

NEWS IN *brief*

SAHR calls for judicial inquiry into attacks on Buddhists

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) has called for a transparent judicial inquiry into the attacks on Buddhist community last month and asked the government to make the report public.

It also asked the government to ensure security at all places of worship including mosques, temples and churches to protect the rights of different religious minorities and see that the perpetrators of the attacks on Buddhists are apprehended.

SAHR, a network of human rights defenders based in seven South Asian countries, in a letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on October 22, said despite various measures taken the Buddhist community has lost confidence in living in areas which

Diplomat pays last respects to Sunil on behalf of PM

UNB, Dhaka

A senior official of Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata paid last respects to eminent litterateur Sunil Gangopadhyay yesterday on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Deputy High Commissioner Abida Islam placed a floral wreath at the coffin of Sunil at the funeral at Rabindra Sadan, PM's Special Assistant for media Mahbulul Haque Shakil told the news agency.

Celebrated writer, novelist and poet Sunil Gangopadhyay died of heart attack in Kolkata on

Suspected mugger lynched in Tongi

UNB, Gazipur

A suspected mugger was killed in a mob attack in Madhumita road area of Tongi early yesterday.

The deceased was Maruf, 30.

Police said locals caught some snatchers when they were mugging in the area in the early hours.

Later, the angry mob gave them a good beating, leaving Maruf dead on the spot.

Police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

A pistol, one bullet, several mobile phone sets,

20 hurt as RMG workers, police clash in Gazipur

UNB, Gazipur

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between garment workers and police at Ithata in Gazipur sadar upazila yesterday.

Police said some workers of Diganta Sweater Factory took to the street and put barricade on Dhaka-Tangail highway around 11:00am demanding their Eid bonuses be paid immediately.

Police went to the spot and charged batons on the demonstrating workers to disperse them. But, the workers retaliated by pelting the law enforcers with brickbats, triggering a clash around 12:00pm.

A chase and counter chase took place during

Campaign against stunting starts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has made a remarkable progress in health sector and poverty reduction but nutrition, especially for children under the age of two, has not improved at the desired rate, speakers said at a campaign launching programme.

The launching ceremony of "Communication Campaign for Reducing Stunting through Infant Young Child Feeding plus Handwashing" was held at a hotel in the capital on October 22.

The campaign is an initiative of Alive and



A myriad of cattle being showcased for sale at Bibir Haat in Chittagong city for the numerous customers who arrived yesterday for a suitable bargain.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Cattle sales peak in Ctg

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

With only a day left ahead of Eid-ul Azha, sales in all eight cattle markets in Chittagong city were at peak amid rush of buyers yesterday.

Cattle sales went up as prices of the sacrificial animals remained at a reasonable level for an abundant supply this year.

In addition, traders who have come from different districts to these markets do not want to take back their cattle unsold by asking for high prices.

A trader at Bibirhat Cattle Market, Jafar Ahmed, said he brought 50 cattle this year, all from Jhenidah, and had already sold 35 of them.

The cattle could not fetch him big returns, as, Jafar said, he had to sell those at very low profit margins.

Although the rush of buyers is huge, profits remain comparatively very low due to increased supply of cattle this year, he said.

Sources said cattle, priced between Tk 25,000 and Tk 45,000, were in a very high demand this year in different cattle markets.

Arshed Haider, a buyer, purchased a bull for Tk 32,000 from Bibirhat Cattle Market. For him, the price is reasonable.

Thousands of traders from different parts of the country thronged the eight cattle markets in Chittagong since October 17 with lakhs of cattle, said market authorities.

A leaseholder of Sagarika Cattle Market, Afsarul Alam Babul, said around three thousand traders with over a lakh cattle had gathered at his market.

Traders have brought cattle from far-off districts of Kushtia, Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Bogra, Jhenidah, Meherpur, Faridpur, Comilla and Pabna, he added.

Apart from the local cattle, a good number of cattle have been brought from the neighbouring countries including India, Nepal and Bhutan. Prices of these imported cattle are low compared to the domestic ones, said sources.

Rafiq Sawdagar, a lessee of Karnaphuli Cattle Market, said, "A domestic bull has been sold at Tk 2.7 lakh, which was the highest priced animal so far this year in my market."

Though thousands of cattle from India, Nepal and Bhutan have been brought to his market, these are being sold at very competitive prices, he said.

Rafiq said no incident of fake note transaction was reported in the market as the Bangladesh Bank had provided them with counterfeit currency detectors.

