

# NEWS IN brief

## 30 illegal passport brokers jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
A mobile court backed by Rab-2 yesterday sentenced 30 illegal passport brokers to three months' imprisonment and fined Tk 5,000 each for harassing passport seekers in the capital's Agargaon. The court also recovered 60 passports and a computer processor from them.

## British envoy mourns launch capsizal deaths

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT  
British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert W Gibson yesterday expressed his condolences at the loss of lives in the launch capsizal in the Padma River on Sunday. In a press statement the British envoy also said that their thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their loved ones at this time of sorrow.

## Woman stabbed to death, two held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Police yesterday arrested two persons in connection with killing a woman in the capital's Uttar Khan on Sunday night. Relatives found Sheuly Rahman, 35, with several stab injuries in a plot at Ninnirtek near her house. She died on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The arrestees are Chand Rahman Badal, Sheuly's estranged husband, and his accomplice Shahan Shah.

## Free surgical mission starts today in Kumudini Hospital

CITY DESK  
Shushasthya, an NGO, and "Project Bangladesh" from the US, are jointly sponsoring the ninth Surgical Mission in Kumudini Hospital, Mirzapur, Tangail, which will continue from today till March 6, to facilitate poor patients. Dr Ajmal Sobhan will head the 11-member US team while the Shushasthya team includes Dr Rukhsana Haider, Lt Col (ret'd) Aziz Ahmad and Lt Col (ret'd) Shahriar Chowdhury. A seminar will be held on March 7 at The Daily Star Centre in the capital where the teams will share their experiences.

## Rizvi on 3-day remand

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INSTRUCTED his party men to carry out the arson attack intending to kill the bus driver, helper and passengers. Defence lawyers told the court that their client was implicated in the case for political harassment. Rizvi was arrested in the capital's Baridhara on January 31. Since then he has been on remand for different terms in five arson cases.

### DHAKA TODAY

**Memorial Lecture**  
Swadesh Chinta Shangha will host a memorial lecture on Dr Ahmad Sharif titled "Freethought: Essential Outlooks of Individuals and Society". Venue: Faculty of Business Studies, Dhaka University. Time: 4:00pm.

**Discussion**  
Japan External Trade Organisation and others will organise a discussion on "Global Internship Programme". Venue: Hotel Sarina, Banani. Time: 11:00am.

**Seminar**  
The Centre for Sustainable



Four garbage containers placed right in front of Mirpur Post Office in the capital while just 20 feet away another sits in front of OSB Eye Hospital, spreading an unbearable stench in the locality. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Garbage containers a sore for Mirpur eye hospital, post office

HELEMUL ALAM  
The appalling sight of garbage right in front of a hospital in Mirpur 2 is a stark reminder of the sheer negligence, lack of foresightedness and apathy plaguing Dhaka city's waste management system.

But the single metal container, resembling a covered skip, some 15 feet in front of OSB Eye Hospital is not the only place serving as a garbage collection point in the hospital's vicinity for the last two and a half years.

Just 20 feet away, in front of Mirpur Post Office, are four more, occupying nearly two-thirds of the road.

As the day rolls on, the garbage piles increase in volume as collectors pushing carts scurry to and fro bringing in refuse from nearby neighbourhoods.

They initially dump it beside the containers, sorting out recyclable items, attracting flies along with crows and stray cats and dogs, which scatter the waste even further.

Apart from emitting the nauseous stench which engulfs the hospital and nearby establishments, the containers ooze out liquid waste reeking of dead and decaying matter.

The summer heat aggravates the rotting process and the rains do any-

thing but subdue the stench. A little respite comes at night when trucks take away the garbage to the Amin Bazar landfill, replacing the containers with empty ones. However, the substitutes are not washed before being placed, leaving the noxious odour to continue to hang in the air.

What it does to the doctors, nurses and hundreds of patients who arrive every day along with the post office staff and passers-by is not hard to imagine.

"I often have to keep a scarf over my face all day long for relief," the hospital staff Nazmun Nahar said during a recent conversation.

Md Niyarul Islam said he and other medical sales representatives were forced to work in the midst of the putrid smell for the hospital does not allow them in.

The disapproval of the environment was also evident in Afroja Akhtar, who was afraid that her two daughters whom she had brought in for treatment might contract something more severe.

The garbage might pose a health risk, including airborne diseases, to the numerous patients who come seeking treatment for various complications and to those who have to get admitted, said the hospital's Assistant Director

(administration) Nazrul Islam. Many of those who have undergone the experience suggested alternative arrangements or, at least, sealable and lockable facilities for storing waste for short periods and for transfer so as to suit the comforts of the locality and be environment friendly.

Nazrul said they requested shifting the containers several times through letters, the last one being sent on August 11, 2014.

But Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) always replied that they were helpless for the lack of available space, he said.

The scarcity of land is a big problem, said DNCC Superintendent Engineer Mesbahul Karim.

He said they were trying to shift the containers gradually to a newly constructed road stretching from Grameen Bank in Mirpur to Agargaon.

