

NEWS IN *brief*

PM orders proper treatment for photojournalist Kazi Biplob

BSS, Dhaka
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned to take all necessary measures for proper treatment of Kazi Biplob, photographer of the Daily Banik Barta. Biplob was critically injured when a microbus hit his motorcycle on Mohakhali Flyover Sunday night. Prime minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, on behalf of the prime minister, visited Metropolitan Hospital in the capital yesterday to see Biplob where he is undergoing treatment. Azad talked to the attending doctors and inquired about Biplob's treatment. Azad asked the hospital authorities to take all required measures

Decomposed body found in Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Police recovered the body of a man floating in the river Buriganga yesterday. Hands and legs of the decomposed body were tied with ropes. Locals of Aliganj area saw the floating body and informed police. Monir Hossain, inspector (investigation) of South Keraniganj Police Station, told The Daily Star. Police sent the body to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for an autopsy. Police said the body was highly decomposed and they suspect the man was killed several days

Woman 'commits suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A female student of a private polytechnic institute in the capital allegedly hanged herself to death at her residence in Matikata on Monday. Shehrin Fatema Khan, 23, committed suicide following a quarrel with her mother, police quoted family members as saying. Shahid Munshi, sub-inspector of Dhaka Cantonment Police Station, said after having the quarrel, she entered her bedroom but did not come out. Family members found her dead after breaking open the door around 11:00am yesterday, he added. Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College

Health and Hope Hospital gives free health services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A private healthcare institution, Health and Hope Hospital, provided free medical services to people through a healthcare camp in Magura district on Monday, says a press release. At the daylong camp, around 1,000 patients were provided with medical services by doctors specialising in medicine, surgery, gynaecology, paediatrics, eye, ENT, orthopaedics, neurosurgery, urology, skin, and oral and dental surgery. The physicians also carried out blood grouping and blood sugar estimations of the patients at the

Bakery burnt in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
A Bakery was burnt in Chakwbazar area of Chittagong early yesterday. The fire originated at about 6:10am from an electric short circuit in Biscuits and Bakery owned by Nurur Rahman, said Bishu Das, control room operator of Agrabad Fire Service and Civil Defence Station. A total of seven fire fighting units from Bandar, Nandonkanon and Chandonpura fire stations rushed to the spot and doused the fire in an hour,



The passenger shed, in front of what used to be a Dhaka city corporation park on English Road, is now unusable due to rampant earth filling. Inset, the park has been completely destroyed long time ago by a mountain of soil about 10 to 15 feet high.

Cop held for snatching attempt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A mob beat up a police constable in the capital's Mirpur yesterday while he allegedly tried to snatch Tk 5,500 from a youth. Mirpur police rescued Constable Mostafizur Rahman, 37, of Special Branch (SB) and took him to Mirpur Police Station. Later they arrested Mostafiz as a case was filed against him by the victim. The arrested policeman however denied the allegation of snatching. The victim, Nasiruddin Ahmed, a bus staff, said Mostafiz tried to snatch the money from him near Mirpur University College. Mostafiz approached him when he and his girlfriend were having a quarrel and started hustling him towards the police station, he said. Nasir said near Mirpur University College, the policeman snatched the money and tried to flee, but people caught him as he shouted for help.

Court throws out case against Shajahan

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday dismissed a defamation and attempted murder lawsuit against Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan and Awami League lawmaker Israfil Alam, hours after filing of the case. Second Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Shahidul Islam passed the order on the ground that the plaintiff has no right to file the case. Advocate Shamim Kabir Chowdhury of Dhaka Judge's Court filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on charges of making derogatory remarks about BNP leader Rafiqul Islam Miah and for attempting to murder him.

The incident happened during a talk show aired live on private television channel Rtv on October 23. In its order, the court said the plaintiff was not present at the talk show and did not suffer any loss or defamation for the comments of Shajahan. So the case was dismissed. According to the case statement, Shajahan hurled abuses at Rafiqul and attempted to kill him. Being present at the programme, the AL lawmaker did not try to pacify the minister. Rather he also hurled abuses at Rafiqul.

Lower court judges' salary raise in limbo

ASHUTOSH SARKAR
The government is yet to decide whether to raise salaries of lower court judges despite being directed by the Supreme Court to do so by November 4. Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told The Daily Star yesterday that the government is considering implementation of the apex court order. He, however, said the highest level of the state will take this decision. Law Minister Shafique Ahmed refused to make any comment on this issue. A law ministry high official requesting anonymity said some ministers concerned do not agree to increase benefits of judicial officials as their [judicial officials] benefits then will be equal to that of administrative officials. Judicial officials are being deprived of their legal financial benefits due to government's inaction regarding execution of the SC directive, he added.

