

NEWS IN brief

Detained Bangladeshi student released in Cairo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A Bangladeshi student, who was detained in Cairo on August 19 for violating curfew, was released on Monday night, a foreign ministry official said. Belayet Hossain has been studying at Al-Azhar University in Cairo. Nasir Majumder, a factory worker who was also detained with Hossain, will have to return to Bangladesh as he was staying there without a visa, said Shameem Ahsan, director general (external publicity wing) of the ministry in Bangladesh.

10 people jailed for selling fake herbal medicine in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A mobile court of Rapid Action Battalion yesterday sentenced 10 people to one-year imprisonment on charge of selling fake herbal medicine in the capital's Shyamoli. Commanding Officer of Rab-2 MM Anisur Rahman told The Daily Star that they arrested 10 people of four drugstores -- Koli Unani Pharmacy, VIP Homeo Hall, Kolkata Herbal Medicine Store and India Herbal -- which were later sealed. Sharif Md Forhad Hossain, Rab-10 executive magistrate, handed down the sentence for advertising and selling unauthorised medicine without licence in the drugstores.

Golden jubilee of RU political science dept on Dec 6-7

CITY DESK
Golden jubilee of the Department of Political Science at Rajshahi University will be held on December 6-7. Those who are interested to take part in the programme can register their names by October 20, says a press release. They are urged to visit www.ru.ac.bd or call 01712087798 and 01717736464 for registration.

Mita Noor committed suicide, says final autopsy report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Popular TV actress Mita Noor, who was found dead in her Gulshan residence in the capital on July 1, had committed suicide, according to the final autopsy report. Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station, disclosed this to reporters yesterday three days after they had received the report. However, police is trying to figure out whether somebody instigated the 42-year-old woman to hang herself.

Four held with Yaba pills in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur
Four drug peddlers were arrested with 3,000 Yaba pills from Kazi Bari in Chata Dewra of Gazipur city yesterday. The Detective Branch of police arrested the four -- Basir Ahmed, of Cox's Bazar, Delwar Hossain, of Gazipur, and Md Milton and Abdul Kuddus, of Tongi, in a house. Bashir brought the contraband pills from the bordering area of Teknaf, said police. A case was filed with Joydevpur Police Station.

Two Koica volunteers arrive

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Two new volunteers of Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) arrived in the country on Monday to share their knowledge and experiences for enhancing socio-economic development of Bangladesh. Resident Representative of Koica Bangladesh Office Kim Bok-Hee welcomed the two who will receive one-month local adaptation training and then will be dispatched to the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla, said a press release. At present, over 46 Korean volunteers are serving in various fields of Bangladesh.

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL Nurses seek NHRC intervention for timely payment of salary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
About 100 nurses of Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College and Hospital yesterday sought intervention from the National Human Rights Commission to solve the problem of late payment of their salaries. During NHRC Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman's visit to the hospital, they also urged NHRC to take steps to solve anomalies in providing gratuity and provident fund for the retired nurses. Gertrude Cruz, a nurse of the hospital, said the hospital authority has not taken any step despite being informed of the nurses' problems repeatedly. Namita Rodriguez, another nurse who has been serving the hospital since 1983, said a group of nurses went to meet Prof Md Sirajul Islam, the director of the hospital, on August 18. But he refused to talk to them and told them to come the following day, she added. Despite several attempts, The Daily Star failed to contact Prof Md Sirajul Islam. NHRC Chairman Prof Mizanur Rahman, after visiting the hospital and speaking to the nurses and hospital authority, said his organisation will take necessary steps as per the law if any anomaly is found in the hospital. Contacted, Prof Mohammad Serajul Akbar, chairman of the governing body of Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College, confirmed the late payment of salary allegation but said nurses did not come to him for solutions. However, he denied anomalies in providing gratuity for the retired nurses. Prof Akbar claimed that a group of doctors are instigating the nurses and creating instability in the hospital.



The family of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam placing a wreath on his grave on Dhaka University campus marking his 37th death anniversary yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

