

NEWS IN *brief***One Padma Bridge possible each year with graft money: JS Speaker**

UNB, Kishoreganj

Speaker Abdul Hamid yesterday said it is possible to construct one Padma Bridge every year with the money that goes down the drain because of corruption in the country.

He made the remark at a views exchange meeting with local lawyers at Bar Association office in the capital.

"We have approached the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank for money to build Padma Bridge, but we can construct one Padma

Two bodies recovered in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police recovered two bodies, including that of a new born baby, in separate incidents at Kapasia upazila of Gazipur yesterday.

Quoting locals, Kapasia police said the beheaded body of Sumon Mian, 27, son of Suruj Mian, was found floating in Maduli Beel on Tuesday night.

Later, police found Sumon's head in the area yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, the body of an infant, wrapped in a bag, was recovered from a garden near Latapata bazaar in the upazila yesterday.

Police said the bodies were sent to Gazipur

Firearms and ammunition seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Some firearms and ammunition were found in an abandoned condition at a betel leaves plantation at Kalamarchara village in Maheshkhali upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Rapid Action Battalion men recovered eight guns and 11 cartridges, said Rab-7 Second-in-Command Squadron Leader Nazmul Hossain, who led the drive.

Rab alleged that the firearms belonged to a local dacoit gang named "Kala Jahangir Group."

The arms and ammunition were handed over to Maheshkhali Police Station. A case was filed in this regard.

3 Jamaat-Shibir men detained in capital, 6 held in Ctg on suspicion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police picked up three activists of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir from the capital's Banani yesterday.

Witnesses said some Jamaat-Shibir men staged demonstration in the area protesting recent arrests of their leaders, including Shafiqur Rahman and Tasneem Alam.

Police detained the people after a clash with the law enforcers near Shetu Bhaban around 10:30am.

Meanwhile, police detained six people suspecting their links with Shibir from a hostel of Chittagong Government College yesterday to avoid any untoward situation ahead of today's hartal called by 12 like-minded Islamist parties.

BNP demands Sufian's release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Demanding release of Abu Sufian, senior vice-president of BNP Chittagong city unit, and withdrawal of all cases against the party's 64 leaders, BNP yesterday submitted a memorandum to CMP commissioner.

The recent case against them was lodged for vandalising vehicles on December 10 in protest of BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir's arrest.



Customers flock to stalls at New Market in the capital to buy winter clothes as the days get colder.

PHOTO: STAR

No compromise on judiciary's image**Chief justice warns judges**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Calling upon judges to be sincere about the judiciary's dignity and interests, Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday warned that no judicial official involved in tarnishing the judiciary's image would be spared.

"One must keep in mind that he/she is a judge or judicial official. Some exceptions in this regard have been noted in recent times which are undesirable...I make it very clear that I will not make any concession in the interest of the judiciary," he said.

He was addressing 170 district judges and equivalent officials at the Supreme Court (SC) Annex Building auditorium. SC Registrar AKM Shamsul Islam moderated the programme.

Justice Muzammel said some "unexpected incidents" occurred due to some district judges' lack of awareness and

responsibility.

"I hope every district judge remains careful...You must remember that the judiciary is people's final resort...I think the trust and belief people still have on the judiciary cannot be compromised," he said.

Justice Muzammel said some lower court judges were not following directives to hold judicial proceedings on time, from 9:30am to 4:30pm, except weekly and government holidays.

Lower courts do not comply in due time even after the SC asks for files and gives reminders, leading to the backlog of cases. The district judges should increase their monitoring of the movements of reports of the SC's summons or notice, he said.

He warned of taking stern action if district judges and equivalent officials go for leave without informing the SC registrar.

RMG workers clash with cops in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Some 50 people, including 10 policemen, were injured yesterday after workers of a Narayanganj garment factory clashed with law enforcers protesting the factory management's alleged act of flocking them in during a fire on Monday.

The injured were provided treatment at Narayanganj 200 Bed Hospital and local clinics.

The workers of the Motaleb Monwara Composite Garments factory at Shibu Market in Fatullah under Narayanganj sadar upazila also demanded a pay raise while ransacking the factory since morning, said police and witnesses.

When industrial police arrived on the scene, the workers threw tube-lights, drums and other objects from the six-storyed factory's roof. The workers came out around 2:30pm after the factory management declared a shut down and engaged in a chase and counter chase with police.

Four of the workers alleged that a fire ignited from an electric short circuit on one of the floors on Monday and the workers had tried to get out, only to find the main entrance locked.

Though the fire was put out soon, the management did not explain the reason for the locks on the entrance, prompting the agitation, they said.

The factory owner could not be contacted despite repeated attempts.

