

# WEATHER FORECAST



YESTERDAY'S  
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA  
H 28.0 L 17.3

MYMENSINGH  
H 27.0 L 16.5

CHITTAGONG  
H 29.0 L 18.2

SYLHET  
H 28.0 L 17.1

RAJSHAHI  
H 26.8 L 13.7

RANGPUR  
H 27.0 L 14.6

KHULNA  
H 28.2 L 15.2

BARISAL  
H 28.6 L 14.6

COX'S BAZAR  
H 28.4 L 18.8

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Light fog may occur at places over the central part, the northern part and the river basins of the country during late night to till this morning. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:24am, Met Office said.



People walk on a dilapidated bridge to cross the Turag river in Savar's Bhakuta union yesterday. The bailey bridge, missing a steel section, has been lying like this for the last seven days. The rest of the metal sections of the bridge have also become rusty due to overuse. If not repaired immediately, an accident might occur any time. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Muzaffar Ali's anniversary of death today

CITY DESK



Today is the 19th death anniversary of M Muzaffar Ali, a Language Movement

veteran, Liberation War organiser, lawmaker and philanthropist.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

The president of Comilla Sadar (North Mahakuma) Awami League from 1967 till 1970, Muzaffar was elected a Member of the Provincial Assembly (MPA) in 1970.

He was also the head teacher of Doulatkandi High School in Dhaka, Narsingdi High School, Narsingdi Collegiate High School and Bhairab High School.

In 1971, he served as director of movement and hospitality of the Mukti Bahini in Agartala of India. He was a member of the Constitution Drafting Committee and Member of the Constituent Assembly (MCA) in 1972.

He was elected member of parliament from former Comilla-8 (Homna-Daudkandi) constituency in 1973.

Born in Satani under Homna (now Meghna) in Comilla, Muzaffar lost both his parents by eighth grade. He later completed BA (Honours) and MA in economics from Dhaka University.

In 1967, he established Muzaffar Ali High School and College in Barakanda of Meghna and in 1970, he cofounded Bangabandhu College in Manikarchar of Homna in Comilla. In 1984, he founded Muzaffar Ali Foundation in Sonargaon of Narayanganj for the welfare of destitute children.

He died of cardiac failure on November 29 in 1998.

## BCL activist stabbed by 'rival faction'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was stabbed allegedly by members of a rival group at Murari Chand (MC) College in Sylhet city yesterday.

Shahjahan Alam, 20, a degree first year student of the college, was admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital with stab injuries.

Witnesses said Shahjahan locked in an altercation with Sultan Ahmed and his friends -- BCL activists of Sylhet Govt College -- in the morning. At one point, they stabbed Shahjahan and left the spot on motorbikes. Both the colleges are located in Tilagarh area of the city.

Delwar Hossain, a BCL leader of MC College, confirmed that Shahjahan is a BCL activist of the college.

Nazmul Islam, a BCL leader of Sylhet Govt College, said Sultan is a BCL activist but this attack might have been carried out over a personal feud.

Therefore, BCL will not take the responsibility, he added. Meanwhile, a police official, on condition of anonymity, said the attack might have been carried out over a love affair.

MC College Principal Nitai Chandra Chanda and Sylhet Govt College Principal Ataur Rahman visited the spot and talked to the witnesses.

Akhter Hossain, officer-in-charge of Shahporan Police Station, said they were looking into the matter. No case was filed.

## COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

# Challenges aplenty

Home minister tells two-day confce in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid downgrading status of Bangladesh in this year's US Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, a two-day long conference started yesterday at Bangabandhu International Conference Center, aiming to assess the role of the government in combating human trafficking.

The conference titled, "National Plan of Action (NPA) for Combating Human Trafficking 2015-2017: Achievements and Way Forward", intends to assess the accomplishments of implementation of the NPA 2015 - 2017 and to develop an outline of the NPA 2018-2022 for Combating Human Trafficking.

