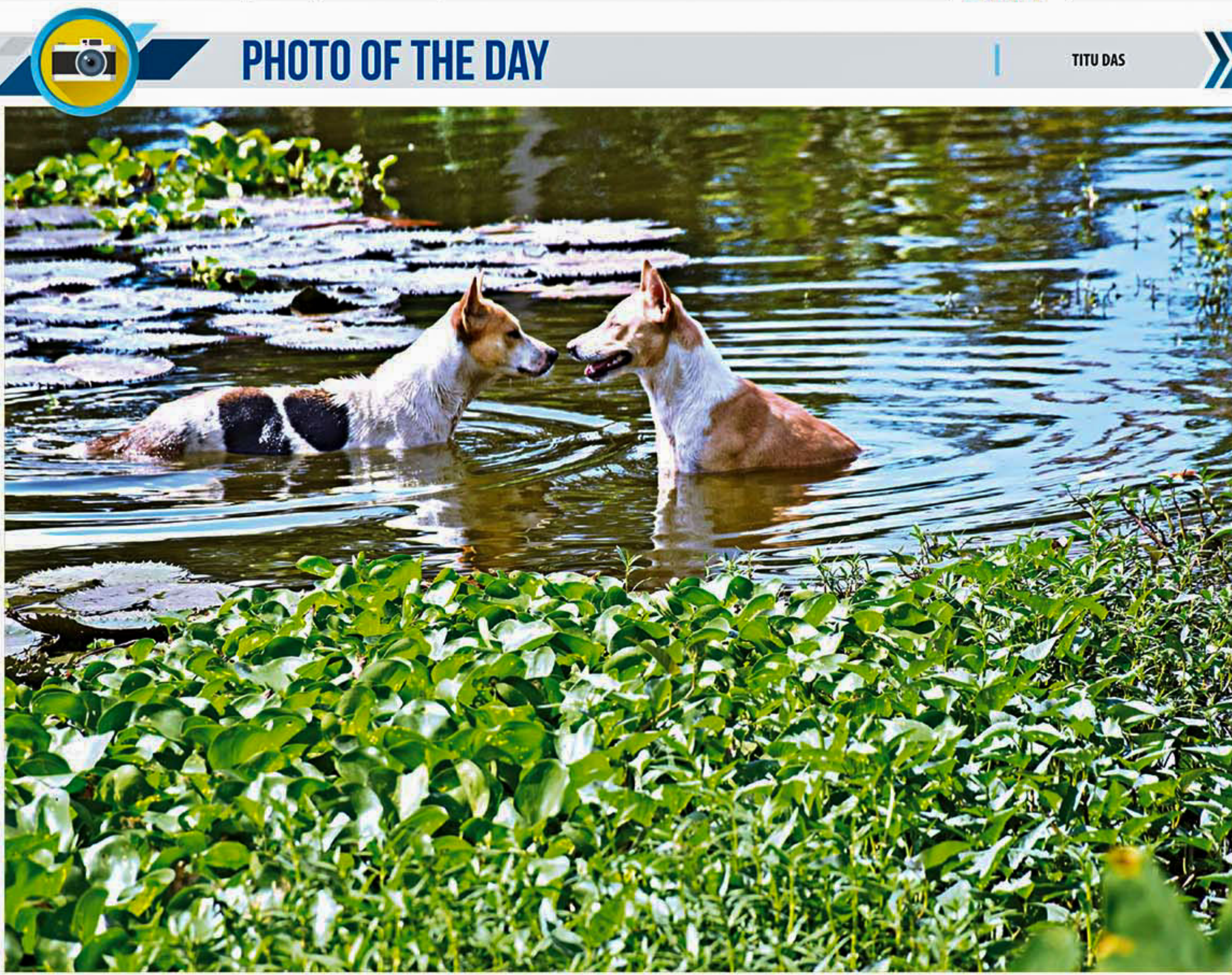


PHOTO OF THE DAY



Two dogs take a playful dip in a pond in Barishal's Rupatoli area, seeking respite from the rising mercury even in the month of monsoon, as the skies remain clear and the sun beats down. The photo was taken recently.

TITU DAS

SEXUAL ASSAULT ON NUSRAT  
Case against Feni  
madrasa principal  
sent to tribunal

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

The case filed over the sexual assault on Feni madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Rafi, who was set on fire and later died at a Dhaka hospital, was transferred to Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal yesterday.

