

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA 30.6 | L 21.6 MYMENSINGH 30.0 | L 18.5 CHITTAGONG 34.5 | L 23.6 SYLHET 31.1 | L 18.8 RAJSHAHI 29.6 | L 17.2 RANGPUR 29.0 | L 15.0 KHULNA 31.0 | L 20.2 BARISAL 32.9 | L 19.8 COX'S BAZAR 33.8 | L 24.5

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Chittagong and Barisal divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius and day temperature may fall by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:13pm and rises tomorrow at 6:14am.

Reopen Lakehead school in 24 hours: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to reopen Lakehead Grammar School within 24 hours.

It also declared the government's decision to shut down the school's Dhamondi and Gulshan branches in Dhaka illegal.

The school was shut down by the government on charges of its affiliations with militancy and extremism.

The HC, however, directed the school authorities to cooperate with investigators if allegations of militancy and extremism are raised against the institution in future.

The bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan delivered the verdict following three separate writ petitions filed by Khaled Hassan Matin, the proprietor of the school, and guardians of 12 students challenging the legality of the government decision.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said the government will challenge the HC verdict by moving an appeal before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

On November 7, the Dhaka district administration sealed off Dhamondi and Gulshan branches of Lakehead Grammar School and shut down all activities of the school, based on allegations that it was patronising militancy, promoting extremist views and providing support in the formation of militant outfits.

The school was co-founded in 2000 by Rizwan Haroon, dubbed as a top militant in some media reports, and Jenifer Ahmed, wife of alleged Hizb ut-Tahrir coordinator and Dhaka University teacher Syed Golam Mowla.

Though "listed as a militant suspect by the home ministry", Rizwan

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Choked with waste materials and aquatic plants, the capital's Gulshan Lake is in an awful state. Continuous dumping of garbage and sewage from adjacent residential areas keep polluting the water body. Because of the dirty and stagnant water, it has become an ideal mosquito-breeding site. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

No one is immune from prosecution for crimes

Observes HC while delivering verdict on SC letter to ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday made seven observations over the Supreme Court administration's letter to the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) about retired Appellate Division judge Md Joynul Abedin, saying that the SC letter has tarnished the image of the highest court.

The HC in its observation also said that the letter tends to give an impression that a retired judge of the Supreme Court is immune from criminal prosecution. But in fact, irrespective of a person being in service or not, no one, not even the president, is immune from prosecution.

The SC letter to the ACC had said it would not be appropriate for the ACC to take action against Justice Joynul who went on retirement on December 31, 2009.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Shahidul Karim made the observations while delivering a verdict on the rule issued over the legality of the SC administration's letter to the ACC about Justice Joynul Abedin.

"The impugned letter has impaired as well as tarnished the image and dignity of the highest court of the country in the estimation of the public at large," the HC observed.

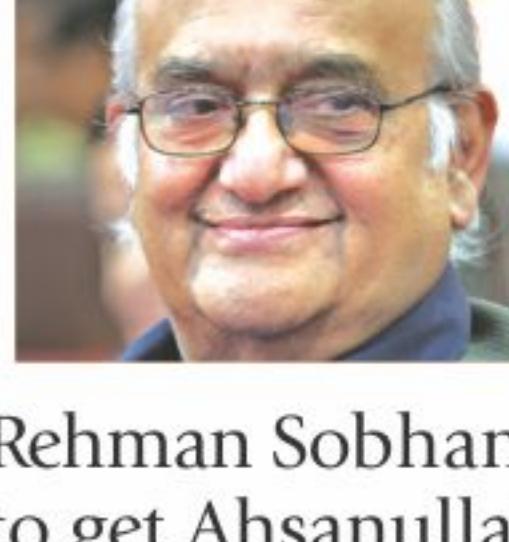
The HC in the observation said that the letter is amenable to judicial review as it was issued by the office of the Appellate Division under its administrative capacity and therefore the rule is quiet maintainable.

