

HONOURING THE LEGEND



The sky wore a gloomy look yesterday morning. Drizzle turned into rain as if tears of sorrow have broken loose. Hundreds gathered on the premises of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation and Central Shaheed Minar to pay their tributes to the legendary actor Razzak. The curtain of his illustrious career came down on Monday. *Clockwise from left*, celebrated actress Babita in tears at FDC. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor paying tribute to the "Nayakraj" at the Central Shaheed Minar. People from all walks of life through the national monument to pay homage to their beloved hero.

PHOTO: TAEF, COLLECTED

Lightning kills two in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Two people were killed and several others were injured by lightning in Katlapur area of Savar early yesterday. The deceased are Rofiq Mia Shohag, 25, of Mymensingh and Abul Hossen, 27, of Bogra. Rofiq was a garment worker while Abul worked at a furniture factory. Police said a thunder bolt struck them when the two with around 150 people were crossing the Bonshri river by a trawler. Rofiq and Abul with around 25 other injured were taken to Savar Upazila Health Complex. The doctors there declared them dead. The condition of one of the injured is critical and rest are out of danger, said doctors at the hospital. Officer-in-Charge of Savar Model Police Station Mohshinul Kadir said the bodies were handed over to their family.

Counterfeiters active ahead of Eid

Seven arrested in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives in separate drives in the capital arrested seven members of two fake currency-making gangs that were trying to circulate fake notes ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. They were arrested from Mohammadpur and Farmgate on Monday with around 38 lakh Indian fake currency and Tk 11.50 lakh local notes, said Abdul Baten, joint commissioner of detective branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, at a press briefing at DMP media centre yesterday. The law enforcers also seized five laptops, a laminating machine, security thread, paper and other equipment and ingredients used for printing counterfeit notes. The forgers become active ahead of Eid every year as a lot of money changes hands during the period for shopping. The DB official, however, said people can check their money using fake note detecting devices to be available in the city cattle markets and major shopping malls. They suspected the gang members produced the Indian currency to circulate those in the boarding areas, mainly for trading cattle there. Detective officials said the two gangs so far could not circulate any fake notes and they were trying to arrest members of the other gangs. Printing and circulation of fake notes take place in several phases, said law enforcers. One group prepares and supplies the special paper while another group prints the counterfeit notes. A third group circulates them, according to DB investigators who quizzed the criminals. The production cost of fake notes worth Tk 1 lakh ranges between Tk 3,000 and Tk 4,000 while they sell the same amount at Tk 10,000 to Tk 12,000.

Army deployment, changes in RPO urgent for next polls

Suggests Shujan at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is imperative that the next general election is held in a free, fair and inclusive manner, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday. Members of the civil society, a former judge and university teachers spoke at the roundtable titled "Requisites for holding a fair, impartial and acceptable election", organised by Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) at Jatiya Press Club in the capital. Without such a fair election, Bangladesh will turn into a country like North Korea where there is no democracy and freedom of speech, the speakers also said. "The national election of January 4 in 2014 was a controversial one. The country will not be able to afford another election like the one of 2014. We need the next general election to be free, fair and inclusive for the greater interest of the country and its people," Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumder said. In his keynote paper, the Shujan secretary placed a 19-point recommendation that includes reintroduction of the "no vote" option since it is widely popular among voters who deem this option as a tool for holding the election in a free, fair and inclusive manner. Badiul said the present constitutional provision of holding the national election

without dissolving the parliament is an "inbuilt barrier" for holding a free, fair and competitive election. "The ruling party remains in a specially privileged situation if the election is held under the partisan government with the parliament in force. It would be difficult to ensure a level playing field for everyone if the election is held under the present constitutional provision," Badiul observed. "Given the situation, it would not be possible even for the most independent, strong and impartial election commission to hold an acceptable and competitive election," he added. In the recommendations, Badiul urged for bringing some important amendments to the Representation of the People Order (RPO), deployment of army during the election period, introducing online system for the submission of nominations so the affidavits of the candidates can be published online swiftly. Shujan also said in order to stop "nomination trade", it should be made mandatory for every political party to nominate their prospective candidates in parliamentary seats based on opinions from the party's grassroots panels. It also recommended that the EC should prepare a security plan to control any law

