

NEWS IN brief

No journalist repression during this govt tenure: Inu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu yesterday told parliament that not a single incident of journalist repression took place during the regime of AL-led grand alliance.

He, however, said a total of eight journalists were killed in different incidents during the current regime.

They are Sagar Sarowar of Maasranga Television and his wife Meherun Rumi of ATN Bangla, Jamaluddin of the daily Gramer Kagoj of Jessore, Atikul Islam of NTV, Farhad Khan of the Dainik Janata, Shafiqul Islam Mithu of ATN Bangla, Faridur Rahman of the daily Bhorer Dak and Fateh Osmani, local journalist of Syhlet.

Newspaper Ashura holiday Nov 25

DHAKA, Unb

Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) will observe holiday on November 25 on the occasion of holy Ashura.

In accordance with the decision of the executive committee of Noab, no newspaper will, therefore, be published on November 26 (Monday), said a

RMG worker dies in workplace accident

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A worker of a readymade garment factory was killed as he got entangled with the roller of the factory's washing machine in BSCIC industrial area of Tongi on Monday night.

The victim was Moshiur Rahman, 20, a worker at Colour Mark.

The factory sources said the accident occurred when Moshiur was on duty around 9:00pm.

Contacted, Mohiuddin, managing director of the factory, said they have provided financial supports to the victim's family members after the

Three IU asst proctors resign

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Three assistant proctors of Islamic University (IU) submitted their resignation letters to the IU registrar on Saturday.

The assistant proctors are Anwarul Wahab, Anisur Rahman and Abu Hena Mostafa Jamal Happy.

IU Registrar Dr Moslem Uddin yesterday said, "I have received their resignation letters this noon."

"But, the university officially did not accept their resignations yet," he said.

Contacted, Anisur Rahman said, "I resigned from my post as no congenial atmosphere was prevailing at the university to work."

Since September 8, the university's academic activities have remained stalled as 400 IU teachers were protesting some recent recruitment at the



Former president of Timor-Leste (East Timor) Jose Ramos Horta meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her office at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

HALL-MARK LOAN SCAM
ACC quizzes 6 more Janata Bank officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday quizzed six more officials of state-owned Janata Bank as part of its investigation into non-funded portion of the Hall-Mark loan scam.

The six Janata Bank officials are from local branch in the capital's Motijheel area, Foreign Trade Corporate Branch, Dilkusha Branch and Bhaban Corporate Branch.

The six officials are Naresh Chandra Das, officer; Mustofa Kamal, manager; Ishrat Zahar, executive officer; Abul Hasem Bhuyan, assistant general manager; Zinia Jesmine, executive officer; and Fayzur Rahman, manager.

However, nothing could be known regarding the interrogation outcome.

Earlier, the ACC on Monday quizzed seven Janata Bank officials over the Hall-Mark loan scam.

According to a Bangladesh Bank report, Sonali Bank's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch disbursed Tk 3,547 crore in loan to Hall-Mark Group and five other companies defying banking rules. Hall-Mark alone took Tk 2,686 crore.

Meanwhile the ACC summoned six Sonali Bank officials including four general managers, who are accused in the 11 cases filed over the funded portion of the loan scam, did not appear before the anti-graft body yesterday.

Non-funded loans are the loans which are taken in the form of guarantee against letter of credits (L/Cs) while funded loans are taken in cash.

Invent disease tolerant jute: Prime minister

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged scientists to invent high yielding variety of jute tolerant to diseases and adverse climate, and also such varieties that can be cultivated round the year.

"I hope that our scientists, like the jute genome sequencing, will be able to invent drought, saline and cold tolerant variety of jute," she said, assuring scientists of all-out support to this end.

Hasina was addressing at the inaugural session of a two-day international seminar on "Jute-2012", organised by the Department of Jute at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

Textiles and Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui and Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury spoke at the session, chaired by Senior Secretary of the ministry Ashraful Moqbul.

The prime minister urged workers of different jute mills to give special attention to run the mills properly and

make those profitable.

She alleged that the previous BNP-Jamaat alliance government had closed down many jute mills, including Adamjee Jute Mills in 2002.

But her government has re-opened Khalishpur Jute Mills in Khulna renamed as Peoples Jute Mills while Qaumi Jute Mills of Sirajganj renamed as National Jute Mills, which were earlier shut down by the BNP-Jamaat government, she said.

Besides, three more jute mills have been conducting trial production and these will be inaugurated soon, she added.

Following the measures taken by the government, Hasina said the nationalised jute mills, for the first time in 30 years since 1982, witnessed a net profit of Tk 20 crore in 2010-11 fiscal.

She expressed the hope that people of all strata life, including scientists and researchers, would come forward to help the government turn Bangladesh into a middle income country by 2021.

People do not accept looters as leaders
Says Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said people did not and will not accept looters as their leaders.

He urged people to unite against ailing politics and to build a healthy political environment in the country.

He was addressing as chief guest, a meeting held in commemoration of late Advocate AKM Shamsul Huda, organised by Advocate AKM Shamsul Huda Commemoration Meeting Committee at Muslim Institute in Chittagong.

Political division among lawyers is not only hampering the judiciary system of the country but also the constitution and law profession, he said, adding that grouping under different political banners is sacrilegious for lawyers.

Advocate Hasan Arif, former attorney general and adviser to a caretaker government, said the book "Constitution of Bangladesh" written by Advocate Shamsul is a very important book in understanding our constitution.

