

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 28.0 L 19.5	H 26.2 L 20.9	H 27.8 L 18.4	H 28.4 L 14.0	H 28.2 L 20.0	H 28.5 L 20.1	H 26.8 L 14.5	H 28.0 L 20.3

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the country during mid night till morning. Met Office said. Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius and day temperature may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:51pm and rises tomorrow at 6:34am.

### Emergency treatment for all critically injured in all hospitals, clinics

HC directs govt to ensure STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to take necessary steps for providing emergency medical services to all critically injured persons at the government hospitals and private clinics across the country.

In response to a writ petition, the HC ordered the government to submit a report on the progress in ensuring emergency medical services to accident victims under the National Road Safety Strategic Action Plan 2014-2016 to it in three months.

The court also asked secretaries to the ministries of health, and road, transport and bridges to propose guidelines for management of such emergency services and for measures to create public awareness of such services through print and electronic media, petitioners' lawyer Sara Hossain and Deputy Attorney General Motaher

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**Shomrat Shajahan Shaju, a rickshaw-puller, undergoing treatment at the capital's Galaxy General Hospital, shows the spot where a cop was about to pull the trigger demanding extortion money but missed, only to shoot off his big toe when he jerked his foot away at the last second. The impact left a sizeable hole in his sandal, inset, still lying among patches of dried blood, serving a reminder of the brutality that occurred inside a tin shanty in a Kalyanpur slum on the evening of February 7.**

PHOTOS: SHAHEEN MOLLAH

### Govt to set up medical universities in all divisions

Says PM Sheikh Hasina; distributes cheques among Bangabandhu Fellowship recipients UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said medical universities will be set up gradually in each division while the medical colleges will be made affiliated to those universities to maintain their standard of education.

She said works are going on to set up two more medical universities in the country apart from the lone Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

The prime minister was addressing a function after distributing cheques and special donations among fellows, researchers and young scientists of Bangabandhu Fellowship, National Science and Technology project at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital.

About the "Bangabandhu Fellowship on Science and ICT" project, Hasina announced that this project will soon be turned

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## President directs EC to maintain dignity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged the Election Commission (EC) to maintain its dignity as a constitutional body and uphold public faith and to give top priority to hold the upcoming union parishad (UP) polls in a free and fair manner.

Hamid made the call when a five-member EC delegation led by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad met him at Bangabhaban marking the fourth anniversary of the incumbent EC assumed office, said the president's press secretary Joynal Abedin.

The commission took oath on February 9, 2012 and assumed office on February 12, 2012. They faced criticism for their role in January 5 national election, upazila elec-

tions, Dhaka and Chittagong city polls, and municipality polls, which were marked by irregularities.

Talking to The Daily Star, Abedin said the EC had appraised the president about the overall activities of their last four-year tenure and preparation to hold the upcoming UP polls. The EC had informed that elections to around 4,200 UPs will be held in six phases from March to June this year, he added.

**ELECTIONS IN 10 MUNICIPALITIES**  
Election to ten municipalities of nine districts will be held on March 20, announced the Election Commission yesterday.

The last date for filing nomination is February 22, nominations will be scrutinised on February 24 and 25, and the deadline for withdrawal of nominations is March 4,

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## 'SHOOTING OF RICKSHAW-PULLER BY COPS FOR EXTORTION' Family on verge of starvation

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Shomrat Shajahan Shaju, 30, a rickshaw-puller who lives in Kalyanpur slum with his wife and two daughters, came to Dhaka city from Bhola, like many others, to survive and feed his family a three-square meal per day.

On Sunday evening, Shaju and three others from his slum, Pora Bosti no 8, were sitting by a fire on a cold winter evening when four policemen approached and took them to a tin shanty and shot off the big toe of his left foot after he had jostled with them while trying to resist their attempts to snatch Tk 100 from him and his mobile phone.

Shaju, now lying on the hospital bed of the capital's Galaxy General Hospital, could only think of how he would be able to feed his family. One

of his daughters is six-month old. "I am the only earning member of my family," he lamented.

Mirpur police admitted him to the hospital and said that they would bear the treatment cost.

Asked what actions were taken against the cop who shot Shaju, Maruf Hossain Sarder, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), said an assistant commissioner of Public Order Management division of DMP was asked to probe into the matter. Actions will be taken after the completion of the probe.

Seeing that Shaju would not give up his phone or money, the policemen dragged the four of them to a nearby office of Bangabandhu Sainik League ward no 11, where four other cops were waiting inside.

