

NEWS IN *brief*

India returns 43 Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Indian police returned 43 Bangladeshis to Bangladesh authorities at Tamabil check post in Sylhet on Monday and yesterday.

Tamabil immigration police sources said the Indian authorities returned 33 Bangladeshis on Monday night, while 10 Bangladeshis were returned yesterday.

On October 18, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) arrested 33 Bangladeshis from Lobhachhara border in Kanaighat upazila of Sylhet for their alleged attempt to enter into the Indian territory.

While, the BSF arrested the 10 other Bangladeshis from the bordering areas of

Malaysian, Australian envoys meet prime minister

UNB, Dhaka

Malaysian and Australian high commissioners to Bangladesh met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina separately at her office yesterday.

Malaysian High Commissioner Norlin Bind Othman discussed various issues, including man-power import and providing training to Bangladeshi workers.

Later, Australian High Commissioner Gregory Wilcock met Sheikh Hasina.

The high commissioner expressed his country's

Ctg diabetic hospital organises medical camp at Daily Star office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Diabetic General Hospital yesterday organised a medical camp at The Daily Star's Chittagong office.

The medical team conducted health checkups for the newspaper's staff and advised them accordingly to maintain good health.

Dr Md Salimullah and Nutritionist Hasina Akter Lipi conducted the checkups and provided advice on health issues. They were assisted by two health technicians of the hospital.

Prof Mohammad Jahangir Chowdhury, general secretary of Chittagong Diabetic Association, was

Man shot in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A man was shot by alleged extortionists at Matiranga upazila in Khagrachhari yesterday morning.

The injured, Amir Hossain, 35, of the upazila, is taking treatment under the observation of Matiranga army zone.

Police said locals chased two extortionists when they were demanding extortion money from a cattle-laden truck in Purba-Khadachhara area.

However, extortionists opened fire on the mob and Amir sustained a bullet injury in one leg, said police.