BNP lawmaker Mostafa Kamal Pasha and Advocate Kabir Chowdhury, among others, spoke in the meeting.

UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY
Working children tell their stories to EU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The EU heads of mission in Dhaka met with a group of working children yesterday to discuss their rights, education and working conditions to mark Universal Children's Day and to pledge their ongoing support towards establishing the rights of working children.

The sharing session took place on the premises of the Society for Underprivileged Families, a Dhaka-based non-profit institution providing education, vocational training and entrepreneurial skills to working children from Dhaka's slums. The participating children shared their life stories and put on a cultural show for the delegates.

The European Union supports working children through funding a project, "The Partnership to Combat Child Labour through Corporate Social Responsibility in Bangladesh", implemented by Save the Children.

As many as 74 lakh children are economically active in Bangladesh. Sixty-eight percent of them receive no education and are deprived of a secure future. In this context, the project aims to provide education, vocational training and job placements to 12,500 working children (aged 5-18) in Dhaka who come from extremely poor families.

The EU and its member states currently invest around 570 million euros (nearly Tk 60 crore) in different projects to improve the lives of children in Bangladesh, focusing on education, health, child labour, and child sexual abuse, among others.

Boubazar slum people rebuild shelters on debris
Condition of one of the injured turns critical

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many of the 700 income-poor families of the capital's Boubazar slum, who lost almost everything in Sunday's devastating fire, have made temporary accommodation arrangements on the debris after spending two nights in the open or in relatives' houses.

The slum people were seen yesterday collecting large polythene sheets and light woods to build makeshift houses. Locals helped them with old clothes, food and polythene sheets.

However, most of the affected people depended on relief food to pass the day. The fire affected some 3,000 people as it razed the entire slum in Hazaribagh area, killing at least 11 people and injuring 15 others.

Owners of shops and rickshaws which were burnt in the fire said they were not on the relief list and got no monetary help from anyone. Many of them had nothing to pass the day.

Md Khokon, who had four rickshaws, all burnt down in the fire, said he did not leave the rickshaw garage for a moment since the fire was doused. "I thought, the government or anybody else would give some money for the rickshaws and I will miss out on it if I leave. But nobody came," he said.

Meanwhile, a fire victim, Sumon, has been shifted to the Burn Unit ICU at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday as his physical condition deteriorated. He sustained burns while trying to save his wife and two sons.

WEATHER TODAY

Light fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Lightrain is likely at one or two places over Chittagong division in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country, Met Office said.

Light fog may occur over the river basins during late night till morning over the country.

Night temperature may fall by (1-2) degrees Celsius and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:18am.

Country's highest temperature 33.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 15.5 degrees at Dinajpur.

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	31.8	23.4	61	51
Chittagong	30.2	23.0	86	87
Rajshahi	31.0	20.0	61	73
Rangpur	30.6	17.0	59	75
Khulna	29.5	23.5	60	75
Barisal	31.5	22.5	77	83

TIB calls for transparency in climate change funding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday called for forming a "coordinated national platform" to ensure the accountability in the management of funds meant for combating climate change.

Iftekharuzzaman, TIB executive director, made the call at a press conference, titled "Seeking transparency, accountability and justification in international and national climate funding: Cop 18 Doha climate conference", organised by TIB and Climate Finance Governance Network (CFGN) in the capital's Cirdap auditorium.

He also demanded forming of an international "Watchdog Body", by the

governments and members of civil society of the developed countries and also that of the countries which have been affected by the climate change to monitor the utilisation of the funds.

Bangladesh with its own money has created a \$340 million Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) to combat climate change. The countries largely contributing to the carbon emission have approved \$152 million for the Climate Change Resilient Fund (BCCRF); however, they had earlier promised for \$170 million, headed.

The press conference was held against the backdrop of the eighteenth session of the UN Climate Change Conference slated in Doha from November 26 to December 7.

Hijacked covered van recovered with goods

Nine robbers held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police on Monday recovered in Pabna a covered van which was hijacked by robbers in the capital with 7,565 pieces of shirts about a month ago.

They also recovered some of the booties.

Earlier, the DB arrested nine members of a gang of inter-district robbers by conducting a series of drives in Ashulia, Narayanganj, Barisal and Natore.

On October 16, the gang hijacked the covered van, with the export items of a readymade garment company, in association with the helper of the

vehicle's driver by doping its driver in the capital's Azampur area of Uttara.

The arrestees are Mohammad Nasir alias Shamim, 24, the assistant of the vehicle's driver, Monir Hossain, 32, Senu Miah, 40, Abdur Razzak, 26, Mohammad Bappi, 24, Mohammad Azam, 28, Osman Hossain, 27, Mohammad Ali, 29, and Abdul Latif, 29.

Shamim was one of members of the robbers' gang, and helped to dope the driver, DB sources said.

Following confessions of the arrestees, the covered van was recovered with 7,531 pieces of shirts from the house of one Daud Haider in Arifpur village under Pabna sadar upazila, they said.

7 Shibir men arrested for stabbing 2 BCL men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police yesterday arrested seven activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir on suspicion of stabbing two Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men on Monday night in Baluchara area of Sylhet.

Police said about 12 unidentified men attacked a students' mess of BCL men Monday night.

The assailants stabbed Asim Kantu Kar and Raju Ahmed, both students of Sylhet Government College.

Asim lodged a case accusing 38 people including 16 Shibir men.

Police arrested the seven Shibir men from Tultikor and Shahjalal Uposhahar area.