At the opening session of the conference Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said Bangladesh still has a lot of challenges in preventing human trafficking, especially towards women and children. "Many people become victims of human trafficking easily due to a lack of proper education."

"There are many ways to describe the term 'Trafficking-In-Persons' (TIP) but the end results are same - exploitation," the home minister added.

The home minister said Bangladesh government has demonstrated strong commitment in preventing human trafficking. "Prevention and Suppression of Human Rights act 2012 is one of them."

The government has been working with other countries for preventing TIP, said Asaduzzaman, adding that a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) had recently been signed with India on TIP victims' repatriation.

"Alongside this we have created a National Task Force on human trafficking to monitor these regularly," he added.

Indicating this year's US TIP report, Janina Jaruzelski, the USAID mission director in Bangladesh, said it is an unfortunate and downgrading development for Bangladesh in combating human trafficking.

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## NO END TO BLOODSPILL ON ROADS

# Accidents claim seven lives

CITY DESK

Seven people were killed and eight others injured in road accidents in the country yesterday.

Our Patuakhali correspondent reports, two persons were killed and another was seriously injured when a vegetable-laden truck veered out of control and fell into a ditch beside Patuakhali-Kuakata road at Karamjatalai in Patuakhali Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The dead are truck driver Faruq Hossen, 30, and his helper Amalagir Hossen, 25, both of Jessore. Atanur, 21, of Barguna, was admitted to Patuakhali general hospital.

Police sent the bodies to the hospital morgue for autopsies.

Our Natore correspondent reports, two students of Ahmedpur Degree College were killed as a truck hit their motorbike from behind on Natore-Dhaka highway at Ahmedpur in Baraigram upazila around 2:00pm.

The dead are Imran Ali, 19, son of Ibrahim Hossain of village Fulsar in Natore sadar upazila, and Alim Uddin, 20, son of Ahad Ali of village Matikopa, said Shariful

Islam, in-charge of Jhalmalia highway police outpost.

In another accident, a car driver was killed while his two passengers were injured when a truck hit the vehicle from behind on Natore-Pabna highway at Garmati in Baraigram upazila in the evening.

The deceased is Sayed Ali, 58, of village Anarkol in Ishardi upazila of Pabna. The injured were rushed to Natore sadar hospital.

Our Barisal correspondent adds, a person was killed and five others were injured when a Swrupkati-bound rod-laden truck fell into a roadside ditch.

The deceased was identified as Sajib, 18. The injured five, including the helper, Sohail, were taken to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Our Gaibandha correspondent adds, a truck driver was killed after the vehicle rammed into another truck when the latter braked suddenly on Rangpur-Bogra highway at Gopinathpur.

The deceased is Monwarul Islam Milon, 32, of village Joynob in Pabna. Police sent the body to Gaibandha sadar hospital for an autopsy.



This muddy road in Kamalbagh Beribadh area in the capital has been in a deplorable condition for years. The authorities concerned did some repair work, but the substandard patch-up did little to improve the situation. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Winners of NIDO FortiGrow city write-up contest from Dhaka with guests at its prize distribution ceremony at Nestlé Bangladesh Head Office in the capital on November 20. Nestlé Bangladesh Limited organised the event, said a press release. Naquib Khan, corporate affairs director; Shammi Rubayet Karim, head of marketing; Iqbal Mahmud, sales director; Abdullah Hye, category business manager; and Safiqul Islam, brand manager; among other officials of Nestlé were present. The theme of the contest was to let the parents share the proud moments of their children (5 to 12 years) as they grow up.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## BFUI, DRU protest case against journo Mufdi

CITY DESK

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUI), Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) and Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) yesterday protested a case filed against journalist Mufdi Ahmed by Japan Garden City Ltd Director Asaduzzaman Jamil.

Journalists demanded immediate withdrawal of the "false" case.

In a joint statement, BFUI and DUJ said harassing a journalist by filing a case is a move against the independence of the media.

Such an act poses a threat to healthy journalism, it said.

Mufdi Ahmed, director of news of Natun Somoy TV, told The Daily Star that Jamil filed the case with a Dhaka court on October 15 accusing him of threatening the former after the journalist queried him about an assault on an engineer in the city's Japan Garden City residential area.

## NEWSIN brief

### Three parties support hartal against power tariff hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikolpodhara Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and Nagorik Oikya yesterday expressed solidarity with Thursday's countrywide half-day hartal called by left-leaning political parties.

The hartal was called by the parties in protest at the power tariff hike. Earlier, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal and other left-leaning political parties called the hartal.

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission on November 23 announced that an average increase of power tariff by 5.3 percent or Tk 0.35 per unit will come into effect from December.

### Two 'Ansarullah militants' held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab claimed to have arrested two members of Ansarullah Bangla Team in the capital's Gendaria yesterday.

They are Abdul Rajjak alias Masum Howlader and Abdul Mumin alias Tareq Ahmed alias Sohail Rana.

A huge amount of bomb-making materials and jihadi books were also seized from them, said Rab-10.

### Bilkis Iqbal passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bilkis Iqbal Dada, mother-in-law of Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal's daughter and CEO of Comilla Victorians Nafisa Kamal, died yesterday.

She left behind her husband Md Iqbal Dada, two daughters, a son, a daughter-in-law and six grandchildren.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at Forest Research Institute mosque in Chittagong after Zohr prayers today. Nafisa requested all to participate in it.

The planning minister expressed deep condolence at the death, according to a planning ministry statement.

### 3-day book fair begins at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

A three-day non-fiction book fair began on the Business Studies Faculty premises of Dhaka University yesterday.

Vice Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman inaugurated the fair.

A total of 21 prominent publishers and research organisations are participating in the fair jointly organised by DU business studies faculty and The Daily Bonik Barta. The fair will remain open for all from 10:00am to 8:00pm every day.

### Obituary

CITY DESK

Zillul Hye Razi, former trade adviser to the Delegation of The European Union in Bangladesh, passed away on Monday.

He was a member of the management committee of Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital Bangladesh, said a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza was held after Zohr prayers at Banani mosque, Dhaka.

Mirza Salman Ispahani, chairman of Ispahani Islamia Institute and Hospital Bangladesh, prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

## LABOUR FORCE

# Project on women's participation launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A project to ensure satisfactory participation of women in the country's labour force was launched in the capital yesterday.

The project, titled "Women's Economic Empowerment through Strengthening Market Systems", is funded by the Swedish embassy.

It will be implemented in Rangpur and Khulna districts to help at least 1,000 women to become entrepreneurs.

The five-year project was launched at a dialogue on "Re-Imagining Sustainable Pathways for Women's Economic Empowerment in Rural Bangladesh".

International Development Enterprises (iDE) and The Asia Foundation organised the programme at hotel in Dhaka.

Addressing the programme, Dr Atiur Rahman, former governor of Bangladesh Bank, said economic strength is a necessary condition for women empowerment and innovation of policies is a great way to encourage women become entrepreneurs.

Economist Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya and Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh Charlotta Schlyter were present among others at the event moderated by Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs President Rokia Afzal Rahman.

## Facebook to verify govt pages

UNB, Dhaka

Facebook in collaboration with the Bangladesh government will verify official Facebook pages of the ministries, departments and directorates and other government offices in phases.

Facebook has already started formally verifying the official pages of different organisations of ICT division through holding a workshop on Monday.

Leveraging ICT for Growth, Employment and Governance (LICT) project of Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) under the ICT division and Facebook organised the workshop -- "Engaging Citizens through Facebook".

ICT Secretary Subir Kishore Chowdhury inaugurated the opening session while State Minister for ICT Zunaid Ahmed Palak addressed the concluding session held in the BCC auditorium.

"There are allegations of fraudulent acts using the Facebook pages. The verification of the official Facebook page of the government will help check the misuse as well as fraudulent acts," said Palak.