

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 34.0/L 27.3	H 33.3/L 26.4	H 34.0/L 25.0	H 34.4/L 27.8	H 35.2/L 27.0	H 33.4/L 26.8	H 32.7/L 26.0	H 33.5/L 26.5

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at some places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over Barisal, Chittagong and Dhaka divisions till 6:00pm today, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 5:17am.

ARSON CASE
Court issues arrest warrants for 16 leaders, activists of BNP
 COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants for 16 BNP leaders and activists, including its standing committee member Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, in an arson case. Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah of Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after accepting charges against 21 BNP leaders and activists, including the 16. Former BNP lawmaker Syeda Asifa Ashrafi Papi, Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas, Habibunnabi Khan (Sohel), and Maruf Kamal Khan are also facing the arrest warrant. Of the 21 accused, BNP leaders Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed and former Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal president Abdul Kader Bhuiyan Jewel are now in jail while three other low

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KILLING OF FELANI
BSF man's acquittal worries SAHR
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights organisation South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) yesterday strongly condemned the recent acquittal of a constable of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) by a special West Bengal court over the killing of Bangladeshi teenager Felani Khatun. "The SAHR is deeply concerned that although the latest verdict of not guilty is subject to revision and approval by an additional director general, the review too would be a parody of justice," it said in a press statement. The rights body urged the ADG to act according to national laws and international obligations of India in protecting human rights and deliver a decision, which is both just and humane. It also condemned

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Launch cabin tickets elusive for common man

PANKAJ KARMAKAR
 Getting a ticket for a launch cabin ahead of Eid seems like owning a golden deer as the owners and workers have kept a large portion of the tickets reserved for VIPs. Like previous years, common people are desperately looking for tickets. But the operators are saying that they have already exhausted their stocks. Although the railway authority and bus operators sell tickets in advance from a particular date after making a formal announcement, launch owners do not follow such procedures. Staff and owners of launches sell

cabin tickets as per their whim through internal connections and personal choice. Ministers, members of parliament, bureaucrats, politicians, businessmen, journalists and other influential people make full use of the privilege depriving common people. Visiting the Sadarghat launch terminal yesterday, this correspondent, disguised as a passenger, searched for cabin tickets in around 12 launches for any day from July 14 to 16. Staff of almost all the launches said their cabins have already been booked while that of two launches said they could manage a cabin but it would cost

around double the usual price. "Every year our cabins become booked from the beginning of Ramadan. Most of the cabins are reserved for persons known to our owner," said a staff of MV Tipu-7 that plies on the Dhaka-Barisal route. When asked for a ticket, a staff of MV Jahid-4 said, "It is very difficult to arrange a cabin. I can manage a single cabin for you on July 14, but it will cost around Tk 2,000." Apart from cabins meant for passengers, launch staff rent out their accommodation spaces inside the

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CTG COCAINE HAUL
Police, customs lock horns over custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
 Police yesterday could not seize the cocaine haul sealed off early last month at Chittagong Port as customs officials opposed the move citing legal provisions. Md Kamruzzaman, assistant commissioner of the Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, went to the port to seize all 107 barrels of the consignment and collect a 200 millilitre sample from each of them, following a court order. Kamruzzaman is the investigation officer of the cocaine haul case filed on June 27, the day laboratory tests confirmed the presence of liquid cocaine in one of the barrels shipped in as sunflower oil. On Sunday, Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate Md Farid Alam asked the investigation officer to make a seizure list and collect samples from the consignment, said the investigator.

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Fifth death anniversary of Matlub Anam today
 CITY DESK

Today is the fifth anniversary of death of Matlub Anam, a Language Movement veteran and columnist. He was the third son of renowned litterateur, journalist and politician late Abul Mansur Ahmad and elder brother of Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star. Matlub Anam was born at Dhanikhola village of Trishal thana in Mymensingh on December 25, 1933. He was jailed for taking part in the historic Language Movement in 1952. In his colourful professional career, Matlub Anam served at different renowned multinational pharmaceutical companies including Pfizer, Searle, SK&F and Social Marketing Company (SMC). He went into retirement after serving as the managing director of Gonoshasthaya Pharmaceuticals. Matlub Anam used to write regular columns in different national newspapers on contemporary issues. On this occasion, family members will offer prayers and a "doa mahfil" will be held at his residence today, and iftar will be distributed among the destitute at his village home on Friday.

Indefinite sit-in against Sust VC enters 3rd week
BCL announces counter-protest
 OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The teachers of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust), demanding the vice chancellor's resignation since mid-April, continued their sit-in for the 15th consecutive day yesterday, while Bangladesh Chhatra League staged a similar protest nearby calling for an end to the teachers' programme. The members of Mohan Muktiuddher Chetona Udbuddho Shikkhakbrindo besieged the VC's office at 8:00am and stayed there till 4:00 p.m. But around 12:00noon, 70-80 BCL leaders and activists came to the spot and chanted slogans against the teachers. General Secretary of BCL's Sust unit Imran Khan said they would stage a sit-in there every day. Meanwhile, VC Prof Aminul Haque Bhuiyan, who was accused of misbehaviour, corruption, and nepotism, yesterday visited different departments and urged their heads to continue academic activities, said Registrar Isfaql Hosain.



(Anti-clockwise from top) A Bangladesh Ansar member working with traffic police midway through New Eskaton Road in the capital imposes a selective bar on rickshaws and rickshaw-vans, allowing towards the Banglamotor crossing only those willing to bribe him Tk 5 and Tk 10 respectively. The Ansar member drops a Tk 5 note he just took from a rickshaw-puller on seeing this photojournalist bring out a camera. He then painstakingly tried to nudge the money with his feet to the side of the road before giving up altogether. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Reckless driving shatters young life

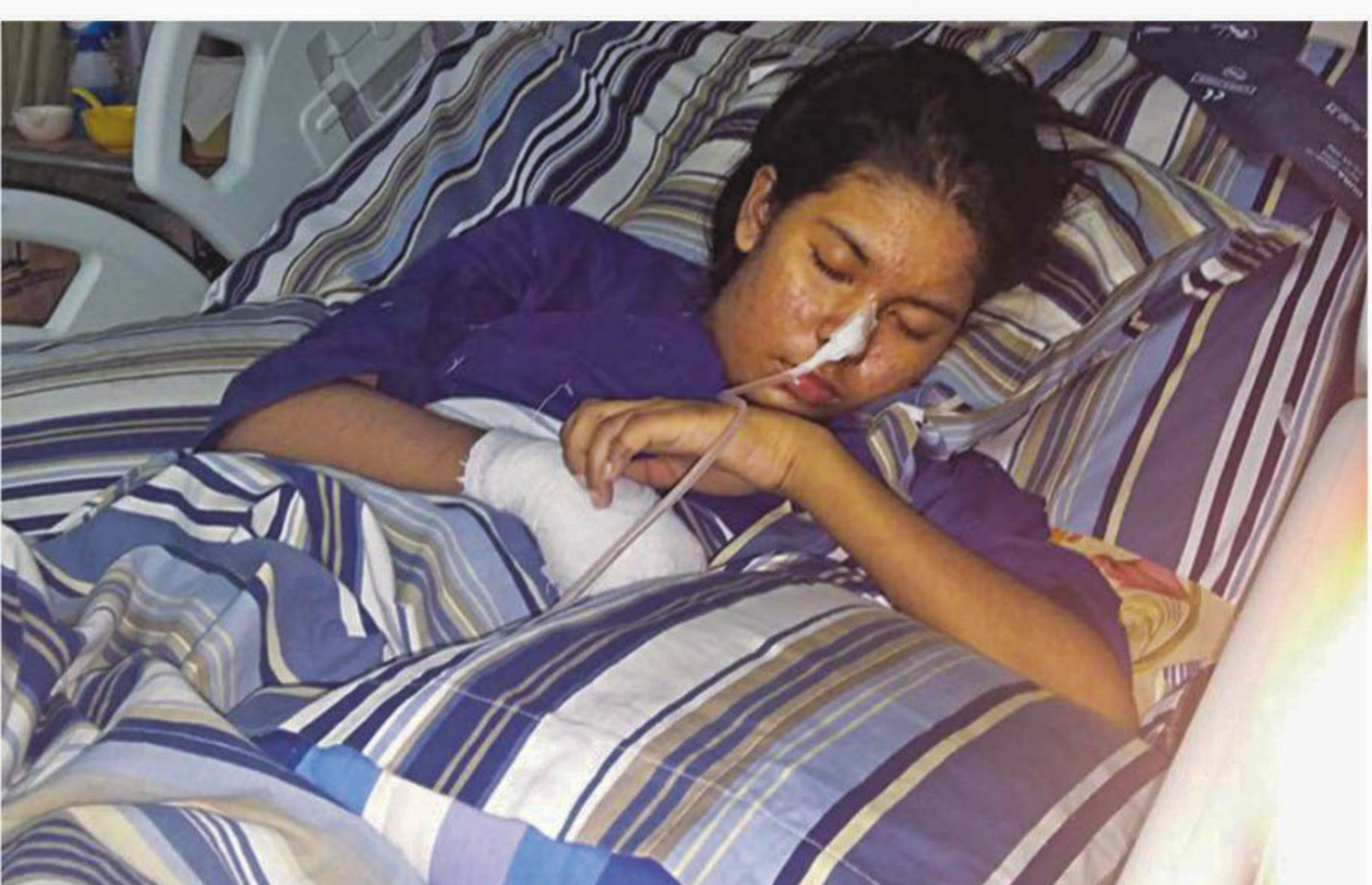
16-year-old in coma for almost three months; family drained out of treatment fund, seeks help

