

**Ashok Kumar passes away**  
AP, New Delhi

Ashok Kumar, the grandfather of Indian cinema, who dazzled in approximately 250 films -- including mushy romances and nail-biting thrillers -- died Tuesday after prolonged illness. He was 90.

Kumar, honoured with the Dada Saheb Phalke award, Indian cinema's biggest honour, is survived by his daughter Preeti Ganguly, Press Trust of India reported. He was suffering from ailments related to old age and was confined to the bed for months, the news agency reported.

Kumar worked for seven decades in the Indian movie industry, the world's largest.

Kumar, a law graduate whose real name was Kumud Ganguly, c h a n g e d

**Terrorist Munna arrested**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of police arrested a terrorist accused in 14 cases under Public Safety Act and Explosive Act on Sunday night.

Detectives raided Goshabari, Mauchak in the city's Ramna area at 9:45 pm and arrested Manu Miah alias Munna, 38.

Munna, and his accomplices threw patrol bomb on a Noakhali bound passenger's bus on December 4, 1995 that left eight people killed and many injured, said a DMP press release.

Munna, his brother Billal and 17 others were chargesheeted in connection with the bomb attack, the press release added.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Dec 11		5-12 pm
Dec 12	6-32 am	

Prayer Timings		
Dec 11		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-06	5-12
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-16	5-22
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

**PM leaves for Saudi Arabia**  
UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia left for Saudi Arabia yesterday on a four-day visit to perform holy umrah.

She flew by a Jeddah-bound flight of Bangladesh Biman from Zia International Airport at 4.41 pm.

During her stay there, the prime minister will perform umrah at Makkah Monwara and offer Fateha at the Rowza Mubarak of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad SM at Madina.

Family members, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Muhammad Nasiruddin and political secretary to Prime Minister Mossadek Ali, among others, accompanied her.

Cabinet ministers, political secretary to Prime Minister Haris Chowdhury, diplomats, chiefs of the



Ministers and top officials of the government and the Saudi Arabian Embassy saw off Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the Zia International Airport prior to her departure for Saudi Arabia yesterday.

**Contractor abducted allegedly by JCD men**  
DU CORRESPONDENT

An assistant of a contractor at a construction site on the Dhaka University campus was kidnapped allegedly by activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on Sunday night after he refused to pay toll of Tk 5 lakh.

The JCD activists demanded the toll for the release of the man, identified as Shameem Ahmed. The group earlier on Friday night had demanded Tk 5 lakh from the contractor in charge of renovation and extending works of Rokeya Hall but as he refused to oblige, his assistant was kidnapped in retaliation.

Campus sources said, the JCD men abducted the assistant contractor after iftar and took him to Zahurul Haq Hall where they confined him for a few hours.

The abductors later released

**DUTA polls today**  
UNB, Dhaka

The election to the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) will be held today (Tuesday).

Polling will be held at the DU Club from 10 am to 2 pm without any break. Some 1,250 teachers are expected to cast their votes in the election.

The BNP and Jamaat-backed White Panel and the Awami League backed Blue Panel are directly contesting for the 15-member executive committee.

The left-leaning Pink Panel remains out of the race this time.

In the election, Prof AFM Yusuf Haidar and Prof Earul Kabir are

**Muggers gun down trader, snatch money at Pallabi**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Miscreants shot dead a trader and snatched away Tk 44,000 from him at Kalapani in city's Pallabi area yesterday morning.

Three others were also injured during the attack.

The dead man, identified as Mosarraf Hossain Mosu, 26, was a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist, police said. He was the son of Mohammad Hossain Miju, a residence of Beguntali in Pallabi. Mirpur section 12 area.

Mohammad Asraf, a videocassette shop employee, Abdul Hamid, an employee at a hairdresser shop and Raju Ahmed, a handloom factory employee were also injured during the firing by the miscreants.

Family sources said that Hossain left his residence in the morning for the embroidery shop of his brother-in-law Salauddin where he collected Tk 50,000. He then started for his own embroidery shop. On the way he stopped at the saloon to get a shave.

Hossain came under attack as he was about to leave the saloon. The unidentified men walked into the shop and shot him before taking away Tk. 44,000 from him, police said. The hoodlums fired indiscriminately on the other men in the shop at the time and also exploded crackers him.

Hossain was shot in his chest and stomach. He was taken to the National Heart Foundation Hospital and later shifted to the Dhaka Medical College

**Rob murder case to be reinvestigated**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

AL mayoral candidate S M A Rob murder case will be reinvestigated.

Necessary preparations in this regard are being taken, according to a reliable source in KMP.

Rob's eldest son Arifur Rahman Mithu submitted a petition to law minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed on December 5 seeking reinvestigation into the murder case. In the petition Mithu alleged the real culprits have not been chargesheeted in the case.

Arifur Rahman Mithu, complainant of the murder case, joined BNP

**Terrorists allegedly abduct Christian family members**  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Panic gripped minority community at Boraigram upazila following the alleged abduction of three members of a Christian family on Sunday by so-called ruling party cadres.

The abducted are Rabi Korai, 30, Shyamol Korai, 28, and their father Jimi Korai of Chhatiangachha in the upazila.

Family sources said they had earlier managed to foil three attempts by terrorists to abduct Jimi's daughter Shufala Korai, an SSC examinee.

Earlier on Saturday night, terrorists raided Christianpara at Bonpara and beat up one Probat Rozario, 50, when he refused to give them money for buying liquor.

Since the October 1 election some 'identified' terrorists have been routinely intimidating the 50 Christian families living in Chhatiangachha, it was alleged.

They also forcibly took away aman paddy belonging to many of these families, sources said on condition of anonymity.

Villagers seeking anonymity alleged that the terrorists use their so-called office at Bonpara bazar as a 'torture cell' where they bring their victims and beat them up for their refusal to comply with their demands. The terrorists also send notices to villagers ordering them to meet specific demands.

**Missing of container from Kamalapur ICD 11 including 7 top CPA officials suspended**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Ministry of Shipping has suspended 11 persons, including seven top officials of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) following missing of a 40 feet container from the Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Kamalapur, Dhaka.

They have also been accused of dilly-dallying over the investigation into the matter.

The ministry sent the suspension order to CPA chairman through a fax message on Saturday at the directive of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, port sources said.

The suspended officials are

Director (Traffic) Mohsin Sarkar, Deputy Traffic Manager (DTM) Moazzem Hossain, Chief Auditor Harun Meah, Assistant Traffic Manager (ATM) Parvez, ATM Ayar Ahmad, ATM Mofizul Islam and Deputy Director (Security) Maqsudur Rahman.

Besides, one gate sergeant and three other staffs were also suspended.

Meanwhile, CPA chairman Commodore Golam Rabbani has already sent a letter to the ministry on Sunday to review the suspension order, port sources said.

Leaders of the labour organisations in a fax message to the minis-

try yesterday (Monday) opposed the suspension order. They urged the ministry to launch an impartial investigation in the incident.

According to sources the container containing cargo worth Tk 70 crore has been missing since July 23 this year.

Following the incident, the CPA authority had formed a three-member committee headed by Chief Auditor Harun Meah to probe the incident. The committee was asked to submit report within two weeks.

But the committee had submitted its 265-page report after 33 days.

**Lab tests find 50pc of food items adulterated**  
UNB, Dhaka

At least 50 per cent of food items examined in the Public Health Laboratory (PHL) was found adulterated, a public analyst made the shocking disclosure on the market ro here yesterday.

Taking part in a roundtable discussion on counterfeited and chemist of the adulterated commodities and consumer rights, Abdul Mannan, a PHL informed that the laboratory tests found almost "zero" per cent of ghee to be pure.

He said 80 per cent of both turmeric and iodized salts was found adulterated. Poisonous items were detected in the turmeric while the level of iodine in salt was either less or more than the permissible quantity.

The career-chemist also said toxic chemicals were detected in mustard oil and no honey was pure. "There was molasses in honey," he said.

With such a grave situation prevailing, State Minister for Commerce Barkatullah Bulu

informed the roundtable that a long-awaited law to protect consumer rights would be placed in the next session of the parliament.

He, however, mentioned that there had been laws without their execution. "The government will make sure that everyone abide by the law," he told the meet.

Dhaka University's Institute of Business Administration Prof Dr Anwar Hossain conducted the lively discussion organized by the Consumers Association of Bangladesh.

The dialogue was organised to mark the World Human Rights Day observed across the country yesterday, as the organisers believe violation of consumer rights is also infringement on HR.

As other speakers blamed non-implementation of laws to ensure consumers' rights, Dr Atiur Rahman cited some reason like formulating laws without public opinion, culture of violating rules and lack of will by the enforcing authorities, specially the government, for the prevailing situation.

**Mockbul's detention HC issue rule nisi on govt**  
UNB, Dhaka

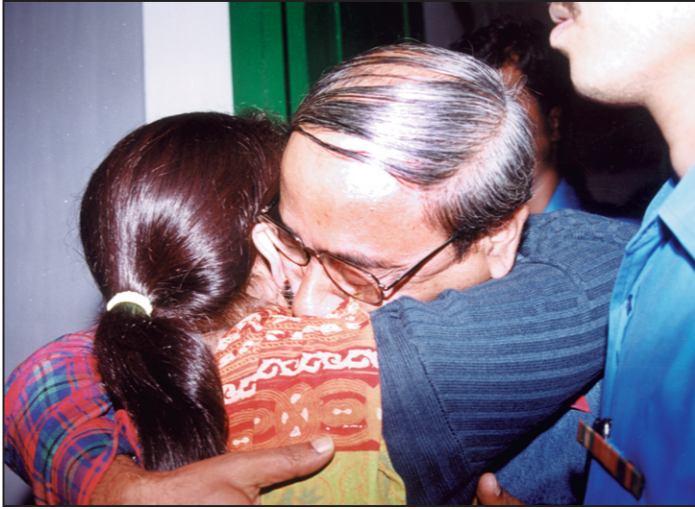
The High Court yesterday issued rule nisi upon the government to show cause within 7 days as to why detention of Mockbul Hossain, former Awami League MP, should not be declared illegal and without lawful authority.

The division bench comprising Justice MA Matin and Justice Marziul Haq issued the rule on a writ petition challenging the detention of Mockbul Hossain.

Mockbul was picked up by Detective Police from his Mohammadpur residence on the night of December 1 and showed arrest under Section 54 CrPC. Subsequently he was given detention for 30 days under the Special Powers Act.

The police in its forwarding note to the court said Mockbul Hossain held a meeting with Awami League workers in his residence on the night of December 1 for creating disturbances during Dec 2 hartal called by his party.

Barrister Amirul Islam appeared on behalf of the petitioner.



Parental pull... Shahriar Kabir, noted writer and columnist, hugs his daughter in an emotional reunion on the court premises yesterday. Kabir's family members were not allowed to meet him since his detention in late November.

**Shahriar remanded for interrogation**  
COURT CORRESPONDENT

Writer and columnist Shahriar Kabir, an accused in a sedition case, was placed on a four-day remand yesterday for interrogation.

Second Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Muhammad Shafiqul Azim Khan Siddiqui passed the order following a petition by the investigation officer of the case.

The court also rejected a bail petition and a petition seeking stay order on his remand, submitted by the defence lawyers.

Shahriar, also the acting president of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, was taken to the CMM's court custody at 12:30 pm and then produced before the court for hearing on the bail and the remand petitions.

During the hour-long hearing, former Metropolitan PP Mohammad Quamrul Islam termed Shahriar a great freedom fighter who fought for the country's independence in 1971.

He also said Shahriar was suffering from heart disease and had gone to Kolkata, India for treatment.