

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 32.2/L 24.0	H 32.1/L 24.0	H 34.5/L 24.3	H 31.4/L 24.2	H 31.5/L 23.0	H 30.6/L 23.6	H 32.5/L 25.6	H 31.2/L 24.0

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind will likely occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Sylhet, Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over the country in the next 24 hours. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:25pm and rises tomorrow at 05:37am.

# Flower farming commercially viable

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

When Sher Ali, a farmer of Panisara village in Jhikargachha upazila of Jessore, started commercial cultivation of tuberose (rajanigandha) on just 30 decimals of land in 1983, none could imagine that flower farming could be profitable.

Inspired by Sher Ali, many in the village and adjoining Gotkhali started flower cultivation commercially in late 1980s and early 1990s.

Now around 20,000 farmers in over 23 districts are engaged in the cultivation and over 22 lakh people are engaged in the chain from cultivation to marketing throughout the country, according to Bangladesh Flower Society (BFS).

Abdur Rahim of Panisara village was one of those who followed Sher Ali. He began after he had graduated in 1990. "I started cultivation of tuberose on my father's 66 decimals of land and I earned Tk 2 lakh in eight months in that season," Rahim told The Daily Star over the phone recently.

"When I started flower cultivation, the wholesalers used to control the market and the farmers were being deprived of fair price," he said, adding, "Like today, Jessore, especially Panisara and Gotkhali, was the hub of flower cultivation at that time."

"Then we formed an association named Gotkhali Flower Cultivators and Traders Welfare Association with Sher Ali as its president and Siddique Hossain as general secretary," he said.

Rahim, incumbent president of BFS, said to expand flower cultivation and business they formed BFS in 1996.

The BFS leaders said flowers are being exported to many countries including Qatar, Dubai and Saudi Arabia from Bangladesh now.



Plants in bloom at a farm in Jessore.

With increasing use of flowers, its cultivation and business flourished over the last couple of decades. BFS said flowers are being cultivated in around 10,000 hectares of land in over 23 districts.

Different varieties including marigold, tuberose, rose, gladiolus, gerbera, calendula and chrysanthemum are grown commercially.

Md Harun, a grower from Cox's Bazar, said he along with five farmers started rose cultivation on two acres of land in Baroitoli of Chakaria upazila in 1998. Initially, they had little knowledge about the farming process.

"... so we did not have a good harvest," he said, adding that gradually they gained experience and now they are cultivating rose and gladiolus on 400 acres of land.

Harun said he is presently earning around Tk 25,000 a month with a Tk 3 lakh annual invest-

ment for rose cultivation on one acre of land.

Md Naser Gani Chowdhury, a senior vice president of BFS, said he first started flower business in Chittagong city in 1997.

At that time, he faced difficulties to collect flowers, he said, adding, "But now I can collect 50,000 roses in six to seven hours."

Cultivation of flowers started commercially in Chittagong in the late 1990s and gained momentum in mid-2000, said Naser.

The farmers, however, are facing some problems. Rahim said due to a lack of separate cold storages, flowers have to be stored with other vegetables for which many flowers are destroyed and lose their quality.

A central market is also needed so that the farmers can get due prices, he said.

Rahim demanded that the government establish a cold storage in every district.

## Jessore sees Tk 1cr worth of sales in a week till Aug 15

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

Flowers worth Tk 1 crore were sold at the largest Godkhali market in Jhikargachha of Jessore in only one week till August 15 (National Mourning Day), said traders.

Most of the flowers including rose, gerbera, gladiolus, tuberose and marigold are produced and supplied from the market, they said, adding that the farmers have achieved a good production and profit this year, said Bangladesh Flower Society President Abdur Rahim.

Last year, flowers worth Tk 15 crore were sold on the occasion of Pahela Falgun, Valentine's Day, and International Mother Language Day, said Rahim.

The farmers have set a target of selling flowers of Tk 5 crore marking Victory Day, he said.

Last year, the farmers could not achieve their target due to a fall in sale for limited scale celebrations of those events due to political turmoil, he said, adding that this year the weather and political situation is in favour of them.

On March 29 this year, Goynad Sarker, adviser to BFS, said sale of flowers generated \$31 million (around Tk 243 crore) in 2009-10, which rose to around \$100 million (around Tk 784 crore) in 2014-15 fiscal.

The adviser was addressing the inaugural ceremony of a two-day Bangladesh Flower Fest 2016 organised by the BFS at Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh in the capital's Khamarbari.

## NEWS IN brief

### CU admission process starts Sept 1

CU CORRESPONDENT

The admission process at Chittagong University (CU) for the 2016-17 academic session will start on September 1.

"Admission seekers can apply till September 25 through SMS from pre-paid numbers of Teletalk," said SM Akbar Hossain, member secretary of CU admission test committee.

The decision came yesterday at a meeting chaired by CU Vice Chancellor Prof Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury.

The admission tests will start on October 23 and continue until October 31. Detailed information can be found at [www.cu.ac.bd](http://www.cu.ac.bd).

### MBBS admission tests Oct 7, Nov 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The admission tests for MBBS for 2016-17 academic year will be held on October 7 and for the Bachelor of Dental Surgery on November 4, says a health ministry press release.

The requirement is a combined GPA 9 from Secondary School Certificate and Higher Secondary Certificate exams, decided a meeting chaired by Health Minister Mohammed Nasim.

### Crop protection training concludes

CITY DESK

A 3-day training "Basic Training for Crop Protection Professionals", which started on August 18, concluded yesterday, said a press release.

Bangladesh Crop Protection Association (BCPA), Bangladesh Institute of Management (BIM), Swiss Contact and Seba Limited jointly organised the training at the capital's BIM, which was attended by 30 people from different crop protection companies.