After the delivery of the verdict, ACC lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the SC administration's letter to the ACC about Joynul Abedin is illegal as per the HC observations and there is no legal bar for the commission to continue the inquiry process.

On March 2 this year, the anti-graft watchdog, as part of its enquiry into Justice Joynul's wealth, asked SC registrar general's office to provide documents related to his salary as well as relevant benefits and services that the SC used to provide him.

In a response to ACC's query, on March 28, the SC administration sent the letter,

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Rehman Sobhan to get Ahsanullah gold medal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has selected Prof Rehman Sobhan for "Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Gold Medal-2016" for his outstanding contributions to the country's economy and education.

The renowned economist wrote a number of books, articles and essays on the economy. There are 27 books, 15 research manuals and 140 journals on various topics written by him.

The medal will be formally handed over to him very soon.

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Dr Mushtaque to donate half of award money to 'Shomman'

CITY DESK

Reputed educationist and researcher Prof Dr Ahmed Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, also the Vice Chairperson of Brac, has decided to donate \$50,000, half of the award money he received as part of the prestigious "Medical Award of Excellence", to "Shomman Foundation".

Prof Dr Mushtaque, the first South Asian recipient of the award, expressed his intention at the acceptance speech at a gala in Chicago, USA, on November 11, said a press release.

The award is given for outstanding contribution to improving health and ensuring wellbeing of children.

The US-based Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) gives this award annually.

Some of the previous recipients are former US president Jimmy Carter, former US first ladies Barbara Bush and Betty Ford, Queen Noor of Jordan and Tennis player Andrea Jaeger.

"Shomman" (dignity) was established by

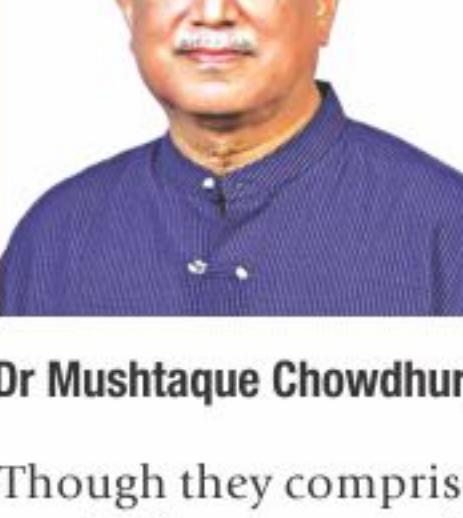
Dr Rubaiul Murshed, a hospital management authority, writer and human rights activist.

Dr Rubaiul has been working for ensuring a sound working environment for the domestic help. Though they comprise a large portion of the country's workforce, they are still very much neglected.

"Shomman" has been fighting for the recognition of the "helping hands" as labourers.

The "helping hands" are mainly comprised of housemaids, drivers, gardeners and gate keepers etc. "Shomman" coined the term "helping hand" to humanise the concept of domestic work.

Dr Rubaiul has been writing a regular column, "Have a nice day", in The Daily Star since 1999.



Dr Mushtaque Chowdhury

Form independent commission

To investigate 'enforced disappearance', demands ASK; journos submit memo to home ministry to find missing journo Utpal within 72 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights body Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday demanded formation of an independent commission to investigate all incidents of alleged enforced disappearance with transparency and accountability.

"Without denying incidents of enforced disappearance, the state should investigate all such incidents through an independent commission... to establish the rule of law," it said in a statement.

It also stressed the need for the state's strong role in stopping such acts saying that in a democratic state the culture of impunity cannot continue.

The demands came at a time when at least 10 people, including a university teacher, a book importer, a journalist, businessmen, a student and political leaders went missing or were

abducted since August 22.

Signed by ASK Executive Director Sheeba Hafiza, the statement said in most of the cases, it is alleged that the law enforcement agencies or people impersonating security forces picked up the victims. However, the law enforcement agencies always denied the allegations.

"Some of the missing or abducted persons were later shown arrested and sent to court while many of them are still traceless," said the statement. A few bodies, bearing injury marks, of the missing or abducted people were also recovered, it added.

"Enforced disappearance is still being termed as abduction, disregarding the involvement of the state," the statement added. "Such a crime is an extreme violation of human rights and considered a transnational crime."

The state has the responsibility to ensure safety of its citizens and punish-

ing those responsible for enforced disappearances, it further said.

The latest victim of the incident of disappearance is Tanvir Yasin Karim, owner of Karim International and Darus Salam Publications. He was picked up by plainclothes men on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, North South University teacher Mubashar Hasan went missing on November 7 and journalist Utpal Das has remained untraced since October 10.

Mithun Chowdhury, president of newly-formed Bangladesh Janata Party, and his associate Ashit Ghosh were picked up allegedly by law enforcers in the capital's Sutrapur area on October 27.

Those who went missing or were abducted in just four days in August are -- businessman Aniruddha Kumar Roy, McGill University student Ishrak Ahmed Fahim, Bangladesh Kalyan Party Secretary General MM Aminur

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Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday demanding exemplary punishment for those behind the recent attacks on the Hindu community in Rangpur and Faridpur.

PHOTO: STAR

NO END TO BLOODSPILL ON ROAD

Accidents claim 8 lives

CITY DESK

Eight people were killed and 56 others injured in road accidents in the country in last two days.

In Faridpur, two children were killed and 14 other people injured when a bus of Osman Paribahan hit a human haulier and a rickshaw van.

The dead are Sumi Biswas, 12, daughter of Monindo Biswas, and Somapati Chokider, 12, daughter of Shuvas Chokider of Basuria, of Tungipara upazila. The injured were rushed to Gopalganj General Hospital.

In Chittagong, two pedestrians were killed and another was injured when a Kaptai-bound bus hit them in Chittagong city's Quashed area under Hathazari Police Station yesterday.

The dead are Arfa Abedin Khan, and Niloy Sarkar, both 18 and second-year HSC students of Quashed College. Injured Md Hussain was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Protesting the incident, locals tried to block Chittagong-Kaptai road but police brought the situation under control. The bus driver, Syamol Mohajon, was arrested.

A Bagerhat correspondent adds, two passengers were killed and 40 others injured after a bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Bokultala in Kachua

upazila of Bagerhat-Pirpur highway yesterday.

One of the dead was identified as Monira Begum, 35, of Rahdkathi village under Nesarabad of Pirpur district. Locals, police and fire fighters rescued the passengers.

Our Dinajpur correspondent adds, two persons were killed and another was injured as a truck hit the motorbike on Dinajpur-Panchagarh highway at Doshmire in Kaharol upazila on Monday evening. The dead are Nasim Ali, 24, of village Bonkali, and Chandan Roy, 22, of village Bonkali in Rangpur Sadar upazila.

Parents suffer heart attack after witnessing son get crushed

UNB, Kushtia

A father and mother suffered heart attacks after witnessing their beloved son getting crushed under the wheels of a tank-lorry in Mojompur area of the district town on Monday.

Police and local sources said Alifaz Uddin, an NGO worker, was coming to Kushtia from Meherpur district with his wife and son on a motorcycle for the son's treatment.

When they reached Mojompur gate area, their motorcycle skidded in traffic causing all three of them to fall off. Although the mother and father fell safely, their son fell on the other side and got crushed under the wheels of the tank-lorry.

Locals rescued the parents and admitted them to a hospital of the town.

Titu Rahman, a witness, said the

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A ceremony at the capital's Police Convention Hall yesterday when the government awarded 34 former policemen in recognition of their contributions to the Liberation War. They were among other colleagues who made the first armed resistance against the Pakistan army at Rajarbagh Police Lines on the March 25 fateful night in 1971. Before this award, 44 other police personnel, who died in the incident, received recognition.

PHOTO: COLLECTED