

**WEATHER FORECAST**

| YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES | DHAKA           | MYMENSINGH      | CHITTAGONG      | SYLHET          | RAJSHAHI        | RANGPUR         | KHULNA          | BARISAL         | COX'S BAZAR     |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                          | H 33.0   L 27.2 | H 30.5   L 25.6 | H 34.0   L 21.6 | H 28.8   L 23.4 | H 35.6   L 27.4 | H 31.5   L 25.2 | H 34.2   L 29.0 | H 33.5   L 27.0 | H 32.2   L 23.0 |

Rain accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Rangpur, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:44pm and rises tomorrow at 5:10am.



PHOTO: AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

The structure of this fishing apparatus locally known as "Bheshal" lies unused in Shreerumpur canal in Dhamrai, outside Dhaka. Unabated dumping of chemicals from surrounding factories has turned the water of the canal toxic. The water in the canal connecting the Bongshee river is now so polluted that no fish can live there. As a result, over a hundred families relying on fishing have gone jobless. They now await the full monsoon when floodwaters may wash away the pollutants and allow in new schools of fish. The photo was taken last week.

### Govt will bear treatment cost of Abdul Jabbar

BSS, Dhaka

The government will bear all treatment cost of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste Abdul Jabbar and former lawmaker from Gafargaon of Mymensingh Abul Hashem.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammed Nasim made the announcement when he visited ailing Jabbar and Hashem at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the capital yesterday.

Jabbar is suffering from kidney, cardiovascular and other ailments. The minister spent a few moments beside the hospital bed of Jabbar and inquired about his treatment.

Later, Nasim visited Abul Hashem and inquired about his treatment. Hashem was elected member of parliament two times from Gafargaon.

### Two Banani rape accused denied bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail petitions of Nayem Ashraf alias Halim and Shadman Sakif, who are accused in the Banani rape case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mazharul Haque passed the order after their lawyers moved petitions.

Three other accused -- Ahmed Shafat, son of Dildar Ahmed Selim, one of the owners of Apan Jewellers, Shafat's driver Billal Hossain and his body guard Rahmat alias Azad -- were earlier arrested and they are now in jail.

Of them, Ahmed Shafat, and his friend Nayem Ashraf confessed to raping two university students.

The victims' friend Shadman Sakif, who introduced them to Shafat, also admitted his involvement in the rapes.

Shafat's driver Billal Hossain confessed that he filmed one of the victims' male friends being forced by Shafat and Nayem to pose with yaba tablets.

Invited to Shafat's birthday party on March 28, the two girls went to the hotel around 9:00pm. After the party ended around midnight, Shafat and Nayem raped them in two rooms, one of the victims said in a case she filed with Banani Police Station on May 6.

The alleged rapes in The Raintree Dhaka hotel on March 28, which was reported over a month afterwards, sparked widespread protests on the streets and on social media amid allegations of negligence in dealing with the case by Banani Police.

Meanwhile, doctors at the Forensic Department of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) said they found no evidence of rape after examining the bodies of the two private university girls reportedly raped at the hotel two months ago.

Dr Sohel Mahmud, the chief of the DMCH forensic department, said any rape victim needs to be examined within 72 hours of the incident.

### EMBEZZLING TK 76 LAKH

## ACC sues four Rakub officials

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) officials of Rangpur have sued five people, including four Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (Rakub) officials, for embezzling Tk 76 lakh.

They are Redwanur Rahman, general manager of the bank's corporate branch in Rangpur, its officials Khandakar Reyazul Kayum Enam and Zahrul Islam, Motiur Rahman, deputy general manager of Rakub (head office), and loan receiver Abdul Latif.

According to the case filed on Thursday, Abdul Latif, owner of Rupali Flour Mill, mortgaged immovable property worth Tk 1.34 crore to borrow Tk 50 lakh from Rakub in 2005.

As he defaulted on repaying the loan, the Rakub officials sold the property in an auction to Latif's wife Mostari Begum and one Nurul Islam for Tk 97 lakh, but submitted fake papers to the bank saying that the property was sold for Tk 70 lakh.

At that time, the market price of the property was Tk 1.46 crore and this is how the bank incurred a loss of Tk 76 lakh, said ACC sources.

## Bureaucratic complicacies breed corruption

ACC boss tells signing ceremony of MoU with TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bureaucratic complicacies cause public harassment and breed corruption in the country, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Iqbal Mahmood reiterated yesterday.

"People don't get government services due to corruption, which eventually creates scope for making black money. And this black money is later laundered abroad and used in different crimes including terrorism," he said.

The ACC chief said this at the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding titled "Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change" with Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) on prevention of corruption, said a

press release.

The ceremony was held at ACC's Segunbagicha headquarters.

Highlighting that political will is most important in preventing corruption, Iqbal said ACC had got sufficient budget allocation for the upcoming fiscal. "We've got what we demanded. It shows government's political stance against corruption," he said.

Mentioning that TIB criticises ACC on various issues, Iqbal said the MoU would create a unique example of the critic and the criticised working together to curb corruption.

On the occasion, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said increasing the allocation for ACC would reflect the government's position against corruption if it gave the commission the liberty to impartially investigate big incidents of corruption.



TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman shakes hands with an official of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) at the anti-graft body's office in the capital yesterday after signing a memorandum of understanding on prevention of corruption.