27 Bangladeshis left without job in Iraq for five months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Bangladesh embassy in Iraq seems helpless in aiding the 27 Bangladeshi workers suffering in a labour accommodation facility for the last five months for being without job. They went to Iraq early this year to work in a construction company, M Kodia Co General Trading, at monthly salary of \$350, but its project was still to begin. This left the migrants without salaries and adequate food. In this context, the migrants' relatives held a human chain in front of the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) in the capital on July 22, demanding jobs for the workers or their repatriation and compensation. An official from the Bangladesh embassy in Iraq visited the workers on August 3, and promised help, but no progress was made. Frustrated, the migrants' relatives again

formed a human chain in front of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment yesterday. A resident of Ghatal in Tangail, Lebu Mondol, father of migrant worker Faruk Hossain, now in Najaf, 160 kilometres south of Baghdad, said he spent Tk 3.7 lakh to send Faruk to Iraq. Col Ziadur Rahman, first secretary (labour) of the Bangladesh embassy in Iraq, told The Daily Star by phone that the workers had food and electricity problems beforehand but they were given adequate food after the August 3 visit, a claim refuted by Shaon Ali, a worker in Najaf. Ziadur, however, said he summoned the employer to his office two weeks back, but he did not come, while moving in Iraq was difficult. The agencies that sent the workers to Iraq include Morning Sun Enterprise, Meghna Trade International, East Bengal Overseas

SENDING WORKERS ABROAD Pvt agencies must reduce migration cost

Says Mosharraf
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government will allow the private recruiting agencies to send workers abroad only if they bring down the migration costs, said Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday. In many cases, workers migrating through the agencies fail to recover the high migration cost during their contract period and are forced to stay illegally, he said. The minister said Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait had stopped hiring Bangladeshis due to the agencies' "visa trading" -- charging excessive prices for visas and selling one visa to many. "Because of the visa trading, around 2.68 lakh Bangladeshi workers became illegal before the Malaysian government regularised them last year," he told an orientation programme at the capital's Askona Hajj Camp for 90 Bangladeshis who left for Malaysia from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday. A total of 82 more workers will fly to Malaysia today, said

Janmashtami today

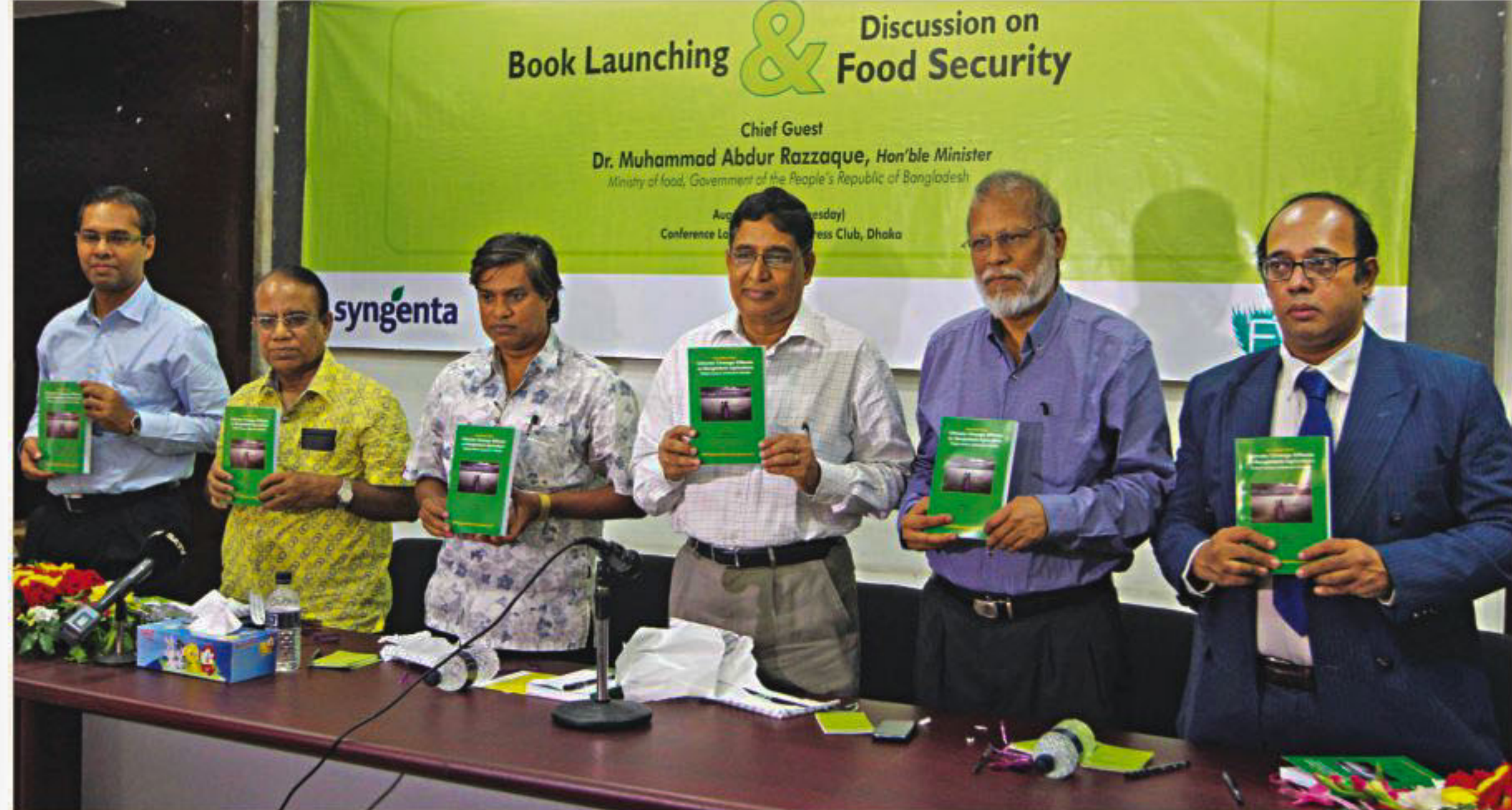
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Hindus will celebrate Janmashtami, a religious festival marking the birthday of Lord Krishna, across the country today amid festivity and religious fervor. The day's programmes include worship of Lord Krishna, Geeta Jagna, Kirtan, discussions and peace processions. President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and opposition leader Khaleda Zia in separate messages greeted the Hindu community on the occasion. SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

DU develops salt-resistant rice varieties

DU CORRESPONDENT
The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of Dhaka University has developed salt-resistant versions of two rice varieties -- BR11 and BRRI Dhan 28 -- which are cultivated extensively across the country. Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) has been testing these

Three senior foreign ministry officials forced into retirement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government yesterday sent three top-level foreign ministry officials into forced retirement showing the ground of "public interest". Additional foreign secretary Maruf Zaman and director general of the ministry Ashraf Uddin and Hasib Aziz had been officers on special duty (OSD) before the



From left, Syngenta Bangladesh Managing Director Md Sazzadul Hasan, Distinguished Fellow of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies Dr Asaduzzaman, President of Forum for Information Dissemination on Agriculture Kawser Rahman, Food Minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, immediate past country representative of International Rice Research Institute Dr Mohammed Zainul Abedin, and Presidency University Vice Chancellor Prof Mahub Ali at a publication ceremony of a book titled "Climate Change Effects on Bangladesh Agriculture" at Jatiya Press Club yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

No rice import in last two years

Says Abdur Razzaque
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Food Minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque yesterday said Bangladesh had not imported rice in the last two years thanks to government's prudent policy supports resulting in higher domestic production of the staple. "Though we're fast losing tillable land resources and adding 22 to 25 lakh new mouths (yearly population increase) to be fed, we've succeeded in growing enough rice to meet the requirements," he told a book launch at the capital's Jatiya Press Club. He said right after coming to power the Awami League-led government drastically cut non-urea fertilizer prices, thereby giving the farmers right incentive to go for balanced use of urea and non-urea fertilizers, which eventually boost up the rice production. "No matter whoever wins the next general elections, I wish the growth trend in food production sustains," said Dr Razzaque. He recalled the 2007-08 period of global economic meltdown when high food prices even triggered revolts in many parts of the world, and India refused to export rice to Bangladesh. So, he said, attaining self-sufficiency in rice production is very much important. SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

European Union (EU) Awards for UIU: A great Opportunity for UIU Students to Visit European Universities

eLINK Project (2008-2011):

- Total grant amount : 5.5 million Euro (EU funded)
- 5 European & 6 Asian University Partners
- UIU was the Joint coordinator
- UIU was only one University in this project from Bangladesh
- UIU was awarded 48 scholarships.

(For details: www.clink-edu.eu)

cLINK project (2012-2016):

- Total grant amount : 2.85 million Euro (EU funded)
- 6 European & 8 Asian University Partners
- UIU was the Joint coordinator
- UIU was only one University in this project from Bangladesh
- UIU Enjoy 15 scholarships.

(For details: www.clink-edu.eu)

STRoNG-TIES Project (2010-2014):

- Total grant amount : 2.8 million Euro
- 6 European & 11 Asian University Partners
- UIU was awarded 09 scholarships.

(For details: www.strongties.eu)

INTACT Project (awarded in 2013):

- Total grant amount : 2.8 million Euro
- 5 European & 12 Asian University Partners
- UIU is the Joint coordinator

A significant number of UIU Students are expected to avail this scholarship Opportunity.

FUSION Project (awarded in 2013):

- Total grant amount : 3.01 million Euro (EU funded)
- 10 European & 10 Asian University Partners
- UIU is the Joint coordinator

A significant number of UIU Students are expected to avail this scholarship Opportunity.

Strong-Ties Selection Committee Meeting Cyprus, March 2013

UIU eLINK Scholars at Lyon2, France

UIU eLINK Scholars at Corvinus University Budapest