

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

<b>DHAKA</b> H 27.2 L 16.6	<b>MYMENSINGH</b> H 27.6 L 15.0	<b>CHITTAGONG</b> H 28.4 L 16.5	<b>SYLHET</b> H 28.2 L 15.5	<b>RAJSHAH</b> H 27.4 L 13.4	<b>RANGPUR</b> H 28.0 L 14.5	<b>KHULNA</b> H 27.4 L 15.0	<b>BARISAL</b> H 27.5 L 13.6	<b>COX'S BAZAR</b> H 28.5 L 16.5
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Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today, says the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 06:28am. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

## Woman killed 'by husband' in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



A woman was killed allegedly by her husband following a family feud in the capital's Mugda area on Sunday. Police arrested SM Sazzad, a private firm employee and husband of Ludmila Ahmed Liza, 38, an artist of Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi. Sazzad confessed to killing his wife after he was produced before a magistrate yesterday. He was later sent to jail, police and court sources said. Sazzad stated that his wife died when he hit her in the head with a piece of wood at one stage of quarrelling in their Maniknagar house around 9:30am on Sunday, said Enamul Haque, officer-in-charge of Mugda Police Station. Sazzad himself took Liza to Mugda General Hospital where doctors declared him dead. The hospital staff handed him over to police as he sometimes tried to pass it off as a suicide case and sometimes an accidental death. Minhazul Abedin Mreedul, a relative of the victim, alleged that Sazzad, who married Liza 13 years ago, started "mistrusting" the woman, a mother of two kids, several months back and finally killed her. Their six-year-old kid witnessed the killing, he claimed. Liza's father Iqbal Ahmed filed a murder case with Mugda Police Station, accusing Sazzad.



Rajshahi city Awami League President Khairuzzaman Liton addresses the rally in the city's Baharampur area yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## In their capacity as AL men?

Rajshahi leaders force railway authorities to stop eviction drive halfway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Ruling Awami League leaders yesterday forced the Bangladesh Railway authorities to wrap up its eviction drive halfway in Rajshahi city's Baharampur area. Some 2,000 illegal structures, shops and clubs were built on both the sides of Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj railway track in the area over the years, said railway officials, adding that some slum dwellers were even engaged in druggedding. Ahead of an annual inspection on December 7, the railway authorities yesterday began the drive against grabbing of its land, said Md Yunus Ali, divisional railway estate officer. "We have demolished around 250 illegal houses and shops during the drive," said Yunus, also an executive

magistrate. Soon after the drive had begun at 10:00am, the slum dwellers started agitating and complained to the AL leaders. Following that, a group of AL leaders including Rajshahi city AL President Khairuzzaman Liton and General Secretary Dablu Sarker rushed to the spot and asked the authorities to postpone the drive. The railway authorities then left the scene, said witnesses. Afterwards, the AL leaders held a brief rally there. Liton was quoted as saying that the slum dwellers had been living on the railway land as they had no other places to live in. Liton said he would not allow anybody to demolish the slum, said some of the locals who were present at the rally. He also told the dwellers that he would face the authorities if

any initiative is taken against them, the locals added. However, Yunus Ali declined that they had given up to the request. "There are so many illegal structures that cannot be demolished in a day. We will continue the drive in the following days," said Yunus. Talking to The Daily Star, Khairuzzaman Liton, also former Rajshahi mayor, termed the eviction drive "inhumane". He said he had requested the railway authorities to postpone the drive until the next city corporation election. "Where will the slum dwellers go in this winter?" If he was re-elected the city mayor, he would then relocate the slum dwellers, said Liton. Asked if he can arrange any such relocation process now being a ruling party leader, Liton said, "I can try."

## KUALA LUMPUR AIRPORT This time, a trade union leader 'harassed'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi trade union leader alleged that he was mistreated by the Malaysian immigration authorities at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), and was deported without showing any valid reason. Tapan Saha, general secretary of the Textile Garments Workers' Federation of Bangladesh, flew to Malaysia on November 17 to attend the "Asian Transnational Corporation Monitoring Network 2017 Conference", scheduled on November 17-21. He had with him visit visa, return ticket and an invitation letter from the conference organiser -- North South Initiative -- a Kuala Lumpur-based human rights organisation. However, Tapan was detained and deported the next day. "I was treated inhumanely... I also experienced physical violence. My phone was confiscated and I was not able to call the organisers," he told The Daily Star. He said he complained to the Malaysian Immigration Department in Kuala Lumpur and Malaysian High Commission in Dhaka on November 28, but yet to receive any response. Tapan said after arriving in KLIA at 3:30am on November 17, an immigration officer asked him to show his passport, return ticket and the invitation letter, which he did. "The officer then asked how much money I had." "I said I had \$50. As the organisers were supposed to bear my expenses, I did not need to carry additional money," he said. Another officer then took away his money, mobile phone

## LOAN SCAM SC orders JP leader to return Tk 5cr to bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered Jatiya Party lawmaker Shawkat Chowdhury to return Tk 5 crore to Bangladesh Commerce Bank Ltd (BCBL) in two months. If he (Shawkat) does not comply with the order, his bail in loan scam cases will be cancelled, the apex court ruled. A five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, who is carrying out responsibilities of the chief justice, passed the order after modifying a High Court directive. The apex court passed the order after hearing two petitions filed by Shawkat seeking extension of his stay order on HC directive and by ACC seeking cancellation of the stay order. Shawkat Chowdhury has to pay Tk 5 crore in two months after receiving the SC order, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alom Khan told The Daily Star. On October 22, the HC directed Shawkat to pay Tk 25 crore to BCBL in 50 days. In failure to comply within 50 days after receiving the order, Shawkat's bail in the cases, filed over misappropriation of Tk 94 crore as loan from the bank, will automatically be cancelled, the HC said in the order. Later, following a petition filed by Shawkat the SC stayed the HC order. On May 8 and 10 last year, the ACC filed two cases with Bangladesh Police Station in Dhaka against Shawkat, a lawmaker from Nilphamari; Mohammad Asaduzzaman, SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

