

NEWS IN *brief*

**PM to inaugurate bridges in Ruma, Thanchi on Nov 17**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate two bridges in Ruma and Thanchi upazilas of Bandarban on November 17. The new bridges, Ruma Bridge, 216 metres long, and Thanchi Bridge, 217 metres long, were constructed under a Tk 24-crore project. Visiting Ruma Bridge yesterday, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader said the bridges would ease road communication among Bandarban, Ruma and Thanchi. The construction was recently completed under

**Bangladeshi honoured for promoting Japan-Bangla ties**

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**  
Japan awarded Muhammad Nurul Islam of Bangladesh the "Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon" for his contributions to promoting friendship between the two countries. He was among 46 recipients of the 2012 Fall Imperial Decorations announced by the Japanese government yesterday, said a Japanese embassy press release. Nurul is the honorary consul general of Japan in Chittagong, founder of Nippon Academy and of Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship, Chittagong. He is the fifth Bangladeshi to have received the honour and has been working to promote Japanese language, studies and business manage-

**ALCWC meeting on Nov 16**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Awami League Central Working Committee, the highest decision making body of the ruling party, will sit on November 16 to discuss its organisational matters and the country's latest socio-political situation. The meeting will be held at 5:00pm at the Gono Bhaban residence of Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina, who will chair the meeting, says a party press release. Meanwhile, AL Presidium Member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury will act as the party president in the absence of Hasina, who went on a six-day

**Fire breaks out in DMCH dorm**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
A fire broke out in a dorm adjacent to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday, creating panic among patients. Witnesses said the third floor of the five-storey doctors' dorm caught fire around 1:00pm. However, none was injured in the incident. Fire fighters doused the blaze within half an hour.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Human chain**  
Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad will form a human chain demanding speedy trial of war criminals; Venue: Before International Crimes Tribunal; Time: 10:00am.

**Rally**  
Urdu Speaking Peoples Youth Rehabilitation Movement will organise a rally to press home its demands; Venue: Jatiya Press Club

**Discussion**  
Asian Journalist Human Rights and Cultural Foundation will hold a discussion on the occasion of the foundation's twelfth founding anniversary; Venue: Central Public Library; Time: 5:30pm.

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Change in temperature unlikely**

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Light rain may occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today. Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. The lowest minimum temperature is likely to be 17-18 degree Celsius and the highest maximum temperature is likely to be 31-32 degree Celsius. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:18pm and rises tomorrow at 6:06am.** Country's highest temperature 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khapupara and lowest 18.0 degrees at Dinajpur and Syedpur. 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	27.6	24.3	64	67
Chittagong	28.5	24.5	71	92
Rajshahi	25.4	22.5	80	96
Rangpur	29.4	19.5	71	75
Khulna	27.6	22.6	91	79
Barisal	26.5	23.0	85	90

**Abducted schoolboy found dead**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The body of a schoolboy, abducted for ransom by his friends on October 13, was recovered from a septic tank of a house at Joydevpur of Gazipur yesterday. The victim was Shahriar Ferdous Ayan, 16, a student of class IX at Safiuddin Sarkar Academy in Tongi. Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-1) arrested three people on charge of their involvement in the incident early yesterday. The arrestees are Ayan's friends Abdullah Al Arman, 20, Tawsif Alam Rabbi, 19, and Azharul Islam Rubel, 19. Rab official Lt Commander Kawser Mahmud said they recovered the body following information extracted from the three. The arrestees admitted the plan of abduction and killing of the victim, he said. According to officials at Rab-1, Ayan remained missing after he went out of his residence at Kolomeshshar after receiving a phone call by some people on October 13. Using the cellphone of Ayan, some people made phone call to Ayan's family members demanding Tk 10 lakh on October 14, they said. Later, the victim's father Md Salimuddin informed the matter to Joydevpur Police Station and filed a case against some unnamed abductors.

**BAR COUNCIL ACT Scrapping of changes demanded**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council Khandker Mahbub Hossain yesterday demanded immediate cancellation of the amendments to the bar council act, saying the changes stripped the body's power of enrolling law practitioners. In protest of the amendments, the lawyers will stage demonstrations and hold meetings at all bar councils across the country on November 8, he told a press conference at the bar council. The government on October 21 issued an ordinance on the Legal Practitioners and Bar Council (Amendment) Act, 2012. The amendments suggest formation of a five-member enrolment committee with an Appellate Division judge, two High Court judges, attorney general and an elected member of the council. Earlier, a three-member committee of the bar council would take the decision about

new enrolment. Moreover, the bar council now has to have government's approval to frame any rules, and the council's secretary will be appointed by the government. Khandker Mahbub said the amendments had illegally curtailed the powers of the elected committee of the bar council. If the ordinance is not scrapped, it will in no way bring any good for the government, he said. The amendments have created a scope for the government to meddle in the functions of the bar council, and there is no such precedent in any country, including India and Pakistan, he said. Mahbub urged the members of parliament not to endorse the ordinance for passing a bill into law in this regard. Bar council's executive members AJ Mohammad Ali, Mahbubuddin Khokon, and Sanaullah Miah, among others, spoke on the occasion.

**Punishment to Manipuri leader's killers demanded**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**  
Different organisations demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the killers of Manipuri community leader Rabindra Kumar Sinha in Moulvibazar town yesterday. Sylhet Adivasi Forum, Manipuri Chhatra O Jubo Parishad, Manipuri Samaj Kalyan Parishad, Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad, Puja Udjapon Parishad, Socheton Nagorik Samaj, and Gano Forum, among others, formed a human chain in front of Moulvibazar Press Club to press home the demand. Later, they organised a press conference in this regard. They also called for a protest rally and a human chain at Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar on November 7 to demand immediate government action against the recent incidents of repression on Adivasis in Bangladesh. Sinha, general secretary of Manipuri youth organisation Hojat Dalua, was shot dead on October 23. He was the headmaster of Baghachhara Government Primary School.



Animal waste lies in heaps across Kamalapur Titipara field, which was used as a cattle market for Eid-ul-Azha, as the city corporation authorities are yet to remove those even after a whole week past the festival's celebration on October 27. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**ACC a govt agent: Moudud**

**UNB, Dhaka**  
Questioning the neutrality of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), BNP standing committee member Barrister Moudud Ahmed yesterday said the ACC has turned into a "government agent" and doubted whether it has the courage to bring graft allegations against a minister. "The ACC has no acceptability...it has become a big agent of the government. I've doubts whether the ACC which gave a clean chit to a former communications minister (Abul Hossain) will be able to declare him as corrupt after any fair investigation..." he told a discussion at Jatiya Press Club in the capital. Bangladesh Prajanma Academy, a pro-BNP platform, arranged the discussion with its president Kalam Foyze in the

chair. Barrister Moudud claimed that the government is trying to get rid of the Padma Bridge project applying various tactics as it knows the entire government would be proved corrupt if the investigation is done neutrally. "That's why they're trying to influence the ACC in every step. The government wants to see the World Bank to quit the project." BNP chairperson's adviser and former commerce minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, former state minister for water resources Goutam Chakrabarty and Sadhinata Forum President Abu Naser Mohammad Rahmatullah, among others, spoke on the occasion.

**COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE Matia to go on five-day visit to India**

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**  
Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury will pay a five-day official visit to India from November 6 to 10 to discuss with Indian government leaders ways to increase bilateral cooperation in the fields of agriculture and food security. Her visit comes at the invitation of Indian minister for agriculture and food processing industries and also as part of the current visits by Bangladeshi politicians. Among the top leaders, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad and Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam visited India at Indian government's invitation. Matia will also visit Indian Agricultural Research Institute, an apex agricultural research body at Pusa, New Delhi; Central Soil Sanitary Research Institute, Karnal, Haryana; and Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, Odisha, says an Indian High Commission press release.

**98th birthday of Debesh Bhattacharya observed**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The 98th birth anniversary of eminent jurist and human rights defender Justice Debesh Bhattacharya was observed in Tangail yesterday. On the occasion, Justice Debesh Bhattacharya Foundation organised religious and social events at Ellenga in Tangail. The foundation also distributed medals among meritorious students and warm clothes among the destitute. Debesh Bhattacharya was prominent for his role in promoting and protecting democratic and human rights. He served as a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. He was a member of the Gono Adalat (People's Court) established to bring the war criminals of 1971 to trial. He was actively involved in various social movements and established several educational institutions in his native village.



Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia meets President of India Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: WEBSITE OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

**Kanchan demands Oct 22 as road safety day**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Noted road safety campaigner and actor Ilias Kanchan yesterday renewed his request to the government to declare October 22 as National Road Safety Day, which his organisation Nirapad Sarak Chai has been observing since 1998. He reiterated the demand as the government has embarked on settling on a date among four alternatives including October 22 when Kanchan's wife was killed in a road accident in 1993 and he started his road safety campaign. "We are shocked by the decision, as the National Road Safety Council in 2002 chose October 22, and we have been observing the day with limited support of the government since then," Kanchan told a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity. On the website of the Roads Division, the authorities have urged people to vote for a date within November 23. In addition to October 22, visitors can pick July 31 when two top government officials were killed in a Manikganj road crash in 2010 or July 11 to mark the 2011 Mirsarai truck plunge that killed at least 40 students or August 13 when filmmaker Tareque Masud and journalist Mishuk Munier were killed in a Manikganj crash last year.