Feni Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Jakir Hossain passed the order on the charge sheet against lone accused Sonagazi Islamia Senior Fazil Madrasa principal Siraj Ud Daula.

He also set July 10 for further hearing of the case by Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, said complainant's lawyer M Shahjahan Saju.

On Wednesday, Police Bureau of Investigation submitted the charge sheet before the judge against Siraj in the case.

Nusrat's mother filed the case accusing Siraj a few days before the madrasa student was set ablaze by a group of five persons on April 6. She lost her battle for life on April 10.

The 18-year-old girl was set afire allegedly for refusing to withdraw the sexual assault case filed against Siraj.

'No one  
can remove  
Bangabandhu  
from history'

Says law minister  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said attempts were made for 28 years to remove Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the history of Bangladesh but no one could do so.

Bangabandhu and Bangladesh are one, and anyone attempting to remove the father of the nation from history will fail, he said.

He said this during a meeting at the law ministry, on preparations to celebrate birth centenary of Bangabandhu.

Anisul told the meeting that various programmes will be organised highlighting Bangabandhu's ideologies, patriotism and profound belief in rule of law and justice.

A supervisory committee and some sub committees, headed by the law minister, were formed at the meeting, a law ministry source said.

Legislative and Parliamentary Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Haque and other officials of the ministry attended the meeting.

Justice Abdul Hasib dies

CITY DESK

Justice Abdul Hasib passed away on Wednesday at 7:30am. He left behind his wife, son, daughter-in-law, grandchildren and other relatives, friends and well-wishers.

He was buried at Banani graveyard. A doa mahfil will be held today after Asr prayers at Gulshan's Azad Mosque, says a press release.

All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend and offer prayers for his departed soul.



ACC letters sparking  
journos' protest no  
longer effective

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC) letters that sparked protest among journalists for posing an apparent threat of legal action against their peers in case of failure to appear before the commission and testify on a report, are no longer effective.

At a meeting with Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh (CRAB), ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmood said that the letters sent to Dipu Sarwar, special correspondent of online news site Bangla Tribune, and Imran Hossain Sumon, senior reporter of TV channel ATN News, have lost their effectiveness.

ACC's Public Relations Officer

Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya confirmed it to the Daily Star.

ACC Director Sheikh Md Fanafillah, who is enquiring bribe allegations brought by suspended Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of police Mizanur Rahman against ACC director Khandaker Enamul Basir, served the letters to Sumon and Dipu to testify as witnesses.

The letter served to Dipu, also general secretary of CRAB, warned about legal action against him if he fails to appear, which sparked protests among the journalist community.

CRAB President Abul Khayer met the ACC chairman at the latter's office to discuss the issue.

Outpatient services begin at  
Sheikh Hasina burn institute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Outdoor services at the Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute, began yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque opened the outdoor unit in a ceremony as the chief guest at Dhaka's Chankharpul around 11am, said Dr Samanta Lal Sen, chief coordinator of the burn units of hospital across the country.

The outdoor unit will remain open for patients from 11am to 2:30pm every day except public holidays.

Besides, the services of indoor unit might be opened within a month, said Samanta Lal Sen.

On October 24 last year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the institute.

The Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute will help treat burn patients and train plastic surgeons to meet the country's requirements.

The 12-storey institute, located next to the Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover, will provide advanced treatment to burn patients, while physicians and nurses will also get trainings to enhance their professional skills.

With state-of-the-art equipment and technology, the institute has 500 beds, 50 intensive care units and 12 operation theatres, making it the largest burn and plastic surgery institute in the world.

On April 6, 2016, Hasina inaugurated the construction work of the institute, by laying its foundation stone.

It was constructed at a cost of Tk 522 crore as part of the current government's plan to provide modern treatment facilities to patients with burn injuries, develop medical experts and conduct research.

There are three blocks in the institute -- hosting the burn unit, plastic surgery unit and academic wing.

STUDENT'S ARM LOST TO ACCIDENT  
Police arrests bus driver

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday arrested the bus driver of 'Mohammad Ali Paribahan' linked to an accident in which Feroz Sarker, a Rajshahi College student, lost his arm recently.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team arrested Faruk Hossain Sarker, 39, from a bazar in Puthia upazila of the district around 7am, Golan Ruhul Kuddus, additional deputy commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) said.

Law enforcers also seized the truck last night from an auto mechanic's shop in the city, the police official said.

