house of Jinnath Ali by cutting its walls around 2:00am, and tried to take away his two-year-old daughter Tahmina.

When the baby's grandmother, Nurun Nahar, started screaming, locals caught Babul and gave him a good beating. Two of his accomplices, however, managed to flee.

Police later admitted Babul to Mitford Hospital where he died around 6:00am.

ATTACK ON BUDDHISTS

Protest continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different social and political organisations yesterday protested the recent attack on Buddhists community at Ramu in Cox's Bazar, and demanded punishment of the real culprits.

Condemning the attacks, they urged the government to ensure security of the minority communities.

Against the backdrop of the attacks on Buddhists, Jahangirnagar University (JU) arranged a seminar titled "Banglar Jonozati, Banglar Buddhists, Banglar Hindu, Banglar Christians, Banglar Muslim, Amra Sobai Eidesher Shontan" at Zahir Rayhan auditorium.

Addressing the seminar, JU Vice Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain said the attack was an inhuman and fanatic attempt to foil the communal harmony in the country.

Meanwhile, leaders of Samajik Pratirodh Committee (SPC), a platform of several organisations, in a written statement said the country's people should stand against all types of violence so that communal harmony is not destroyed.

Gonotantrik Bam Morcha, an alliance of leftist parties, and Bangladesh Jubo Maitry also held protest rallies in the capital, and urged the government to take adequate security measures ahead of Durga Puja of the Hindu community.

VIOLENCE IN COX'S BAZAR, CTG

Move carefully in affected areas

Dipu Moni urges foreign diplomats

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka yesterday requested foreign diplomats to exercise restraint in their diplomatic movements in Ramu and Ukhia in Cox's Bazar and Patiya in Chittagong where Buddhist temples and houses were attacked on September 29 and 30.

"The affected areas have been kept open to all in line with our principle of transparency and freedom of movement.

"However, the situation on the ground in Ramu and its surrounding areas are being closely monitored by concerned law enforcement and intelligence agencies," said Foreign Minister Dipu Moni.

She said any untoward development may upset the ongoing investigations and eventually destabilise the prevailing calm and peace.

"We would also request your kind cooperation in keeping the foreign office informed

of all diplomatic and UN or other international agencies' movements near Cox's Bazar so that appropriate security can be arranged," she said.

Almost all ambassadors and high commissioners and heads of international organisations and UN bodies attended the briefing on the attacks in the foreign ministry in the capital.

Dipu Moni assured that the government would keep no stone unturned to ensure justice and protection to the affected Buddhists and take appropriate measures to rebuild and restore the religious sites and Buddhist households.

On protest rallies, mob violence or attacks before Bangladesh missions abroad, she requested the concerned governments to ensure adequate protection for Bangladesh's diplomatic missions.



PHOTO: STAR

Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, third from right, hands over a wooden replica of a Harikela period coin to Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University Prof Anwarul Azim Arif as part of handing over to CU Museum some rare exhibits featuring Chittagong yesterday. CU Museum Director Dr Emran Hossain, far left, CU Pro-VC Dr Md Alaaddin, second from right, and historian Dr Shamsul Hossain, far right, were also present.

Star gives precious gifts to CU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Daily Star authorities handed over some rare exhibits, featuring Chittagong in different ages ranging from prehistoric period to British colonial era, to Chittagong University Museum yesterday.

The Daily Star collected the museum pieces, including photographs and artworks, from an exhibition the English newspaper organised as part of its "Odommo Chattagram" festival in March and April.

The exhibits include 77 photographs, an artwork depicting the lifestyle of Chittagong people in pre-historic era, a replica of a Mughal tomb, a painting on the 1666 battle of Karnaphuli between Mughals and Arakans, and a map on the communication system of Chittagong in Sultanate and Mughal periods.

Of the photographs, 18 are of various types of copper plates, vases and coins of Harikela period (7th to 14th century), 20 of tombs and mosques, among other things, of the Sultanate era, 25 of mosques, tombs and ruins of different structures of Mughal period, and 14 of different structures of colonial period.

