



With pedestrians ignoring the safe practice of using footbridges, this one in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club has become a place to sleep for the homeless. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

**MOURNING DAY EVENT**  
**3 of a family arrested over 'financing attack plot'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
 Police yesterday claimed to have arrested three of a family on the charge of providing financial assistance for carrying out an attack on a National Mourning Day programme at Dhanmondi 32 in Dhaka.  
 Meanwhile, a Dhaka court placed the arrestees on a two-day remand each when police produced them before it with a 10-day remand prayer.  
 Abu Torab Khan, 56, his wife Sadia Hossain Lucy, 46, and their daughter Tajreen Khanam Shuvo, 29, were arrested in their Gulshan residence on Friday night, said the law enforcers.  
 The arrestees were members of militant outfit "Neo JMB", they further claimed.  
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**ESTABLISHING RULE OF LAW**  
**Respect for judiciary a prerequisite**

**Says Justice Wahhab**  
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
 Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, who is carrying out responsibilities of the chief justice (CJ), yesterday said establishing the rule of law is a precondition for a democratic state, and to establish that, an environment has to be ensured where the judiciary enjoys the utmost respect.  
 He was speaking as the chief guest at a certificate distribution ceremony organised by Bangladesh Bar Council at the Officers' Club in the capital.  
 "Where the rule of law collapses, autocracy rises there," said Justice Wahhab.  
 As per the Constitution, the responsibility of establishing the rule of law has been bestowed upon the Supreme Court and the role of the Bar is equally important in this regard, he said.  
 He said a strong and cooperative Bar is undoubtedly the most effective friend of the court.  
 "Bar trains a justice who later becomes a custodian of the temple of justice", he said.  
 Justice Wahhab Miah said the judiciary is still honoured in the society and people resort to the court for justice.  
 Citizens from all strata of life go to court to settle dispute and to seek redress against the authorities, even the government, for protecting their rights, he said.  
 Justice Wahhab said there is no alternative to information  
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**JS session begins today**

BSS, Dhaka  
 The 18th session of the 10th Jatiya Sangsad (JS) will begin at 4:00pm today.  
 President Abdul Hamid summoned the session.  
 Parliament secretariat sources said the duration and proceedings of the 18th session will be finalised at a meeting of the business advisory committee of the parliament with Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair this afternoon.  
 With the passage of two bills, the 17th session of the 10th JS (parliament) was prorogued on September 14 after five sittings beginning on September 10.  
 A total of 147 notices under Rule 71 of the Rules of Procedure were received, and, of them, six notices were accepted.  
 Movers of 30 notices got the opportunity to speak for two minutes each under Rule 71 (a) of the Rules of Procedure.



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Traders passing busy times selling betel nuts at Islamia Haat, a wholesale market, in Hathazari of Chittagong. Every Friday, a corner of the market gets abuzz with people buying and selling the small yellowish fruit. The business lasts for four months and gives boost to many of the seasonal sellers. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

**Betel nut: A Friday business**

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg  
 Every Friday a corner of Islamia Haat gets abuzz with sellers surrounding themselves with bunches of a small yellowish-fruit. They start arriving there in the morning and continue their trade till the sun goes down.  
 It is good business, but lasts only for four months.  
 Like many of the seasonal sellers of this fruit, known as areca nut or betel nut, grocer Abdur Rahim keeps his regular business off on Fridays these days.  
 "We get just four months from September to December for collecting areca nut as the fruit matures enough to be plucked during this time. So, the four-month period is very important for us to store the item for the year round," Rahim said.  
 This seasonal business gives a boost to this family earnings.  
 While the nut is consumed all the year round in dried, cured, and fresh forms, the plucking season lasts for only four months and hence this business.  
 In South Asian region, areca nut is chewed with betel leaf and lime.  
 Though it is usually chewed after meals, most special occasions remain incomplete in Bangladesh without having betel nut wrapped with betel leaf.  
 Islami Haat, a selling hub for this nut, kicks off at 10:00am and continues till the evening. The customers are mostly whole-

salers. They come from nearby localities as well as from faraway places like Fotupur, Foteyabad, and Chorar Iskul.  
 Seller Rahim said he collected a bunch of 80 nuts for Tk 50-100 and sold each cluster for Tk 150-250 depending on the quality. "I sell around five to six thousand nuts every week, earning Tk 4,000 to Tk 5,000," he said.  
 Another seller, Abdun Nabi, said, "We collect the item roaming around our union. In our Chikondondi union there are at least 400 homesteads from where we collect the nut."  
 Almost all their supplies come from homesteads because few people commercially cultivate this, he said.  
 Families planted the trees to meet their own demand, and over the years they grew in numbers bringing a boon both for the house owners and the sellers, he added.  
 Abdul Khaleque, another seller, said, "It is a seasonal trade that we do only for four months. When it will end, we will go back to our main professions ranging from tea shop to grocery business."  
 Arriving in the market from the port city's Oxygen area, Harunur Rashid said, "The betel nut we buy from here is better than those available in the city."  
 My parents are regular consumers, he said. "I have come to buy the quality betel nut not only for my family, but also for others who visit us."

**MP Keya out of danger**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet  
 Ruling party lawmaker Amatul Kibria Keya Chowdhury's physical condition is out of danger, said doctors at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital yesterday.  
 Brig Gen AK Mahbubul Haque, director of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, said, "She fainted on Friday evening due to deep stress and trauma caused by passing busy days in her constituency. She regained consciousness on Friday night and now is under close observation."  
 Some Awami League and Jubo League men allegedly assaulted Keya (women's reserved seat-28) during a programme in Bahubal upazila of Habiganj on Friday. Later, the lawmaker fell unconscious while describing the incident at a roadside rally in the upazila. No case has been filed yet.

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