Feroz, 25, a master's student of social welfare department at Rajshahi Government College, lost his right arm as a truck coming from the opposite direction hit the back of a bus he was in at Katakali

area on the outskirts of Rajshahi city on June 28.

Feroz had kept his hand out of the bus window, according to police.

Doctors at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital said they managed to stop the bleeding from the injury, but could not save his arm.

Feroz's father Mahfuzur Rahman filed a case with Katakali Police Station accusing unknown persons.

Police gathered CCTV footage of adjacent areas and detected the bus as Feroz could tell police that the name of the bus begins with "M". They then kept watch on the city's garages and auto shops to find the truck.

The bus driver also identified the truck, police said.

Police have identified the truck driver and were trying to arrest him.

1.2 million children to be  
trained in online safety

Unicef signs deal with GP, Telenor

BSS, Dhaka

Some 1.2 million children and adolescents of the country will be trained to stay safe online, under a project titled "Strengthening and Scaling Child Online Protection in Bangladesh".

Unicef yesterday signed a partnership agreement with Bangladeshi telecom operator Grameenphone and Norway-based Telenor at a ceremony in a Dhaka hotel.

"All children in Bangladesh must be able to use the internet safely, by being equipped with skills and being able to use the internet in an enabling environment," said Unicef Deputy Representative Dara Johnston.

Under the initiative, 400,000 parents, teachers and caregivers will be trained to support child online protection, as some parents prevent their children from accessing the

internet due to fears about what they could be exposed to, and this denies children the opportunity to benefit from the internet.

"We hope this partnership will institutionalise the key top tips about child online protection and establish the foundations of ensuring that these become a key part of education for children in Bangladesh," added Dara.

The project will also reach 20 million people through an integrated communications campaign, which supports awareness of child online protection and will engage at least 50,000 people in taking supportive action.

It will also convene policy stakeholders to agree on a plan to mainstream awareness on child online protection in Bangladesh.

Ole Bjorn Sjulstad, chief corporate affairs officer of Grameenphone, said,

"As we move into the age of data, online safety has become a global issue for people of all ages, especially children, how it's impacting our society and our future generations. But we cannot ignore how the internet has become a necessity for a child's learning, development and growth."

The partnership will also address offline protection issues through its focus on creating sustainable and embedded solutions inside schools. This will support creating a forum or Safe Clubs within participating schools where child protection issues can be addressed.

"As part of our global commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reducing Inequalities, we are committed to educating four million children on child online safety across our markets

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon formed a human chain in front of Bangladesh Betar's Sylhet office on Wednesday, inset, protesting felling of 143 trees by the broadcasting agency on its premises, allegedly without clearance from the Forest Department.

PHOTO: SHEKH NASIR



Workers of Bangladesh Railway check train tracks for faults or structural weaknesses to fix in the capital's Tejgaon. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

President for  
students' union  
polls at all univs

BSS, Dhaka

President M Abdul Hamid yesterday stressed holding polls to students' unions of all colleges and universities of the country -- like the Ducusu polls -- to build efficient and proper future leadership of the country.

The head of the state expressed the hope as Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman called on him at Bangabhaban, the president's Press Secretary Joynal Abedin told the news agency.

The president, also chancellor of the university, was apprised at the meeting of overall academic and administrative activities of the institution by the vice chancellor.

The VC informed the president about the programme, marking the 98th founding anniversary of the DU with the theme this year being "Qualitative education: Barriers

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

BMDA to hold conference  
on fighting droughts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) will host a two-day conference in Rajshahi starting July 6, to find strategies to fight droughts, which has put the region's food and water security in question.

Agriculture Minister Dr Mohammad Abdur Razzaque is scheduled to attend the conference, which is divided into two parts -- a seminar with all stakeholders on the first day and a scientific discussion among experts the following day, said Dr Akram Hossain Chowdhury, chairman of the authority, at a press conference held at its conference room yesterday.

Other than local experts from across the country, experts from Asian Development Bank and World Bank will also join the conference, which is titled "Agro

Eco Innovation Research Platform Conference", he added.

Contacted, eminent hydrologist Prof Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan -- who is going to present the keynote paper at the conference -- said continued depletion of groundwater and decreasing rainfall has impacted irrigation-dependant agriculture and ecology of the hard Barind region covering Rajshahi, Naogaon and Chapainawabganj districts.

If the agriculture reliant people of the region are not given proper strategies to fight back the water crisis, it would impact food security, he said, adding that some 45 percent of these people play a role in 15 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

He said the conference would derive projects such as cultivating

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