

### Schoolteacher beaten for protesting stalking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A schoolteacher was beaten in Lalmonirhat for protesting against stalking on Thursday.

According to police, a gang of some 15 youths including Atoar Rahman Tuhin, Anowar Hosain, and Pipul Rahman used stalk schoolgirls every day.

Being instructed by the Sindurna Lokma Hossain High School authorities at Hatibandha upazila's Hatkhola, Assistant Teacher Jahedul Islam on Thursday morning rebuked the gang.

And that evening, the gang beat Jahed with bamboo sticks while he was going to the town.

Jahed was admitted to the upazila health complex. A case was lodged.

The three youths are absconding, said police.



People are using this risky wooden structure to commute between Lalbagh and Purba Rasulpur of the capital while a half-built concrete bridge has not seen completion in the last six years. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## NEWS IN brief

### Mobile phones seized at Ctg airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Customs intelligence officials seized 58 illegal mobile phone sets, worth Tk 10 lakh, at Shah Amanat International Airport yesterday morning.

On suspicion, the officials searched the baggage of Md Yasin, a passenger of Air Arabia flight, and found 46 Samsung and 12 HTC brand smartphones.

Yasin who arrived at the airport around 9:30am from Sharjah, brought the phone sets violating import rules, the officials said.

### Youth 'commits suicide' in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth allegedly committed suicide in the capital after a woman rejected his affair proposal yesterday.

Sabbir Ahmad, 20, resident of West Rampura, was an elevator mechanic.

Sabbir fell in love with his relative's wife. Yesterday he went to her house on Wapda road to inform her about his feelings. As she refused him, Sabbir consumed poison that he took with him, his relatives said.

He was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Rampura police are investigating the matter.

### 27 houses gutted in Panchagarh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

At least 27 houses were gutted in two fire incidents in Panchagarh yesterday and on Thursday.

In Nuniapara village under Sadar upazila, fire originated from an earthen oven at a tin-roofed house around 8:00pm engulfed 22 houses on Thursday night.

In Bodthgaon village under Atwary upazila, five thatched houses were gutted in another fire originated from a nearby burning garbage heap yesterday morning.

### Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the 19th death anniversary of Kazi Nuruzzaman, a former member of Dhaka Bar Council and Audit and Accounts officer.

He was a former student leader and first vice president (VP) of Student Union of Saadat College in Tangail. Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

DHAKA TODAY Discussion South Asia Youth for Peace and Prosperity Society will organise a discussion on "Teesta Water Issue- Will it be ever resolved?" Venue: National Press Club, Time: 10:00am Discussion Prothom Alo will organise a discussion on "Tobacco control Act and smoke-free environment". Venue: Prothom Alo office, Time: 10:30am

## Girl gang-raped in Moulvibazar

Rapist jailed in Thakurgaon

CITY DESK

A CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver who raped his teenage passenger along with his two friends in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar on Wednesday was arrested on Thursday night.

As the auto-rickshaw, carrying the 14-year-old girl and his uncle, reached Klivdon point, Dulal Miah, 22, picked up his two friends Ashuk Miah and Nojrul Islam. They fastened the uncle to a tree and raped the girl at Klivdon garden, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

Locals found the girl in the morning and took her to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital. The uncle filed a case.

Meanwhile, a Thakurgaon court sentenced a rapist to life imprisonment and ordered him to bear all the expenses of the baby, conceived by the rape, until she turns 18.

Sohel Rana, 28, of Thakurgaon sadar upazila, raped the girl in Jagannatpur Hazipara village on December 2, 2009 when she was alone at home. Soheli was also fined Tk 30,000, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent.

## THREAT, MANHANDLING AT RU VC'S OFFICE Punishment for AL MP, leader demanded

RU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students of Rajshahi University yesterday demanded exemplary punishment for Awami League lawmaker Omar Faruque Chowdhury for threatening the vice chancellor and the party's Rajshahi city general secretary Dablu Sarker for manhandling teachers. Holding a press conference on the campus, Biplobi Chhatra Moitri called for cancellation of parliament membership of Omar and threatened to launch tough protest if proper action was not taken against the AL leaders.

On Wednesday, Omar stormed into the office of VC Muhammad Mizanuddin, shouted expletives and threatened to get the latter sacked, allegedly after being denied an early audience. Refuting the allegation, the lawmaker later said he had gone there and only talked about lessening a fine the RU authorities imposed on a private medical college.

A day later, AL city leader Dablu Sarker,

accompanied by some 30 aides, entered the VC's office and demanded appointment of the people of their choice in the university administration. A verbal exchange followed when the VC said recruitments must go through certain procedures. At one stage, Dablu and his men manhandled at least five teachers.

Calling the incidents unprecedented in an autonomous institution, the university deans' committee said that it would submit memorandums to Chancellor Abdul Hamid, the prime minister, and the education minister today.

