

Ragging took heavy toll on Bu et students

Members of probe body find many victims suffer from depression

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Ragging in the dormitories of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Bu et) had been going on for a long time and many victim students became depressed and mentally imbalanced, probes have revealed.

The academic life of the students was badly affected due to ragging, said three probe committees, which were formed by the university to investigate into such incidents at Ahsanullah Hall, Suhrawardy Hall and Titumir Hall.

“We had been surprised and shocked to hear the statements of the victims,” said a member of an investigation committee wishing not to be named.

He said the committee members talked to some victims from the three halls.

The three committees, which were set up last month following the murder of Bu et student Abrar Fahad, submitted their reports to the vice chancellor of the university last week. The reports were reviewed by the Board of Residence and Discipline Committee.

The Board took action based on reports on the students of two halls and asked the other probe committee to reinvestigate the ragging incidents at Titumir Hall.

Asked about the observations of the probe bodies, Prof Mizanur Rahman, director of the Directorate of Students’ Welfare of Bu et, refused to comment on the issue.

“I will not name the members of the probe committees

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Numerous placards have been put up near hotel InterContinental Dhaka, marking today’s triennial council of Dhaka South City Awami League. The content of the placards is a testimony of personal campaigns by the ruling party men. Such display of placards is spoiling the beatification of many areas in the city. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

WATER TRANSPORT Strike may disrupt cargo handling at Ctg port

DWAIPAYAN BARIUA, Ctg

Business owners in Chattogram port feared that bulk cargo management would be disrupted, putting an impact on the supply chain, as a faction of water transport workers announced work abstention for an indefinite period since yesterday midnight.

Bangladesh Water Transport Workers Federation (BWTWF) announced the countrywide work abstention to press home their 11-point demand that include implementation of wage scale 2016, issuance of identity cards, service books, appointment letters.

Demands of providing food allowance, landing passes for workers on India-bound vessels, stopping extortion and trials of attackers were also made in the 11 points.

Earlier in April, BWTWF called a strike to press home their same demands.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



PM to join COP 25 in Spain

Flies to Madrid tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka for Madrid, Spain tomorrow morning to attend the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP25) to be held from December 2-13 under the UN framework convention on climate change.

A special flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines will take off from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) carrying the PM and her entourage around 10:00am.

It will land at Madrid

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2
RELATED STORY ON PAGE 2



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 30

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-10 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00
JAMAAT 5-45 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

LONDON BRIDGE TERROR INCIDENT

Suspect shot dead after stabbing spree

Several wounded, some seriously; cops say suspect had fake explosive device

REUTERS, London

British police yesterday shot dead a man who had strapped a fake bomb to his body and stabbed a number of people in what they said was a terrorism incident in the London Bridge area of the capital.

Police said they had been alerted at just before 2:00 pm to a stabbing at a premises near London Bridge, the scene of a deadly attack by Islamist militants two years ago.

“A male suspect was shot by specialist armed officers from the City of London police and I can confirm that this suspect died at the scene,” the United Kingdom’s top counter-terrorism officer,

Neil Basu, told reporters.

“A number of other people received injuries during this incident,” Basu said. “We believe a device that was strapped to the body of the suspect was a hoax explosive device.”

A video posted on Twitter showed a group of about half a dozen men wrestling with someone on the ground on the sidewalk of the bridge. One of them backs away from the scene carrying a knife.

As he looks towards the melee, an armed police officer drags another person away from the man on the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



A member of police assists an injured man near London Bridge after a knife attack yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

BRUNEI CRACKDOWN 9 Bangladeshi workers sent back home

PORIMOL PALMA

The Brunei authorities have deported nine Bangladeshis in the past one month, during a crackdown on labour exploitation and human trafficking.

Two other Bangladeshis allegedly involved in the crimes have recently been arrested and are awaiting deportation, while five accused are on the run, said officials of the Bangladesh high commission in the Southeast Asian country.

The crackdown began after the Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah had expressed his dissatisfaction over irregularities in the recruitment of foreign workers in the country, reports local daily Borneo Bulletin.

In an unscheduled visit to the country’s immigration and labour departments on October 8, the sultan raised questions about the enforcement of laws and regulations of foreign workers, says the daily.

Following the visit, the authorities blacklisted 31 companies under Bruneian-Bangladeshi joint ownerships for their

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Scientists produce CO2-eating bacteria



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Bacteria which normally survive on sugar have been genetically altered to make them capable of surviving through consumption of carbon dioxide and could be harnessed to help produce sustainable supplies of food and fuel, scientists claim.

Over the course of several months, researchers in Israel created an E coli strain which, through genetic manipulation, consumes CO2 for energy instead of organic compounds.

The team used “metabolic rewiring”, to help transform the E coli’s diet to make it consume CO2 in a similar manner to a plant.

This involved adding genes which metabolise CO2, and removing genes which usually process sugar compounds.

“From a basic scientific perspective, we wanted to see if such a major transformation in the diet of bacteria – from dependence on sugar to the synthesis of all their biomass from CO2 – is possible,” said first author Shmuel Gleizer, a Weizmann Institute of Science postdoctoral fellow.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

No sign of fall in onion, veg prices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With onion prices still high, various seasonal vegetables have also become dearer, hitting consumers in the capital hard.

Although ministers and government officials repeatedly said prices of onion would drop soon, the consumers were yet to get any respite.

Officials of the commerce ministry said there was a shortage of onion in the market as the expected quantity of imported onion was yet to arrive.

Yesterday, local onions were selling between Tk 220 and 240 a kg in the retail market and the imported ones between Tk 150 and Tk 200 a kg.

Abdul Momen, an onion trader at Karwan Bazar, said in the last two days onion prices came down by Tk 10 a kg in the wholesale market.

Cauliflower, cucumber, cabbage, bottle gourd, bitter gourd, and other seasonal vegetables are available in the capital’s kitchen market, but these were priced between Tk 50 and Tk 100 a kg.

Visiting various kitchen markets yesterday, including in Mirpur-1, Kazipara, and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Registration of Canadians Abroad (ROCA)

We encourage you to sign up for the Registration of Canadians Abroad (ROCA) service if you are traveling to or residing in Bangladesh. ROCA enables us to reach you in case of an emergency abroad or to inform you about a family emergency in Canada. Sign up online at travel.gc.ca/register or register by mail, fax or in person. For more information, contact the High Commission of Canada to Bangladesh in Dhaka:

United Nations Road, Baridhara Dhaka, 1212, Bangladesh
Phone (88-02) 5566 8444
Fax number: (88-02) 5566 8423
Email: dhaka.consular@international.gc.ca

Inscription des Canadiens à l'étranger (ROCA)

Nous vous encourageons à utiliser le service d'Inscription des Canadiens à l'étranger (ROCA) si vous voyagez ou séjournez au Bangladesh. Nous pourrions ainsi communiquer avec vous en cas d'urgence à l'étranger ou vous informer d'une urgence familiale au Canada. Inscrivez-vous en ligne à voyage.gc.ca/ininscription, ou par courrier, télécopieur ou en personne. Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec le haut-commissariat du Canada à Dacca, au Bangladesh

Chemin des Nations Unies, Baridhara, Dacca, Bangladesh
Téléphone : 88 (02) 5566 8444
Télécopieur : 88 (02) 5566 8423
Email: dhaka.consular@international.gc.ca

আমরা আনন্দের সাথে জানাচ্ছি যে, সরকারের সার্বিক উন্নয়নের বিশ্বাসস্থি হিসেবে, কোটস্ বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড, রপ্তানিখাতে 'স্পিনিং এবং টেক্সটাইল' শিল্পে ধারাবাহিক ভাবে তিনবার শ্রেষ্ঠ করদাতা হিসেবে বাংলাদেশ সরকার হতে সম্মাননা গ্রহণ করেছে।

সফল্যের এই অনন্য ধারায়, কোটস্ বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড তার সকল ক্রেতা, কর্মীবৃন্দ, সরবরাহকারী বৃন্দ, পৃষ্ঠপোষকগণ সহ সকল শুভানুধ্যায়ীকে জানাচ্ছে আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ ও শুভেচ্ছা।