

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 36.1 L 28.8

CHITTAGONG H 32.6 L 26.7

SYLHET H 36.9 L 28.4

RAJSHAHI H 36.7 L 27.5

KHULNA H 35.7 L 28.2

BARISAL H 34.8 L 27.5

RANGPUR H 37.8 L 27.8

COX'S BAZAR H 32.5 L 25.1



GRAFT CASE
24-yr-old plea
of Ershad
on Sunday's
hearing list
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 24-year-old appeal of former president HM Ershad against a lower court verdict that jailed him for three years in a corruption case has come up in the hearing list of the High Court.

The appeal has been enlisted as item No 4 on Sunday's list of the HC bench of Justice Bhabani Prasad Singh.

The bench might fix a date for appeal hearing. Anti-Corruption Commission lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star yesterday, who on August 22 prayed for hearing the appeal for its disposal.

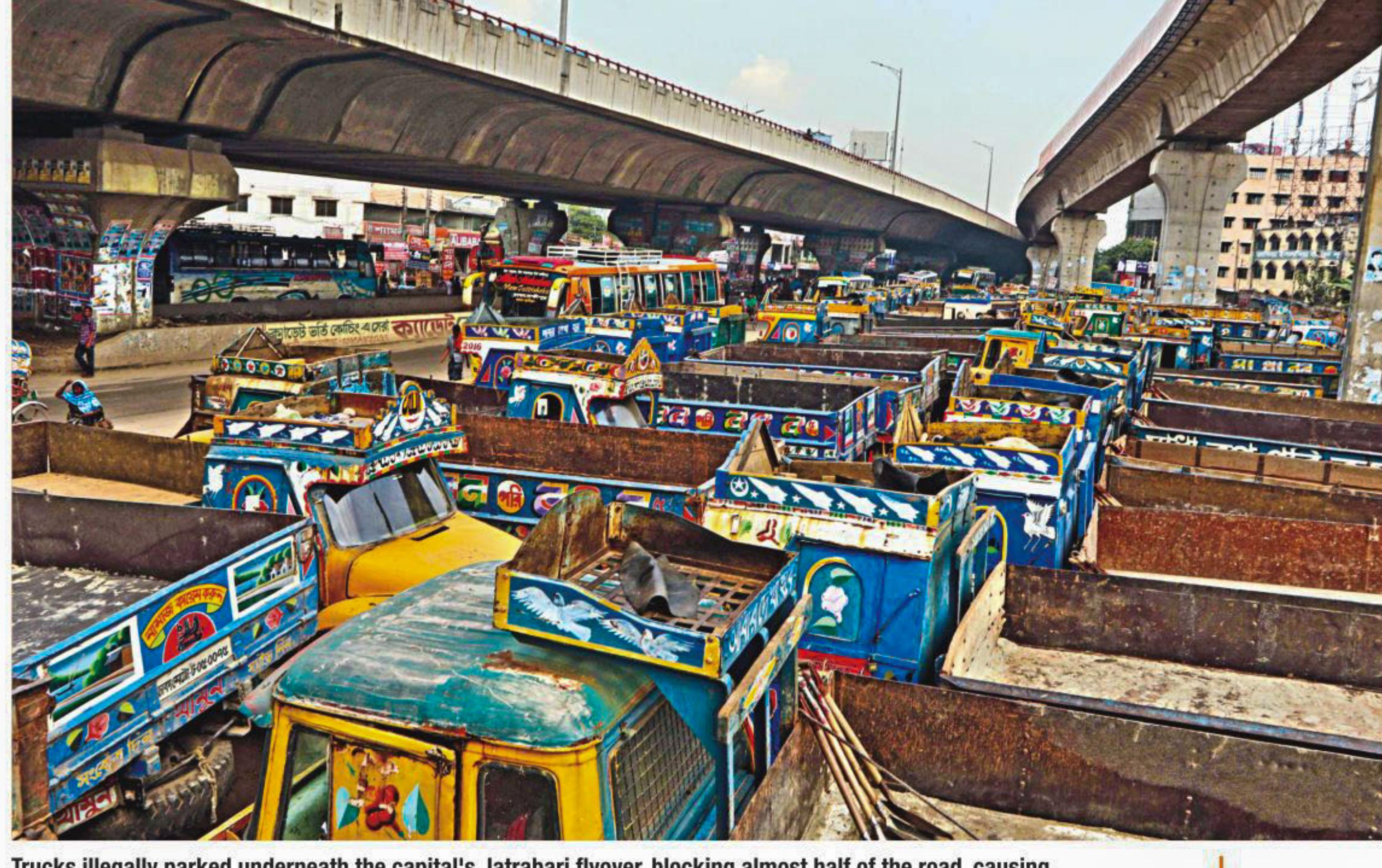
Khurshid said the then Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac), which became defunct after the formation of the ACC in 2004, had filed the case against Ershad for misappropriating Tk 1.91 crore when he was the president from 1983 to 1990.

A Dhaka court in 1992 convicted Ershad, and sentenced him to prison and ordered the authorities concerned to confiscate the money and his Toyota Land Cruiser car.

The same year, Ershad filed an appeal, challenging the verdict, which the HC stayed.

The ACC lawyer said Ershad had got bail in the case. He, however, could not say how long Ershad had served in jail.

Khurshid also said they had tried to get Ershad's appeal moved before the HC, but there was no single-judge HC bench with jurisdiction to hear such an appeal relating to corruption.



Trucks illegally parked underneath the capital's Jatrabari flyover, blocking almost half of the road, causing impedance to traffic mobility. Even though the area is an important exit point of Dhaka-Chittagong Highway, it often remains clogged due to these vehicles.

Mild to moderate heat wave sweeping over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Faridpur, Tangail and Jessore may continue at some places. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:22pm and rises tomorrow at 5:38am. Country's highest temperature 39.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Syedpur and the lowest 25.1 in Cox's Bazar.

NEWS IN brief

JnU admission process begins

DU CORRESPONDENT

The online admission process for the 2016-17 academic session of Jagannath University (JnU) began yesterday and will continue till September 10, said a press release.

The tests for B unit will be held on September 23, E unit on September 24, C unit on September 30, A unit on October 21, and D unit on October 28.

Detailed information can be found at www.admission.jnu.ac.bd.

Two youths arrested with Yaba pills in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A team of the Department of Narcotics Control during a drive arrested two persons and seized 2,000 Yaba pills in Chawk Bazar area of the port city yesterday.

They are Shawkatul Islam and Md Shah Alam, both hailing from Teknaf in Cox's Bazar.

Shawkatul is a student of English department at Premier University, said narcotics department sources.

In primary interrogation, the duo confessed that they brought the pills from Teknaf for selling them in the city, added the sources.

Filling of a case is underway.

WATER TRANSPORT WORKERS' STRIKE Talks yield no results

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing deadlock situation in waterways continued yesterday for the third consecutive day as the government's efforts to end the crisis through discussion with vessel owners and workers failed.

Officials of the Department of Labour in last two days separately sat with the vessel owners and workers, which bore no fruit as both workers and owners remained rigid in their stance.

Water transport workers went on an indefinite work abstention since Tuesday demanding, among others, Tk 10,000 as the minimum monthly wage, which the owners are denying citing that they will not be able to operate vessels meeting their demand.

Meanwhile, some businessmen have begun illegal operation of small boats and trawlers at the 9,000km "Danger Zone" where a ban is enforced between March 15 and October 15 every year.

Yesterday, the labour department officials sat with the vessel owners at its conference room in the capital.

"The owners placed some proposals, which we are scrutinising. We will separately sit with the work-

ers again..." said SM Ashrafauzzaman, director of the labour department.

"The time of the meeting is yet to be finalised," he told The Daily Star after the meeting.

The 15-point demand include increasing overtime pay, festival bonuses and other benefits, ensuring security and maintaining navigability on waterways.

Currently, the minimum wage of a worker is Tk 3,900, they said.

PLYING OF SMALL BOATS

According to Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, plying of boats under 65-feet is prohibited at 23 different routes including Bholia, Tajumuddin, Elisha, Daulatkhan and Mehendiganj.

But, our Barisal correspondent reports, over two hundred trawlers are being operated at different points and ghats including Mirganj, Laharhut, Elisha, Majuchowdhury Ghat, Charmonai Ghat, Sreepur, Mehendiganj and Muladi of Barisal and Bholia District.

"I have no other alternative to go to Mehendiganj," said Masuma Begum who boarded on a small trawler at Laharhut.

Mostafizur Rahman, Barisal river port officer, said they have informed the upazila nirbahi officer and local police regarding the matter.

BEATING LALMONIRHAT HEADMASTER WITH SHOES

Two removed from management body

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The authorities of Dinajpur Education Board yesterday withdrew the president and a member of the management committee of a high school in Kaliganj upazila of Lalmonirhat for beating the headmaster with shoes on August 21.

In this regard, a letter was already sent to the deputy commissioner of Lalmonirhat and upazila nirbahi officer of Kaliganj, said Rabindra Narayan Bhatracharya, school inspector of the board.

The two withdrawn persons are Md Atauzzaman Ranju, the president; and Md Abdul Motin, member. Of them, Md Atauzzaman is also a member of ward-4 of Kakina union.

Ahmad Hossain, chairman of the education board, formed a two-member probe body led by Rabindra Narayan Bhatracharya, the school inspector. The other member is Rakib Uddin Ahmad, IT expert of the board. The team visited the spot on Wednesday, talked to witnesses and submitted a report to the chairman on that day. The probe team found evidence against the two, said the chairman.

Besides, the headmaster on Tuesday night filed a case with Kaliganj Police Station accusing the two.

Rabindra Narayan said Ronju and Motin demanded Tk 1.5 lakh of the school fund from the headmaster. As the headmaster refused to do so, they attacked him with shoes.

Protesting the incident, students of the school had boycotted their classes on Monday and Tuesday. Officer-in-Charge Arzu Md Sazzad Hossain said they were trying to arrest the accused who were on the run.

Two siblings found dead in Ctg slum Reason unknown

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two siblings were found dead at a slum in Tigerpass-Ambagan area of the port city last night.