"They went through our pockets and took Tk 1,200 from one of my neighbours. As they reached for the Tk 100 note I had, I grabbed hold of it tightly and held my mobile phone with the other," Shaju said.

"The beating with rifle butts and cursing started, the moment they took us in and locked the door," he said, adding, "soon afterwards, one of them held my left foot with one hand and shot at my foot with a shotgun."

Shaju said he tried to free his foot with all his might and gave a sudden pull just in time so that the bullet could hit his big toe only. "It could have been much worse if the bullet had hit my foot," he said.

Hearing the gunfire, hundreds of the residents of the slum gathered in

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### HC enquires about waste management steps taken in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to submit reports in three months before it on the steps taken for waste management in the capital city.

The court also issued a rule upon the government and Dhaka north and south city corporations to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to take necessary steps for waste management in the

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## DU STUDENT HAFIJUR'S DEATH Punish culpable BCL men

Demand reverberates on campus; administration also being blamed for negligence

MAHDI AL MUHTASIM

Driving an auto-rickshaw for a living, Ishaq Molla was all too happy when his only son got admitted to Dhaka University's (DU) marketing department this year.

It instilled hope that the 19-year-old would soon become self reliant and take up the responsibility as the breadwinner of the ordinary lower middle class family.

So he naturally became worried when Hafijur Molla informed that he was forced by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders of Salimullah Muslim Hall to keep standing for nearly four hours at night on January 26 in the freezing cold as a part of a



"guestroom duty".

Ishaq did not understand why Hafijur had to do it despite informing the "senior brothers" that he had a high fever and a cold which he had caught on having to take up residence

on a hall corridor.

Hafijur's arrival at home in Purbo Shampur village under Faridpur's Sadarpur upazila the next day did little to relieve Ishaq. His worst nightmare came true on February 2 when Hafijur passed away on his way to Dhaka seeking better treatment.

Hafijur was buried in his village home on February 3 and the cause of death was pneumonia and typhoid, he told The Daily Star, still clueless as to what this "guestroom duty" was.

Freshers say this is a weekly session where BCL leaders brief activists on political activities.

Protesters of two alliances of 13 student organisations on the campus

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## Respect press freedom, human rights

Visiting European Parliament delegation urges govt

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Visiting delegation of the European Parliament (EP) yesterday stressed for recognising and respecting freedom of the press and media and allowing human rights bodies to play an important role in strengthening accountability and documenting human rights abuses.

The 4-member EP delegation led by Jean Lambert (Green Party), chair of the delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia, arrived in Dhaka early yesterday to discuss various issues including politics, freedom of expression, labour rights, and human rights.

They also inquired about the government's steps in protecting bloggers and free-thinkers and stressed for credible and transparent investigation into the killing of publishers, bloggers and foreign nationals.

to know whether any threat to bloggers still existed in the country. The NHRC chairman briefed the delegation about the country's overall human rights situation.

The delegation yesterday called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and also met separately with Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, State Minister for CHT Affairs Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing and representatives of the civil society.

The other members of the delegation - Richard Howitt (Labour Party), vice-chair, delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia, Ivan Štefancik (Christian democrats), member, committee on the internal market and consumer protection, and Sajjad Karim (United Kingdom conservative party), committee on international trade were also present at the meetings.

The delegation is scheduled to meet Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia today, and the press on Friday.

### Bangladesh, Thailand to discuss public health co-op today

Thai delegates in town

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A 10-member delegation from the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand arrived in the capital yesterday to join the first meeting of Bangladesh-Thailand Joint Working Group (JWG) on health services to be held in the city today.

The delegation led by Jiroit Sindhvananda, senior advisor of International Medicine of the Ministry of Public Health of Thailand, will hold meeting with the health ministry officials today to identify and discuss issues of cooperation in health-related trade and

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**STAR WEEKEND**  
in other news...

With a fresh new format, new writers and a new perspective, the *Star Weekend* has an array of interesting articles for you. This week our spotlight provides an in-depth review of the recently concluded, 3rd edition of the Dhaka Art Summit in an attempt to see whether or not the summit was successful in its intentions. There is also an interesting article where the writer talks about her work experience with The Daily Star and why she believes that the establishment of The Daily Star brought about a wave of change to the otherwise rigid and monotonous work culture prevalent in the existing dailies - be it English or Bengali. Don't forget your copy of *Star Weekend* tomorrow, Friday!

**THREADING NEW PATHS FOR SOUTH ASIAN ART**