

## NEWS IN *brief*

### Ex-OC's wife summoned for tax dodging

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned the wife of former officer-in-charge of Demra Police Station in a tax evasion case against her.

Zakia Islam Anu, wife of the ex-OC Saiful Islam, will have to appear before the court on January 8 next year.

Judge Md Akhtaruzzaman of Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after Mainul Islam, deputy tax commissioner of NBR, filed the case against Zakia for dodging Tk 1.31 crore in tax from

### Buet student sued on charge of possessing arms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday filed a case against a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), who is also an activist of pro-Jamaat Islami Chhatra Shibir, four days after they seized arms and jihadi books from his room.

On Wednesday night, law enforcement agencies with the help of students of Buet recovered the arms and books from his room at Ahsanullah Hall. Aminul, however, managed to flee.

The case against Aminul was filed with Chawk

### 5 Jamaat men arrested in Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police arrested five activists of Jamaat-e-Islami for engaging in subversive activities in Benapole of Jessore yesterday.

The arrestees are Nur Hossain, 45, Saheed ali 35, Sariful Islam, 32, Hafijur Rahman, 36, and Abdul Hakim, 50.

The five were arrested while holding a secret meeting in Gatipara of Benapole, said Sub-Inspector of Benapole Police Station Rowson Ali. A case was filed and the arrestees were sent to

### RU convocation date rescheduled for December 9

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) authorities have rescheduled the date of its eighth convocation for December 9 from December 2.

Interested students can get detailed information by making call at the hot line number 01556-308509.

They can also find relevant information at the university's website www.ru.ac.bd or www.ru.ac.bd/con12.

RU's former students who completed their honours and masters degrees between the years 1991 and 2000 can take part in the convocation.

MPhil and PhD students who completed their degrees between 1991 and 2005 can also participate

### RAPE SUSPECT HC directs police to submit DNA test report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed police to submit immediately the report of DNA test of Shipan Bepari, who allegedly raped a speech impaired girl in Louhojang upazila in Munshiganj in July.

The court also directed the Dhaka Medical College Hospital authorities to carry out the test and deliver the report to the police as soon as possible.

The court gave the directives during hearing on a petition filed on the basis of an August 1 news report of the Bangla daily Janakantha.

On August 2, Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh filed the petition seeking necessary directives on the issue.

According to the newspaper report, one Shipan Bepari of Singherhati village of the upazila, raped the victim after confining her to a house for two days.

On July 30, police rescued the girl, and sent her to her village in Bhola on the next day without doing any medical examination to suppress the incident, it said.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Farid Ahmed yesterday ordered police to handover the victim, who is now in police custody, to the Safe Home of Ain O Salish Kendra, and produce her before the court on November 18.

The court also asked a teacher of a school for speech impaired students at Bijoynagar in the capital to appear before it the same day to help explain the victim's statements.

Police submitted the victim's DNA test report to the court yesterday, petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid said.



Pearl necklaces weighing about 1,600kg kept under customs custody at Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday. Customs intelligence along with Rab seized the necklaces worth about Tk 12 to 15 lakh from a house in Chawkbazar.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

## ALLEGED ABDUCTION OF SHUKHO RANJAN BALI It's Jamaat's drama Attorney general tells HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday told the High Court that Jamaat-e-Islami has staged a drama over the alleged detention of Shukho Ranjan Bali, a defence witness of Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee.

He said the writ petition, claiming that law enforcers had abducted and detained Ranjan, was filed in a bid to make the ongoing trial of the 1971 crimes against humanity questionable.

The attorney general was speaking during hearing on the petition filed, challenging the legality of the alleged abduction of Ranjan.

Abul Kalam Azad, Ranjan's friend, submitted the petition on November 7 seeking directives from the HC on the government to produce Ranjan before the court to show that he was not illegally detained.

Azad claimed in the petition that Ranjan, who was in a vehicle with him,

had been "abducted" by a group of plainclothes police in front of the main entrance of the International Crimes Tribunal-1 on November 5.

Mahbubey Alam yesterday told the court that Jamaat-e-Islami was involved in terrorist activities including attacking law enforcers across the country in an attempt to foil the ongoing trial of crimes against humanity.

He also said the petitioner could not show any document that law enforcers have arrested Ranjan and so, the petition was not acceptable.

Petitioner's counsel, Abdur Razzaq, argued that law enforcers abducted and detained Shukho Ranjan illegally in broad daylight, so that he cannot place statement before the tribunal on behalf of Sayedee.

After concluding the hearing, the HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar fixed tomorrow for passing an order.

## PEACEKEEPING UN official lauds Bangladesh's role

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A visiting high-up of the United Nations (UN) yesterday lauded Bangladesh for its longstanding and robust support to UN's peacekeeping and peace-building efforts.

