

# WEATHER FORECAST



YESTERDAY'S  
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA  
H 35.1 L 25.7

MYMENSINGH  
H 33.6 L 23.4

CHITTAGONG  
H 32.0 L 25.5

SYLHET  
H 34.7 L 22.0

RAJSHAHI  
H 37.1 L 18.8

RANGPUR  
H 32.0 L 18.6

KHULNA  
H 37.2 L 25.4

BARISAL  
H 35.5 L 24.8

COX'S BAZAR  
H 33.2 L 25.5

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Mild heat wave is sweeping over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna and Faridpur and it may continue, Met Office said, reports UNB. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 06:20pm and rises tomorrow at 05:39am.



## Save Sifat from blood cancer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sifat Muntaha Soni, an assistant professor of statistics at Islamic University, Kushtia, and Sakil Ahammad, a lawyer of the High Court, had been living a happy life. They were blessed with a baby boy late last year, adding more joy to the couple who got married in early 2015.

The happiness, however, began to fade with the discovery of blood cancer symptoms in Sifat's body days after the delivery.

The anxious couple rushed to hospitals and diagnostic centres. Tests, one after another, proved she got the deadly disease.

For better treatment, they went to the National Cancer Centre, Singapore.

Recommended by doctors, she was administered with six cycles of chemotherapy. Things have not improved much. Doctors suggested she needs higher level of treatment, which would cost around Tk 1 crore.

A helpless Sakil says it is impossible for him to arrange the amount and seeks financial help from individuals and organisations to save Sifat's life.

Assistances can be sent to A/C Name: Md Sakil Ahammad & Most Sifat Muntaha Soni, A/C No -- 110. 151. 0075448, Dutch Bangla Bank Ltd, Dhanmondi Branch, Dhaka. SWIFT Code -- DBBLBDH110.



A student of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University, also known as Charukala Anushad, busy putting final touches to a mask on the faculty premises yesterday. The masks along with paper-made stylised animals and traditional dolls will be a part of the colourful procession Mangal Shobhajatra to be brought out hailing the first day of Bangla New Year, Pahela Baishakh, tomorrow. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## GRAFT CASES AGAINST MOUDUD, ALTAf, ZUBAIDA

# Resume trial proceedings: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for the lower courts concerned to resume the trial proceedings against BNP leader Tarique Rahman's wife Zubaida Rahman, and former BNP ministers Barrister Moudud Ahmed and Altaf Hossain Chowdhury in three corruption cases.

It also asked Zubaida to appear before the trial court in eight weeks in the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission. Rejecting a petition filed by Zubaida, now in London along with Tarique, for quashing the trial proceedings, the court lifted its earlier stay order on the trial proceeding against her, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan said.

On September 26, 2008, the ACC filed the case against Tarique for accumulating wealth worth around Tk 2.75 crore beyond his known income sources and concealing information about assets worth around Tk 2.17 crore in his statement. Zubaida and her mother Iqbal Mand Banu were accused in the case of aiding and abetting Tarique.

Yesterday, the HC, rejecting former BNP law minister Moudud's petition, lifted its earlier stay order on the trial proceedings against him in the Niko corruption case.

The ACC filed the corruption case in December 2007 over charges that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and several



Moudud



Altaf



Zubaida

others abused powers to award a gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian company Niko when she was the prime minister between 2001 and 2006.

Meanwhile yesterday, another HC bench rejected a petition filed by former BNP home minister Altaf and lifted its earlier order that stayed the trial proceedings of the corruption case against him.

The ACC filed the case on December 18, 2007, against Altaf for concealing information or giving false information about movable wealth worth Tk 59 lakh and amassing wealth worth Tk 2.56 crore beyond known sources of income.

Now, there is no legal bar for the trial courts concerned to resume the trial proceedings against Moudud and Altaf, said Khurshid.

## CORRUPTION CASE Mother-in-law of Tarique faces arrest

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Syeda Iqbal Mand Banu, mother-in-law of BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman, in a graft case.

After accepting the charge pressed against her, the court also directed officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station to submit a report on May 14 on execution of the arrest warrant.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case on January 30, 2014 for not submitting a wealth statement to it.

Later, the ACC issued a notice to Banu asking her to submit the statement.

# Hefajat an offshoot of ISIS: JSD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), a member of the ruling Awami League-led alliance, yesterday came down heavily on Hefajat-e-Islam saying that the organisation is the Bangladeshi edition of ISIS, Taliban and al-Qaeda.