Apart from the eight cattle markets, a good number of makeshift markets have sprung up in different areas across the city, including Chawk Bazar, New Mansurabad,

Bahaddarhat and Kapashgola. Some of these markets have as low as 10-20 cattle only. Sources said at least 50 such small markets have been found in the city.

People, who want to avoid the hustle and bustle of regular cattle markets, seemed to be happily buying sacrificial animals from these small markets.

These informal cattle markets, however, have created a public nuisance, said locals, with traffic movement being disrupted frequently.

Interestingly, around the cattle markets were seen a good number of makeshift tea stalls, entertaining buyers, sellers as well as locals.

LAW AND ORDER

Amid strict vigilance of law enforcement agencies, including police and Rapid Action Battalion, no untoward incident has taken place in any cattle market.

Abul Aziz, a resident of Panchlaish area, who bought a sacrificial animal from Bibirhat Cattle Market, said he was happy with the law and order situation in the market.

"The administration this year has not allowed anyone to keep cattle on the roads unlike previous years," he said.

The traders are also complying with the instructions, so traffic congestion on roads adjacent to the markets are not as severe as previous years, he added.

ATTACK ON BUDDHISTS Probarana Purnima to be sombre this yr

TRIBENI CHAKMA

Exactly a month into the Ramu attack, the Buddhists will celebrate one of their biggest religious festivals, Shubho Probarana Purnima, across the country on October 29.

The celebration this year however will be marked by a pall of gloom. In some places, the minority people will observe the festival in a subdued manner as a sign of protest against the communal onslaught on them.

It was also the night of another festival of Buddhists, Madhu Purnima, on September 29 when Muslim zealots launched the attacks on Buddhist pagodas and houses in Ramu.

The unprecedented communal onslaught has forced Buddhist leaders in some places to curtail celebratory programmes of Probarana Purnima.

Earlier Buddhist leaders in Chittagong had decided not to fly paper lanterns (fanus), the most attractive celebratory event of Probarana Purnima, to protest the Ramu attack. They however called off the decision later after security assurance from the government.

Though the Buddhists in Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachhari will fly fanus, they have curtailed their other colourful traditional cultural programmes.

In some other places, the community leaders have chalked out different protest programmes on the occasion of Probarana Purnima.

Probarana Ujjapan Parishad in Dhaka has decided to hold a solidarity rally on October 28 in front of TSC of Dhaka University to protest the attack. They will also fly fanus dedicating them to the ruined Buddhist pagodas in Ramu and elsewhere.

On September 29, the attackers torched 12 pagodas, ransacked six more in Ramu and ravaged six Buddhist pagodas and a Hindu temple in Ukha the next day. They also destroyed more than 50 Buddhist houses in Ramu and Teknaf of Cox's Bazar.

DESTINY SCAM ACC seeks withdrawal of Harun's bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday filed two leave-to-appeal petitions with the Supreme Court challenging the High Court order that granted bail to Destiny Group President Lt Gen (ret'd) Harun-Ar-Rashid in two money laundering cases.

The ACC submitted the petition saying that the HC order was illegal as it did not consider the gravity of offences brought against Harun.

The ACC also said the HC granted bail to Harun considering his social position and on health ground, which are not acceptable as his illness was not so serious.

Earlier on October 18, the HC granted conditional bail to Harun in the cases, and he got released from jail on October 19.



Day labourers toil under the sun at Buriganga bridge area in the capital yesterday. With only a day left, Eid-ul Azha festivities around the capital seem to have little effect on their lives.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Bangladeshi American gets US congressional certificate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US Congress on Tuesday awarded Bangladeshi American and Commissioner of Maryland Anis Ahmed a United States Congressional Certificate for his leadership role, distinguished services and contributions.

Senator Brian Frosh presented the award to the commissioner in a short ceremony.

Anis went to the US in 1984. He started community service in Montgomery County, Maryland in 1998.

He was elected a director of the Montgomery Muslim Council, Maryland in 2008. Currently he is serving as a general secretary of the council's executive committee.

WEATHER TODAY

Change in temperature unlikely

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 5:23pm and rises tomorrow at 6:02am.

Country's highest temperature 32.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 17.5 degrees at Ishwardi.

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	31.2	20.3	43	54
Chittagong	30.6	22.7	77	57
Rajshahi	32.0	18.5	78	67
Rangpur	30.8	18.8	84	73
Khulna	31.5	20.5	86	87
Barisal	31.4	19.6	67	91
Sylhet	30.2	21.5	79	66