

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

**DHAKA**  
H 31.3 L 22.7

**CHITTAGONG**  
H 35.5 L 22.5

**SYLHET**  
H 32.3 L 19.1

**RAJSHAHI**  
H 30.7 L 17.8

**KHULNA**  
H 32.5 L 20.3

**BARISAL**  
H 32.7 L 19.5

**RANGPUR**  
H 27.0 L 18.0

**COX'S BAZAR**  
H 35.6 L 23.4

Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:08pm and rises tomorrow at 6:05am. Country's highest temperature 35.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Cox's Bazar and lowest 15.5 degrees in Srimangal.

# Boy's body stuffed in sack found in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of an unidentified boy stuffed inside a bag abandoned in a bus in the capital's Kakoli yesterday.

The boy, about six-years-old, is suspected to have been strangled, said police and Dhaka Medical College morgue sources.

Police seized bus, Desh Bangla Paribahan, and detained its driver and helper for questioning, said Bhuiyan Mahub Hasan, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station.

The bus was heading towards Savar from Uttara via Gabtoli, said the OC, quoting the driver.

When it reached Kakoli intersection about three people got down from the bus leaving the bag, he said.

Seeing the abandoned bag, the other passengers panicked thinking the bag might contain explosives and informed police. Police opened the bag and found the boy's naked body.

Police have not found any leads regarding who left the bag.



Students of Hazi Shahmeer Primary School in Sylhet take to the streets expressing shock over the death of a peer, Abu Sayeed, whose body was found in the residence of a police constable in the city's Kumarpura on Saturday after being kidnapped three days earlier.

PHOTO: STAR

# Embassy still in dark about Bangladeshis abducted by ISIS

Families worried 10 days into incident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten days have passed with the embassy in Tripoli still in the dark over two Bangladeshis abducted by unidentified militants from their workplace in an oil field near Sirte of Libya on March 6.

"Sadly, we couldn't gather sufficient information about the militant group yet. In fact, it is difficult to trace the kidnapping group within short time. But we are hopeful to be successful in this matter soon," ASM Ashraf Islam, counsellor (labour wing) at the embassy, e-mailed The Daily Star yesterday.

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# ASK concerned over jt forces' obstruction of Dighinala Adivasi march

Demands release of arrested persons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) has expressed grave concern over obstructing the procession of Khagrachhari's Dighinala Bhumi Rakha Committee by joint forces comprising army, police and ansar personnel.

In a statement yesterday, ASK also expressed concern over the arrest of 12 indigenous people after a clash between the protestors and joint forces that erupted when the procession was barricaded by the law enforcers on Sunday.

The committee brought out the procession towards the Border Guard Bangladesh 51 Battalion in

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# Kerry lauds Bangladesh's anti-terror role

Foreign minister tells cabinet meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US appreciates Bangladesh's law enforcement agencies' role in countering terrorism and it deserves praise, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali yesterday stated Secretary of State John Kerry as saying in a meeting during Mahmood's February 17-19 visit there.

The US assured to provide any form of assistance to combat terrorism, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan quoted Mahmood as saying in yesterday's weekly Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Mahmood also informed Kerry that terrorist activities in the name of political

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# Police chief should've resigned after Avijit killing

Justice Khairul Haque tells discussion; photojournalist Jibon Ahmed of Banglar Chokh honoured for taking victim couple to hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque should have resigned the day writer-blogger Avijit Roy was murdered for the cops' inaction during the occurrence, Law Commission Chairman Justice ABM Khairul Haque said yesterday.

"But we don't have that culture in our country. So, we don't expect it," he told a discussion of the Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971 in the capital's WVA auditorium, on "Avijit killing and ongoing terrorism: Role of government and citizen bodies".

Police were standing some 15 yards

away from the scene, he said. "Shouldn't have police rushed in, shouldn't have they chased the attackers, shouldn't have they taken the victims to hospital?"

"Here, we see many failures of police. The cops were standing motionless, while the wife of victim was screaming," said the former chief justice.

He called for proper monitoring of police activities by instituting "an independent body" for ensuring accountability. Besides, more police and judges should be recruited for public security and ensuring justice, he said.

About the recent visit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) team

following Avijit's killing, he said, "Why has FBI been called? You are supposed to follow the same grammar that FBI does in investigation. Then, what is the necessity to call FBI?"

Citing protracted investigation in different cases, Khairul said it took so long to complete the probe that justice could not be bestowed.

Avijit's father Prof Ajoy Roy said there needed a cultural revolution to combat the rise of fundamentalism and militancy in Bangladesh.

In this regard, Law Minister Anisul Huq said the government was sincerely working to prosecute the killers of Avijit.

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# Reshuffle in civil admin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a latest reshuffle in the civil administration, the government yesterday transferred three senior public servants to new offices.

Mesbah Ul Alam, secretary to the relief and disaster management ministry, has been appointed as the secretary to the primary and mass education ministry while Md Shah Kamal, additional secretary of local government division, has been made the acting secretary to the relief and disaster management ministry.