PORIMOL PALMA

Khadiza Siddique Meem wanted to be either a doctor or a marine engineer -- a dream that she had the potential to achieve. Meem achieved GPA-5 in the SSC exams this year, however, she did not get to know her brilliant result. After her exams, an excited Meem went to visit Kushtia with her parents and younger brother Shishir in early April. She was supposed to return to Tongi, where she lives with her family, on April 11. But Meem did not make it home. "We were crossing the road when a pick-up van hit Meem," said her mother Selina Begum. Meem, with severe brain haemorrhage, was at first taken to a local hospital and then shifted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU). Sixteen-year-old Meem is now in a coma at the Intensive Care Unit of BSMMU. Dr Ashrafuzzaman Sajib, assistant registrar at BSMMU's anaesthesia department, said Meem has also developed pneumonia. However, he

believes she can recover step-by-step. "We have not been told how long her recovery would take," said Selina Begum, adding that they have already spent over Tk 10 lakh for her treatment. Meem's father Abu Bakar Siddique, a garment trader, said he has become totally bankrupt. Education of his eldest daughter Ayesha Siddique Mou, a BBA student, and son Shishir, a student of class IV, is now at stake. He has already borrowed a large sum of money, and does not know how much more is required and how long the treatment would take. Abu Bakar Siddique has written to media houses appealing for help. "I have never thought I would make such an appeal, but now I have no other option," he said. "Meem always said she wanted to be either a doctor or a marine engineer, and in response we would say how we can arrange so much money. And now, we are appealing to save her life," said Selina Begum at BSMMU, silently crying. Anyone wishing to help can send aid to Abu

Bakar Siddique, account no -199-151-12815, Dutch Bangla Bank Ltd, Sonargaon Janapath Branch, Uttara, Dhaka; or to bKash numbers -- 01977-347682 or 01620-717379. Meem's story is not an unusual one. There have been many stories of how accidents destroy entire families. According to a study of The Daily Star, between 2010 and June 2015, a total of 9,800 people were killed and 25,000 injured in 7,000 accidents in the country. In Dhaka alone, 800 people died and 1,430 were injured. Jaywalking accounted for about 40 percent of all reported deaths due to road accidents in Dhaka city for the period. Dr Kamran Ul Baset, senior scientist at the Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh said road accident is causing economic and social setbacks to people in Bangladesh, where road accident is like an epidemic. Most of the victims belong to the working age and in many cases, they are breadwinners of their families with no insurance coverage, he added.



BNP chief stresses united movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A united political movement is now crucial for establishment of a government through an all inclusive election to restore democracy in the country, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said yesterday. The ruling Awami League has abducted democracy and the people are looking at the nationalist forces for emancipation, she told an iftar programme organised by Bikolpodhara Bangladesh at a Gulshan hotel in the capital. "We don't want violence, vandalism and snatching ballot boxes but a united democratic movement for a government through participatory elections to achieve the goals of liberation war -- democracy, human rights, education and employment," she said. While women are being repressed at the hands of "unelected" AL government, their loyal opposition lawmaker humiliated women's representatives in parliament calling them "showpieces", she said. BDB President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, also a former president of Bangladesh, said likeminded political forces had to forget their differences and mistakes to go forward. "Let's call for people's emancipation through politics of a united platform in this holy Ramadan," he said. ASM Abdur Rob, and Maj Gen (ret'd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim were present.

Cabinet approves Cox's Bazar dev authority bill

Also draft ICT policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday gave the final approval to the draft of "Cox's Bazar Development Authority Bill 2015" in a bid to ensure development of the tourist city under a master plan, zoning and regulate ongoing rampant construction. The draft law proposes constituting an authority like Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha, Chittagong Development Authority and Rajshahi Development Authority to ensure planned development in Cox's Bazar. The approval came at the weekly

cabinet meeting held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The draft will now be placed in parliament to be formulated into law. Briefing journalists, cabinet secretary Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan said the cabinet suggested preparing a master plan for planned development of Cox's Bazar considering its growing importance. As per the draft law, there would be a 15-member Cox's Bazar development authority comprising a female member, the deputy commissioner, superintendent of police and mayor of

Cox's Bazar and 11 non-permanent members. The government will appoint its chairman and three permanent members. "The authority will play the role of a facilitator to develop the town and enhance the living standards of its dwellers," he added. Under the draft law, permission from the authority is mandatory for constructing establishments or undertaking development activities. The cabinet secretary also said the authority would be able to exercise its regulatory power if anybody violates

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