The mob caught one extortionist, Khatba Ranjan Tripura of Purba-Khadachhara, and

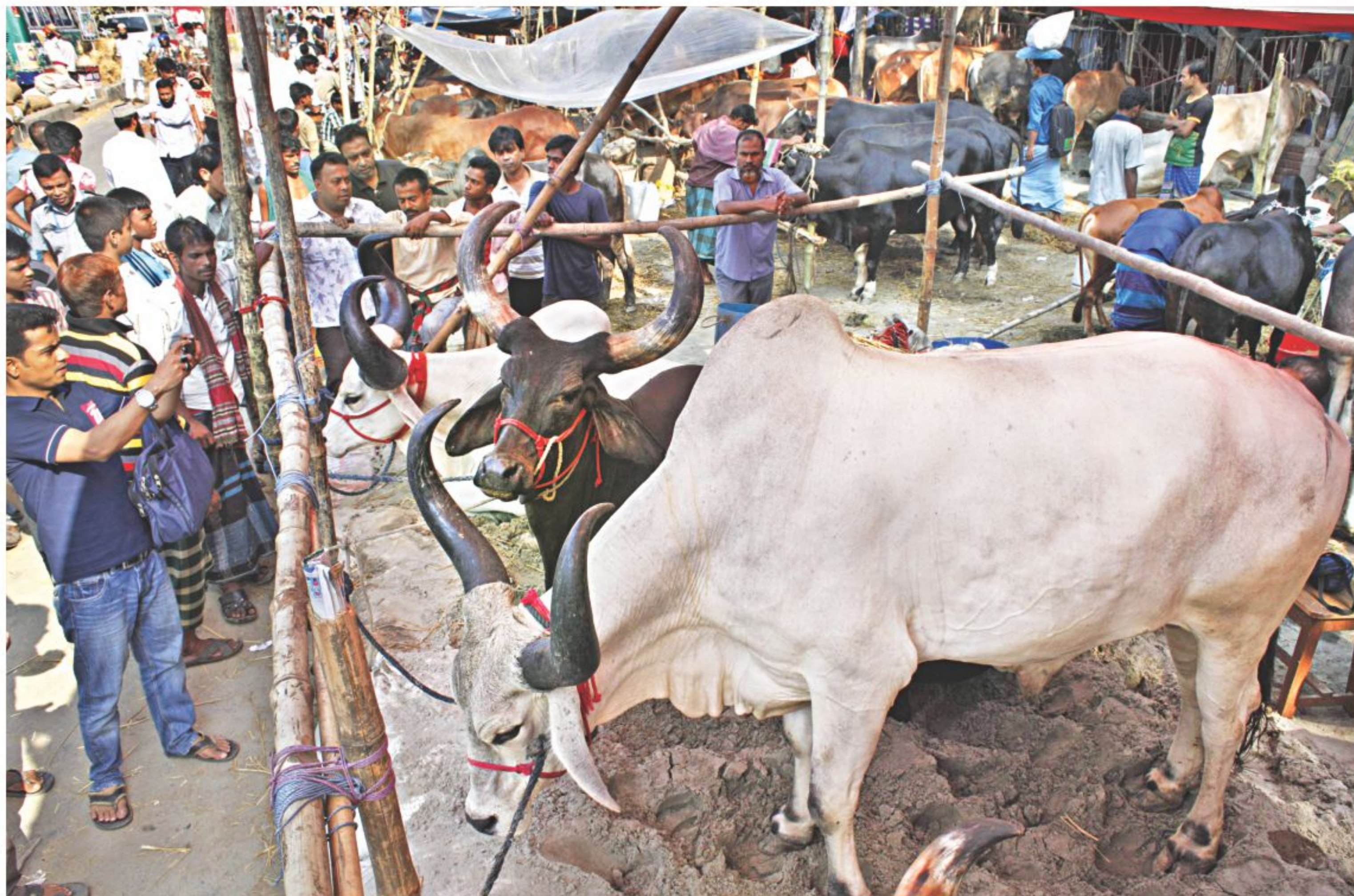


PHOTO: STAR

Visitors take a look at Baroshinga bulls from the Indian state of Madras at Nayabazar cattle market in the capital yesterday.

Capital's cattle markets turn diverse this eid

HELEMUL ALAM

On the occasion of upcoming Eid-ul Azha, the capital's cattle markets were marked by cattle of diverse breeds this year, attracting prospective buyers.

Three big-sized bulls, named "Kalapahar," "Bahadur-1" and "Bahadur-2", stole the buyers' attention at Nayabazar cattle market with their healthy built and long, thick horns.

The bulls, priced around Tk 14-16 lakh, belonged to a variety of cattle called "Baroshinga" found in India.

Kamrul Ahsan Shah imported these beasts from the Indian state of Madras nine months ago.

"I had bought them at Tk 6 lakh each and reared them like my children at my dairy farm in

Hazaribagh," he said.

He daily spent Tk 900 for rearing each of the bulls, feeding them a mixture of maize, wheat and mustard everyday to keep them in great shape, said Kamrul.

"If I do not get at least Tk 11 lakh on each of my bulls then I will take them back home," he added.

Meanwhile, cattle trader Tauhidul Alam displayed seven Butti oxen, a variety of cattle from Bhutan at Armanitola cattle market.

Hardly 2-2.5 feet tall and sized like small calves, the oxen were being sold at a little over Tk 1 lakh each.

"We collected 13 oxen of the variety from different parts of the country and reared them for about 8 months at our dairy farm in Bosila of the capital's Mohammadpur," said

Tauhidul.

Though small sized, people prefer to buy this variety of ox for their juicy tender meat, he added.

Besides, a good number of cows and bulls from Nepal, India and Australia were found at the city's cattle markets this year.

Also, Mirkadin's cow, a variety of cattle reared at Mirkadin in Munshiganj, will be selling at Rahmanganj cattle market exclusively.

White in appearance with a reddish tint and having white coloured eyebrows and horns, these cows stuck out from the rest of the cattle at the market.

The meat of this variety of cow is extra tender and has a distinct flavour, said its traders.

WB, govt sign deal for two projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank and Bangladesh government yesterday signed agreements for two projects worth \$457 million which will benefit 2.5 crore Bangladeshis in rural transport and electrification.

Of the total amount, \$302 million will be for the Second Rural Transport Improvement Project and \$155 million for the Second Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Development Project.

Iqbal Mahmood, senior secretary of Economic Relations Division (ERD), and Ellen Goldstein, World Bank's country director, signed the agreements at the ERD in the capital.

"Together the World Bank and the government are doing exactly what we should do -- scale up interventions that deliver development results for millions of rural Bangladeshis," said Ellen Goldstein.

"Supporting the government's third five-year plan, the two projects directly contribute to our vision of inclusive growth benefiting all Bangladeshis," said Iqbal Mahmood.

A WB statement said with the Second Rural Electrification project, electricity will be provided to an additional 2.5 million people through installation of solar home systems in remote villages where grid electricity is not an option.

President, PM express shock at Sunil's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The president, prime minister, and opposition leader last night expressed their deep shock at the death of Indian poet and novelist Sunil Gangopadhyay, one of the doyens of Bangla literature.