They have already sent letters to different government organisations requesting land at 23 places to set up waste transfer stations, he added.

Whether those entrusted with ensuring half of the city's sanitation can deliver remains to be seen. Meanwhile people frequenting the area keep their fingers crossed hoping to, literally, breathe a sigh of relief.

# Women can't enjoy equal rights until superstitions go

## Int'l workshop told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Women will not have equal rights until superstitions are removed from the public mindset, said Prof Taslima Monsoor, dean of Dhaka University's law faculty, at an international workshop yesterday.

They [women] have suffered discrimination and oppression through the ages and their equal right to property still has not been established in Bangladesh, she said at the workshop in the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

A patriarchal mindset and the lack of enforcement of existing laws foil efforts to establish equal rights of women, said Prof Nasreen Ahmed, pro vice chancellor of DU.

She added that gender discrimination is an impediment to development.

DU and University of London with assistance from the British Council organised the four-day workshop "Governance and Management of Gender Relations: A Comparative Study of Law and Society".

Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, chairman of University Grants Commission, said equality of women is crucial for human civilisation to foster.

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert W Gibson, Deputy Director of British Council, Bangladesh Matt Pusey and Prof Werner Menski of School of Oriental and African Studies at University of London, among others, spoke.

The workshop is aimed at creating bilateral engagement connecting young researchers of the UK and Bangladesh and inspiring them to learn through collaboration.

Scholars of law and 32 young researchers from home and abroad will present papers on the current issues of gender, law and society at the workshop.



Firefighters put out a fire that gutted a waste paper warehouse in Bibir Bazar of Old Dhaka yesterday. The fire burnt over 100 bales of waste paper kept in the one-storey building, a fire service official told The Daily Star. The cause of the fire could not be known immediately.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

# Banned 2-stroke auto-rickshaws

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Milon and Md Selim, a member of the KEPZ stand committee, said bribes made it easy for them. The committees take around Tk 10,000 from each baby-taxi owner for attaching it to the respective stand, while Tk 30 from each driver as a daily fee, and they distribute the money among themselves and also pay the "linemen", said the drivers. In addition, a monthly fee of Tk 400 is collected from each owner, which is later distributed among police officials and influential people, the drivers added, but did not give any name. The committee leaders said someone on behalf of the constables from sergeants collected the money from them every month. They also declined to name anyone. However, Traffic Inspector of the EPZ areas Shahidul Islam denied that police were taking bribes. He also said, "We don't control the vehicles inside the EPZs. The EPZ authorities should take action."

dismissed the suggestion, saying it was not the duty of the EPZ authorities to check or monitor vehicles; traffic police must do it. When asked, Deputy Commissioner Sujayet Islam of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (Port Division) said he was neither aware of these illegal vehicles nor of police taking bribes. But he admitted that police could crack down on the illegal vehicles inside and outside EPZ areas. "I have instructed the traffic inspector of the area to take action against any illegal vehicles in Bandar area and will also look into the whole matter," he added. Meanwhile, Sirajul Islam, deputy director of BRTA, Chittagong division, said nearly two months ago, a BRTA mobile court fined some of the two-stroke vehicles. He said both BRTA and police could confiscate the vehicles but his organisation could not lead mobile courts often due to the shortage of manpower. Two-stroke three-wheelers have been banned in Dhaka since 2003.

# Ctg Jubo Dal

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know about the picture from locals, and Sub-inspector Bipul Chandra Debnath filed a case yesterday under the information and communication technology act accusing Ifthekhar. Ifthekhar is also accused in several other cases over subversive activities and torching of vehicles and under the explosives act, added the OC.

# India eager

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three service chiefs in Dhaka. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Navy has been invited to attend the prestigious International Fleet Review, to be organised by the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam in February next year.

**Global Action Week 2015**  
26 April - 2 May 2015

I am fifteen  
the future is mine  
I Vote for Education

- Bangladesh is a signatory to both the Millennium Declaration (MDGs) and Dakar Declaration (Education for All) in 2000.
- These declarations are commitments to bring about positive changes in the education sector of developing countries like Bangladesh particularly in pre-primary, primary, secondary, technical and vocational education, gender equality and quality of education including creating opportunities for the disadvantaged groups.
- The goals for both declarations which are set for 2015 are close to its finishing line. However, a lot remains to be achieved. So, governments and development partners around the world are looking further to set new targets for sustainable development aiming at 2030. After a long process, new pathways will emerge and expected to be adopted in the General Assembly of the United Nations to be held in September 2015.

To observe 15 years of EFA and MDGs in Bangladesh, CAMPE invites young boys and girls to join a STORY-TELLING COMPETITION. If you are 15 years old and were born in April 2000, you are just the person we are looking for.

For more DETAILS and REGISTRATION, please call 01705677952 or 01705677953 (9 am to 8 pm) or log on to [www.campebd.org/reg](http://www.campebd.org/reg).

Share your life story in (not less than 700 words). Mention your Challenges and future Dreams.

Last date for Registration: 5th March 2015

**Dissemination & Coordination**

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