Govt to send concept paper to SIC for Saarc news agency

UNB, Dhaka

The government will send the project concept paper (PCP) to Saarc Information Centre (SIC) for establishing a permanent Saarc news agency.

The decision was taken at an inter-ministerial meeting at the Secretariat on Tuesday with Information Secretary Hidayetullah Al Mamoon in the chair.

The meeting formed a four-member committee, headed by BSS Chief Editor and Managing Director Ihsanul Karim, to scrutinise the PCP prepared by BSS City Editor Ajit Kumar Sarkar.

Other members are Director General (DG) of Press Institute of Bangladesh Dulal Chandra Biswas, BTV DG M Hamid and Ajit Kumar Sarkar.

The committee was asked to submit the PCP after scrutiny within the shortest possible time to make the news agency viable.

DG (Saarc and Bimstec) of Foreign Ministry Masud Mahmud Khandaker, Chief Information Officer of Press Information Department Aminul Islam and DG of Bangladesh Betar Akhter Ahmed Khan also attended the meeting.

The draft project concept paper on establishing Saarc News Agency was incorporated in the resolution of the 8th Governing Board of SIC held in Nepal on September 25-26 this year. Earlier in July, SIC in a letter to BSS City Editor Ajit Kumar Sarkar requested for the concept paper as per his proposal on setting up the news agency placed at a seminar in Paro of Bhutan in May.

DUCECP for coordinated eye care services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Urban Comprehensive Eye Care Project (DUCECP) yesterday emphasised active coordination among stakeholders of eye care services.

The emphasis came at a daylong sharing session and refresher on surgical protocol organised by DUCECP at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

In Bangladesh, road accident deaths are highly prevalent, caused by, among others, refraction errors of drivers and helpers.

DUCECP Coordinator M Nurun Nabi gave a report on the project at the programme where 72 collaborative partners and national and international non-government organisations shared experiences in combating blindness in the capital.

Dr Md Alamgir Hossain of Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital presided over the programme where Md Rafiqul Islam of Sightsavers and freedom fighter Abul Hasnat also spoke.

DUCECP, a project of Sightsavers and Standard Chartered Bank, is providing eye care services to slum dwellers and disadvantaged people in the capital.

Till date, it has provided eye care services to over 400,000 people and conducted 45,000 cataract operations.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia attends a reception ceremony for freedom fighters arranged by Jatiyatabadi Muktijodha Dal, a front organisation of BNP, at Mahanagar Natty Mancha in the capital yesterday.

Digital land registration's first phase begins

UNB, Dhaka

The government has introduced digital land registration system to reduce people's sufferings.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed inaugurated the modernisation and digitisation of the land registration system at a function on the Registration Complex premises in the capital's Tejgaon area yesterday.

The project will be implemented in sadar record rooms and sadar sub-registrar's offices of Dhaka, Comilla and Jessore districts, and Uttara and Tejgaon sub-registrar's offices of Dhaka under the 1st phase.

All record rooms and sub-registrar's offices will be brought under the digital land registration system after successful implementation of the 1st phase.

Earlier, the government signed an agreement with a joint venture company comprising information technology firms DataSoft Systems Bangladesh Ltd, Business Automation Ltd and Info Consult Ltd to implement the project.

Police need training in hi-tech: Home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police cannot competently tackle cyber criminals like professional hackers as the force lacks knowledge in cutting-edge technologies, Home Minister Muhimuddin Khan Alamgir said yesterday.

He said the government would arrange training for police so that they could get rid of old technologies and thoughts. Time has also come to strengthen the age-old laws or enact new ones to reform the law enforcement agencies, he told police's Strategic Plan 2012-2014 launching programme at the capital's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

The minister also highlighted that people should appreciate the role of

police. "If we consider every low-ranking policeman as officer and appreciate everyone's roles, it will surely boost up the force's collective performance," he said.

"Many policemen are not properly evaluated but they should be appreciated, trained and provided with extra facilities," he added.

Following the programme, the home minister once again claimed that Bikash, a top listed criminal who was released from Kashimpur Jail-2 early Friday, was freed on a court order after finishing legal procedures.

Many however suspect that the government released the criminal to suppress political rivals ahead of the upcoming parliamentary election.

WEATHER TODAY

UNB, Dhaka

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

Thick fog may occur over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and the river basins and moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during night till noon, Met Office said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged and day temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:16pm and rises tomorrow at 6:37am.

Country's highest temperature 26.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and Kutubdia and lowest 11.5 degrees at Iswardi.

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

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	22.5	15.2	89	86
Chittagong	22.8	15.0	100	82
Rajshahi	23.8	11.6	97	79
Rangpur	21.0	12.6	96	92
Khulna	22.0	14.5	100	96
Barisal	24.1	13.5	100	92
Sylhet	23.8	16.8	92	82