The author, who had been widely celebrated both in West Bengal and Bangladesh, died following a cardiac arrest at his south Kolkata residence early Tuesday.

In a condolence message, President Zillur Rahman said Bangla literature lost a distinguished writer with the death of Sunil Gangopadhyay. "Bangla-speaking people will ever remember him for his immense contributions to various branches of literature."

"His death is a permanent loss to Bangla literature," said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a separate message. "I believe he'll ever be remembered by the readers through his innumerable stories, poems, plays and novels including 'Sei Somoy', 'Purbo-Paschim', 'Prothom Alo', 'Nikhilesh', and 'Neera' poetry series."

Recalling the contributions of Sunil, a pen-friend of Bangladesh's Liberation War, Hasina said his poems and articles had inspired the freedom fighters tremendously. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Ain o Salish Kendra and Jatiya Party also expressed shock.



Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Pankaj Saran meets Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at the latter's office in the capital yesterday ahead of her visit to India from October 28.

PHOTO: BNP

ASSAULT ON FEMALE STUDENT Remove BAU proctor Demand two left parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) have demanded removal of the proctor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) for assaulting its female student on October 9.

The parties also demanded removal of the police official and punishment for Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists for their alleged attack on Progatishel Chhatra Jote activists at Rajshahi University (RU) during a demonstration on October 10 protesting the attack on the BAU students.

CPB General Secretary Syed Abu Jafar Ahmed and BSD General Secretary

Khalequzzaman made the demand at a joint press conference in the capital's Mukti Bhaban yesterday.

The activists of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and Bangladesh Chhatra Union laid siege to BAU administrative office on October 9 protesting its admission fee hike.

BAU unit BCL men with the help of the university administration and police swooped on the protesters, alleged Jafar Ahmed. Even, BAU proctor MA Salam assaulted the female student, one of the protesters, he alleged.

BCL activists along with police attacked the Chhatra Jote activists at RU while protesting the attack on the BAU students, he said.

RAMU VIOLENCE Govt reviews latest situation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

An inter-ministerial meeting yesterday reviewed the latest situation in Buddhist community in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong after the recent attack on them and discussed the progress of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction works.

The meeting, held at the foreign ministry, was attended by senior officials of several ministries among others.

Foreign ministry called the meeting to review the situation for briefing in different international forums, said sources.

The meeting was informed that 21 cases have been lodged in Ramu, Tekhnaf, Ukhia and Naikhyangchhari and 234 arrests have been made.

The meeting was told that construction works of houses are going on full-swing and the law and order situation is under full control of the local administration.

Hall-Mark chairperson, 2 others sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hall-Mark Group Chairperson Jesmine Islam, General Manager Tushar Ahmed and suspended Sonali Bank deputy general manager Azizur Rahman were sent to jail yesterday following remand by the Anti-Corruption Commission over a Sonali Bank loan scam.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mostafizur Rahman sent the trio to jail when the ACC officials produced them before his court in the capital in a case for misappropriating over Tk 208 crore by Century International, the group's concern.

Nat'l Sports Council office burgled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Burglars stole valuables including cash, a laptop and some documents from the headquarters of the National Sports Council (NSC) in the capital on Monday night.

NSC sources said the burglars broke open the doors of all 22 rooms except the room of NSC director (finance) at the ninth floor.

They also ransacked documents after breaking open locks of drawers and file cabinets, he said.

According to a case filed by NSC administrative official Jamal Ahmed at the Paltan Police Station, cash Tk 70,000, a laptop and papers from different rooms including the room of its chairman and State Minister for Youth and Sports Md Ahad Ali Sarkar.

Golam Sarwar, officer-in-charge at Paltan Police Station, said they suspect that the burglars entered the NSC in between Monday's 7:30pm to yesterday's 8:00am.

Police could not arrest anybody till filing of this report at 9:30pm yesterday.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Henna festival**  
Dhakabashi will arrange a henna festival ahead of Eid-ul Azha; Venue: Hazaribagh Park Community Centre; Time: 3:00pm.

**Roundtable**  
Dimension Seven will organise a roundtable on current politics; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

**Discussion**  
Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote will hold a discussion on Durga Puja; Venue: Ramsita Mondir, Joy Kali

**WEATHER TODAY**

Slight fall in night temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:25pm and rises tomorrow at 6:01am.

Country's highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 19.4 degrees at Chuadanga.

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	32.2	23.2	62	56
Chittagong	32.2	23.5	86	74
Rajshahi	31.7	20.7	76	71
Rangpur	31.5	21.7	85	74
Khulna	32.6	21.5	75	87
Barisal	32.2	22.0	73	88
Sylhet	32.5	21.3	64	69