### Mechanic killed, 2 hurt as vehicle hit them at workplace in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A motor mechanic was killed and two others were injured as a vehicle hit them when they were repairing another vehicle in Noyahat BDR Gate area at Halishahar of the port city yesterday.

The deceased is Md Arif, 40, from Noakhali and injured Bikash Borua and Md Reaz hailed from Hathazari upazila of Chittagong and Laksmipur respectively.

"After being hit by the vehicle, they were rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where Arif was declared dead, said Nayek Abdul Hamid of CMCH police camp.



From left, piles of tuberoses for sale at a Godkhali market in the district. Different varieties of gladiolus there.



PHOTOS: MOHSIN MILON



## Actor Farid Ali no more

BSS, Dhaka

Farid Ali, a freedom fighter and an actor, died from cardiac arrest at a Mirpur cardiac institute yesterday, aged 75.

He left behind his wife, four sons and a daughter.

In 1962, Farid started his acting career by performing in a stage drama "Kone Dekha" by Shahidul Amin.

He first appeared in BTW through "Ektala-Dotala" drama in 1964.

His debut in silver screen was in 1966 through acting in "Dharapat" directed by Amjad Hossen. He also acted in famous films including Sangram, Gunda and Titas Ekti Nadir Nam.

He made a dialogue "Taka Den Dubai Jabo... Bangladeshe Thakbo Na" popular among television viewers.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held today. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her deep condolence over the death.

## Man gets death, mother life term for Ctg murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court sentenced a man to death and his mother life term imprisonment for killing a banker over land dispute in 2005.

The court also fined Humayun Kabir and his mother Shamsun Nahar of East Chandanaish Tk 50,000 each in default to serve six more months, court sources said.

## BANK OF COX'S BAZAR WATER BODY HC halts market construction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued an injunction preventing the construction of a building for a market on the bank of historic Laldighi, a public water body in Cox's Bazar town, for the next six months.

The court also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to stop constructing the building and to protect the water body from encroachment and earth filling.

The court passed the order and rule following a petition filed recently by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) seeking necessary directives to protect it.

The petition stated that the Cox's Bazar municipality authorities were constructing the building, violating laws.

Secretaries to the ministries of land, and environment and forest, the director general of the department of environment, the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police of Chittagong, and the mayor of Cox's Bazar municipality and other officials concerned were made respondents to the rule.

## CALLING ZIA 'FIRST PRESIDENT' Tk 5,000cr damage suit against AL MP

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Awami League lawmaker Maj Gen (ret) Shubid Ali Bhuiyan was sued yesterday for calling Ziaur Rahman the "first president" of Bangladesh.

Mohammad Zilani Sarkar, a Jubo League leader of Comilla, filed the case with a Dhaka court against the AL leader demanding Tk 5,000 crore as compensation for his comment.

The court asked officer-in-charge (investigation) of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station to investigate the allegation and submit a probe report by October 13.

According to the case statement, Shubid, also chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on defence ministry, at a meeting on August 17, made the statement about Ziaur Rahman which came to the media on August 18.

## 4 females among 5 'JMB operatives' on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed four female alleged Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) members on a four-day fresh remand in a case filed under the anti-terrorism act.

It also placed on a five-day remand an alleged male member of the banned militant outfit, Fuad-Al-Mahadi, arrested in the case by Rapid Action Battalion at Lake Circus Road in Kalabagan on Sunday.

Aklima Rahman Moni, Khadija Parveen Meghla and Ishrat Jahan Mou are fourth-year pharmacy students of Manarat International University while Istishna Afroz Oishee a Dhaka Medical College Hospital intern.

Detained on August 16, they were placed on a five-day remand the next day.

The case's investigation officer, Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police of Rab Shamsul Haque, sought the fresh remand saying the four provided information on accomplices around the country.

Vital clues needed to be unearthed from their electronic devices and arrest 10 other militants mentioned in the first information report, he said.

In this remand prayer, the IO said he arrested Fuad on information gleaned from the four and he needed to be interrogated.

Fuad's lawyer submitted a petition seeking bail along with cancellation of the remand prayer.

The lawyer said his client was a student of English at Bangladesh Islamic University and Fuad's father Nurul Islam was a freedom fighter and Krishok League Laksmipur district unit president.



## Amanullah passes away

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Kazi Amanullah, a staff correspondent of Khulna of the daily New Age, died from cardiac arrest at a local hospital yesterday.

He was 68. Former district correspondent of The Daily Star, Amanullah left behind his wife, a son and three daughters.

He also worked for different local and national newspapers including the weekly "Hakkatha", the Daily Tribune as its news editor, and UNB.



Vehicles stuck on the capital's Satrasta due to, among other causes, the blocking of the right lane giving access to the Moghbazar flyover by vehicles intending to use the left lane and go under the structure. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Ctg man murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An elderly man was beaten to death allegedly by the driver and conductors of a mini bus over a trifle matter in Chittagong city yesterday.

Selim Khan, 55, a pedestrian, was attacked by the driver, Nitai Chowdhury, and his associates as Selim asked the driver to move the vehicle standing at a petrol pump after a truck rushed there from the opposite direction in Aturar Depot area of Panchlaish, Sub-inspector Razu Ahmed of Panchlaish Police Station quoted witnesses as saying.

Selim was declared dead at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said CMCH police. Police arrested Nitai.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**USAID Agro-Inputs Project (AIP)** in Bangladesh, implemented by CNFA, invites request for proposal from reputed communications agency/firm for "Creation of two instructional videos" in order to support project activities, particularly AIRN training events.

Experienced and interested firms can find details regarding the task from: <http://www.aipbd.org/opportunities/rfps/>

**The deadline for hard copy proposal submission is 16:30, September 7, 2016.**

*Bidders must not make inquires to USAID.*