

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.0   L 23.9	H 31.8   L 25.0	H 34.3   L 23.8	H 33.4   L 22.6	H 33.8   L 24.3	H 33.2   L 23.8	H 33.7   L 23.0	H 33.0   L 25.2

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:29pm and rises tomorrow at 5:58am.

## JU teachers withdraw indefinite strike

BCL leader removed from admin post

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University authorities yesterday sacked Bangladesh Chhatra League leader Faysal Hossain Dipu from his administrative officer post, who was appointed on July 13 on an ad-hoc basis by the vice chancellor. Registrar Abu Bakkar Siddaue confirmed that it would come into effect from November 18. The teachers had been demanding cancellation of the appointment of Faysal, organising secretary of JU unit of BCL, for a long time, citing that he was among the BCL men, who attacked teachers staging a sit-in on October 9, 2013, seeking removal of the then vice chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain. Following the termination, Jahangirnagar

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Clockwise from left, no one can tell that this is a historical site as people have set up shops and hung political posters in front of the main entrance of Chhoto Kutra in Old Dhaka damaging the heritage site. The walls have been covered with plaster and a window put up, flattening the facade and destroying its original shape. As if that was not enough, people set up shops inside the structure as well.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Prepared with security for Durga Puja, Ashura

Claims Rab DG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has taken sufficient security measures for a peaceful celebration of Durga Puja and Ashura, said its Director General Benazir Ahmed yesterday. Rab personnel both in uniform and plainclothes as well as dog squads will remain vigilant while intelligence gathering network will also be active, he told a press briefing after visiting the Banani puja mandap in the capital. Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindus, began yesterday

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# Chhoto Kutra on verge of destruction

ANANTA YUSUF

Almost lost amid negligence and encroachment, it is hard to believe that Chhoto Kutra was one of the places from where Bengal was ruled by Subedar Shaista Khan after he built it on the Buriganga river's bank in 1670. According to historic sources, it was intended to be a shoraikhana (roadside inn) and administrative office for the Mughal officials and travellers. The massive architecture consists two gateways. The southern three-storied one serves as the main entrance. In between that one and the one in the north lies a tomb of one Champa Bibi whose identity remains a mystery. "All my life I have heard about Champa Bibi's Mazar, but neither my father nor I can exactly say who she was. I heard she was Shaista Khan's mistress while some say she was his wife," says Abdur Rahim, an Old Dhaka resident. Now this historic Mughal architecture is being taken over by some land grabbers. It is impossible to imagine that

anywhere else in the world one would find commercial structures being built on an archaeological site defying the Antiquities Act of 1968. Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha's (Rajuk) Detailed Area Plan does not mark it as a special archaeological zone. "New structures are being built just beside Chhoto Kutra," says architect Taimur Islam, CEO of Urban Study Group, an organisation campaigning for the conservation of architectural and urban heritage of Old Dhaka. "When we informed Rajuk about this construction it was one storied and Rajuk pulled down some of the new construction's columns. I wonder, if they bulldozed the columns under the antiquities act, how the owner could have completed the whole building?" he asks. Taimur said according to the act, 200 metres from the river and 250 metres from the monument are protected zones. And because of these encroachments the area connecting Chhoto Kutra and the river cannot be found anymore.

**To watch the video of the current situation of Chhoto Kutra, scan this QR code with your smartphone**

TO USE QR CODE ON YOUR SMARTPHONE, INSTALL FREE QR READER SOFTWARE LIKE "I-NIGMA BARCODE SCANNER" FROM GOOGLE PLAYSTORE OR APPLE STORE. TURN ON THE SOFTWARE AND HOLD THE PHONE CAMERA OVER THE QR CODE TO GET THE VIDEO LINK.

Surrounded by numerous shops and factories, the wide walls of Chhoto Kutra have been encroached on by high rise buildings ranging from five to six storeys. Even though there is no legal owner, construction continues over Chhoto Kutra. A teenage worker of Rabeya Toy on the upper floor of Kutra says, "We have been using this place for a long

time and we live here too." The whole architecture is covered with illegal structures. The intricate ornate decorations on the colossal gateways still standing tall in the middle of the busy, narrow, congested lanes are long gone; instead, they are now adorned with political campaigns or some posters. Modern day aluminium-framed windows on the body of a Mughal monument will surely jar the sensibilities of heritage lovers, but that is how the people, who now occupy these heritage sites, have altered them. Rakhi Roy, regional director of the Department of Archaeology, said they informed Rajuk about the ongoing encroachment but Rajuk did not take any steps. "From our part we really want to preserve the site. But we do not have any magistracy power to stop this destruction. Rajuk has the authority to take immediate action," she said. According to the department, the local community has altered and

extended the Katras over the course of time according to their needs resulting in the present derelict condition. The department formed a committee which worked on this project till 2012, setting a value of Tk 410 million for this asset. Since the recovery of the site involves the allocation of a large amount of money, the project was halted. Then again a new committee was formed and it failed to bring any change because of budget limitations. Rakhi says, "It requires manpower and a lot of money. And we have no budget. Moreover, it was never easy on our part to take the requisition and have them officially documented as an archaeological site in government records as local people have taken over them since the British period." Maybe within a few years Chhoto Kutra will be turned into a quest for history enthusiasts and archaeologists and found only in the pages of history. We might need the help of archaeological tools too to dig out the buried history and artefacts of Chhoto Kutra.



President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Sabar Hossain Chowdhury launches "Handbook for Parliamentarians on Migration, Human Rights and Governance" published jointly by IPU, International Labour Organization, and the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights at a special event during IPU's 133rd Assembly in Geneva yesterday.

## RMG workers block highway for arrears in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Several hundred workers of a readymade garment factory blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway at Radio colony of Dogomora in Savar yesterday, demanding their arrears. Witnesses said the workers of Jalal Ahmed Knit Composite Ltd blocked the road for about half an hour. Police rushed to the spot and assured the workers to be paid arrears within Wednesday then the workers withdrew their blockade, said Sub-inspector of Savar Model Police Station Md Zakaria Hosen. Md Harunur Rashid, the chairman of the factory, told The Daily Star that the workers were not paid on time due to shipment problem. "On Wednesday we will get money of our shipment and pay the workers," he said.

# Laws must to ensure poor's right to food

Speakers say at views-exchange meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A legal framework is needed along with the seventh five-year plan of the government and food policy to ensure poor people's right to food, said speakers at a views-exchange meeting yesterday. "The number of poor people has remained unchanged (around four crore) in the country in the last five to six years, though the poverty percentage has gone down," said Mohshin Ali, secretary of Right to Food Bangladesh, who presented the keynote paper at the programme. Right to Food Bangladesh, an umbrella network of organisations and persons, organised the meeting on "SDG and Seventh five year plan: right to food perspective" in the capital's Cirdap auditorium. He said half the poor people do not get food more than once a day. Emphasising the need for the food right act, economist Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad, chairman of Right to Food Bangladesh, said an initiative to prepare a draft of the law is needed as it will not happen if the procedure is not started. The food right act should not only mention increasing income of people, but it should also say how food can be accessible in remote areas, said Dr Naznin Ahmed, senior research fellow of Bangladesh Unnayan Gobeshona Prathisthan. Naznin also emphasised monitoring the framework of the act for it to be successfully implemented. Ranzan Karmakar, executive director of Steps Towards Development, said to ensure the right to food, food distribution system and rights of farmers need to be ensured. To ensure these things, a legal framework and its implementation is very necessary, he added. Economist Prof MM Akash said there are four dimensions for right to food security which are -- access, availability, use, and stability -- and ensuring right to food security is possible through ensuring these four components. "But we have to focus mainly on access and stability to ensure food security," he added.

## Ctg policeman accused of attempted rape of 'previously raped' woman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A case was filed against the officer-in-charge (investigation) of Boalkhali Police Station of Chittagong city on the charge of attempted rape of a woman who had allegedly been raped previously as well. The woman of Boalkhali Upazila lodged the case yesterday with Chittagong Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1 accusing OC Omar Faruque. The court took the case under its cognizance, according to court sources. The OC was investigating the previous rape case, lodged by this woman against another man. The lawyer of the complainant, Advocate Md Rezaul Karim Rony, told The Daily Star that OC Omar Faruque made unwanted advances towards the woman a couple of times during the investigation. The OC forcefully took the woman to Patenga Beach of port city on August 27 and attempted to rape her on that spot but failed.

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## Public probe body formed

Anu Muhammad convener

DU CORRESPONDENT

"Concerned citizens" yesterday formed a "public committee" to investigate allegations that questions of the September 18 medical and dental college admission tests had been leaked. Eminent economist Prof Anu Muhammad has been made convener of the 17-member body that will start working through a general meeting on October 23 and prepare a report by November 20 before giving it to the government. It urged representatives of the government and demonstrators demanding a retake of the tests to attend a mass hearing in Dhaka University's (DU) Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) cafeteria on October 30 at 4:00pm. The committee will collect evidences, speak to protesters and government officials and evaluate the question formulation and admission test procedure. The committee includes barristers Sara Hossain and Jyotirmoy Borua, noted columnist Syed Abul Maksud, IT expert Fida Huq, former BSMMU professor Dr Fazlur Rahman, hydrologist M Inamul Huq, vocalist Mahmuduzzaman Babu and DU teachers Geeti Ara Nasreen, Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan and Samina Lutfa. "The admission seekers are demonstrating for around a month, but the government has not yet taken any initiative to investigate the allegation," Prof Anu told a press conference in the TSC teachers' lounge. "The public have the right to take action wherever the government fails as they have the constitutional right to sovereignty, so concerned citizens made the committee," he added. Prof Anu hoped that the government would afterwards take appropriate steps. "The government can not ignore its responsibilities. Question leak has become ubiquitous...from primary stage to job recruitment test...public monitoring will be strengthening through this mass probe committee," he said. Eminent jurist and constitution specialist Dr Kamal Hossain assured providing legal assistance, he added.

## HIMU MURDER CASE

### Prosecution seeks capital punishment for accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The prosecution sought capital punishment for the accused in the Himu murder case during their argument before a Chittagong court yesterday. The accused are Shah Selim Tipu, Md Shahadat Hossain Saju, Jahedul Islam Shawon, Mahboob Ali Khan Danny and Tipu's son Junaid Ahmed Riad. The court fixed November 1 for argument of the defence, said additional public prosecutor Anupam Chakraborty. Depositions, testimonies and cross-examinations of six prosecution witnesses were also submitted before the court. Earlier, testimonies and cross-examinations of 14 prosecution witnesses had been submitted, said the APP. Centering his anti-drug role in the locality, Himadri Majumder Himu, an A-level student of Summerfield School and College, was beaten, dogs

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