

## NEWS IN *brief*

### Fuel price hike protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Truck-Covered Van Transport Agency Owners Association yesterday protested the hike in the fuel price, saying the hike for the fourth time in a year will push the transport sector on the verge of destruction.

At a meeting at its central office in the city's Tejgaon Truck Stand, they said the hike would not only affect the transport sector but would also raise the price of essentials and make a negative impact on the country's economy, said a press release.

Association President Mokbul Ahmed, General Secretary Abdul Motaleb, and Vice Presidents Abul Kashem, and Majibur Rahman Qazi spoke at the meeting.

### Police week begins today

UNB, Dhaka

Police Week, 2012 will begin at Rajarbagh Police Lines ground in the city today.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the three-day programme, take salute and inspect a parade.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages on the occasion.

In a message, Zillur paid homage to the members the police who sacrificed their lives at Razarbagh Police Lines during the War of Liberation, saying that their supreme sacrifice glorified the nation. He expressed the hope that the police force will become more service-oriented for fulfilling people's aspiration.

In her message Hasina said government's success depends on the success of the police force to a great extent. She said the police force should be more sincere in ensuring people's security for achieving their confidence.

### Salary cut for second marriage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has downgraded payscale of one of its drivers as he got married for the second time without taking permission from his first wife.

The decision has been taken against Gulzar Hossain Bhuiyan, driver of coordinated office of ACC in Sylhet division, following a complaint from his first wife.

In another punishment, ACC sent its one constable into forced retirement as he realised money from people by intimidation.

The constable is Shahidul Rahman Bhuiyan of the coordinated district office in Dhaka.

### Accounting Alumni executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wahiduzzaman Babar, head of finance of Practical Action Bangladesh and Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron, chairman of Debate for Democracy, were elected president and general secretary of the Dhaka University Accounting Alumni (DUAA) on Sunday.

Kamrul Islam, AKM Mahfuzur Rahman Jalil and Abdul Halim Patwary were elected vice presidents while Abdur Razzak Khan Rana and Mohammad Abu Imran joint-secretaries in the 33-member committee for 2012-2013. The election was held at the commerce faculty auditorium of the university.

### Painting exhibition begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A weeklong painting exhibition will begin on the campus of University of Development Alternative (UODA) in the city's Dhanmondi today.

Noted painter Shahabuddin will inaugurate the exhibition styled 'Observation of Nature and Study' at the Department of Fine Arts of UODA at 12:00pm.

The fine arts department has organised the event as part of celebrating UODA Week 2012, says a press release.

Paintings of total 40 artists, including the teachers and students of the department, will be exhibited in the event.



Clad in warm clothes, three girls chit-chat while enjoying a rickshaw ride in the winter cold that got severe yesterday amidst sudden rain. The photo was taken from Doel Chattar on Dhaka University campus in the city.

PHOTO: STAR

### Valerie Taylor nominated for Sheltech award

METRO DESK



Valerie A. Taylor, founder and coordinator of Centre for Rehabilitation

ion of the Paralysed (CRP), has been nominated for Sheltech Award 2011.

The award money of Tk 2 lakh along with a crest will formally be handed over to the recipient on March 12 this year, said a press release.

Sheltech has been giving the award to the country's eminent personalities since 1998 for their outstanding contributions to different sectors.

Late poet Shamsur Rahman, Rabindra Sangeet singer Kalim Sharafi, Nazrul Sangeet singer Firoza Begum, artist Qayyum Chowdhury, Literature Rabeya Khatun, fiction writer Jafar Iqbal, Shykh Seraj, puppeteer Mustafa Monwar, playwright Mamtazuddin Ahmed, filmmaker Subhash Dutta, educationist Abdullah Abu Sayeed, actor Abul Hayat, architect Moinul Hossain and Litterateur Humayun Ahmed, eminent singers Runa Laila and Sabina Yasmin, Prof Siddika Kabir, Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury and Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman were the recipients of the award in previous years, it said.

### APPOINTMENT OF NEW ELECTION COMMISSIONERS

## President's talks to fail: Moudud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The president's dialogue on the appointment of new election commissioners will fail as he has discriminated against some political parties in his invitation, said BNP Standing Committee Member Barrister Moudud Ahmed yesterday.

As part of the government's plan, some registered political parties were intentionally left uninvited as they supported the four-party alliance while some unregistered parties favouring the government were invited, he said.

Moudud was speaking as chief guest at a discussion organised by Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sangskritik Dal at Jatiya Press Club in the city.

"The president did not follow any specific principle while inviting political parties to the dialogue. The purpose of the dialogue will not be successful as

it was designed by the government," said Moudud.

Despite knowing that the dialogue would fail, BNP will attend it to voice people's demand to restore the caretaker government system to hold the next general election, he added.

Moudud criticised the Sector Commanders Forum for being "a pro-Awami League organisation" and its leaders for not showing due respect to M Hamidullah Khan, a sector commander who passed away recently.

BNP Standing Committee Member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy said even if the prime minister appoints her family members as chief election commissioner and the caretaker government's chief adviser, the Awami League will get not more than 30 seats in the next general election.

He said it is not the BNP but the gov-

ernment which must restore the caretaker government system by placing and passing it in parliament to ensure a fair and transparent general election.

If the government holds a "secret" vote on whether to restore the caretaker government system, many Awami League parliament members will cast their votes in favour of the system, said Gayeshwar.

The government, having failed in all sectors because of its corruption, nepotism and partisanship, is using the war crimes trial as a "commodity" to gain popularity among the people, he added.

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sangskritik Dal President Major (ret'd) MM Mehbub Rahman chaired the discussion.

BNP chairperson's adviser Barrister Haider Ali and National Democratic Party Chairman Khandaker Golam Murtoza also spoke on the occasion.



The newly elected office-bearers of Narsingdi District Bar Association present a bouquet to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: BNP

## Phensidyl bottles concealed in vegetable sacks

### 5 arrested, truck seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective police seized 2,500 bottles of phensedyl from a vegetable-laden truck and arrested five alleged drug peddlers in this connection from the city's Gabtoli area yesterday.

Senior Assistant Commissioner Mashiur Rahman of Detective Branch (DB) of police, who led the drive, said, on information that a gang of drug peddlers were coming from Dinajpur in guise of vegetable traders, they seized a truck in front of Parbat Cinema Hall after chasing it from the Gabtoli Bridge around 1:15am.

The phensedyl bottles were found in 15 cabbage sacks and 11 tomato carrying baskets in the truck alongside other rotten vegetables.

The arrestees, Towfiq Elahi Milton, 40, Khokon Chowdhury alias DIG Khokon, 45, Faruque Miah, 32, Abdus Salam, 30, and Faraz Mollah, 24, were all caught from the spot along with the truck.

They were presented at a press conference yesterday in DMP Media Centre where they admitted to their crime.

Abdus said he was an Imam of a mosque in Faridpur and got involved with the drug trading around two years back. His religious attire and beard helped him dodge the eyes of law enforcers.

Their gang used to bring drugs from the northern districts and sold those to the city peddlers, he added.

Khokon said he worked as a police source around 12 years back and later began to traffic drugs.

AC Mashiur said the gang members were accused in several cases filed with different police stations in the city.

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### Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Chances of light rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and weather may remain dry elsewhere over the country in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during mid night till morning, Met office said.

Night temperature may fall by 2-3 degrees Celsius and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:24pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow.**

Country's highest temperature 28.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 15.0 degrees Celsius at Dinajpur.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	22.5	18.6	82	86
Chittagong	25.7	17.7	66	50
Rajshahi	19.6	16.7	92	89
Rangpur	18.0	16.0	87	84
Khulna	22.0	18.0	90	90
Barisal	24.4	17.5	92	86
Sylhet	20.1	18.1	82	95
Cox's Bazar	28.0	18.5	67	49