

The Daily Star

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Hundreds of motorised and non-motorised vehicles are stuck in a long tailback on the Mirpur Road near the Gauchhia Market in the city yesterday. Heavy rushes of homebound commuters and the unplanned traffic system create snarl-ups on the road almost every evening during Ramadan.

Election time for AL central body again

Grassroots to elect committee after two decades

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The main opposition Awami League (AL) has opted for direct election to form its new central committee in the upcoming triennial central council.
The decision was made at an important meeting of the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) in the city yesterday.
This would be the first time since 1981 the AL would have a new central committee to be elected by grassroots councillors. Since the return of party President Sheikh Hasina in 1981 ending her six-year self-exile, the party councillors in

the previous councils of 1983, 1987, 1992 and 1997 delegated power to the party head Hasina to select party leaders including the general secretary.
The major policy shift, which political analysts view as fallout of the party's debacle in the last general election, has been widely acclaimed in the party rank and file. It is also seen as a major step toward the pursuit for practising democracy within the party.
The process of democratisation within the party began earlier this year when the party succeeded in electing new leaders for its student wing, Bangladesh Chhatra League

(BCL), through direct polling by student councillors from across the country.
Sheikh Hasina chaired yesterday's two-and-a-half-hour meeting of the 67-strong ALCWC at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue headquarters.
Later, AL presidium member Abdul Jalil briefed newsmen about the outcome. Jalil said a three-member election commission was formed to oversee the voting in the coming council, dates of which have been deferred.
ASHK Sadique heads the election commission, while its two other members are...
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Cabinet okays speedy trial tribunal bill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The cabinet yesterday approved the Speedy Trial Tribunal Bill, 2002 aiming for quick disposal of trial for six major criminal offence—murder, rape, illegal arms, explosives, drugs and hoarding.
The bill was approved at a regular weekly meeting of the cabinet held at the Prime Minister's Office with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair.
The Speedy Trial Tribunal Bill, 2002 is expected to be placed at the Jatiya Sangsad on the first day of the winter session beginning November 14.
Earlier on Sunday, the government formed six tribunals in the six divisional headquarters of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet to try the six varieties of cases.
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Shooters also to surrender arms

UNB, Dhaka
The ongoing residential shooting camp for the ensuing SAF Games may be suspended within a couple of days as the national shooters would have to deposit all their arms and ammunition as per government orders.
A total of 20 shooters, including seven women, now in the national camp in dress-rehearsal for the biggest sports carnival of the region are facing uncertainty about continuity of the camp.
Shortly after issuance of the government edict for surrender of all legal or licensed arms, President of Bangladesh Shooting Federation Abdul Maveed Chowdhury met the home minister with a letter regarding...
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Tremor jolts Ctg again

UNB, Dhaka
A mild earthquake shook the port city of Chittagong at 03 hours 58 minutes 28 seconds yesterday.
The earthquake measuring 4.05 on the Richter scale lasted 17 seconds.
The distance of the epicentre was 152 km from Chittagong Seismic Observatory, said a press release.

Masked men rob bank in daylight

Tk 13.28 lakh taken away from Tejgaon branch of Pubali Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Masked robbers stormed into a private bank in the city yesterday and took away Tk 13.28 lakh in daylight.
The daring robbery took place at the Tejgaon Satrasta Crossing branch of the Pubali Bank.

According to witnesses and bank officials, six to seven robbers entered the bank at about 12:45pm in guise of clients. On a busy Ramadan day, nobody took notice of their arrival in a microbus.
Suddenly, they slid masks over their faces, closed the main entrance to the bank and brandished pistols and revolvers to keep the bankers and clients silent, a bank official said.

