

**READERS**  
respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Monday's *The Daily Star* report headlined 'All fingers pointed at one man'.

**Nila**  
Your right to know is the stated mission of The Daily Star. So why does it not say who is the man behind the stock market scam? Not acceptable!

**Saimon Haq**  
This time we want to see delivery of justice. No matter who or how much influential he is. One cannot become rich overnight when he has a troubled past, bogged down with loans. He sure has Aladdin's lamp to come to that extent and we know what the lamp is in this country.

**Faqrul, USA**  
Unfortunately we cannot speculate who this lucky businessman is because we do not have his personal or local profile. We feel sorry for being ignorant about him due to lack of information.

My question to the media is, what prevented them to publish the name for our information who are living abroad but keenly interested to see Bangladesh as a democratic country in letter and spirit, which I doubt, and running under a good governance, which I also very much doubt.

Examples are round the corner. The best one is the parliament being neglected by the party in power and strategic prolonged abstention by the opposition to force the government to change its policies not acceptable to them and to make the government inoperative. The reasons are childish, out of whim and often for personal causes.

Article 70 of the constitution needs immediate review and amendment for the need of 2011.

**Nasirullah Mridha, USA**  
If that businessman is an aide of our premier and holds an advisory post, why does our prime minister loathe taking any disciplinary action? To oversight the interest of lakhs of investors and favouring one person to siphon off crores of taka suggests that the governments is not serious about our small investors.

**Kazi Nasim Ahmed**  
If they have adequate proof against him then why cases were not filed? How long will this blame game continue without any concrete proof? This is even not good for the market. Specific charges could be brought against anyone, as due to Central Depository Bangladesh Limited, everything is now crystal clear.

**Kazi Salim**  
It does not matter to which party he belongs. If the accusations prove correct, he should be taken into custody immediately to face criminal charges and be punished with confiscation of his entire business and distribution among the shareholders. Others involved should be seriously investigated and severe punishment should be handed down to all involved in this criminal subversive of playing with the country's economy.

**Zaman**  
We have been hearing that someone is scamming the market but why does not anyone or any newspaper reveal his identity?

**Sultan**  
Very strange report! Why is his name hidden!! Do you fear him? You publish names of many suspects but hide some.

**Dolon**  
Allegations based on perception will not work anymore. Such issues need to be proven. If we fail to identify, cure and prevent the root cause of the capital market disaster like in 1996, we are bound to face fiercer situations in the future.

**Swapan Kumar Sutradhar**  
This is a black spot on the ruling party. Supporters of the ruling party are also shocked.

**Md Touhidul Islam**  
Ambiguous report. Who is the one?

**KOKO'S TAX EVASION**  
Hearing on charge framing February 27

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed February 27 for hearing on charge framing against Arafat Rahman Koko, the youngest son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in a tax evasion case.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Hoque of the Senior Special Judge's Court fixed the date as Koko's lawyer failed to submit any stay order on the trial proceedings from the High Court.

On June 9 last year, the lawyer had earlier filed a writ petition with the HC challenging the legality of the case.



**Discussion**  
Bangla Academy will hold a discussion. Time: 3:30pm, Venue: Bangla Academy seminar room.

**Rally**  
Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) will organise a rally. Time: 10:30am, Venue: Mukhtangon.

**Human Chain**  
Common Interest Group Against Cigarette will form a human chain. Time: 3:30pm, Venue: Manik Mia Avenue (in front of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban).

**Discussion**  
Shikkhak Karmochari Oikkyo Jote will hold a discussion. Time: 6:00pm, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

**Meeting**  
Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) will hold a view exchange meeting. Time: 11:00am, Venue: Spectra Convention Centre, Gulshan 1.

**Human Chain**  
Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) will form



Winner of 'Lux-Channel i Super Star' contest Rakhi, centre; first runner-up Moushumi, right; and second runner-up Nisha, left; are all smiles at the end of the final round of the competition held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**Rajpunnah begins today**

BSS, Dhaka

Rajpunnah, a traditional royal festival of indigenous people in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), begins today at Khagrachhari Rajbari (King's house).

Preparations to celebrate the first Rajpunnah of the eight king of Khagrachhari Mong Circle have been completed, said Kongjori Chowdhury, convenor of the festival committee, to the agency yesterday.

The three-day festival will be concluded on January 26.

State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipangkar Talukder and Bir Bahadur, MP, are expected to be present at the function.

**SHERPUR UP MEMBER MURDER**  
One to die, 9 get life

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced one person to death and nine others to life in jail for killing Abul Kashem, a union parishad (UP) member in Sherpur in July 2004.

The convict with death is Mohammad Akabbar Ali while Abdur Sattar Lebu, Abdur Rashid, Joynal Abedin, Ruhul Amin, Helal Uddin, Nure Alam, Moklechh Miah, Rafiqul Islam and Hanif Uddin were given life in jail.

Of them, Akabbar, Ruhul, Joynal, Hanif and Rafiqul were present during the delivery of the judgment while five others have been absconding after bail from different courts on different dates.

The punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender and the convict with death can file an appeal with High Court within 30 days from the day of the judgment, the judge said.

Judge Mohammad Rezaul Islam of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 handed down the sentence in presence of 15 of the accused at a packed courtroom.

The court acquitted 13 others as the charges brought against them were not proved.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence had completed their arguments and the court recorded statement of 20 prosecution witnesses.

**23 jailed, 1,200 Yaba seized**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) detained 25 people and seized 1,200 Yaba tablets in a crackdown at Uttara in the city last night.

Among the detained, 23 were at first sentenced to six months in jail and fined Tk one lakh each, then in default, finally sentenced to nine months in jail by a mobile court.

Magistrate Anwar Pasha told The Daily Star that among the 23 accused by the mobile court, some of the men were traders and the remaining were buyers.

He added that Rab conducted the raids, beginning around 9:00pm, at different places in Uttara.

**Japan, Korea to assist dev activities**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

International cooperation agencies of Japan and Korea have decided to work together for various development activities in Bangladesh, said a press release.

In this regard, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) and Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) here yesterday.

During the course of discussions, both agencies consider individuals as the core of a society and contribute to free them from want as their development assistance agenda. So they sought to establish their relations around this common value through this MoU.

Jica Chief Representative Dr Takao Toda said the area of cooperation mentioned in the MoU includes exploring the possibility of exchange of information on their strategy and plan on Bangladesh, actual progress of their activities, and lessons from these activities.

Exchange of information among these two volunteers groups includes security issues, joint volunteer programmes on issues such as ICT, vocational training, and environmental protection.

Additionally, joint invitational and in-country training and other areas are suggested which would be preferable to cooperate.

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Dry weather may continue**

UNB, Dhaka

Mild cold wave is sweeping over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia and Srimongal and it may continue for next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

Dry weather with temporary partly cloudy sky may continue over the country. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:40pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow.**

Country's highest temperature 29.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 08.5 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.1	12.8	76	61
Chittagong	26.4	12.6	80	67
Rajshahi	25.3	09.0	97	75
Rangpur	23.0	09.8	96	74

**3 'robbers' held**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested three alleged robbers and seized four firearms and 44 bullets from their possession at Jatrabari in the city yesterday.

Sultan, 34, was detained with a firearm and three bullets at South Jatrabari.

Police arrested Iqbal Hossain Habu, 40, and Md Sultan, 25, from Matuail.

**Winter clothes for poor**

METRO DESK

Drexel International School distributed winter clothes among the poor at three different spots in the city yesterday.

Vice Principal SM Nurul Alam conducted the programme as part of the school's social service activities with the donations made by the school authority and students, says a press release.

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