Parikkhit Datta Choudhury, managing director of Jiban Bima

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# Why admission test retaking should not be allowed

HC asks DU authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the Dhaka University authorities and the government to explain in two weeks why the decision of imposing bar on retaking of admission test at the university should not be declared illegal.

The court also asked the DU authorities to show cause why they should not be directed to allow the admission seekers for retaking of admission test at DU.

The High Court bench of Justice Farah Mahub and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo came up with the rule in response to a writ petition filed by guardians of 26 admission seekers on March 12.

The petitioners said the DU authorities' decision taken on October 15 last year is a violation of the fundamental principle of equal opportunity for education.

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Photojournalist Jibon Ahmed of Banglar Chokh being honoured by the Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971 in the capital's WVA auditorium yesterday, for taking writer Avijit Roy and his wife Rafida Ahmed to hospital right after they were hacked by unidentified assailants on Dhaka University campus on February 26. Avijit died from his wounds.

PHOTO: STAR

# Two Hindu women returned home in 'indescribable state'

Another woman testifies against war crimes accused Forkan Mallik about their abduction by him; son of martyr implicates Siraj Master in his father's killing

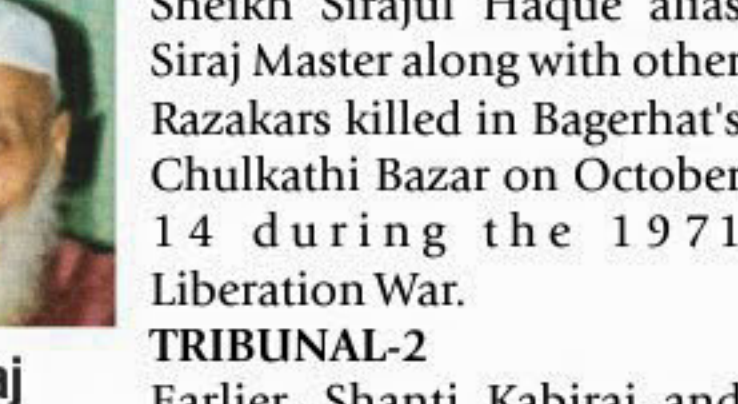
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Hindu septuagenarian woman yesterday testified that Forkan Mallik and his cohorts left her sister and sister-in-law in front of their Patuakhali house in a condition she would "not be able to describe" after abducting and taking them to a Razakar camp a day before during the 1971 Liberation War.

Meanwhile, a man testified before International Crimes Tribunal-1 that his father was among those war crimes accused



Forkan



Siraj

Sheikh Sirajul Haque alias Siraj Master along with other Razakars killed in Bagerhat's Chulka Bazar on October 14 during the 1971 Liberation War.

Earlier, Shanti Kabiraj and Chand Miah testified before International Crimes Tribunal-2 linking Forkan with the rape charge.

Her mother had screamed on seeing them, causing her uncles, aunts, neighbours

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# Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Arun Chandra Das, a noted tabla player, died of a cardiac arrest on Friday. He was 45.

He left his wife, a daughter, friends, students and well-wishers to mourn his death, said a press release.

He worked as a tabla teacher at Chhayarat Sanskrit Bhaban, Nazrul Academy, Abbasuddin Academy, Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television.

Arun has also worked as a publicity secretary for Dhaka Shuddha Sangeet Proshar Goshthi. An appeal is being made to the people in the music arena to come forward and assist Arun's family financially.

# BCC guards, battery run 3-wheeler drivers clash

Injuring 10

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Drivers of battery-powered three-wheelers and guards of Barisal City Corporation yesterday clashed in front of the city corporation office over seizure of the vehicles.

Abdus Salam, one of the drivers, alleged that without any notice officials of BCC tried to extort Tk 500 from them yesterday morning. As the drivers failed to pay the money, the officials seized over 35 battery-operated three-wheelers, which had legal documents, near Barisal river port area.

"When we went to the city corporation to request that they release the vehicles, BCC guards attacked us forcing us to retaliate," he claimed.

Meanwhile, Nikhil Chandra Das, chief executive officer of the city corporation, denied the extortion allegation.

He said the city corporation has given licences to only 2,610 three-wheelers for operation. However, double the number of

vehicles operate in the city. "We seized vehicles which had no valid documents in a regular drive," he told The Daily Star.

The BCC official claimed after the vehicles were seized, owners and drivers of the three-wheelers came to the city corporation and forcibly took back the vehicles from custody of the guards.

The guards then, wielding sticks, clashed with the drivers, he said.

On information, police arrived at the scene and charged baton to bring the situation under control, said witnesses.

In the afternoon, the drivers again tried to march towards the city corporation but were prevented by police.

The clash left ten people from both sides injured.

Shakhawat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said they charged baton to control the situation.



Police using batons to stop a clash between the drivers of battery-powered three-wheelers and guards of Barisal City Corporation yesterday in front of the city corporation office over seizure of the vehicles. The fighting left at least 10 people from both sides injured.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN