

NEWS IN *brief*

Three detained for suspicious movement in Rohingya camp

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police detained three people from a Rohingya refugee camp at Kutupalong in Ukhia upazila of Cox's Bazar district yesterday morning for "suspiciously moving around the restricted camp area". Police deployed in the camp to maintain law and order detained the three -- Abdul Hamid, 35, of Lama in Bandarban district, and Kamal Hossain, 33, and Biplob Akhand, 40, of Jazira in Shariatpur district. Ukhia Police Station Officer-in-Charge Appela Raju Naha said the three were also talking with Rohingyas and taking photos. The three were being interrogated and a case

Decomposed body of teenage boy recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the decomposed body of a teenage boy, missing since Monday, from a ditch at Bhasantek area in the capital yesterday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Mohammad Sujon, 13, son of Dulal Miah, a day labourer residing in Tonartek of Bhasantek. Sub-inspector Shafiqul Islam of Bhasantek Police Station, quoting Dulal, said Sujon went missing after some friends called him out of the

Two arrested over teenager killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested two persons in connection with the "killing" of a teenager whose floating body was recovered from the Karnaphuli river along Chittagong city a day ago. The arrestees were Md Ali Hossain, 30, and Md Mohiuddin, 28 of Shikalbaha village under Karnaphuli Police Station. On Tuesday, police recovered the body of Md Arif, 17, son of Md Habib of Shikalbaha village. Arif went missing after Md Shafi Alam, one of his cousins, and some others called him from his house on Sunday, police said. Arif's family filed a murder case against four persons, including Shafi Alam, on Tuesday, they

One held with pistol in Feni

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a youth with a foreign pistol, a magazine and four bullets at a bus stand in Feni district on Tuesday night. The arrestee, Rajan Chakrabarty alias Munna, 24, hails from Baoh Mara village under Parsuram Police Station of the district. He has been involved in arms trading in the

DBBL donates Tk 70 lakh for college building

METRO DESK

Dutch-Bangla Bank (DBBL) donated Tk 70 lakh for the construction of a building for Sholakuri College of Modhupur in Tangail, says a press release. The bank's Managing Director KS Tabrez handed over the cheque for Tk 70 lakh to the college's Organizing Committee Chairman Yeakub Ali on October 25 at the bank's head office in the capital. Sholakuri union, with around 35,000 residents, mostly Garo and Kutch, has no college. DBBL's social cause initiatives includes awarding Tk 102 crore in annual scholarships to promote the educational rights of neglected, insolvent



To construct the Jatrabari-Gulistan flyover, one third of this market on Toyenbee Circular Road in the capital has been torn down. However, shop owners continue to use the torn-down building at a risk to their lives. The photo was taken on Tuesday. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

CASE MANAGEMENT DIGITALISATION
SC introduces data bank

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

As part of the digitalisation of the Supreme Court, the court authorities have introduced a data bank, which preserves judgements, orders, cause lists and other relevant information to facilitate litigants' access to case information. Now information about both the Appellate and High Court divisions, including their judgements and orders, is not removed or destroyed, as it was done earlier, and anybody can see those on the SC website anytime. The apex court's data centre is also preserving some information about Dhaka judges' courts, including their cause lists (records containing details of cases), and it will expand its network to other district courts in phases, SC official SM Kuddus Zaman told The Daily Star. The SC also has introduced short message service (SMS) to help litigants access case information on their mobile phones. "Anyone can know the recent status of a case simply by sending an SMS," said Kazi Parvez Anwar, a system analyst of the SC. To do that, one has to type SC<space>nature of the case (criminal or civil)<space>case number<space>year of its filing and send it to 2233. In another move, the apex court authorities have set up five digital display screens on the SC premises, which show information about the cases heard and disposed of at the two divisions every day and status of other cases. The display screens have been set up in front of the Appellate Division, High Court Division, Supreme Court Bar Association,

and the attorney general's office on test basis. Kuddus Zaman said the outcome of a day's hearing was uploaded on the website (www.supremecourt.gov.bd) within hours after the court order. It is helping litigants decide immediately their next course of action, he added. The SC's own information communication technology (ICT) staffers have developed the system with government's fund, he said. SC Registrar AKM Shamsul Islam said the SC had embarked on the digitalisation process in order to make the justice delivery system more affordable, accessible, cost effective, transparent and accountable. The effort will be fruitful when the people will be aware of the system, he added. Officials said the apex court started updating its website with the details of the cases heard and adjudicated in October 2010. Eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik described the digitalisation of the judiciary as a positive step. "I hope that the authorities will be able to maintain, sustain, expand and upgrade these digital facilities," he told The Daily Star. "Both the litigants and litigators will find these facilities helpful, as these make access to justice easier," he said. Around 18 lakh cases now remain pending with lower courts across the country, while over 14,000 cases await adjudication at the Appellate Division, and 2.82 lakh others at the High Court.

