



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.6 L 27.5

MYMENSINGH H 31.5 L 26.7

CHITTAGONG H 34.0 L 26.8

SYLHET H 33.8 L 26.3

RAJSHAHI H 34.5 L 26.4

RANGPUR H 33.6 L 26.5

KHULNA H 32.8 L 27.1

BARISAL H 33.2 L 26.2

COX'S BAZAR H 32.0 L 26.0

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today. A few places of Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Dhaka divisions are likely to experience rain some places moderately heavy falls during the period, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:19pm and rises tomorrow at 5:40am, said Met office.

# 25 hurt as Ctg mill workers clash with cops

*They take to street for six hours demanding due wage, Eid bonus*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The workers of a jute mill and police clashed when the former took to the street demanding their due wages and Eid bonuses in Chittagong city yesterday, injuring at least 20 workers and five policemen.

Over 400 workers of Amin Jute Mills blocked Muradpur-Oxygen Road in front of its main gate around 9:00am, said eyewitnesses.

Consequently, traffic movements remained halted on that busy road for nearly six hours, causing sufferings to people.

Vehicles had to use an alternative road while many people were seen going to their destination on foot.

Shamsul Azam, 36, a private job holder, said he had to get down from his vehicle and walk for four kilometres to go to his office. Sultana Razia, 30, said she was so frightened that she had to run with her schoolchild. Around 11:00am police rushed to spot and asked the workers to leave the road, but the latter refused to do so, said the witnesses.

The workers hurled brickbats at police when the law enforcers charged batons to disperse them, they said.

The injured workers were given treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), said CMCH police.

Two of them are Khadija, 30, and Nazma, 35, said Shafiqul Islam, a line-in-charge of the mills.

Sub-inspector Osman Gani of Bayezid Bostami Police Station said the five policemen, including SI Shamim Sheikh, also took primary treatment.

Contacted, Shamsul Alam, general secretary of Amin Jute Mills Workers' Union, said the mill workers' wages for six weeks remained outstanding.

"When we demanded the wages, they (the authorities) told us that they would pay all the dues before Eid," he said, adding, "But when the workers demanded the dues and Eid bonuses this morning, the authorities said they needed some more days to pay."

"The mill will be closed tomorrow [Wednesday]. When will the workers get paid? They will have to start for their village homes... How will they celebrate Eid?" he asked.

Mohammad Ali Bhuiyan, head of the administration of the mills, said goods over Tk 70 crore could not be sold and it was the main reason for the delay in paying the workers. "We had a meeting with the workers' leaders and a decision has been made to pay wages for three weeks and the bonuses before the Eid," he said, adding, "The rest dues will be paid after the Eid."

Mohabbat Ali Khan, president of the workers' union, said

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Top, Tyres continue to burn amid scattered bricks on a road in Chittagong city -- the aftermath of a clash between agitating workers and law enforcers. The workers of Amin Jute Mills and police clashed when the former took to the street demanding arrears and Eid bonuses yesterday, injuring at least 20 workers and five policemen. Due to the clash, traffic movement remained halted on the busy Muradpur-Oxygen Road for almost six hours, escalating public sufferings, bottom. The clash also created panic among people, forcing them to run for cover. Many had to head for their destinations on foot.

PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS

## Four including mother to die for killing boy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Khulna court yesterday sentenced four people, including mother of a nine-year-old boy, to death in a case filed for killing him in June 2016.

Additional judge of Khulna Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court Mosammat Dilruba Sultana passed the order in presence of the accused.

The convicts are Sonia Akhter -- mother of the boy named Hasmi, Hafizur Rahman, Nurin Nabi and Rosul.

Public Prosecutor Birandranath Saha said Sonia was having an illicit relationship with Hafizur.

As Hasmi came to know about his mother's relation, Sonia with the three others killed him on June 6 in 2016 and dumped his body in Sardardanga Bill in Arongghata area of the city.

Three days after the incident police recovered Hasmi's body from the area.

Following the incident victim's father -- also named Hafizur Rahman -- lodged a case against five people including his wife with Arongghata Police Station.

Later, Mithu Rani Das, inspector of CID, investigated the case and submitted charge sheet against five people.

Yesterday, the court sentenced the four to death and acquitted one Rabby Sarder from the case as allegation brought against him could not be proved.

## The long wait

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and RAFIUL ISLAM

Five-year-old Mahin was over the moon as he would celebrate the festivities of Eid with both his parents this year.

In his young life, he enjoyed only a few Eids with his father, a used furniture trader in Dhaka's Gulshan area, who could not always manage to come home in Amtoli of Barguna.

His father, Sohel Hossain Montu, finally brought him along with his mother and grandmother to live in Dhaka in January this year after his hard work started to pay off.

Little Mahin was admitted to a local school and everything was going smoothly for the family.

What Mahin does not know yet is that all hell broke loose on the family on February 27 when his father went "missing".

On that day, Sohel was returning to his rental house in the capital's Dhalpur area after attending a religious programme of Charmonai Pir in Barisal.

Sohel and his friend Hanif Mridha, 40, also from Barguna, were returning to Dhaka on a launch. They disembarked the launch near Kanchpur in Shiddhirganj of Narayanganj, Sohel's mother Momtaz Begum told The Daily Star quoting the driver of Hanif's car.

As they were about to get in the car, several men claiming to be law enforcers approached them and drove away with them in a microbus.

They also took Hanif's car along with the driver after holding him hostage at gunpoint, she said, adding that the driver was released near Purbachal area later the same day.