The deceased were Kamru Islam, 33, and his younger brother Nurul Absar Laki, 31, sons of Ledu Miah, hailing from Laksam upazila of Comilla.

Officer-in-Charge of Khulshi Police Station Nizam Uddin said locals spotted the bodies in a shanty of the slum around 9:15pm.

The bodies were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy, said police.

"We found no injury marks on the bodies," said Sub-inspector Nur Uddin of the police station, adding that an investigation was underway.



Saudi Assistant Minister for Defence Mohammad Bin Abdullah Al-Aish meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban in the capital yesterday.

Janmashtami celebrated countrywide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hindus yesterday celebrated Janmashtami, the birthday of Lord Krishna, through colourful processions across the country.

The religious festival is celebrated on the eighth day of Krishna Paksha (dark fortnight) of Bhadra.

Sri Krishna is traditionally believed to be the eighth incarnation of Lord Vishnu. He was born around 5,200 years ago in Mathura, a city in the North Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

The sole objective of his birth was to free the Earth from the evilness of demons. He was born in a prison in the custody of Kansa, the then king of Mathura and his maternal uncle.

The actual celebration of Janmashtami takes place at midnight as Krishna is believed to be born on a dark, stormy and windy night to end the rule and violence of his uncle, Kansa. The processions were brought out in the capital and other parts of the country, displaying the eventful life of Krishna.

President Abdul Hamid hosted a reception at Bangabhaban marking the day, which is a public holiday.

Mohanagar Sarbojanee Puja Committee brought out the traditional Janmashtami procession from Palash at 4:00pm. Thousands took part in the procession, inaugurated by Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu and Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sayeed Khokon.

Participants in the procession visited various places in the capital.

The committee will hold a discussion today at the Dhakeshwari national temple at 4:00pm.

Six arrested with tiger skin in Khulna

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Detectives arrested six persons with a tiger skin in a house in Chatkatala village of Koyra upazila in Khulna on Wednesday night.

A gun and three bullets were also seized from Abul Kalam, 44, Sohrab Hossain, 42, Sheikh Abdur Rab, 61, Md Jalal Uddin, 33, Masum Billah, 29, and Golam Rabbani, 45, said police.

The six confessed to poaching tigers, they said.

The arrestees were trying to sell the tiger skin, which they collected from pirates in the Sundarbans about one month ago, to a woman at Tk 18 lakh in the capital, they said.

The identity of the woman could not be known immediately. Sub-inspector Mukto Roy Chowdhury filed a case with Koyra Police Station in this connection.

On August 9, 2015 police

arrested six persons with three tiger skins in Charkhia area of the upazila.

Earlier on August 7 last year, police also seized 69 pieces of tiger bones in the city's Notun Bazar area.



The arrested six with the tiger skin.

PHOTO : STAR

'Assaulter'

FROM PAGE 3

While passing a Kakrail footbridge, she started screaming, and some of her friends rushed in to help her hearing her screams, they added.

Officer-in-Charge of Ramna Police Station Moshiure Rahman yesterday said they were searching the suspect at different places.

The victim's mother filed a case under the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act, added the OC.

Four persons, who were picked up in connection with the incident, were released after being quizzed, Moshiure mentioned.

BNP waiting for govt's reaction

FROM PAGE 3

their local posts following its amended charter that allows one leader to hold only one post.

Aman resigned as general secretary of Dhaka district BNP unit, and Aazam as president of Tangail district unit. On Wednesday night, they submitted letters to Khaleda.

Earlier, another BNP senior leader Md Shahjahan resigned as Noakhali district BNP unit president since he was made a vice chairman of the party.

Fakhrul also quit as the party's Thakurgaon district unit president as he was

made BNP's secretary general.

Khaleda earlier announced a 502-member central executive committee.

Meanwhile, pro-BNP intellectual and former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Emajuddin Ahmed yesterday criticised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her "weakness to India".

"Whatever India does seems holy to her," he said, referring to the joint venture of India and Bangladesh for setting the setting up the Rampal power plant.

He was addressing a discussion on Rampal at Jatiya Press Club.

Two 'criminals' die in 'gunfight'

FROM PAGE 3

Sanwar and Lutful, saying that they were involved in the murder, Rab commander said in a press release.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab from Sirajganj camp went to Jamtoil station around 3:00am yesterday where Milon murder suspects were hiding to nab them, he said.

When the team reached the spot, the criminals opened fire. The Rab men then returned fire, triggering the "gunfight".

During the gun battle, Sanwar and Lutful were hit by bullets. They were taken to Sirajganj General Hospital where the doctors declared them dead, the Rab official said.

Rab also claimed to have seized a pistol, a homemade gun, a knife and eight bullets from the spot.

Sanwar used to run a criminal gang named "Sanu Bahini" in Kamarkhand, the Rab commander added.

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A representation of Krishna in a procession brought out from the Dhakeshwari temple in the capital yesterday during the Krishna Janmashtami festival marking the birth of one of the most popular Hindu gods perceived to be an incarnation of Vishnu, who is regarded as the highest avatar.

PHOTO : PALASH KHAN