JAIL KILLING CASE
Govt to appeal against acquittal of 6 army men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to move a pending appeal in the jail killing case saying the 2008 High Court verdict acquitting six former army personnel was done without proper examination of documents and evidence. The state counsels in a concise statement addressed to the Appellate Division termed the HC verdict "distorted and arbitrary". Principal state counsel for the case Anisul Huq yesterday sent the statement to the Attorney General's Office to file it with the Appellate Division for hearing the appeal against the HC verdict. The HC in its verdict on August 28, 2008 acquitted the six former military personnel from the charge of killing four national leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, AHM Qamruzzaman, and Captain Mansur Ali -- inside the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975. All of these army personnel were found guilty at the lower court on October 20, 2004. Two of them were given death sentence and the rest life-term imprisonment. Capital punishment was handed down on Dafadar (dismissed) Marfat Ali Shah and Dafadar (dismissed) Abdul Hashem Mridha. They both are absconding. The four sentenced to life-term were Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq-ur Rahman, Lt Col (ret'd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Maj (ret'd) AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed and Maj (ret'd) Bazul Huda. They were executed on January 27, 2010 in the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assassination case. The lower court in 2004 also gave life-term to eight others. The High Court how-

ever did not say anything about them in 2008. The eight are Lt Col (dismissed) Khondaker Abdur Rashid, Lt Col (relieved) Shariful Huq Dalim, Lt Col (ret'd) SHMB Noor Chowdhury, Lt Col (ret'd) AM Rashed Chowdhury, Maj (relieved) Ahmed Shariful Hossain, Capt (ret'd) Abdul Majed, Capt (relieved) Kismat Hasem and Capt (relieved) Nazmul Hossain. In its statement yesterday, the government also urged the Appellate Division to uphold the life-term imprisonment of these eight, who are also absconding. After the Awami League-led government assumed power, it filed a leave to appeal petition in September 2009. The Supreme Court in January next year accepted the petition and directed the two accused -- Marfat and Hashem, who were given capital punishment earlier -- to surrender before the court. Earlier yesterday, Anisul Huq told reporters at his office the 2008 HC verdict "denied" the nation justice in the much-talked-about case. He said the government took much time to prepare the 25-page concise statement as they had to examine the statements made by 64 prosecution witnesses, although the Appellate Division on January 11 last year gave them one month's time to do so. Anisul Huq said the law enforcers could not arrest Marfat and Hashem, two accused of the case, as they are now absconding abroad. Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said the statement would be submitted to the SC within a few days. He said he would pray to the SC on November 4 for fixing a date for hearing the appeal.

PM, Khaleda express shock at devastation by Sandy

AGENCIES, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed deep shock at the loss of life and property in the United States, caused by "superstorm" Sandy. In a condolence message sent to US President Barack Obama, she said "The way the USA was wrecked by the storm ensued from the Atlantic Ocean was unprecedented and a matter of concern." Hasina prayed for salvation of the departed souls and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family. In a statement, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed deep shock at the loss of lives and property. She also prayed for early recovery of the injured. Sandy has caused at least 55 deaths in the USA so far.

BLAST CASE
Fakhrul's indictment hearing deferred

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred until November 18 the hearing on charge framing against BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and 28 others in a blast case. Shahbagh police filed the case against them for aiding and abetting the bombings inside the Secretariat during the April 29 hartal. Judge (in-charge) Mohammad Aminul Haque of Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order as the defence submitted a petition seeking the hearing's adjournment. The hearing was deferred for the third time.



A woman and a child edge their way across a precarious section of Pathantuli Road in Agrabad of Chittagong city yesterday. Slow progress of the road's renovation work, taken up by Chittagong Development Authority around a year ago, leaves the road full of boulders, rubble and muddy potholes. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

First return hajj flight arrives

BSS, Dhaka

The first return hajj flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines carrying 582 pilgrims landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday. Return hajj flights of the national flag carrier will continue till November 30. Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister M Faruk Khan was present at the airport at 7.20pm yesterday to receive the hajj pilgrims. Biman will carry 58,179 out of total 110,550 pilgrims by operating 136 Jeddah-Dhaka flights including 123 hajj and 23 scheduled flights, Biman's official sources said. The remaining hajj pilgrims will return home by aircrafts of Saudi and NAS airlines.

WEATHER TODAY

Little change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country 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 5:19pm 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	33.0	22.4	56	63
Chittagong	31.8	23.2	79	82
Rajshahi	32.7	18.4	87	74
Rangpur	30.8	19.1	65	78
Khulna	32.5	20.6	71	79
Barisal	32.5	21.6	72	88
Sylhet	34.0	21.8	62	87
Cox's Bazar	33.5	24.4	75	80