Several weeks later, on March 17, a few hours after a suicide blast at the Rapid Action Battalion's Ashkona barrack in

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ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

## UN urges members to ratify ICCPED

UNB, Dhaka

A group of United Nations (UN) human rights experts yesterday urged all member states to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED).

"We reaffirm our solidarity with and support to the victims of enforced disappearance, their relatives and those helping them in their struggle for truth and justice. The committee and the working group will continue their work with resolve and determination to assist victims in the search for their loved ones," the experts said in a statement.

To mark the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances today, the UN experts highlighted that enforced disappearances continue to happen in 2017.

## Expat student goes missing in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Canadian student of Bangladeshi origin has been missing from the capital's Dhanmondi area since Saturday night.

Ishrak Ahmed Fahim, 19, a student at McGill University in Canada, came to Bangladesh more than two months ago.

Family members suspected Ishrak might have been abducted on way to their Dhanmondi residence from nearby Star Kebab and Restaurant.

Ishrak's father Jamal Uddin Ahmed yesterday told The Daily Star that his son had gone outside of residence around 5:30pm to have snacks with his three friends. But he went traceless after his cell phone was found switched around 8:30pm, said Jamal.

"Around 8:30pm, two of them including Ishrak entered Star Kebab. After having food, his friend left for his Green Road house while Ishrak was, as seen in the CCTV footage, walking to the road leading to their residence near the restaurant," he said.

Jamal said he did not see anything suspicious in his son's behaviour. "He was preparing for returning to Canada on September 3."

Jamal filed a general diary (GD) with Dhanmondi Police Station on Sunday.

Maruf Hossain Sarder, deputy commissioner (Ramna Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star that they were trying to find Ishrak.

## Ponds, canals re-digging for creating jobs for youths

Ecneec okays Tk 1,335cr for such 2,532 waterbodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to take a Tk 1,335-crore nationwide project for development of ponds and canals to involve local youths in various income-generating activities.

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved the project at a meeting in the National Economic Council auditorium. The project is expected to conclude in 2023.

After the meeting, State Minister for Finance and Planning MA Mannan said the prime minister had directed the ministries concerned to remain vigilant so no corruption occurs in the project work.

Local Government Engineering Division will implement the project under which a total of 2,532 government (khas) ponds and canals will be re-excavated.

According to the planning ministry proposal, Integrated Water Resource Management Unit prepared a list of the ponds and canals through a country-wide survey.

The main aim of the project is to preserve surface water by re-excavating the ponds

and canals, said the proposal. Alongside, employment will be created for local unemployed youths through farming fish and duck, and cultivating vegetables on the banks of the ponds.

Ecneec also revised another project for giving stipends in primary education, increasing the amount of the cost to Tk 6,923 crore, and also extended its tenure by two years.

The project was passed in 2015 when its cost was Tk 3,067 crore and the tenure was till 2017. Now the tenure has been extended to June 2019.

Under the project, around 1.30 crore students throughout the country will be given stipends.

In the meeting, Ecneec also approved the revised Bangladesh-Myanmar Friendship Road (Balukhali-Ghundhum border road) project at Tk 115 crore.

Original cost of the 2-km road construction from Balukhali to Ghundhum was Tk 84 crore, which means as per the revised cost per kilometre construction expense would be Tk 57.5 crore. In this regard, the

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## Cattle care!

Two agro farms look after sacrificial animals for buyers till Eid

HELEMUL ALAM

Worried about purchasing a sacrificial animal? Or concerned about taking care of the one you will buy ahead of Eid?

Then two agro farms can help you out.

The farms -- Zarif Agro and Sharif Agrovet -- not only will sell the cattle, but also will keep those at their farms for as long as you want. They will also feed and bathe the animals.

Zarif Agro is located at Barendra, Kashimpur of Gazipur and Sharif Agrovet at Sharif Nagar in Keraniganj.

Zarif Agro, also extended their facilities at the capital's Dhupkhola cattle market.

"If a customer purchases a bull from us and wants to keep it till the Eid day, we will provide them the facility. We will look after the bulls free of cost," said Abdul Alim, in-charge of Zarif Agro at the cattle market.

If anyone wanted to take the animal home after purchasing it, then two of their staff will help them in that regard, he added.

"After buying a bull, we provide customers with bags to keep cattle waste, bleaching powder and brushes," said Alim. In addition, they also give customers T-shirts with the picture of the bulls they bought.

"We brought 20 bulls in the Dhupkhola cattle market. Sixteen bulls were sold at the farm around one week back," he said.

Meanwhile, Saiful Islam, in-charge of Sharif Agrovet, said, "Out of the 350 bulls we have at the farm, we've sold around 150 of them already."

"Most of the cattle are still at the farm and we are looking

PHOTO: HELEMUL ALAM

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## Wasfia reaches Pico de Orizaba summit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wasfia Nazreen, the first Bangladeshi to have climbed the Seven Summits, reached the summit of Pico de Orizaba, the highest peak in Mexico and the highest volcano in North America.

As the first Bangladeshi, Wasfia reached the summit with her friend Juan Mendoza through its northern route on Thursday, says a press release.

She has been a brand ambassador of Grameenphone since 2016.

Expressing delight at Wasfia's achievement, Yasir Azman, Deputy CEO and CMO of Grameenphone,

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Bulls on sale at the capital's Dhupkhola cattle market. To ease buyers' plight, Zarif Agro not just sells these sacrificial animals, but also looks after them till the Eid. The photo was taken yesterday.