Vice Chancellor of CU Prof Anwarul Azim Arif expressed his gratitude to The Daily Star for handing over the historic objects to CU Museum.

"The wealth we have got today [yesterday] is very rare," he said. "A visitor will come to know about the whole Chittagong roaming in one room."

Prof Emran Hossain, director of the museum, also dean of the arts faculty, said it was the only museum in the county owned by a university.

Terming CU Museum a unique institution, Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Md Alaaddin said he hoped that the students of CU and visitors would know a lot about the history and heritage of Chittagong through the newly added exhibits.

Speaking on the occasion, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam said universities played a central role for the development of a nation. These are not merely institutions to provide certificates but to lead a nation in the right direction, he said.

Universities have played vital roles in countries, which are developed today, he said, adding that solution to a nation's all key problems came from universities.

Mahfuz Anam said universities should be the breeding place for intellectual leadership of the country and urged students to utilise their time in university properly.

Former deputy curator of CU Museum Dr Shamsul Hossain urged all to preserve the history, heritage and relics of the country.

The handover ceremony was held in the university's business administration faculty auditorium. Following the programme, Mahfuz Anam inaugurated an exhibition of the exhibits in CU Museum.

A cultural programme also followed the handover ceremony.

Social activists urge govt to reconsider train fare hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists and social activists at a human chain in the capital's Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday urged the government to reconsider its recent decision to hike train fares as it would apparently benefit privately owned road transport companies.

"The railway was meant to provide services at low cost. Its goal was not to make profit, but to provide people with a safe and smooth journey," said Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Poba) Chairman Abu Nasser Khan.

Poba, Nirapod Development Foundation and WBB Trust formed the human chain, says a press release.

SAGAR-RUNI MURDER

Journos demand arrest of 'real killers'

Vows to continue agitation; next programme to be announced Oct 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists yesterday demanded arrest of the "real killers" of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi and their trial through a speedy trial tribunal.

They also threatened to continue their agitation as long as the real perpetrators are not brought to book and said they would announce fresh programmes on October 15 if their demands were not met within that time.

Eight months into the killing, the journalists yesterday held a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club commemorating Sagar and Runi, who were killed in their apartment in the capital on February 11. Sagar was a news editor at Maasranga television and his wife Runi was a senior reporter at ATN Bangla.

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, president of

the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), hoped that the motive behind the murder would be revealed soon. As four of the arrestees are professional killers, "we want to know who used them to kill the couple and what their motive was," he said.

Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir named seven suspects in the brutal murder on Tuesday and said four of them were professional killers.

Former BFUJ president Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, president of a faction of the BFUJ Ruhul Amin Gazi, BFUJ Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuyian, Jatiya Press Club President Kamaluddin Sabuj, DUJ presidents Omar Faruque and Abdus Shahid, and Dhaka Reporters Unity president Shakhawat Hossain Badsha also addressed the rally.

DHAKA TODAY

Human chain
Khadye Bish Protirodh Andolon will form a human chain protesting food poisoning; Venue: Lake shore, Dhanmondi-8; Time: 9:00am.

Discussion
Sushil Forum will hold a discussion on communal harmony; Venue: Photojournalist Association Auditorium; Time: 10:30am.

Workshop
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Bangladesh Photographic Society will organise a workshop on Photo Editing; Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Auditorium; Time: 5:30pm.

Discussion
National Cultural Society will hold a discussion marking birth anniversary of Sheikh Russel; Venue: Bangladesh Shilpa Academy Auditorium; Time: 5:30pm.

Human chain
Bangladesh Minority Sangram Parishad will form a human chain protesting communal attack; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:30am.

Discussion
Bangabandhu Academy will hold a discussion on Ramu violence; Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Auditorium; Time: 5:30pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely
UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:35pm and rises tomorrow at 5:55am.

Country's highest temperature 32.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and Syedpur and lowest 22.4 degrees at Feni and 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	31.3	23.5	75	70
Chittagong	27.6	24.0	95	85
Rajshahi	32.0	23.3	92	81
Rangpur	32.1	24.8	83	76
Khulna	32.0	24.3	92	90
Barisal	32.0	24.3	90	83