PHOTO: PID



A street child in this recent photo inhales fumes from a plastic bag filled with cheap adhesive in Zindabazar area of Sylhet city. A couple other children, left, wait for their turn in the dangerous addiction that has been plaguing the city -- especially the underprivileged section of the population. These children sometimes engage in petty crimes such as stealing to buy the adhesives for their addiction popularly known as "Dendy". They usually buy the adhesives -- used in pasting wood, rubber, leather and various synthetic goods -- from local hardware stores. The faces of the under-aged children have been blurred intentionally.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## HC orders compensation of Tk 17.11cr to victim families

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld a lower court verdict that ordered BIWTA and a launch owners' association concerned to give Tk 17.11 crore in compensation to the victim families of a launch accident in the Meghna in July 2003.

The family of a deceased will get Tk 10 lakh and an injured victim will get Tk 1 lakh, the HC ruled.

The bench of Justice Syed Md Ziaul Karim and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain came up with the verdict after rejecting a revision petition filed by Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) against the trial court verdict.

MV Nasrin-1 capsized on July 8, 2003 at the confluence of the Padma, Meghna and Dakatia in Chandpur leaving 110 people dead, about 200 missing, and many others injured, according to a government investigation report.

The triple-decker vessel was on its way to Bhola from Dhaka with about 700 passengers on board. The launch

### MV NASRIN-1 SINKING IN 2003

owner also died in the accident.

Citing the probe report, Subrata Chowdhury, a lawyer for Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), said the launch was unfit but BIWTA allowed it to operate, and was overloaded because it was capable of carrying 500 passengers.

After the HC delivered the verdict, Advocate ZI Khan Panna, another lawyer for BLAST, which had sought Tk 28.93 crore in compensation for the victims, told The Daily Star that the HC ordered the authorities concerned to give Tk 10 lakh to each of the deceased's families and Tk 1 lakh to each injured person.

However, Ishrat Hasan, a lawyer for the launch authorities, told reporters that they would petition the Supreme Court's Appellate Division against the verdict.

Following the accident, the deputy commissioner of Chandpur published

a list of 400 people who were affected by the incident. Accordingly, the shipping and disaster trustee board gave Tk 15,000 to Tk 20,000 to the deceased's and injured persons' families as compensation.

In 2004, on behalf of the victims, BLAST filed a case with the Third Joint District Judge's Court of Dhaka claiming that the compensation was not adequate. More than Tk 28.93 crore was demanded in the case, where the number of the deceased was mentioned as 171.

The case was sent to the Seventh Joint District Judge's Court in 2012.

In its verdict on February 2, 2016, the court asked the government to give Tk 17.11 crore to the families of the affected people -- 170 deceased and one injured -- within 60 days.

BIWTA and the defendant, however, filed a revision petition with the HC against the verdict on October 24, 2016.

Dr Kamal Hossain appeared for BLAST and Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder for the government.

### Cyclone victims get Denmark, Canada's help

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Danish government has allocated Tk 36 lakh to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for disaster relief of Rohingya settlements near Cox's Bazar in the wake of the cyclone Mora said a Danish embassy press release.

Meanwhile, Canada is providing Canadian \$20,000 through the Emergency Disaster Assistance Fund in support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's emergency appeal to help people hit by cyclonic storm Mora.

The fund will be used to provide immediate assistance to cyclone Mora affected people for two months, said another press release.

### DEMRA-AMULIA-RAMPURA-SHEIKHER JAIGA ROAD

## Ban heavy vehicles for 3 months: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to ban for three months heavy vehicles including lorry, truck, covered van and fuel tanker (weighing more than 15.5 tonnes) on Demra-Amulia-Rampur-Sheikher Jaiga link road in Dhaka to protect the road from damage.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why their inability and incompetence to control traffic congestion through restraint and prohibition of heavy vehicle movement on the road should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice AKM Jahirul Hoque came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Qamrul Hasan Khan Pathan, a residence of Banasree in Rampura seeking necessary directives from the HC.

The petition was filed to protect the link road from damage and traffic congestion.

Secretary to the ministry of Road, Transport and Bridges, home secretary, inspector general of police, Bangladesh Road Transport Association's chairman, chief engineer and engineers of Roads and Highways Department, Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner and its additional commissioners, officer-in-charge of Rampura and Khilgaon police stations, and sub-division engineers of Roads and Highways Department have been made respondents to the rule, petitioner's lawyer Barrister Golam Sarwar told The Daily Star.

### War crime accused Ashraf dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ashraf Sheikh, a war crimes accused from Khulna, died of old age complications at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Ashraf, 79, was taken to DMCH yesterday after he felt sick at his cell in Dhaka Central Jail for old age complications. Doctors declared him dead around 12:00 noon, Bachchu Mia, in-charge of the police outpost at the hospital, told The Daily Star.

Ashraf, from Batiaghata upazila, was one of the eight accused of the case filed for allegedly committing crimes during the Liberation War in 1971.

He was arrested on March 2 and the International Crimes Tribunal-1 showed him arrested in the war crimes case on March 9.



Four people working with different types of cables including of electricity in Zindabazar area in Sylhet city last week. Though the job is hazardous, sometimes fatal, both the workers and their employers seem to be equally indifferent to safety.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR