

NEWS IN *brief*

**Rights org condemns attack on Baul event**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilita Samajik Andolon, a rights organisation, yesterday expressed deep concern over recent attacks by fundamentalists on a Baul music event in Shibnagar of Sylhet.

The organisation's President Prof Ajoy Roy and General Secretary Advocate Tobarok Hossain demanded exemplary punishment of the attackers in a joint statement, said a press release.

The violence on the folk singers at the event left one dead and another injured.

The organisation also called democratic forces in the country to unite against fundamentalists.

**Large quantity of Yaba tablets seized from Naf River**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A total of 9,970 Yaba tablets worth around Tk 30 lakh were seized by Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel from a boat on the estuary of Naf River near Sabrang union in Cox's Bazar district yesterday.

Three men on the boat, arriving from Myanmar, jumped and swam away on seeing the approaching BGB patrol boat around 5:00am, said BGB sources.

A case was being filed in this connection.

**Teenager dies in tin-roof collapse**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenager died in her tin-shed residence in the capital's Puraton Kachukhet yesterday after a portion of a concrete wall from the top of an adjacent six-storey under-construction building fell on the tin roof, collapsing it on top of her.

The victim, Farzana Ahmed, 18, passing her HSC exam from Mirpur Ideal School and College this year, was sleeping when the accident occurred around 12:15pm.

Bhashantek Police Station Inspector Moinul Islam said Farzana was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition and shifted to Brighton Hospital in Hatirpool where she succumbed to her injuries around 7:00pm.

**RMG workers of Hall-Mark fast to open factories**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of garment workers yesterday observed a hunger strike and held a solidarity rally demanding restart of all factories of Hall-Mark Group in Savar under control of the government.

Under the banner Garments Sramik Sangram Parishad, they organised the events in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Speakers at the programmes also demanded payment of arrears and allowances, said a press release.



Workers of Topaz Dresses Ltd, an apparel factory, block a road in the capital's Badda after the authorities announced the factory closed yesterday for an indefinite period allegedly without paying their arrears and any prior notice.

PHOTO: STAR

**RMG workers block road demanding dues**

*Traffic in Badda, adjacent areas halts for six and a half hours*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traffic movement in the capital's Badda and adjacent areas was halted for around six and a half hours yesterday after several hundred garment factory workers took to the streets demanding due wages.

After sitting with the garment workers and owners of the factory in Badda, Topaz Dresses Limited, and failing to reach a consensus, police used water cannons to disperse the agitators around 2:30pm.

The workers then engaged in clashes with police, vandalising some vehicles on roads from Middle Badda to Rampura, Kuril Biswa Road and Gulshan-2 intersection.

However, no arrest, causality or case was reported.

The agitators said the owners closed the factory without any prior notice and without paying their due wages.

Badda Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mahbubur Rahman said Md Arefin, the factory owner's son, claimed to have paid the due salaries.

"The owners demolished a food court on the factory's 10th floor and shifted it to the 8th floor. Workers on the 8th floor, who were shifted to two separate floors, mistook it as a plan to close the factory," he said.

The owners shut the factory to avert an unrest, he claimed.

**Four-day BGB-BSF conference begins**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A four-day deputy director general-level conference between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) began in a hotel in Sylhet city yesterday.

Border issues including smuggling, trespassing, illegal timber collection, bordering riverbank protection and stopping the killing of civilians and construction of infrastructure 150 yards from the zero line are on the agenda, official sources informed.

BGB Deputy Director General Brig Gen Abu Sayeed Khan is leading a 14-member team while BSF Inspector General of Meghalaya Sudesh Kumar is leading a 21-member delegation at the conference.

Officials from Bangladesh and Indian home ministries and narcotics control departments are also attending the conference.

The officials will attend programmes in the capital on November 6 and 7 before the concluding session at BGB's Border Conference Centre near Sylhet's Tamabil border on November 8.

**Satya Priyo Mahathero admitted to BSMMU**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Satya Priyo Mahathero, president of Bangladesh Bhikkhu Mahashabha, was admitted to the capital's Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University yesterday with various complications, including hypertension and high blood pressure.

The 82-year-old priest was having lower back pains while his legs were swollen.

Prof Kanak Kanti Barua, dean of the surgery faculty, said a complete checkup, including neurological and cardiovascular assessment, by specialists was needed before any comment could be made.

Mahathero may have problems in his kidneys as well, he added.

Mahathero, chief of Ramu Central Shima Bihar, a temple burned to ashes by religious bigots over a month ago, was airlifted to Dhaka and remains under the supervision of Prof Abdul Jalil Chowdhury, chairman of the medicine department.

**Bangladesh-Meghalaya land border meeting begins today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Bangladesh and Meghalaya will begin a 3-day meeting on land border survey along the Sylhet-Meghalaya frontier at Sylhet Circuit House today.

Officials said survey department's Director General Md Abdul Mannan will lead a 5-member team while the Indian team will be led by the special director of Land Records and Survey, Meghalaya KS Corpha.

Contacted, the director general said the Indian officials had already arrived in Bangladesh yesterday for the meeting.

Issues regarding the Meghalaya-Sylhet boundary including settling disputed border pillars will be discussed, he said.

In 2010-2011, an extensive survey was done along the Sylhet-Meghalaya borders, mainly to identify the long-standing adversely possessed lands on both sides. But, it is incomplete in most places due to protests and unfavourable weather.

**Adherence to 'Phulbari accord' demanded**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Committee for Protection of Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports yesterday called an urgent discussion, reiterating its demand for fully implementing the Phulbari agreement and putting an immediate end to Sundarbans' destruction.

The discussion was held at the committee convener Engr Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah's office.

Speakers said the government is promoting open pit mining of Phulbari coal deposit and allowing Asia Energy to operate in Bangladesh, thus violating the six-point Phulbari agreement, signed in 2006, that demands otherwise.

They also criticised the home ministry's circular in support of Asia Energy, a foreign energy company.

Speakers criticised the government decision that allowed an Indian company to establish a power plant in the Sundarbans, causing damage to its environment.

The committee called a press conference on November 8 to press home their demands.



One of the 73 turtles of some rare species that were seized at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday. The animals were about to be smuggled out of the country.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

**Fakhrul blasts Shajahan**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday termed "rubbish" the recent remarks of Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan that senior BNP leader Rafiqul Islam Miah was a razakar.

"I found no words to criticise him [Shajahan Khan]. Rafiqul Islam Miah was involved in anti-Ayub movement during his student life. He [Rafiqul] was in London during the country's Liberation War in 1971 where he acted as an organiser of the war," he told a press conference at BNP's Nayapaltn head office in the capital.

Shajahan's remarks came about two weeks after he exchanged abuses with Rafiqul on a live television talk-show on October 22.

At the press conference, Fakhrul also blasted some recent media reports that 17 bugging devices had recently been recovered from the Gulshan office of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

"Such media reports were nothing but a conspiracy of government's intelligence agency. Such conspiracy was a part of the government's ill motive to tarnish BNP's image when the party was gaining people's support," he said.



**Night temperature may rise slightly**

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at many places over Rajshahi, Barisal, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at few places over Rangpur, Khulna and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, 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 5:17 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:08am.**

Country's highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 20.0 degrees at Sayedpur.

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	25.1	21.5	84	87
Chittagong	29.8	21.5	81	79
Rajshahi	24.1	20.4	100	100
Rangpur	27.0	21.0	91	86
Khulna	32.0	22.5	87	96
Barisal	31.2	22.3	85	95
Sylhet	25.0	22.0	93	95



As winter knocks on the door, people start visiting shops selling blankets in the capital. The photo was taken in Gulistan yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR