

NEWS IN *brief*

CU ex-exam comptroller, official jailed for certificate forgery

CU CORRESPONDENT
A Chittagong court yesterday sentenced a former examination comptroller and a section officer of Chittagong University (CU) to 15 years' imprisonment each in a certificate forgery case filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).
On November 30, 1997, former ACC inspector AKM Nurul Islam filed the case with Hathazari Police Station against Examination Comptroller BMA Latif Khan and Section Officer Md Nasir Uddin on charges of tempering in the final year examination's mark sheets and tabulation sheets of five students of the law department in 1986, ACC sources said.
The court also fined the convicts Tk 10,000 each. In default of which they would have to serve six more

HC rule on health budget rise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday asked the government to explain in three weeks why it should not be directed to increase budgetary allocation for public health service as per recommendation of the World Health Organisation (WHO).
The WHO, in its 2011 report, recommended every government to spend \$44 for each citizen annually for health service, but the Bangladesh government spends only \$21.
Yesterday, an HC bench came up with the rule following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Omar

Ramu violence condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday demanded a judicial probe into the recent violence at Ramu in Cox's Bazar to identify the real culprits and ensure their punishment.
The organisation also demanded publicising of the probe report for a fair and neutral trial of the criminals responsible for attacking Buddhist temples and residences on September 29.
The demands were made at a press briefing in the parishad's Kobi Sufia Kamal Bhaban auditorium in the capital.
Meanwhile, Bangladesh Awami Jubo League Chairman Mohammad Omar Faroque, in a written statement, condemned the attack.
Ulama-Mashaikh of Bangladesh also condemned the attack and demanded a proper investigation of the incident.
In addition, Bangladesh Economic Association censured the attack and demanded exemplary pun-

NU honours exams postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The 4th year honours examinations of 2010 under National University (NU) have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.
The examination was scheduled to begin on October 21, said an NU press release.
Fresh schedule for the examinations would be



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gives gold medal to a graduate at the 26th convocation of the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) on its campus in Gazipur yesterday. PHOTO: PID

No world peace by excluding Muslims

Says prime minister

UNB, Gazipur
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said establishing sustainable and eternal peace in the world is not possible by leaving out the vast Muslim community.
"Proper understanding of the distinct code of life and culture of the 1.5 billion Muslims is essential for real peace and stability of our beloved planet," she told the 26th convocation ceremony of Islamic University of Technology (IUT) on the university campus.
Hasina said due to strong bonds of brotherhood among the 57 OIC countries, the world, particularly the developed nations, have realised that a relationship with the Islamic world based on justice is vital.
She urged students of IUT to find innovative technical and scientific solutions as scientists and technical experts to address the complex problems that challenge societies across the nations.

"I believe that IUT has implanted in you the spirit of nation-building, and has instilled into you the faculty to become the guiding lights for others to create a successful world of peace," the prime minister said.
Appreciating the IUT board's decision, taken two years back, to admit female students at the university, Sheikh Hasina urged the OIC to take effective steps for collecting funds for the construction of the female dormitory and thereby help IUT authorities in admitting female students and make the next convocation a more colourful one.
She advised the students of the university that it is their responsibility to expose themselves in the real world and also to work hard to face and win all challenges.
Earlier, the prime minister distributed certificates among the graduates and gold medals among distinguished graduates for their outstanding academic feats.

Parts of capital facing gas crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Residents of different areas in the capital have been facing a gas crisis since Monday night as Titas Gas authorities disconnected a gas line hours after a leakage was found in the pipeline at Begunbari.
Gas crisis was reported in Tejgaon, Mirpur, Basabo, Badda and Moghbazar areas.
Sources in the gas company said the leakage developed at about 5:00pm Monday during ongoing development works for Hatirjheel Lake project.
Witnesses said the gas, transmitted at a high speed, was emitting a high-pitched sound that frightened residents of Begunbari. Locals were afraid the gas emitted could lead to fire incidents.
Fire Service and Civil Defense officials said they were prepared for any fires in the area.
Contacted, Engr Moqbul Ahmed, manager (emergency) of Titas Gas, said they disconnected the supply line, which comes from Demra, to start repairing the damaged pipeline.
He said the people in the affected areas are getting gas through an alternative line, which is why the gas pressure is very low.
Residents of the areas, however, alleged that gas supply has been totally cut off.
Moqbul Ahmed could not ascertain when gas supply will resume at normal pressure. "It will take time as we are facing a lot of difficulties in repairing the leaked gas line," he said.

CASE AGAINST MOSHARRAF
HC clears way for trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday cleared the way for continuing the trial proceedings of a corruption case against BNP leader and former health minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain.
The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case with Ramna Police Station on January 10, 2008 against Mosharraf on charge of amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 12.51 crore and concealing information about Tk 3.11 crore.
Yesterday, the HC rejected a petition filed by Mosharraf for quashing the case proceedings.
Mosharraf, in his petition, claimed that the ACC's notice asking for his wealth statement was illegal, as it was sent to him while he was in jail.
ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar for the lower court to resume the trial proceedings of the corruption case after the HC verdict.



S ASIAN LITERARY PRIZE 'The Good Muslim' by Tahmima on longlist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi
Bangladesh's Tahmima Anam is one of the 16 acclaimed authors whose books figure on the longlist of the 2013 DSC Prize for South Asian Literature, announced yesterday.
Other writers whose books also figure include Amitav Ghosh, Jeet Thayil, both from India, and Mohammed Hanif of Pakistan. Tahmima Anam ("The Good Muslim") is the sole Bangladeshi writer on the list.
The list was announced at a Delhi hotel by jury chair K Satchidanandan. It comprises four debut novels, two works of translation from Hindi, and authors and translators from across Bangladesh, India, Australia, the UK and Pakistan.
The longlist for the US\$50,000 award was chosen from 81 entries, which were reviewed by a five-member jury comprising Muneza Shamsie, Rick Simonson, Svami Singh and Eleanor O'Keefe alongside Satchidanandan.
The shortlist will be announced on November 20 in London and the winner will be declared at the DSC Jaipur Literature Festival in January.
The prominent Indian authors on the longlist are Ghosh ("River of Smoke"), Thayil ("Narcopolis"), Jerry Pinto ("Emand the Big Hoom") and Rahul Bhattacharya ("The Sly Company of People Who Care").
The Pakistani authors are Mohammed Hanif ("Our Lady of Alice Bhatti"), Jamil Ahmad ("The Wandering Falcon"), Roopa Farooki ("The Flying Man") and Musharraf Ali Farooqi ("Between Clay and Dust").
UK-born Niven Govinden ("Black Bird White Beer"), Sunetra Gupta ("So Good in Black"), Uday Prakash ("The Walls of Delhi"), Anuradha Roy ("The Folded Earth"), Saswati Sengupta ("The Song Seekers"), Geetanjali Shree ("The Empty Space") and Alice Albinia ("Leela's Book") complete the list.



Four social organisations yesterday hold a rally before the Fine Arts Faculty of Dhaka University demanding demolition, in accordance with a High Court order, of the BGMEA building in the capital. PHOTO: STAR

SAGAR-RUNI MURDER CASE
Father of lone fugitive 'missing' for weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
Father of Humayun alias Enamul, one of the seven suspects in the journalist couple Sagar-Runi murder case, has been missing since September 27, said family sources.
The missing person is Mokbul Hossain alias Kala Miah, 60, of Dohalia village under Barlekha upazila in Moulvibazar. He runs a furniture shop in the village.
On September 27 morning, four persons in a black microbus stopped Kala Miah near his house and talked about ordering some furniture, said his family sources and neighbour Shamsul Haque.
The men requested to visit his furniture shop and picked him up on the microbus, the sources said, adding that Kala Miah did not return home and could not be traced ever since.
Kala Miah's second wife Fatema Begum filed a General Diary with Barlekha Police Station in this regard the next day.
She said Humayun is Kala Miah's eldest son from his first marriage with Aleka Begum.
The home minister on October 9 announced a Tk 10 lakh bounty on absconding Humayun, who was a security guard of the apartment building in the capital's Rajabazar where journalists Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi were killed.

Special launch service for Eid from Oct 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Private launch owners will start special service from October 20, while the state-run Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) will start the service from October 22 to deal with the rush of home-bound passengers ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.
Launch operators have announced 10 per cent discount in launch fare for the deck passengers who will travel more than 50 kilometres.
The decisions came at a meeting among all the stakeholders of the country's water transport sector at the conference room of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) in the capital yesterday.
"We operate launch services on 58 routes from Dhaka. The special services will start on 55 routes from October 20, while it will be started on three routes, Dhaka to Barisal, Dhaka to Bhola and Dhaka to Patuakhali, on October 23," said Badiuzzaman Badal, senior vice president of Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carrier's) Association.
The special service, which will start on October 20, will continue till November 8, while the service, which will start on October 23, will continue till November 6, he said.
BIWTC Chairman Mojibor Rahman said they will operate six steamers to provide the service till October 28.
The meeting also decided to keep law enforcement agencies and other related bodies on alert to check overloading, overcrowding and riding of passengers on launch roofs.
BIWTA Chairman Dr Shamsuddoha Khandaker said they will also disseminate messages through mass media to raise awareness to avoid launch accident.
Representatives from shipping department, police, Rab, Coast Guard, Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carrier's) Association also attended the meeting.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Steps Towards Development and the Gender and Development Alliance will organise a seminar on early marriage; Venue: Cirdap Auditorium; Time: 10:30am.

Token hunger strike
Swadhinata Forum will stage a token hunger strike protesting disappearance of BNP leader Ilias Ali; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Discussion
Bangladesh Shanti Parishad will hold a discussion on communal harmony; Venue: IDEB, Kakrail;

Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable
Muktijodha Gono Parishad will arrange a roundtable on expectation of the people; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 4:00pm.

Human chain
Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh will form a human chain demanding solution of problems of the diploma engineers; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

Dialogue
Brac and the Bangladesh Rice Foundation will hold a dialogue on "Evaluation of the System of Rice

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely
UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country having changes of light rain or thundershowers at one or two places over Chittagong division in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.
Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.
The sun sets in the capital today at 5:31pm and rises tomorrow at 5:57am.
Country's highest temperature 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and Sandwip and lowest 21.3 degrees at Rajshahi.
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	33.2	24.6	65	62
Chittagong	31.8	25.0	89	83
Rajshahi	32.5	21.3	85	72
Rangpur	31.5	21.8	73	72
Khulna	32.6	24.6	72	83
Barisal	33.0	24.4	80	92
Sylhet	33.1	22.8	62	80
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.0	79	76