

WEATHER  
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.6°C L 25.0	H 31.9°C L 25.5	H 28.8°C L 25.0	H 31.0°C L 26.5	H 31.0°C L 24.6	H 32.6°C L 25.4	H 31.0°C L 25.4	H 31.5°C L 25.2

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur in many places in all divisions in the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:49pm and rises tomorrow at 5:21am.

# 1.8kg of gold seized at Dhaka airport

UNB, Dhaka

Customs Intelligence officials seized 1.8kg of gold at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday and Wednesday.

On Wednesday, the officials seized 714 grams of gold, worth Tk 35 lakh, from Pankaj Kumar who came from Bangkok by a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight at 7:50pm.

Omar Faruk, of Munshiganj and a passenger of BG-87 flight from Malaysia, was arrested with 400 grams of gold yesterday. Customs officials challenged him when he was crossing the airport green channel and recovered the gold from his luggage.

Earlier, customs officials seized 710 grams of gold from two passengers of a flight of United Airways from Kuala Lumpur yesterday morning.

The passengers are Alal Uddin, 30, and Abdur Rahim, 35.

Officials said two belt buckles made of gold, weighing 460 grams, were found in Alal Uddin's possession, while 250 grams were found inside Rahim's luggage.



As usual before Eid every year, people risk their lives travelling on overcrowded launches solely to celebrate the festival with their near and dear ones in their family homes away from the capital. The photo was taken from Postgola Bridge yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# 6 fraudsters arrested in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested a gang of fraudsters for cheating HSC examinees by offering to improve their grades in exchange for money.

The gang's leader, Raihan Chowdhury, sent Facebook messages to HSC examinees from an account named after American author Dan Brown, promising changing their grades for the better before results came out.

Police learnt of the group when about 10 students, each of whom paid different amounts, complained of having been cheated.

In a drive by the detectives on Wednesday, Raihan and five others were arrested in Demra of the capital, said Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Joint Commissioner Monirul Islam at a press conference held at DMP media centre yesterday.

The other arrestees are: Rahul Miah, Raihan Miah, Arefin Rabbi, Obhi Abdullah and Abdul Majid, who is also a member of the managing committee of Ghulam Mustafa Model College at Demra. Detectives also seized two computers, a tablet, a laptop and several smart phones that proved their illicit activities.

# Moon sighting body sits today

UNB, Dhaka

The National Moon Sighting Committee will sit in a meeting today to decide the date of Eid-ul-Fitr, the largest religious festival of the Muslims.

Religious Affairs Minister Matior Rahman will preside over the meeting to be held at the Islamic Foundation's Baitul Mukarram office at 7:30pm, said an Islamic Foundation release yesterday.

People have been requested to inform the committee over following phone and fax numbers if they see the Shawwal moon anywhere in Bangladesh sky.

Phone numbers are: 9559493, 9559643, 9555947, 9556407 and 9558337 while the fax is 9563397.

# PROMOTING EDUCATION IN 5 UNIVERSITIES The Daily Star, Midland Bank sign deal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star and Midland Bank are jointly initiating a project to promote education and knowledge among meritorious and financially disadvantaged students of five public universities.

The organisations signed an agreement at The Daily Star Centre yesterday to launch the project "Enhancing Knowledge" in August.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, and Ahsan-uz Zaman, managing director of Midland Bank, signed the agreement.

Under the project, The Daily Star will supply newspapers every day to the selected students of the universities, and Midland Bank will bear the cost of the newspapers as a part of its corporate social responsibility.

The universities are: Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, Khulna University and Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh.

The newspapers will be delivered to the dormitories of the students selected in consultation with the vice chancellors' offices of the universities.

# Dhaka inks MoU with Canberra to stop terror financing

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Australia on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to help combat money laundering and terror financing.

Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) and the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Center (AUSTRAC) signed the MoU during the meeting of the Asia Pacific Group (APG) on money laundering from July 12 to 17 in New Zealand, said a Bangladesh Bank press release.

# Don't slam govt in a way that hampers dev

Prime minister urges journalists

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged journalists not to criticise the government in a way that hampers the country's advancement or creates any scope for the enemies to speak against the government.

"I've no objection if journalists criticise [the government], but my ardent request to you is that your criticisms should not deter the country's advancement and give the enemies any scope to speak. Please, keep it in mind," she said.

The PM was addressing a function at her office on the occasion of distributing donation cheques among the ailing and insolvent journalists and those injured in accidents and the family members of the deceased journalists.

Hasina said the advertisement rate for those newspapers that implemented the recommendations of the Eighth Wage Board for journalists, had been doubled.

In this connection, the PM said her government was closely monitoring those media outlets that were yet to implement the Eighth Wage Board. "We'll limit the facilities for those who will fail to implement the Wage Board."

Hasina said she does not fear or is not worried about criticisms, as constructive criticisms often create scopes for judging which is good or bad. The PM, however, said her government's support for the journalists would continue despite their criticisms.

Reminding the journalists about the ethics of journalism, she said such news should not be broadcast, telecast and published which assassinates the character of someone or any institution. Because, she said, once the character of someone is assassinated, that cannot be regained through rejoinders.

Citing the growing number of online media in the country, Hasina said the government was formulating the Online Media Policy, which would be implemented soon.



This would help check the posting of some indecent pictures that are harmful to children.

She said the government has formulated the Broadcast Policy 2014, while the Broadcast Commission Act will be enacted as early as possible under this policy for the welfare of journalists.

Referring to the BNP-Jamaat's country-wide mayhem to oust the government, Hasina urged journalists to mobilise opinion and raise their voice against militancy and terrorism.

Out of 177 selected for the assistance, 63 journalists and their family members received donation cheques from the prime minister. The cheques for the remaining journalists would be forwarded through the respective branches of journalist unions or deputy commissioners' office.

Hasina said some 623 insolvent and ailing journalists have so far been given Tk 3.80 crore since the fiscal 2011-12 following the formulation of the "Journalist Assistance Allowance and Donation Policy-2012".

Hasina said "seed money" would be provided to operate this trust and urged the media owners, the elite in the society and businesspersons to donate to this trust to help the ailing and aged journalists or children of the journalists.

She said the journalists from both Dhaka and outside the capital would be able to avail the support from this trust.

The PM said the draft of the "Journalist Worker (Terms of Job) Bill-2015" had been framed and it would be possible to make it effective soon.

To address the journalists' accommodation problems, Hasina said initiatives have been taken to take a special project for allocation of flats among the journalists on higher purchase basis.

Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu, among others, spoke on the occasion.

# New Japanese envoy presents credentials to president

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Terming Bangladesh a country with tremendous potential, newly appointed Japanese Ambassador Masato Watanabe said he is eager to work with Bangladesh government to further improve investment, and enhance stability and democracy.

Watanabe, who presented his credentials to President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban yesterday, made the remarks in a message issued immediately after his assumption of the ambassadorship.

Ambassador Watanabe joined Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in 1980 and most recently served as consul-general of Japan in San Francisco. Prior to that assignment, he was vice president of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Referring to the visits of the two countries' prime ministers last year, he said both sides promised to enhance bilateral relationship by nurturing the "Japan-Bangladesh Comprehensive Partnership".

"I will make sincere efforts to strengthen and develop the time-tested bilateral relations even further," said Watanabe.

"I intend to work actively with the Bangladesh government as well as the country's private sector with a view to further improve investment and climate and further enhance stability and democracy," he said.



Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, and Ahsan-uz Zaman, managing director of Midland Bank, flanked by officials of both organisations, shake hands after signing an agreement to launch a project "Enhancing Knowledge" at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# 14 arrested for extorting from vehicles in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Rab has arrested 14 extortionists red-handed taking illegal tolls from transport owners and workers on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Siddhirganj of Narayanganj.

They also recovered Tk 36,000 from the extortionists.

At a press briefing at the office of Rab-11 yesterday, the elite force conducted a raid in Siddhirganj on Wednesday.

Rab said the detainees were collecting Tk 100 from every passenger bus and Tk 50 from every private car.

# Eid joy a distant cry

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son," said his mother Rubina.

The devastated father, Azizur Rahman, is still reeling from the fact that his son is no more. "How will we celebrate the Eid and with whom? My son will never come back," he said.

On the fateful day, Rajon had told Sajon that he would take him to the market. "But he did not come back. We got his dead body. I watched my brother being beaten up mercilessly on television," said Sajon.

Meanwhile, Muhit Alam, one of the nine persons arrested over the incident and now on a five-day remand, confessed that he had tortured the child for several hours.

With his father unwell, Rajon had gone out alone selling vegetables from a rickshaw-van that day, something the father and son did together.

Muhit admitted that he stopped Rajon and called in others, including his brothers Kamrul Islam, Ismail Ali alias Abluch and Shamim, to start torturing Rajon, claiming that the child was riding a stolen rickshaw-van.

When Rajon succumbed to the torture, they kept the body on the rickshaw-van while Muhit brought a rented microbus from Kumargaon Bus Stand to get rid of the body.

Locals caught Muhit and the microbus at the Kumargaon residential area around 12:45pm while Kamrul, Ismail, Nur Miah, who alleged videotaped the torture, and Moyna Mia, a watchman, fled.

Sylhet Metropolitan Police Additional Deputy Police Commissioner (media) Rahmat Ullah and Jalalabad Police Station Officer-in-Charge Akhtar Hossain informed The Daily Star of the findings.

Law enforcers are trying to locate the microbus' owner.

Meanwhile, a Sylhet court allowed Nur and one Dulal Ahmed each to be taken on a seven-day remand.

Of the remaining arrestees, Kamrul is in a Saudi Arabian jail, Moyna on a seven-day remand and Ismail on a five-day remand.

Muhit's wife Lipi Begum is also under arrest along with two others, Asmot Ali and Firoz Ali, who are accused of witnessing but not reporting the incident.

Meanwhile, an around two-minute video footage of the torture went viral on social media since Wednesday night. The first video was around 28 minutes long.



Hundreds of families living in Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) dam area are suffering as recent rains have left many areas waterlogged. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKI