

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 31.4 L 20.3	H 33.3 L 23.8	H 33.6 L 18.8	H 31.5 L 18.8	H 32.0 L 20.3	H 31.0 L 20.7	H 30.6 L 21.2	H 32.5 L 23.8

Day temperature may fall slightly and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:22pm and rises tomorrow at 6:03am. Country's highest temperature 33.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 18.0 in Sreemangal.

### Barisal medical college closed for 3hrs over BCL scuffles

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Sher-e-Bangla Medical College (SBMC) in Barisal remained closed for around three hours yesterday following scuffles over the new SBMC unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League declared by the city unit leaders on October 19.

Principal of the college Dr Bhaskar Saha and witnesses said one faction was led by the new president and general secretary, Al-Imran and Tuhin, while the other by one Anup Sarkar during the altercations at the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College's main gate around 2:00pm. Talking to The Daily Star, both Al-Imran and Anup accused each other of attacking first.



A man shows Aman paddy affected by rice leafhoppers which reportedly damaged 30 percent of the cultivation in Noakhali's Subarnachar upazila. The insect folds a rice leaf around itself, attaches the leaf margins together with silk strands and feeds inside the folded leaf creating longitudinal white and transparent streaks. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

## Jamaat, Shibir's demos foiled

15 held, 19 bombs recovered in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested at least 15 Jamaat-Shibir men and recovered 19 crude bombs from different spots in the capital allegedly for attempting to commit subversive activities through flash procession.

However, Jamaat, in a statement, claimed they tried to demonstrate protesting alleged killings of six of its party men in a political clash in 2006.

A chase and counter-chase took place with police in Jatrabari around 6:00am when Jamaat-Shibir activists brought out a flash procession.

Police arrested three activists and recovered four crude bombs from the scene.

Mirpur police arrested eight activists and recovered leaflets and jihadi books in Pirebagh and West Shewrapara while they attempted to gather for a procession around 5:00am.

Besides, Kafrul police arrested four activists and recovered 15 cocktails in East Shewrapara around 4:00pm.

Meanwhile, Jamaat in the statement, claimed that 20 other leaders and activists were held from different districts, including Bogra, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Moulvibazar, Sunamganj, Madaripur and Feni.

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong adds, police arrested a leader of Jamaat-e-Islami at Purbo Kalaujan Azadchar in Lohagara upazila early yesterday.

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## Reclaim road width, footpaths to end perennial traffic choas

Suggests Jamilur Reza at workshop on revised strategic transport plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reclamation of actual road width and pedestrian ways with enforcement of traffic management could bring about a significant improvement in the capital city's perennial traffic problem, said a leading civil engineer at a workshop in the capital yesterday.

The perennial traffic problem in the capital is mostly all about management failure, said Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, the noted civil engineer, while chairing the workshop on a revised strategic transport plan (STP).

"At least half the width of the city roads remains illegally occupied causing the foremost bottleneck for traffic mobility in the capital," said Choudhury, who was an advisory committee convener on the existing

STP for Dhaka city prepared in 2005.

Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) along with Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) organised the workshop at Cirdap auditorium on the final draft report of the revised 20-year STP for greater Dhaka city.

Small management interventions like reclamation of pedestrian passages and actual road width and route franchising instead of talking of only billion-dollar development schemes could bring about significant improvement, said Choudhury.

Restoration of the river ways all around Dhaka city and development of railway service are easy options for reducing Dhaka's traffic congestion significantly, he said, but none of those simple jobs capable of yielding high

results could be done thanks to strong hindrance by powerful political quarters.

Besides, several transport schemes developed in the capital out of STP recommendations and without thorough analysis have been incompatible with various STP-proposed ones, he said.

Tamaoki Watanabe, team leader of the STP revision consultant, in his presentation, underscored the short term measures, including bus service improvement, building bypass roads, traffic management and enforcement, vehicle parking management and pedestrian way development, maintenance of traffic lanes and removal of obstruction from roads and sidewalks.

Satoko Tanaka, director for

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## Students to get free textbooks on time

Nahid tells journalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday assured that printing of school textbooks will be completed on schedule and students will get them by the start of next year.

The minister said this while talking to reporters after inspecting the textbook printing at Matuail in Dhaka.

The government has been distributing free textbooks to students on time for a couple of years, he said.

This year, a total of 33,39,61,724 textbooks are being printed for 44 lakh secondary and primary school students, he added.

The minister said 70 percent of textbooks for secondary and madrasa schools have been sent to upazila-level schools. On the other hand, one percent of books have been sent to the primary school students, he said.

He said as the number of dropouts has reduced and number of new students is increasing, they are printing more copies than that of last year.

Talking about the primary school textbooks, Nahid said due to some "complications", the printing of the books started a little late.



## 96 BNP men sent to jail on surrender in Kishoreganj

STAR REPORT

Two Kishoreganj courts yesterday sent 96 BNP leaders and activists of the district to jail on surrender in 11 different cases filed for creating anarchy after last year's general polls.

District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Mahbul Haque and Additional Sessions Judge Abdur Rahman sent the BNP men to jail, said court sources.

The sources said after the January 5 polls last year under leadership of the party's district Vice President Shariful Alam, many BNP and Jamaat

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## BSTI sues 14 Ctg factories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Standards Testing Institution (BSTI) filed 14 cases against fourteen steel rod producing factories yesterday for producing rods without properly following BSTI rules, and renewing their licenses.

BSTI Chittagong Assistant Director KM Hanif said a BSTI team conducted drives in Baizid area and Sitakunda upazila on Tuesday and yesterday, and found two factories in the city and twelve in the upazila were conducting operations without BSTI license violating the BSTI Ordinance 1985 (amended in 2003).

The industries are Benz Industries (Bangladesh) Ltd, and Multi-Steel Castings of Baizid area; Champa Steels, Unique Re-rolling Mills and Aziz Re-rolling Mills, NC Engineering Works, Nazia (pvt) Ltd, Golden Steel Alloy Works Ltd, Al Safa Steel Re-rolling Mills, Master Steel Re-rolling Mills, H Steel Re-rolling Mills, Brothers Ispat Industries Ltd, Khalil Steel, Peninsula Steel Mills Ltd, and MTS Re-rolling Mills Ltd.

The cases were filed with the courts of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and Chief Judicial Magistrate, said the assistant director.

## Journalist robbed in Hatirjheel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A senior reporter of a private TV channel was robbed of Tk 54,000 and US \$325 as two youths riding a motorcycle snatched the bag he was carrying the money in allegedly just 100 metres away from a police checkpoint in the capital's Hatirjheel on Tuesday night.

"The motorcycle intercepted my rickshaw (around 10:30pm)... as the youths tussled for the bag, I fell from the rickshaw," said Emran Hossain Sumon adding that his and the rickshaw-puller's screams for help proved futile.

The last two digits of the motorcycle's registration plate were covered with a patch, he added.

## Australia urged to hire manpower

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam yesterday requested the Australian government to hire skilled jobseekers from Bangladesh.

Bangladeshis are becoming skilled in different trades like welding, he said when Australian High Commissioner Greg Wilcock made a courtesy call on him in the capital's Probashi Kallyan Bhaban.

The minister also requested the envoy to open its job market to Bangladeshis in agriculture and construction sectors, said a press release.

The high commissioner assured Nurul Islam of assisting the Bangladesh government in sending its

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Demanding their enrolment into the Monthly Pay Order (MPO), Non-MPO Educational Institutions' Teachers-Employees Federation continues their indefinite sit-in for the third consecutive day in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## WAR CRIMES TRIAL AGAINST THREE HABIGANJ 'RAZAKARS' Another links them to 2 FFs' killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another prosecution witness yesterday linked Muhibur Rahman Boromia, his brother Mujibur Rahman Angur Mia and their cousin Abdur Razzak to the murders of two freedom fighters in Habiganj during the Liberation War in 1971.

Qumrunnesa, the second prosecution in the case and also daughter of one of the freedom fighters, told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that her whole family earnestly requested Muhibur Rahman to release her father,

martyred Akal Ali, but to no avail.

"I want justice for my father and uncle," said the 52-year-old woman after identifying the accused at the tribunal's dock.

Earlier, Mostor Ali, the first prosecution witness, linked the trio to the killings of the two freedom fighters.

Qumrunnesa said her father and Rajab Ali, a neighbour, joined the Liberation War around one-and-a-half month after it started. They came home in Baniachang of Habiganj on November 11, 1971, she said.

On that day around 4:00pm, eight to 10 Razakars laid siege to their house and Muhibur Rahman shot Rajab Ali dead when he tried to flee from their house, said the witness.

Then, as per order of Muhibur, some Razakars, including Mujibur, Razzak and Abdul Hamid, dragged her father out of the house, and when she and her family requested Muhibur to release Akal, he kicked them, said Qumrunnesa.

Razakars took her father to their

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The herons were supposed to be rising out of water, but now they stand on garbage thrown carelessly in the structure. Initially the structure, built in front of the office of Biman Bangladesh in the capital, had water but due to neglect the water dried up and people began using it as a dustbin. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

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