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Hiring faculties at private universities Curtail trustee board power: Educationists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The power of board of trustees on a private university's academic activities that include hiring faculties should be curtailed for its better growth, said educationists at a workshop yesterday. In order to reduce the burden of a huge amount of tuition fees on students, they also urged the government to bring changes in its tax policy so investors are attracted in private universities. The workshop titled "Private Universities in Bangladesh: Possibilities and Challenges" was participated by university officials and civil society members. Supported by Dhaka University and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Bangladesh, the workshop was held at a hotel in Dhaka. Prof Imtiaz Ahmed of Dhaka University said the authorities of private universities need to reduce their dependency on part-time teachers. For better decision making, he put emphasis on inclusion of representatives from private universities in the University Grants Commission. Prof M Omar Rahman, vice chancellor of Independent University, Bangladesh, said despite many problems, private universities are making progress. In neighbouring countries, endowment is a major source of fund for such universities, he said, adding that in Bangladesh, those rely upon tuition fees. Addressing the event, Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, founder of Gonoswashtha Kendra, stressed the need for allocating playgrounds for the mental growth of students. Franziska Korn, resident representative of FES Bangladesh, said for the functioning of a socially just and inclusive society, higher education is a key factor for all societies. "That is why we have started a dialogue series on public and

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Light rain impairs Dhaka again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As has been the case throughout this monsoon season, Dhaka streets yet again were gridlocked, caused by waterlogging following a moderate shower yesterday morning. As a result, commuters and students became stuck in long snarl-ups in many parts of the city that lacks a functional drainage system. Traffic was moving at a snail's pace on most of the inundated streets while it came to a standstill on many others. Mirpur Road from Dhanmondi stretching up to Gabtoli, Mirpur 10 intersection, Mohammadpur, Gulshan, Mohakhali, Kuril Bishwa Road and Airport Road were a few of the most affected streets. From 6:00am to 9:00am yesterday, the Met office recorded 54 millimetres of rainfall in Dhaka. Maksud Rahman, a private banker who commutes to Gulshan 2 from Dhanmondi area, said it took him nearly an hour to pass Manik Mia Avenue from Dhanmondi Road 27. "I was late for work due to the jam." "I got out of my house at Mohammadpur around 8:45am, but I reached my office at Farmgate around 11:00am," said Ali Hossain, employee of a private firm. Mirpur 10 resident Chaitanya said traffic movement ground to a halt in the Mirpur 10 roundabout area as the road toward Al Helal hospital went under knee-to-waist deep water. "It took 45 minutes for our bus to reach Kazipara from Mirpur 10 roundabout. It usually takes five minutes in a normal day." According to experts, the city's storm-water drainage system is inadequate and is only capable of dealing with around 30 mm rainfall and the streets get waterlogged if the rainfall exceeds 40mm. So, Dhaka needs a complete drainage network in which the canals, water retention areas, flood plains and rivers would collect, carry and retain rainwater and will be connected to each other. Inadequate storm-water drainage system managed by seven different authorities with little coordination among themselves is the reason why Dhaka streets suffer deluge every time there is moderate rain, the experts also said.



The bituminous surface of a road from the capital's Karwan Bazar to Tejgaon is completely damaged. This situation prevails throughout the year. It gets muddy and waterlogged during monsoon, worsening public sufferings. The newspaper is repeatedly publishing photographs of such dilapidated roads, but the authorities concerned are apparently indifferent in addressing the issue. The photo was taken from Karwan Bazar portion yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Man gets death for killing two wives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Rangpur court yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his two wives in Mithapukur upazila of Rangpur in 2014. The convict is Ilias Ali, 54, of Ruposee Gachhuapara village under the upazila. The district and session judge court of Humayun Kabir gave the verdict in presence of Ilias. According to the prosecution, Ilias hacked his first wife Maksuda Begum, 37, in front of his children and second wife Momena Begum following an altercation on July 10 of 2014. Seeing this, Momena, 33, tried to flee but Ilias caught and killed her in the similar fashion. Later, locals caught and handed him over to police. A murder case was filed in this connection.