

RAIN LIKELY

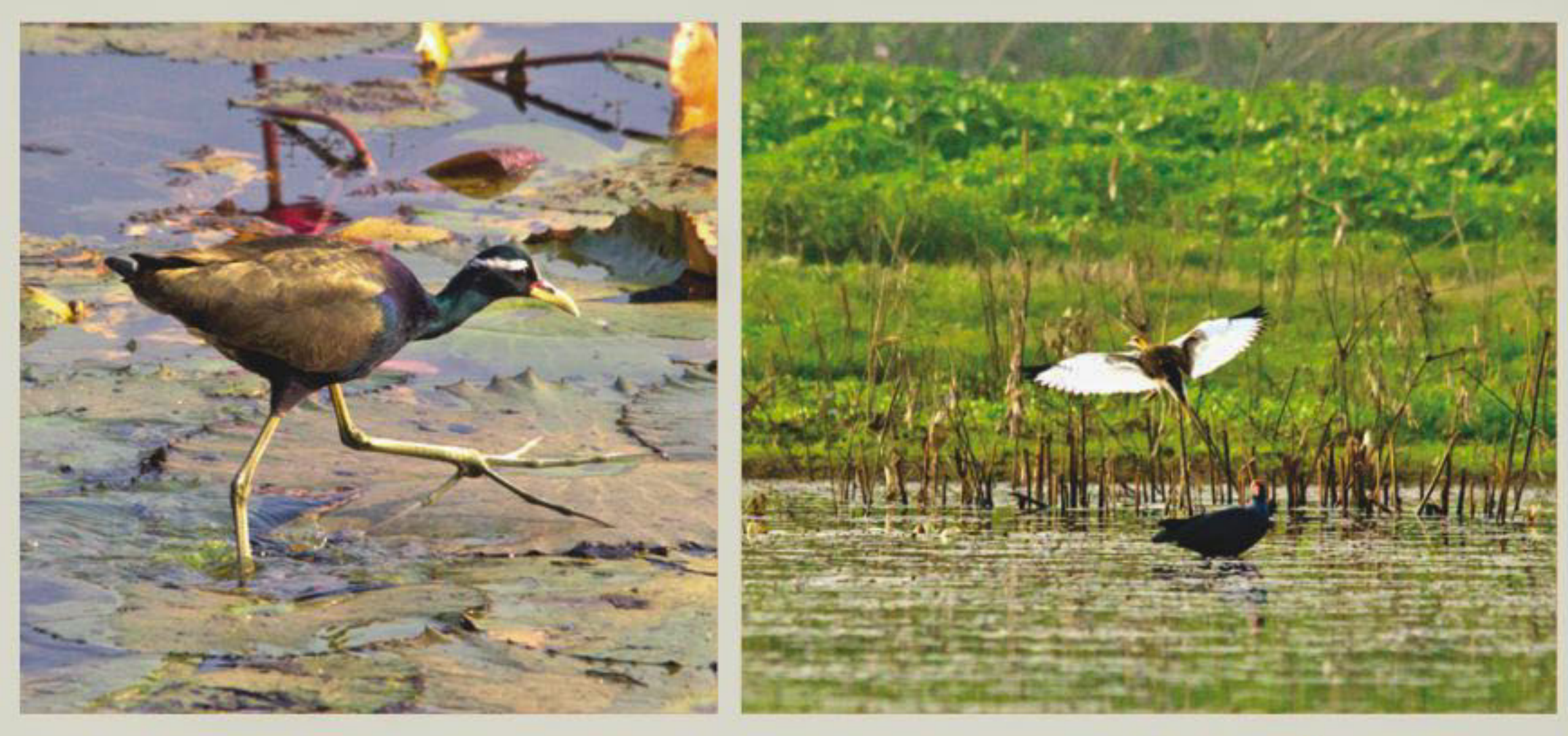
Light rain is likely to occur at a few places over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today.
Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.
Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.
The sun sets in the capital today at 5:24pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.

Country's highest temperature 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sylhet and Comilla and lowest 14.3 degrees in Dinajpur.
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage			
Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening		
Dhaka	29.2	20.0	67	71	Khulna	28.4	19.0	80	71
Chittagong	30.4	20.5	81	77	Barisal	29.5	18.8	81	86
Rajshahi	28.7	17.3	79	78	Sylhet	31.0	19.5	81	74
Rangpur	25.8	15.6	69	71	Cox's Bazar	30.6	20.0	81	80



TANGENTS
BY IHTISHAM KABIR



Bronze-winged jacana showing toes (left). Pheasant-tailed jacana in flight (right). PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

OUR JACANAS

Imagine a bird that lives most of its life on aquatic vegetation, trotting among water lilies, lotus or water hyacinth, turning over the leaves to look for insects, larvae, small molluscs and roots to eat. This bird must have the means of spreading out its weight so that the leaf underneath it does not sink. With its extraordinarily long toes, the jacana is such a bird. Worldwide there are eight species of jacanas (in the family Jacanidae.) In Bangladesh we have two: the bronze-winged jacana and the pheasant-tailed jacana.

I first saw a bronze-winged jacana at Jahangirnagar University. I was there looking for the whistling ducks that arrive every winter, but the dense fog precluded me from taking photographs of the ducks which had congregated in the lake far from the shore. A smaller waterbird was scurrying closer to the shore among the water lilies. At first I took it for a *dahuk* (white-breasted waterhen) but in a moment I realized that neither its body nor its head were like a *dahuk*'s. Its feathers were a dark golden bronze, and it scurried with great alacrity over the leaves, poking underneath, looking for morsels of food. Every time it stepped on a lily leaf, its toes spread out and the leaf sunk perhaps half an inch. It seemed oblivious to people on the lakeshore and sometimes came quite close.

The second time I saw a bronze-winged jacana, I thought it was a different bird: the dark had been replaced by beige, yellow and brown feathers. However, it was smaller, and I learned that juvenile bronze-winged jacanas appear this way.

An interesting behaviour of the bronze-winged jacana is its sex-reversed role. Females, which are larger and more brightly coloured than the males, are polyandrous. Each female has several male mates and competes with other females for harems of males. The males in turn incubate the clutches of eggs and can carry the chicks between body and wing. Although the bird runs around on aquatic leaves, it can submerge to hide when threatened. I have seen it fly - rather clumsily - over short distances only.

Our second jacana is the pheasant-tailed jacana. It is a beautiful bird, with golden feathers at the neck and a striking eyestripe. The flight of a pheasant-tailed jacana is a sight to behold. During breeding, the tail feathers become long and curve downwards while the colours turn dark.

Although the pheasant-tailed jacana is more common than the bronze-winged jacana I have not been able to get as close to it, perhaps because it is more wary of humans. I saw them among the aquatic vegetation of Baikka Beel in Moulvibazar. Except for one occasion when it warily watched me as I approached on a boat and took some photos, every other pheasant-tailed jacana I have encountered took off when I was far away.

Unlike the bronze-winged jacana, the pheasant-tailed jacana is monogamous. The male incubates the eggs and guards the chicks after they are hatched. Females are larger than males. Both sexes assume the breeding plumage.

Neither jacana is considered threatened. The next time you find yourself in a wetland or the lakes of Jahangirnagar University, look for them among the leaves of aquatic plants.

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MISSING RANA PLAZA VICTIMS
20 months past, govt can't give families closure

Her husband Matiur was among the over 3,000 workers of the garment factories housed in Rana Plaza that crumbled on April 24, 2012, killing more than 1,100 and injuring and maiming hundreds.

The cover of the book titled "24 April: Crying of Thousand Lives", published by Bangladesh Garment Sramik Sanghati, was unveiled by the survivors and members of victim families.

"There's nothing left but tears for me," said Abul Kashem, who lost his elder son Ujjal and daughter-in-law Khadeja.

Kashem's younger son Afzal, also a garment worker who was inside the building during the collapse, has been missing since that day.