In a statement, JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu and General Secretary Shirin Akter said if any compromise is made with Hefajat Ameer Shah Ahmed Shafi and his organisation, they will declare war against Bangladesh and its constitution.

"The political stand of this group (Hefajat) is not just against the sculpture on the Supreme Court premises, but against the country's independence, Liberation War, language movement, and all democratic and progressive movements," read the statement, urging all to raise voice against Hefajat.

## PAHELA BAISHAKH

# Volunteers to keep vigil for women's safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Narir Jonno Nirapod Bangladesh Andolon, a platform of social, cultural and human rights organisations, will remain vigilant at and around Dhaka University to ensure women's safety during the Bangla New Year celebrations.

Around 100 volunteers from 22 different organisations will remain vigilant at different points in the university area from 6:00am to 6:00pm in two shifts to prevent any untoward incidents.

The organisation announced the initiative at a press conference in the capital yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, educationist Prof Ajoy Roy said women need a society where they can move around safely without being questioned. He also called upon all to wage a movement

against radicalism.

About the statue of Greek Goddess Themis on the Supreme Court premises, he said, "The sculpture is a symbol of justice, not for worship."

If the sculpture is removed, then sculptures such as the Raju sculpture and Aparajeyo Bangla need to be removed as well, he said.

Those who are trying to misinterpret Islam and provoke others must be punished, he opined.

In 2015, during Bangla New Year celebrations, a group of youths sexually assaulted several women in Dhaka University area.

Sharmeen Murshid, convener of the platform, Munira Khan, vice-president of Dhaka University Alumni Association, and Zakia Shishir, a rights activist, were also present.



A RECIPE FOR ACCIDENT... A tangle of barbed wires hanging dangerously from a pole on a road divider near the footbridge at Science Laboratory intersection in the capital. If caught in the tangle, pedestrians and commuters, especially those travelling in speeding vehicles, might suffer severe injuries. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



The teachers' association of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) forms a human chain on the campus, demanding pensions for retired teachers of the university according to the government pay scale.

PHOTO:  
PRABIR DAS

## JCD'S NURUL MURDER

# Family lodges complaint with Ctg court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The family of slain Jatiyatatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) central leader Nurul Alam Nuru, whose bullet-hit body was recovered at Raozan on March 30, lodged a complaint with a Chittagong court yesterday.

Nurul's wife Sumi Akhter accused 13 persons, including Sub Inspector Javed of Noyapara Police Outpost, Babul Member and Khalek Member, and six other unnamed persons.

Taking the complaint into cognisance, the court directed the deputy inspector general of Chittagong range and Chittagong Metropolitan Police commissioner to submit a report by April 20 on whether any case has been lodged with city or district police stations in connection with the murder. In the complaint, Sumi alleged that without taking any consent from the family, police hurriedly lodged a case with Raozan Police Station on March 31 to save the real murderers.

## Road crash kills three Bangladeshis in Oman

UNB, Laxmipur

Three Bangladeshis nationals, including two siblings, were killed in a road accident in Oman on Tuesday night.

The deceased were Masud of Torabganj village in Komolnagar upazila in the district, his brother Jewel and their maternal uncle Jasim Uddin.

Family sources in Bangladesh said the accident took place around 9:30pm (BST) following a collision between a trolley and a car, carrying the three while they were going to Salalah Mascot from Mizua.

The accident left the trio dead on the spot.

## Three die in two districts

CITY DESK

Three people were killed and 12 others injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday.

In Chittagong, an on-duty police constable of the traffic department of Chittagong district police was killed as a truck ran him over at Chatari Chowmuhoni in Anwara upazila.

The deceased was Jahir Raihan, 50, hailed from Begumganj of Noakhali, said Dulal Mahmud, officer-in-charge of Anwara Police Station.

In Sitakunda upazila of the district, a teenage boy was killed as a truck ran over him while he was crossing the Chittagong-Dhaka Highway at DAM Depot intersection.

The deceased was Md Hridoy, 14, of Akbar Shah Monsurabad area in Chittagong city, said police, adding, he was a bus helper.

In Magura Sadar, an unidentified man was killed and 12 others were injured as a bus ran into a tree beside Magura-Jhenidah road after the driver lost his control over the vehicle near Ishakhada Bhanga bridge.

The injured were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.