Police said the security guard of the bank, Abdur Rashid, was not at the entrance at the time. "He was busy counting money with a cashier," Tejgaon police told The Daily Star.
The robbers then herded all the 13 employees and officials and some clients into the vault room and switched off power supply.
Thereafter, they went to the cash counter and stashed the money in a cotton bag. Quickly, they came out and sped away through the busy industrial area in the microbus.
It took them barely 10 minutes to clean out the bank.
Sources said the bank manager, Kazi Tofail Hossain, was not in office during the robbery. And a shock was awaiting him when he returned.
"I found nobody in the bank. It was all empty. I called out for the security guard, but he was not there. Later, I heard people in the vault room, went there and found the staff...
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Banks off guard

STAR REPORT
The government's recent order on individuals to deposit licensed arms has made banks feel insecure, as many private security companies who are hired by banks and use arms under individual licence have to throw their arms down.
A bankers' meeting yesterday decided to communicate to the home ministry the security threat the government decision poses for the banks.
Although the government decision is not applicable to the institutions, many who hire the service of the private security companies feel exposed to security glitch.
The meeting, chaired by Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, observed that if these arms were deposited, security of some banks would be heavily compromised.
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73-year old picked up by army dies in jail custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
An elderly person, who was picked up by the army on November 2 morning and handed over to police later in the day after interrogation, died Sunday evening. He was in jail custody.
Our Tangail correspondent reports that an army team picked up Abul Kashem, a 73-year-old farmer of Bhagura village under the Dhanbari police station, from his residence at around 6:00am on November 2.
Next day, he was produced before a first-class magistrate's court in Tangail, which sent him to the Tangail District Jail.
On November 5, Kashem fell sick and was sent to the district hospital where he died Sunday evening.
His body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy. According to the coroner, Kashem died of cardiac arrest. The autopsy was done in presence of...
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Magistrate Abdul Berek.
His body was handed over to his family member yesterday afternoon.
Local people say that although involved in village politics, Kashem did not belong to any political party.
However, army sources in Dhaka claim Kashem was a notorious criminal.
Local sources say Kashem was arrested under section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and no specific charge was framed against him till yesterday.
Kashem's death pushes the toll in the ongoing Operation Clean Heart to 23.
Meanwhile, in the last 24 hours ending 8:00am yesterday, the army arrested 78 people, including 19 listed criminals, and seized 15 arms, including four revolvers, three pipe guns and five shotguns. The troops also seized 5,270 rounds of different types of bullet.
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Probe report on Faruq's death to be delayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Submission of a probe report on the death of notorious criminal 'Kala' Faruq may take a little more time, as the five-member committee wants to investigate further into the death, home ministry sources said yesterday.
The head of the committee, Joint Secretary Kamal Uddin Ahmed, updated higher authorities on the investigation and sought more time to prepare a detail report, they said.
When contacted yesterday, Kamal Uddin told The Daily Star that he discussed with higher authorities...
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Rallies around JS banned from tomorrow

BSS, Dhaka
The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) have banned carrying of arms, explosives and other harmful materials, as well as rallies, processions and agitation in and around the Sangsad Bhaban for maintaining peace during the coming parliament session.
The ban will be effective from Wednesday noon until the end of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) session that begins on November 14, said a DMP press release.
The restriction covers areas including those from Mohakhali Crossing to Bangla Motor crossing via Old Airport on Mymensingh...
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Depression

UNB, Dhaka
The depression over southwest Bay and adjoining west central Bay yesterday moved slightly northwards.
It was centred about 1380 km southwest of Chittagong port, 1330 km southwest of Cox's Bazar and 1220 km south-southwest of Mongla port yesterday noon, said a Met Office special bulletin.
The depression is likely to intensify further and move in a north or northwesterly direction.
Maximum sustained wind speed within 44 km of the depression...
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Hearing adjourned till Nov 18

COURT CORRESPONDENT
Latifur Rahman, second prosecution witness in the Shazneen Rape Case and father of the victim, was cross-examined for the fourth day yesterday by defence lawyers of three of the accused—Hasan, Minu and Parvin.
The cross-examination took place in the Second Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka.
Earlier, Latifur Rahman was cross-examined by lawyers of three other accused in the case.
After the cross-examination for about two hours yesterday, Judge Kazi Rahamat Ullah adjourned the hearing till November 18, as cross-examination of the witness will continue.
During yesterday's cross-examination, the defence lawyers asked Latifur Rahman some "contradictory questions" on his state-...
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Sehri, Iftar timings			
Ramadan	Nov	Sehri	Iftar
6	12		5-17
7	13	4-50	5-17
8	14	4-50	5-17