Like Kashem, many others gathered at the launch ceremony of a book, which compiled the stories of the sufferings of the Rana Plaza collapse victims, at the capital's Bishwa Sahitya Kendra.

"For some greedy people, now I am living like a pauper," she said. "I pray that no-one goes through such torment. I want justice."

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The last 20 months since the deadly Rana Plaza disaster have been a nightmare for Mili Khatun, and it does not seem to go away--her husband is apparently lost forever.

"We had been happily married for five years. But in the last one year and eight months, I could not eat or sleep properly. If I got my husband's body, I could at least give it beside his grave."

Mili shared her experiences at the launching ceremony of a book, which compiled the stories of the sufferings of the Rana Plaza collapse victims, at the capital's Bishwa Sahitya Kendra.

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Insincerity of govt blamed for Jihad's death

Human chain demands resignation of home boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was the carelessness of the government that killed the four-year-old boy, Jihad, who met his tragic death in a well shaft in the capital's Shahjahanpur on December 26, claimed Women for Good Governance at a human chain yesterday.

They also demanded immediate resignation of the state minister for home and suspension of senior fire service officials who failed to rescue Jihad, and

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In dire need of repairs, the derelict statue "Joy Bangla Joy Tarunya" is instead shored up with bamboo poles near Shamsunnahar Hall at Dhaka University. The photo was taken yesterday.

JP leader Golam Moshi new envoy to Saudi Arabia

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has announced to appoint Golam Moshi, political secretary to Leader of the Opposition Raushan Ershad, as the new ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Moshi, the international and diplomatic affairs secretary of the Jatiya Party, is the first opposition political leader to be appointed an envoy to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which is considered one of the most important countries for Dhaka in respect to bilateral relations and as a hub of Bangladeshi workers, said diplomatic sources.

They said the appointment came at a time when the government has initiated a project to provide machine readable passports (MRPs) to over two million Bangladeshi expatriates in the KSA.

Moshi is a well-known politician and businessman with extensive experience in the field of oil and gas exploration, said an announcement of the foreign ministry yesterday. A well-travelled man, he completed his secondary and higher secondary

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VIOLENCE CASE
Goyeshwar denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent BNP standing committee member Goyeshwar Chandra Roy to jail after cancelling his bail plea in a case filed with Turag Police Station in connection with creating anarchy in Dhaka.

The court passed the order on completion of his two-day remand.

Earlier, police showed Goyeshwar arrested in another case filed with Shahbagh Police Station over an attack on ruling

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Fatality IN ROAD ACCIDENTS
Death penalty for drivers sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from all walks of life at a human chain yesterday demanded death penalty for reckless drivers who cause road accidents leading to death of people.

A platform of civilians, Sadi Morshed Remembrance Council, organised the event before Jatiya Press Club in the capital. The event was organised following the death of Sadi, a second year BBA student of Independent University, who was crushed under the wheels of Falgun Paribahan in Merul Badda in the capital on December 2, 2014.

Ilias Kanchan, chairman of Nirapad Sarak Chai, demanded stern action against reckless drivers.

He urged people to take initiatives to stop such incidents from occurring. "How can a bus with about 40 people on it escape after such an incident," he questioned.

Mahmudur Rahman Manna, convener of Nagorik Oikya, and Sadi's family members, among others, were present.

