

# NEWS IN brief

## "Drug trader" held in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested an alleged drug trader with 28,500 pieces of Yaba in the capital's Shajahanpur early yesterday. Shahjalal, 28, was arrested while passing a police checkpoint in Shantibagh around 12:30am, Shajahanpur Police Station's OC said adding, he used to collect Yaba from Chittagong and Cox's Bazar and sell them in the area.

## Abusive bus conductor remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bus conductor who hurled expletives at a female student of Dhaka University was placed on a three-day remand yesterday, after the student filed a case against him. Mamun, a helper of Shuktara Paribahan, hurled expletives at her when she boarded the bus from Manikganj heading for Gabtoli on Friday. Mamun was detained that night. Mirpur Darussalam police said he confessed to the crime. The student of DU's geography department complained that he insulted her after she refused to let him sit next to her.

## Govt Laboratory High School Alumni reunion rescheduled

CITY DESK

The reunion of former students of Government Laboratory High School, Dhaka is rescheduled for 25 December, said a press release of Old Laboratorians Association (OLSA). The registration will continue today between 3:30pm and 7:30pm at the school.

## Jasim president, Tonmoy general secretary of CUJAD

CITY DESK



Jasim Uddin Khan and Tonmoy Majumder were made president and general secretary respectively of Chittagong University Journalism Association Dhaka (CUJAD) on Friday.

The executive committee was formed for one year at a meeting. Other office bearers are: Momena Akter Popy, Parvez Chowdhury, Hasan Major, Shamim Ahmed Sihisir, Dilara Lina, Iftehar Hossain Raju, Tabarul Haque, Berek Kaiser, Golam Rasul, Mekhau Marma, Hedayet Hossain, Nurul Amin Jahangir, Alamgir Khandaker, and Imaf Bappi.

## BNP, government agree on no

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its finger against the USA and blames them, it may affect our foreign policy. "Our party believes that without having any clear knowledge, we should not make any comment against any country that may dent our friendly ties."

Mentioning that Bangladesh has some internal problems with the US as it is yet to restore GSP facilities, Ripon said "We have strong commercial ties with the US. So, we should not expose our enmity towards any country by making derogatory comments against it."

The BNP leader urged the government to concentrate on resolving the country's political and democratic problems instead of blaming foreign friends. He alleged that the government, as part of its plot, was trying to brand BNP as a militant and terrorist party by taking statements under duress from some people after arresting them in connection with untoward incidents.

"We want to say that such efforts of the government will go in vain as the country's people and international community know it very well that BNP is a democratic party and it wants change of power only through votes, not any other way," he added.

## 3 hurt in DU BCL factional clash

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clash, said the sources. Masud, a master's student of philosophy and a follower of BCL General Secretary SM Jakir Hossain, accused Imran of instructing the attack. Imran, a master's student of Islamic studies and a follower of BCL DU unit President Abid Al Hasan, could not be reached on his phone for comment.

Acknowledging their followers, Jakir and Abid said they heard about the incident and that steps would be taken according to the BCL constitution. Acting proctor Prof M Amzad Ali said punitive measures would be taken after investigations. DELAY BEATING

Asik of sociology, Alamgir of Bangla, Liton of philosophy, Jewel of English, Fuwad and Firoz of management and information system and Sagor of finance, all second year students, took treatment at DMCH.

Witnesses, requesting anonymity, said the hall's acting secretary Boni Amin Molla had asked the resident students to gather at the guestroom at 7:00am to pay tributes at the grave of three national leaders.

He and his followers assaulted the six brutally for arriving late, added the witnesses. Boni admitted the incident and said they sometimes had to "love and punish juniors while dealing with all of their problems and looking after them".



A girl wades through a road flooded by rains in Kashipur Hatkhola in Narayanganj. This is one of the 10 shortlisted photographs in The Daily Star's photo contest inPixel with the theme rain.

PHOTO: ZIAUL HAQUE OISHARJH

## Children's book on Hashem Khan unveiled

DU CORRESPONDENT

A children's book, comprising paintings of Hashem Khan and 55 poems written on the eminent artist, was unveiled in Abdul Karim Shahitto Bisharod auditorium of Bangla Academy in the capital yesterday.

At the programme, Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman said Hashem Khan played an important role in establishing children's organisation "Kochi-Kachar Mela".

Chandrabati Academy, publisher of the book titled "Chhobir Kobi Hashem Khan", arranged the programme while Exim Bank funded it.

Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhit was present as chief guest. Prof Muntassir Mamoon, cartoonist Rafiqun Nabi, and singer Bulbul Mahalanabish were also present.

## Nation observes

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the incumbent government snatched people's fundamental rights. "Now there is no democracy in the country and there is no security for people's lives and properties," she said.

Khaleda called upon all to unite to restore democracy.

## People deprived of right to free speech

### Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy memorial discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the right to agree or disagree with any view is integral to democracy, people of the country are deprived of it, said speakers yesterday at a discussion on Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, one of the great leaders of undivided India.

When a country shuns the principles of democracy, violence of different forms reign supreme, they said at the discussion organised by Manik Miah Foundation at its office in the capital marking the 52nd death anniversary of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy.

Professor and writer Abul Quasem Fazlul Haq, who presided over the event, said Suhrawardy upheld the principles of democracy throughout his political career. "But in today's changed reality we'll have to conceptualise democracy in a different way. It has to be enjoyed and accessed by all people, not the upper class only," he stressed, adding that concept should encompass economic, social and cultural development. He said the words secular, state religion Islam and socialism should be omitted from the constitution.

Prof Amena Mohsin of Dhaka University said, "It is our collective failure that we have no strong opposition in the country which is an essential character of democracy."

Suhrawardy treated his political opponents in a completely different way than today's politicians, she added. "He used to say that my opponents will be left to be tried in the court of people. But nowadays, it seems like politicians resort to violence and lawsuits to weaken opponents," she stressed.

Former editor of the daily Ittefaq Rahat Khan, Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, and journalist Mahfuz Ullah also spoke.

## Discrimination impedes

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BHOP Secretary General Nirmal Chandra Das said Dalits and Harijans were still socially considered untouchables and denied human dignity, virtually excluding them from development and social rights.

"Discrimination has still been going on despite a prime ministerial instruction for their enhanced inclusion," he said, adding that they were subjected to live a life of indignity.

Citing that there are nearly one crore Dalit people of different "low caste" communities in the country of which 15 lakh are Harijans, he demanded for their equal and quota-based access to employment, reserved representation in parliament and local government bodies, and a national Dalit commission.

There is discrimination against not only Dalits but also other marginalised communities like physically challenged persons and sex workers, said Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam.

But the extent of such discrimination is decreasing gradually with the sanitisation of policymakers, she said.

JL Bhowmik, president of Dhaka Mohanagar Sarbajanin Puja Ujapan Committee, spoke while BHOP Chairperson Krishna Lal chaired the discussion.

## Hospital fined for using date expired chemicals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday fined a hospital Tk 6 lakh for using expired chemicals in detecting different diseases, and sealed off a medical service centre and sentenced its manager to six months' imprisonment for operating without a license in the capital's Farmgate yesterday.

The team led by Executive Magistrate Sarowar Alam fined Al Razi Hospital for using chemicals that expired in 2011 in

testing for hepatitis.

They also found more expired chemicals in its pathology laboratory, said a press release.

Moreover, the hospital had a specialist doctor's name, who died two years back, on its signboard, said Md Masud Karim, deputy director of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Meanwhile, Al Fateh Medical Services Centre was shut down and its manager Md Didarul Islam jailed for six months for not having approval from the DGHS.

# CELEBRATING LIFE

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**Photography Exhibition**  
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Band Performance by **CHIRKUTT**  
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# আমার সন্তানতো আমারই

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একুশ শতকের চ্যালেঞ্জ মোকাবেলায় সন্তানকে তৈরি করতে অভিভাবককেও জানতে হয় অনেক কিছু। একটি জ্ঞান সমৃদ্ধ পরিবারই সন্তানের এগিয়ে চলাকে সহজ করে তুলতে পারে। **Champs21** আপনার স্কুল পড়ুয়া সন্তান ও আপনার জন্য পাঠ্যপুস্তক এবং পাঠ্যবিষয়ের বাইরের কন্টেন্ট চমৎকারভাবে উপস্থাপন করে।

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