In a statement, Pro-AL teachers' platform Progotoshil Shikkhak Samaj protested the incident and demanded exemplary punishment for the two and their aides.

Prof Biswajit Chanda, dean of the law faculty, told The Daily Star that he felt humiliated at such attacks. Leaders and activists of Chhatra Federation demanded a proper investigation and exemplary punishment for the AL leaders.

## Trader stabbed, robbed of Tk 1.5 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Muggers stabbed a trader and snatched away Tk 1.5 lakh in Umednagar area of Habiganj Sadar on Thursday.

The victim Jahangir Alom, 45, of Chowdhury Bazar area, is undergoing treatment at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Police said four to five masked muggers swooped on Jahangir while he was returning from his workplace around 11:00pm. They stabbed him in different parts of the body with sharp weapons and fled with the money.



The mass communication and journalism (MCJ) alumni of Rajshahi University form a human chain at Santras Birodhi Raju Bhaskarja on Dhaka University campus yesterday, demanding proper investigation into the death of Wahida Sifat, a former MCJ student of RU.

PHOTO: STAR

## Several youths were assaulting a woman

FROM PAGE 4 Rikto, who has started a clothing business after graduating from Jagannath University recently.

He said as his shop was closed yesterday, he came to TSC, and seeing the protest rally, he felt that it was his moral duty to let people know what he saw on that day.

Earlier, five leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, which hosted the rally, gave vivid accounts of the sexual assaults on several women.

But mysteriously enough, police and DU authorities are yet to confirm the incidents.

Addressing the protest rally, Prof Anu Muhammad described the DU administration and the acting proctor as "accomplices" of the perpetrators.

He said Acting Proctor AM Amzad was found playing chess when Chhatra Union leaders went to inform him of the assault but later he denied such incidents to save the culprits.

He asked the DU's incumbent administration to step down.

Liton Nondi, president of DU unit of Chhatra Union who got his right hand broken while trying to stop the assaulters, threatened to continue protest until the proctor resigns.

Abdullah Al Kafee, Communist Party of Bangladesh-backed mayoral candidate in Dhaka, asked the DU VC to resign, as he stopped publication of a photo of the assault in the media.

University teachers, women rights activists, and cultural personalities also addressed the rally, participated by more than a thousand students and general people.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and Bangladesh Chhatra Federation issued separate statements yesterday, protesting sexual harassments at DU, Jahangirnagar University and Jagannath University.

## Rotary, Bondhu Foundation to provide 'Bondhu Chula'

CITY DESK

Rotary International District 3281 and Bondhu Foundation, supported by German International Cooperation (GIZ), signed a memorandum of understanding on Thursday in the capital's Lalmatia to provide 1,500 stoves to marginalised people.

The low-cost "Bondhu Chula" is pollution-free, hygienic, and saves fuels, said a press release.

It produces no smoke in the kitchen, increases energy efficiency by 30 percent, and saves fuel by 50 percent compared to traditional stoves.

Rotary District Governor Safina Rahman and Senior Adviser of GIZ Bangladesh M Khaleq-uz-Zaman signed the agreement, while former Rotary governor Jalal U Ahmed, KM Zainul Abedin, and AKM Shamsuddin, among others, were present.

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## Acupressure treatment will be introduced in education institutions

BSS, Dhaka

Acupressure, an alternative medical treatment, will be introduced in educational institutions of the country for the physical fitness of the students.

Under a year-long project, seminars, workshops and training programmes will be conducted in selected institutions across the country said 'Bangaj Sho-chikitsha Paribar' Chairman Sagor Sagir at a press briefing at Dhaka Reporter Unity yesterday.

## Bumper yield brings smile to watermelon growers

BSS, Panchagarh

Watermelon growers of Panchagarh district are happy with this year's bumper yield and satisfactory price of their produce in local markets.

Farmers are now becoming solvent by selling watermelons, one of the popular summer fruits in Bangladesh, for good prices in local markets as well as to buyers from Dhaka, Rajshahi, Bogra, Khulna and adjoining districts.

Sources at the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Panchagarh said this year watermelons have been grown in 1,000 hectares of land in five upazilas and the total production might cross 40,000 tonnes.

According to market sources, the retail market prices of watermelons varied from

Tk 250 to Tk 70 depending on the size.

"I cultivated watermelons on my three acres of land spending about Tk 2 lakh. I have already earned about Tk 3 lakh and hope to get Tk 7 lakh more by selling the remaining watermelons," said Sunil Chandra, of Dararhat village in Debiganj upazila.

Sandy soil of five upazilas in the district and presence of a good number of rivers and canals, providing irrigation facility, are the key factors that boost the cultivation, said Saiful Islam, assistant agriculture officer of DAE in Debiganj upazila.

The farmers urged the government to set up cold storages at upazila levels to preserve watermelon for other seasons and to take steps to export the juicy fruit abroad.