## CTG JUBO DAL LEADER MURDER Stance against BCL extortion main reason

Claim family, co-workers

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Chittagong Jubo Dal leader Harun Rashid Chowdhury, who was murdered in broad daylight in the city's Kadamtali area on Sunday, was targeted for his firm stance against the extortion allegedly by BCL men, claimed family and co-workers. Harun, joint convener of Sadarghat thana Jubo Dal unit, was shot dead by six to seven youths from a tail of a procession organised by Sadarghat thana Jubo League and Awami League to celebrate the Unesco's recognition of historic March 7 speech of the Father of the Nation. Co-workers and business leaders said the extortionists plotted the murder to take revenge and establish supremacy on transport business as Harun, the owner of ST Transport, had taken a firm stance against the extortion of BCL men. Md Milon, an assistant to Harun, said, "I

was standing 100 yards off the spot when I had heard a few gunshots... I rushed to the spot and saw a group of youths including BCL men Liton, Nur Nabi and Hriday running away with firearms." Police were yet to arrest anyone, while no case was lodged in this connection till filing of this report as of 9:30pm. Harun was the nephew of late Chittagong BNP leader Dastogir Chowdhury. Meanwhile, yesterday, around 1,000 transport agencies and other businesses in the city's Kadamtali area announced to keep their businesses shut for 48 hours, protesting the killing and demanding the arrest of the killers. Locals also staged demonstration in the area over the same demand. People related to transport business in the area said Mosharraf Hossain Liton is a resident of the city's Moriccha Para and backed by expelled city BCL leader Saiful Alam Limon

## Demand for Ducsu polls getting louder

DU CORRESPONDENT

Demanding the long-pending Dhaka University Central Students' Union election, some campus-based musicians yesterday held a concert on the Memory Eternal premises of the university. The event was organised by a group of DU students, expressing solidarity with Walid Ashraf, a student of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research, who has been on a hunger strike since November 25 afternoon demanding Ducsu polls within December 16. Seven artists including Tuhin Kanti Das, president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, DU unit, performed at least 30 songs of rebellion and patriotism, echoing solidarity. Later, Mir Lokman, a mime artist and art director of Dhaka University Mime Action, along with four others arranged a mime show there. Through their performances, they criticised the authorities for not holding the Ducsu polls for the last 27 years. The students also wrote "Ducsu De" on different streets and walls on the campus, despite the earlier ones being defaced by unknown miscreants. Teachers and students continue visiting and expressing solidarity with Walid Ashraf, who is observing the strike on the Memory Eternal premises. The last election to Ducsu was held on June 6, 1990.



A complaint box at Ashwini Kumar Hall in Barisal city. PHOTO: SUSHANTA GHOSH

## How a good initiative falls short

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

With a view to ensuring accessible policing service, Barisal police took an initiative to install a number of "complaint boxes" so that citizens can file complaints with police. On September 13, Md Shafiqul Islam, deputy inspector general (DIG) of police, Barisal range, launched the project by inaugurating a complaint box at Ashwini Kumar Hall in the city. Since then, 35 complaint boxes, installed in different areas including Barisal metropolitan city, have been made open to public. Of the 35 boxes, 19 were installed in Barisal city while 16 installed elsewhere in the district. Nobody will perhaps cast any doubt on the initiative aiming to provide effective policing service to citizens. But the initiative has failed to create a buzz as police have received only a handful of complaints in more than two months while most people are in the dark about the initiative. Until November 22, police altogether received 45 complaints -- mostly drug and land-related issues, said Md Saiful Islam, superintendent of police (SP) of Barisal. SM Iqbal, president of Barisal Sangiskritik Sangathan Samonnoy

Parishad, said police have set up the complaint boxes, but have not started any campaign to make people aware of the initiative. "Without awareness programmes, this kind of initiative will not see the light of success," he added. Akkas Hossain, a freedom fighter, said, "We are not aware that police have installed complaint boxes." He said police should have taken an awareness-building initiative first. Barisal SP acknowledged that there was a lack of monitoring as some of the top police officials were busy with some other important assignments. He said they had already started looking into the matter. At the same time, the SP does not want to be demoralised by the number of complaints they have received. He underscored the need for increasing publicity so that more people get to know about the initiative and feel encouraged to take benefit of the policing service. However, Md Abdur Rouf Khan, deputy police commissioner (south) of Barisal Metropolitan Police (BMP), has a different opinion about the lesser number of complaints. He said this is the sign that the rate of crime is on the decline.



Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) conducts an eviction drive on the bank of the river Shitalakkhya in Narayanganj yesterday. Around 50 illegal structures were demolished in Alamin Nagar area. PHOTO: STAR

## Carpenter shot by muggers in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A carpenter was shot by muggers in a speeding bus in the capital's Agargaon area yesterday, said police. With bullet wound to his right hand, Shahidul Islam, 30, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Sub-inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of DMCH police outpost, said the muggers also snatched Shahidul's bag while he was returning to Badda from Savar around 3:00pm. Abul Bashar, the employer of the victim, said Shahidul went to Savar to provide service to a bank. There were carpentry tools in his bag, said Bashar.

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