In 2008, the Judicial Service Pay Commission (JSPC) had suggested providing lower court judges allowances equal to their basic monthly salaries and to increase other facilities for them. The commission had proposed maximum Tk 40,000 scale for district judges and equivalent officials and minimum Tk 16,500 scale for assistant judges and equivalent officials. The SC on October 1 gave one month to the government to increase salaries and other facilities of judicial officials as per recommendations of JSPC. The same day, during hearing of Masdar Hossain Case, popularly known as judiciary separation case, the apex court ordered the government to submit a report to it by November 4 after implementing JSPC's recommendations. The court also fixed November 4 for hearing on the case and passing a further order.

Businesses can help protect HR

Discussion told
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The burgeoning business sector of Bangladesh can play a significant role in poverty alleviation and protection of human rights, said speakers at a roundtable discussion in the capital on Monday. Members of the business community, government and local and international NGOs participated in the discussion organised by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Justice M Imman Ali, judge of Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, highlighted the positive role that businesses can play in empowering women economically. He emphasised the need to invest in social safety nets that protect vulnerable people, particularly women and children. The speakers applauded progressive initiatives undertaken so far by the business sector, but acknowledged that there is still much to do particularly in terms of providing better working conditions for women engaged in high-risk industries, reducing the wage gap between men and women, implementing existing legislation and ensuring maternity benefits and childcare facilities.



Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pankaj Saran meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the latter's office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

WEATHER TODAY

Light rain likely in 3 divisions

UNB, Dhaka
Light rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today. Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period, Met Office said. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:20pm and rises tomorrow at 6:05am.

Country's highest temperature 34.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Majidi Court and lowest 17.5 degrees at Dinajpur.

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	21.8	62	68
Chittagong	31.8	23.8	77	83
Rajshahi	32.8	19.7	73	76
Rangpur	31.0	19.5	61	58
Khulna	32.7	20.0	79	79
Barisal	32.5	20.2	83	88

SLAIN NARSINGDI MAYOR LOKMAN
Woman claiming to be his widow demands security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A woman claiming to be the first wife of murdered Narsingdi municipality mayor Lokman Hossain yesterday demanded security of life and her only son's due rights to her "husband's" property. Tajmahal Begum Tazrin, the woman, alleged at a press conference in the capital that Lokman's younger brother wanted to grab the asset of her deceased husband and warned her not to go to Narsingdi to visit Lokman's grave. "He also threatened to kill my son Shaham if he goes to Narsingdi," she told the conference at Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association.

"They said the investigation into the case will be affected, and the case will take a wrong turn if we go there. They are doing this to deprive us of all asset of my husband," she said. Tazrin and her only son Shaham Hossain, a class VIII student, want to visit Lokman's grave in Narsingdi and offer prayers there on the occasion of his first death anniversary on November 1. A two-time gold medallist as the best mayor, Lokman was gunned down in the district town on November 1 last year. He died after three hours in Dhaka. Tazrin said she got married with Lokman, who was one of her mater-

nal cousins, in 1995, and as their families did not accept the marriage, they lived at a rented house in Dakkhinkhan in Dhaka. Contacted, Lokman's younger brother Kamruzzaman, who is now mayor of Narsingdi municipality, however, said Tazrin was not Lokman's wife. "As far as I know, my brother divorced her immediately after their marriage. She never came to our house. She might be persuaded by the killers of my brother," he said. He also said anybody could perform prayers at his brother's grave anytime. Tazrin said as Kamruzzaman threatened her, she had filed a general diary (GD) with Dakkhinkhan Police Station.

GRAFT IN TWO DEV PROJECTS
HC orders probe into allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday directed the government to conduct an inquiry into corruption allegations in two development projects in Dhaka and Sunamganj. In response to a writ petition, the court asked the secretaries to the finance ministry and the planning commission to form a committee in 15 days to conduct the inquiry and submit its report to it within two months. A June 15 report of a Bangla daily says the people involved in a government project for constructing 23 buildings of union parishads in Dhaka have pocketed all the money after constructing only 10 buildings. Another Bangla daily reported on October 21 that Tk 14 crore of a World Bank-financed project for constructing roads in Sunamganj has been embezzled. Yesterday, Manzill Murshid, a Supreme Court lawyer, filed the writ petition. The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice Ashish Ranjan Das gave the directives.