"Bangladesh is uniquely positioned as a leading global agent of peace and development, to deploy civilian experts and professionals for nation building activities under the UN to sustain peace in post-conflict countries," said UN Assistant Secretary General and Special Adviser on Civilian Capacities Sarah Cliffe.

She made the remark when she called on Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at the latter's office in Dhaka.

Dipu Moni assured the UN official of Bangladesh's readiness to deploy civilian experts especially in the areas of social safety net, development, human rights and natural disaster risk reduction.

Sarah Cliffe, who was on a one-day visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of the foreign ministry, also addressed a workshop in the capital on civilian participation in UN peacekeeping operations.

Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes chaired the programme.

(From left) Tahmima Anam, writer and co-organiser of Hay Festival Dhaka; Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy; Syed Shamsul Haque, a prominent poet and writer; Syed Badrul Ahsan, executive editor of The Daily Star; Robin Davies, director, Partnerships and Programmes, British Council Dhaka; Sajjad Sharif, managing editor of Prothom Alo; and Kazi Inam Ahmed, director of Kazi and Kazi Tea; at a press conference organised to announce the launching of Hay Festival Dhaka in Bangla Academy of the capital yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

## Active parliament must for democracy Says human rights chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliamentary democracy cannot sustain without an active parliament, said Dr Mizanur Rahman, chairman of National Human Rights Commission, yesterday.

He said this at a mock parliament titled "Ensuring Communal Harmony."

Debate for Democracy and ATN Bangla organised the programme at Bashundhara City shopping complex in the capital.

Addressing the programme as chief guest, Mizanur Rahman said if logical debates actually took place in the parliament, Bangladesh would have gone a long way.

Dhaka University and East West University participated in the mock parliament.

There is no doubt that the communal harmony of the country has been compromised by the recent attack on Buddhists in Ramu, said participants.

## Robbers loot house in guise of meter readers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of robbers in the guise of electric meter readers allegedly looted about 70 tolas of gold ornaments and Tk 1.5 lakh in cash from a house at Pallabi in the capital yesterday.

They looted the two-storey house of former additional chief engineer of Public Works Department (PWD) Kazi Muhiul Alam at Section-12, Block-B in the area.

Muhiul Alam told The Daily Star that at around 12:30pm, when he and his daughter were outside home, two men pressed the calling bell and called his wife Nazneen Mehtab. When his wife opened

the door they told her that they came to read their electric meter.

At one stage, while they were talking, three other people joined them and they all entered into the house. Later, the miscreants tied the hands, legs and mouths of Nazneen and a female domestic help of their house, he said.

The criminals snatched the key of their wardrobe from her brandishing sharp weapons. Later, unlocking the wardrobe they took away the gold ornaments and money.

Pallabi Police Station Sub-Inspector Anisur Rahman said none was arrested till yesterday evening.

## Mijarul Quayes elected member of ICSC

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes has been elected as a member of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) at the 67th General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) held in New York, US on September 25.

The ICSC was established by the UN General Assembly with a mandate to regulate the conditions of service of all staff recruited to the UN common system and to promote high standards in international civil service.

Quayes will serve the commission, located in New York, for a period of four years, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

This is the third time Bangladesh has been elected to this civil service body.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh has also been elected to the UN's Joint Staff Pension Fund.

The UN General Assembly created the fund in 1949 to provide retirement, death and disability related benefits to the staff of the UN and other selected organisations.

Deputy Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN M Mustafizur Rahman has been elected for the fund.

### DHAKA TODAY

**Seminar**  
Equitybd will organise a seminar on the rights of climate refugees; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

**Discussion**  
Nagorik Forum will hold a discussion "Neutral and Independent Trial: Current Aspects"; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:30pm.

**Human chain**  
Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh will form a human chain demanding implementation of the inter-ministerial committee's recommendation on the engineers; Venue: before Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

**Sit-in**  
Bangladesh Pranisampad Swecchasebi Samity will stage a sit-in remanding payment of their unpaid salary; Venue: before Department of Livestock

### WEATHER TODAY

#### No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The lowest minimum temperature is likely to be 15-16 degrees Celsius and highest maximum temperature may be 30-31 degrees Celsius.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 5:13pm and rises tomorrow at 6:12am.**

Country's highest temperature 30.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sandwip and lowest 14.6 degrees at Srirongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.0	18.5	71	69
Chittagon	27.4	19.8	85	72
Rajshahi	28.4	16.5	86	79
Rangpur	28.0	15.6	75	70
Khulna	29.2	17.7	77	81
Barisal	28.8	17.2	86	91