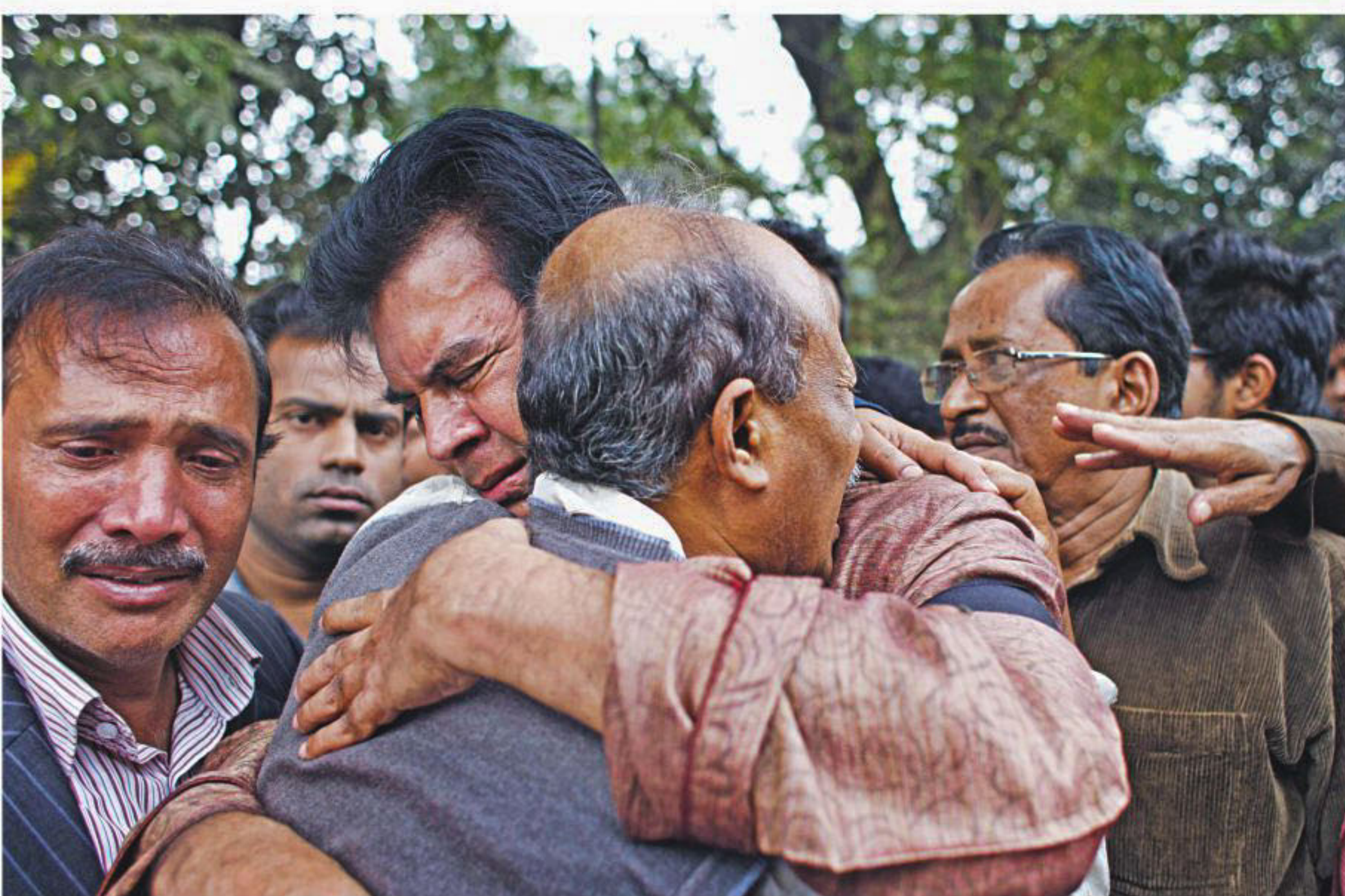
Rejoinder, our reply

Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI) has protested a report published in the December 31 issue of The Daily Star with the headline "Government failing to remember Maqsdul".

In a rejoinder, signed by Dr Md Kamal Uddin, project director of Basic and Applied Research on Jute Project, BJRI, explained that the government has been recalling scientist Maqsdul Alam and his family with due honour.

It says soon after getting the news of Maqsdul's ailment, the government had sent BJRI Senior

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Ilias Kanchan, chairman of Nirapad Sarak Chai, breaks down in tears as he tries to comfort SMA Alam, the grieving father of Sadi, who died in a road accident, at a human chain organised by Sadi Morshed Remembrance Council in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding death penalty for reckless drivers.

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