

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 36.5 L 27.8

CHITTAGONG H 34.5 L 27.7

SYLHET H 37.8 L 27.9

RAJSHAHI H 36.5 L 27.4

KHULNA H 35.2 L 28.5

BARISAL H 35.5 L 28.3

RANGPUR H 35.5 L 28.3

COX'S BAZAR H 34.4 L 27.2

Day and night temperatures may fall slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:59pm and rises tomorrow at 5:46am. Country's highest temperature 38.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Bogra and lowest 25.5 in Hatiya.

### Three get life term for gang raping woman in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Sylhet court on Thursday sentenced three people to life term imprisonment for gang raping a woman in Sadar upazila of Moulvibazar.

Jahur Ali, 48, Koisar Miah, 32, and Sadek Miah, 30, were also fined Tk 10,000 each in default to suffer one more year in jail. The court, however, acquitted one Faijul Islam as the allegation against him could not be proved.

According to the prosecution, the convicts gang raped the woman in a tea garden of Moulvibazar when she went to the civil surgeon's office there on February 22, 2010. After three days, the victim filed a case against the four with Sadar Police Station.

## UGC officer involved in major question leaks

Says Rab after arresting him, his two accomplices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested three people, including an assistant director of the University Grants Commission (UGC), for their alleged involvement in leaking questions of different competitive exams, including the medical college admission test.

The force seized two question papers and 23 answer sheets of the Assistant Judge Recruitment Test of Judicial Service Commission 2014, Tk 2 lakh in cash, a Tk 4 lakh cheque, cheque books of different banks, three mobiles, and an iPad from them after raiding UGC's office at the capital's Agargaon.

The arrestees are Assistant Director of UGC Omar Siraj, his accomplice Ishan Intiaj Hridoy, and storekeeper of Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission Rezaul Karim.

UGC suspended Siraj following his arrest but said in a release, "There is no[t] any involvement of UGC with the functions of [the] admission test of medical college[s]."

Mufti Mahmud Khan, director of Rab's legal and media wing, told The Daily Star that they were investigating if the questions of yesterday's medical college admission exam were leaked.

All three were arrested at the UGC office. Rab said on primary interrogation, the "kingpin" of the syndicate, Omar, admitted supplying answers to questions in the tests for medical college admission and recruitment of Bangladesh Krishi Bank officers and assistant judges.

The syndicate brings out question papers from exam halls recruiting fake candidates, Rab officials said.

"Once they succeed, experts solve the questions in a very short time," said Mahmud, adding that the answers were then sent to examinees through sophisticated electronic devices.

According to Rab, examinees who have contracts with Rezaul secretly bring out the original answer sheets from the hall, and the syndicate then writes answers on them.

In a later period, Rezaul with the help of

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### Eight 'DB cop impersonators' held in capital

13 other 'criminals' also arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested 21 alleged criminals, including eight detective impersonators, in the capital in the last two days.

The fake detectives were held in Rayerbagh, said Syed Nurul Islam, a deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, at a press briefing at the DMP media centre yesterday.

Two private cars, a pair of handcuffs, a walkie-talkie, two machetes and three knives were seized from them, he said.

Two were held in Kadamtali for strangling a cousin of one of the criminals after abduction for ransom, he said.

In Dhalpur, eight were held with a machete and

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## TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



A Bookstore at Nilkhet.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR.

## Favourite Bookshops

Recently I had the pleasure of spending several hours at Strand Bookstore in New York which claims to have eighteen miles of books. In this era of gadgets and pads, its four book-filled floors reminded me how special paper books are. I browsed through a wide variety of subjects, and truly felt like I was at the crossroads of a thousand paths (as Tagore had once said about libraries.) It was difficult to walk out even after two hours.

My Silicon Valley years were enriched by the large bookstores in Berkeley, particularly Moe's and Cody's, which held many floors of new and used books. While these stores covered all subjects under the sun, a bookstore called Computer Literacy knew the pulse of the Valley. All the nerds hung out there. Just as normal bookstores saw great excitement with the publication of, say, the new Harry Potter book, so Computer Literacy drew large crowds with the newly published Unix System V Manuals. Books that I bought there helped me cut my teeth as a software engineer.

My love affair with bookstores started when I was growing up in Sylhet. There were two bookstores in town: National Library and News Corner. They were very different. The former was staid and presented the books formally inside glass-door bookcases, while the latter had a more disorganized but colourful sprawl including foreign magazines. My mother who was pursuing her degree at Sylhet Women's College often took me to one or the other in the afternoon when she returned from class - an outing I looked forward to.

But not all of my favourite bookshops were big stores. One day in

1973 or 1974, a few years after we had moved to Dhaka from Sylhet, I was walking from Balaka Cinema towards Azimpur. I noticed that a few vendors had set up wooden tables next to the fence separating the footpath from the road and filled them with books. I stopped to take a look. These were used books - on a surprising variety of subjects - and the price was right. Over the next few years, I must have spent countless hours at these stalls and bought dozens of books from them.

Today, those tiny street stalls have morphed into the giant Nilkhet book mall with hundreds of bookshops selling over 80000 books a day.

Whenever I am in a new city I try to visit the bookstores. Some years ago in Vienna I discovered a great bookstore called Frick's. My friend in London had me bypass Charing Cross Road in favour of the delightfully large Waterstone's in Piccadilly Circus. In Bangkok I have spent many pleasurable hours at Kinokuniya stores spread out over the city. Sadly many large bookstores are fading, including the Borders on Orchard Road in Singapore and various bookstore chains in the US.

But what about our city Dhaka? Over the last decade the bookstore business has undergone many changes. Bookworm near Jahangir Gate has remained steadfast during this turbulence. Boi Bichitra and Words N Pages also offer English books as do several stores at Aziz Super Market. And of course, every February the Boi Mela brings a treat for all book lovers.

So perhaps (to paraphrase Mark Twain) rumours of the death of paper books are greatly exaggerated.

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Some 1,500 out of the total 5,000 candidates of the upazila rural development officer recruitment test block the road in front of the Kakrail exam centre in the capital yesterday, after they failed to locate their seats. Later, the Bangladesh Rural Development Board cancelled the exam, reported the Prothom Alo.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH



## 11yr old suffers torture for 4 years at home in Bogra

Breaks chain, flees to Joypurhat; employer breaks another 14yr old's hand for 'theft' in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

After four years of abuse at the hands of his father and stepmother, 11-year-old Abdullah Ahnab Shuvo finally managed to flee his home in Bogra after cutting the iron shackles that bound him.

Shuvo fled to the house of one

Monwara Begum, a roadside restaurant owner in Joypurhat town.

Talking to local journalists, Shuvo said his father Aynul Haque, a teacher of Biam Model School and College, Bogra and mother separated four years ago.

He said his father remarried and that was when his life turned into a

nightmare.

He said he tried to flee many times before but failed. Shuvo claimed that after every failed attempt, his father and stepmother always beat him up mercilessly.

Monwara Begum said, "Shuvo's legs developed infections due to the constant chafing by the iron rings."

Four months back, Shuvo fled his home and ended up at Monwara's house. He asked her for help, but she did not believe him then. "Shuvo said he was being tortured at home but I thought he was making it up," said Monwara, adding that she called Shuvo's

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Shuvo, 11, after escaping his home in Bogra town where he was tortured for four years by his father and stepmother, inset, iron rings around Shuvo's legs as his father kept him shackled.

PHOTO: STAR

### Sust VC urges 35 teachers to take back admin posts

Protesters reject call, stand firm on demand for his removal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Vice Chancellor of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) Prof Aminul Haque Bhuiyan has urged the teachers, who resigned from 37 administrative posts demanding his removal in April, to take up their posts again after the Eid-ul Azha vacation.

He made the call at a press briefing on Thursday.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, he said he requested the teachers to call off the indefinite protest and go back to work.

The VC said he wanted to settle the issue through discussions.

The vacation starts tomorrow and ends on October 3.

However, the protesters rejected the call and said their only demand was his resignation.

"We will not leave the field until our demand is met," said Prof Syed Shamsul Alam, convener of the protesters' platform, Mahan Muktiujuddher Chetonai Udbuddho Shikkhak Brindo.

Thirty-five senior teachers, including noted writer Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, resigned on April 20 from 37 administrative posts expressing "no-confidence" in the VC.

They accused Prof Bhuiyan of irregularities, nepotism, and misbehaviour with colleagues.

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