

CMC to be university

Reiterates Nasim
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

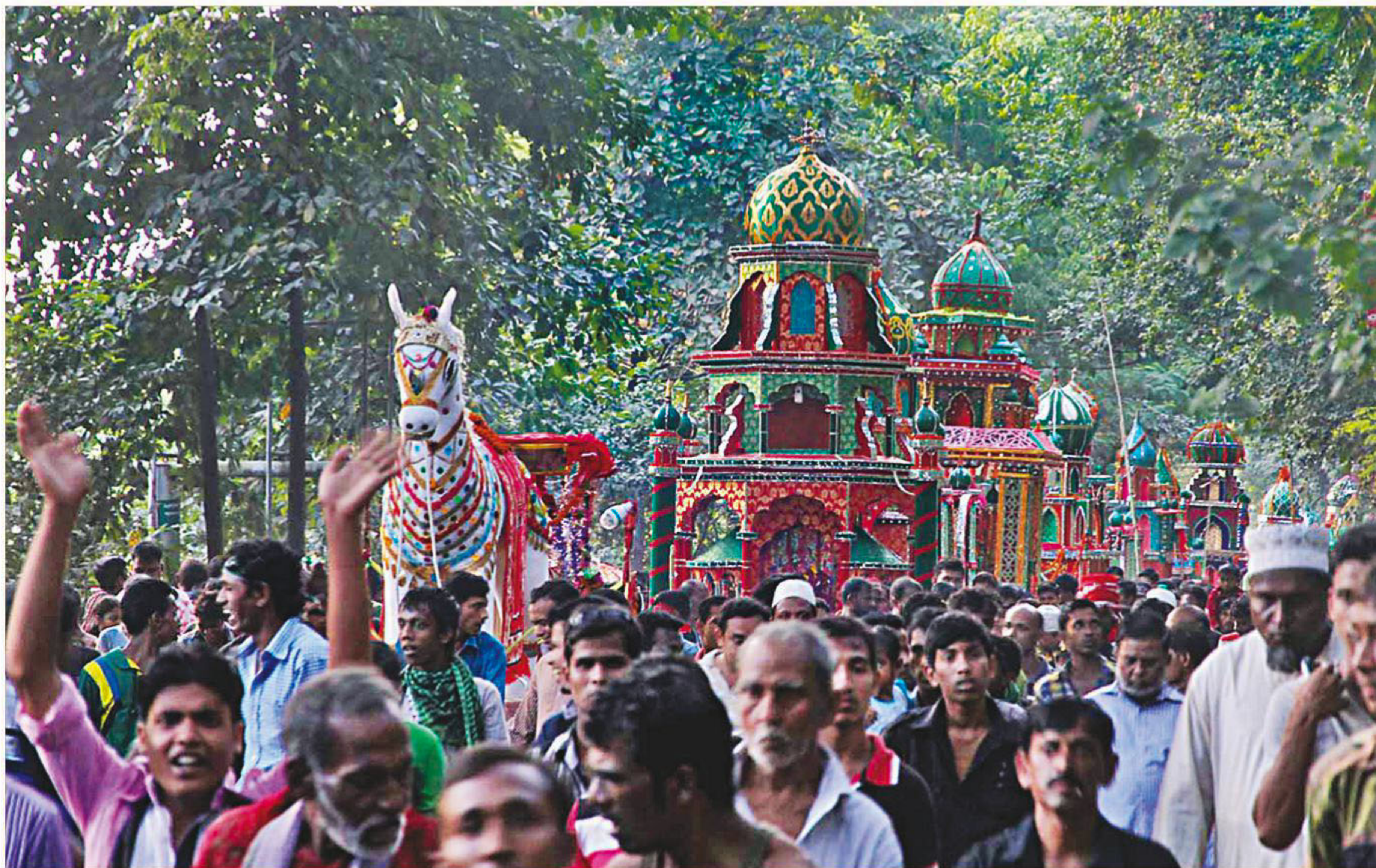
Health Minister Mohammed Nasim yesterday reiterated that Chittagong Medical College would be upgraded into a medical university immediately.

He was talking to the media after inaugurating a cardiology unit and a waiting room at Chittagong General Hospital in the city.

The minister further said that academic activities and appointment of officials, including vice chancellor of the university, would start as soon as the act is passed in the parliament, which would be done very soon.

Meanwhile, the decision, made early this year, to upgrade Chittagong Medical College into a university drew criticism from different organisations and the civil society.

Contacted, Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, convener of Janashasthya Odhikhar Rakhya Committee, a platform for ensuring public health rights of citizens, said they would launch demonstrations protesting the decision.



Shia Muslims bring out a religious procession known as "Tazia" in Chittagong city's Ambagan Jhaotola on Tuesday, observing the holy Ashura. Ashura marks the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (RA) and many members of his troop at Karbala desert.

PHOTO: STAR

Report on steps to stop brick kilns by Dec 3

HC asks govt
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government to submit a report on the steps taken to stop operation of traditional brickfields in Faridpur and Rajbari before it by December 3.

It also issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks why it should not be directed to ensure operation of modern brickfields including "Hybrids Hoffman Kiln"; "Zigzag Kiln"; "Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln" and such other technologically developed brick kilns in the country.

An HC bench came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Shariful Islam, an apprentice lawyer of the Supreme Court, seeking its directive on the government to stop operation of traditional brickfields and to launch modern ones.

Petitioner's lawyer Shahidul Islam told The Daily Star that the traditional brickfield is harmful for environment, while modern one does not cause any environment pollution.

My father killed on Jabbar's order

Prosecution witness tells tribunal
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday testified that on instructions of war crimes accused Abdul Jabbar, razakars, an auxiliary force of the Pakistan occupation army, shot dead his father Surendra Nath Biswas at Noli village in Pirojpur on May 22, 1971.

Deepak Kumar Biswas, 63, the 18th prosecution witness, also told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that Jatiya Party lawmaker Jabbar shot dead one Sokhanath Khorati on the same day.

Razakars, on Jabbar's orders, made several attempts to attack their village but failed, the witness said.

On the morning of May 22, 1971 an armed Jabbar along with razakars attacked Noli village, and the villagers retaliated, he said. Villagers began fleeing when Jabbar instructed the razakars to open fire, said Deepak.

On that day, razakars killed at least 11 civilians of Noli village. After the deposition, state-appointed defence counsel Mohammad Abul Hasan cross-examined the witness.

Jabbar is facing five charges for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971. The proceedings of the case were adjourned until today.

Abdus Subhan's trial at final stage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Placing of closing arguments, after which will come the verdict, began yesterday first by the prosecution in the war crimes case against Jamaat leader Abdus Subhan before International Crimes Tribunal-2.

The first charge, the trial's background and Subhan's status and his alleged role in the crimes committed in Pabna during the 1971 Liberation War were heard. The Jamaat-e-Islami nayebe-ameer has denied the nine charges, including genocide.

The prosecution says in 1971, Subhan was the Jamaat ameer of Pabna and general secretary, later promoted to vice-chairman, of anti-liberation organisation Pabna Peace Committee.



PHOTO: STAR

Yesterday Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Arief Tipoo said Subhan, as the top Jamaat and Peace Committee leader, had close relations with Razakar and Al-Badr Bahini, two auxiliary forces of the Pakistan occupation army, in Pabna.

Using his superior status, he not only assisted the Pakistani army but also committed crimes. Citing prosecution witnesses' testimonies, Prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon said Subhan was the "chief controller" of Razakar force in Pabna and had organised the anti-liberation forces there.

"He was directly involved in killings and genocide and sometimes used his personal gun to kill people," he added.

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ALLEGATION OF WAR CRIMES AGAINST 2 ICT probe agency finds evidence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The investigation agency of International Crimes Tribunal yesterday stated to have found evidence of two persons having involvement in crimes against humanity committed in Netrakona district during the 1971 Liberation War.

Obaidul Haque alias Taher and Aatur Rahman alias Noni were involved in the abduction and killing of at least 15 persons and looting and setting fire to over 400-450 houses, the agency stated through a press conference at its Dhanmondi office in the capital.

The prosecution office has been provided a report by the investigation officer, Shahjahan Kabir. After scrutiny, the prosecution will submit it to the tribunal for taking the charges into cognisance and framing charges.

The report says the duo led Razakars, an auxiliary force of the Pakistan occupation army, in the abduction of one Fazlur Rahman Talukder from Baushi Bazar under Barhatta Police Station on August 17, 1971.

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PM meets president

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made a courtesy call on President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday.

The PM apprised the president of the outcome of her recent visits to Italy and the UAE, president's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told UNB.

The president thanked the PM for the two successful tours.

Hasina went to Italy on October 15 on a four-day visit to attend the 10th summit of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

Later on October 25, she went to the UAE on a three-day official visit.

Unplanned urbanisation obstacle for bus rapid route

Project officials tell workshop
Staff Correspondent

Building a mass transport system like rapid bus service in Dhaka city has become "much more difficult" as various physical obstacles came along unplanned urbanisation over the past decade, said officials at a workshop in the capital yesterday.

It would have been much easier in 2005 when Strategic Transport Plan (STP) was formulated, said Anisur Rahman, project director of a 22-kilometre section, from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Keraniganj, of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).

BRT's remaining 20-kilometre section stretches from Gazipur to the airport.

Running on two central lanes of the existing roads and carrying 16,000 passengers per hour in each direction, BRT expects to provide a disciplined, time-bound and safe bus service and partially resolve the horrendous traffic congestion and subsequent public woes.

Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA), entrusted to coordinate transport schemes in the capital, organised

the workshop at Jatiya Press Club to discuss the BRT scheme's status.

As STP implementation was delayed, several transport schemes like flyovers have come up without coordination with the STP-recommended transport solutions, said DTCA Executive Director Md Kaikobad Hossain.

About 28 percent of Dhaka dwellers move on foot, 28 by public bus, 39 by rickshaw while only 5 by private cars, they said.

Frits Olyslager, transport adviser to DTCA, said multi-modal and well-integrated mass transport system and not the stand-alone flyovers can resolve the traffic problem.

BRT will be a profitable business model for the existing bus operators but its construction will be extremely difficult due to various physical constraints along the route and lack of coordination with other schemes, he said.

The airport to Keraniganj section is being designed in detail with World Bank funding but the US \$ 200 million required for the

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Indictment hearing against Fakhru Dec 8

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed December 8 for hearing on charge framing against BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir and 25 other leaders and activists of the BNP-led alliance in a case filed for hartal violence.

The case was filed with Paltan Police Station for vandalising and torching vehicles, and assaulting police in the capital's Chamelibagh during the shutdown enforced by the then opposition alliance on March 2 last year.

The order came after lawyers for all the BNP leaders including Fakhru, Moudud Ahmed, Mirza Abbas and Abdullah Al Noman sought time for the hearing.

During yesterday's

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DIT road at Choudhuripara in the capital's Malibagh has been in this sorry condition with potholes filled with water for long, hampering movements of pedestrians and vehicles. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Customers busy buying goods from roadside shops on the footpath of Mirpur Road in the capital yesterday despite an ongoing hartal enforced by Jamaat-e-Islami. The photo was taken opposite Dhaka College.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

2 held with Saudi riyal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials and Dhaka Railway Police detained two persons with nearly two lakh Saudi riyal equivalent to Tk 42 lakh at Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport and Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday.

Md Abu Hannan was held with 96,000 Saudi riyal, and some Bangladeshi and Malaysian currencies, which amounted to a total of Tk 18.35 lakh while he was passing through boarding bridge to catch a Malaysian flight, Customs Inspector Mahbub-e-Khoda told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, railway police arrested Obaidul Kader, 36, a passenger of Subarna Express coming from Chittagong and recovered around 1.08 lakh Saudi riyal equivalent to Tk 24 lakh from his travel bag, said police.

2 'tortured' house helps rescued

Employer arrested
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police rescued two alleged tortured domestic helps and arrested their employer from his Dhanmondi flat in the capital yesterday.

The arrestee Sarjit Barua, 57, recruited the girls, aged 15 and 16, in August last year, police said.

They were brought to the city from their village Dio Karbari of Ramgarh upazila in Khagrachhari, claimed Purno Kumar Tripura, father of a girl, who filed a case with Dhanmondi Police Station last night.

Purno accused that Sarjit and his family members tortured his daughter and the other girl and did not allow them to contact their families for a long time.

The employers also did not let the girls go out of the house, said Purno.

One Nayan Tripura, known to Sarjit's and his families, took the girls to the city. Whenever asked, Nayan said they were in good condition, said the father.

On October 23 this year, one of the girls managed to contact about their sorry state over the phone, he added.

The families then sought help from Ain o Salish Kendra and the rights body informed police of it yesterday, said ASK Director Nur Khan.

Man, 2 nieces attacked at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Four alleged students of Dhaka University beat up a 38-year-old man and attacked his two nieces on the campus yesterday.

The miscreants attacked Imtiaz Alam Beg, principal of Beg Art Institute of Photography, and tore up the clothes of his nieces and verbally assaulted them. Imtiaz had to get six stitches on his head.

Imtiaz said they were chatting by the pond near Shahidullah Hall when the attackers approached them and asked them if they were DU students.

"When we replied no, they attacked us. Many students of the dormitory silently watched without coming forward to help," he said.

They filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station.