



Water level in most rivers of the country has been receding with the approach of winter. As a result, large shoals are rising even in the mighty Jamuna, causing navigational hazards. The photo was taken near the Bangabandhu Bridge recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# NEWS IN brief

## 19th JS session begins Jan 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad will go into the 19th session on January 7. President Abdul Hamid convened the session yesterday, said a press release of the parliament secretariat. It will be the first JS session of the new year where the president is scheduled to deliver his speech, dwelling on government's development activities, sources at the parliament secretariat said. This session is expected to be long. The business advisory committee of parliament, headed by Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, will finalise the duration of this session before the House sits around 4:00pm on January 7. The last session ended on November 23, having 10 working days.

## DMP initiates roadside parking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With an aim to facilitate traffic movement and ease gridlock, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has designated portions of some streets for parking. The DMP launched the system -- "On-street Car Parking" -- which would facilitate parking for more than 2,700 vehicles, according to its news portal. Vehicles would be parked on one side or both sides of the roads in a single lane, it added. Mir Rezaul Alam, additional commissioner (traffic) of DMP, told The Daily Star that they have launched the system on an experimental basis.

## Legal framework must for e-waste management: Experts

CITY DESK

Speakers yesterday suggested formulating a proper legal framework for e-waste (electronic waste) management to protect environment and human health. They made the recommendation at a seminar titled "Legal Framework for E-waste Management: Environment and Public Health Protection," organised by Grambangla Unnayan Committee and Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangbadik Forum (BMSF) at Dhaka Reporters Unity, said a press release. Grambangla Unnayan Committee Executive Director AKM Maksud presented the keynote paper at the seminar presided over by BMSF Secretary General Khairuzzaman Kamal.

## Silent march protesting violence against animals tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People for Animal Welfare (PAW) Foundation, an organisation of animal rights activists, will organise a silent march and human chain tomorrow to create awareness for resisting violence against animals. The foundation will organise the human chain at 9:00am in front of the national museum in Shahbagh. Later, it will bring out a procession titled, "Walk of Awareness", said a press release. Several animal rights activists and organisations, including Animal Lovers of Bangladesh, will participate in the events.

## Ajker Khobor editor passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Muqbul Hossain Bakul, editor of the local daily Ajker Khobor, died of cardiac arrest on Tuesday night. He was 52. He left behind his wife and two daughters. Bakul, also convener of BNP Gouripur upazila unit, had long been suffering from liver diseases and died on the way to Dhaka from Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, said his family. Local journalists expressed deep shock at his death.



## DEMAND FOR UGC APPROVAL Student demo halts Gono Univ activities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

All academic and administrative activities of Gono University in Savar have come to a stop since Monday following demonstrations by students demanding UGC approval of seven departments. Around 400 students of BBA demonstrated before the main gate of the university. They also blocked nearby Nalam road for half an hour. SM Shovon, a student of BBA department, said he took admission in the university after seeing the prospectus which said it was UGC approved. But earlier this year, he got to know seven departments, including BBA, are yet to get the approval. "We started our protest in earlier this year, Shovon said adding we gave the authorities six months to solve the matter. Upon their failure, we started our second round of protests from Monday." "As part of our protest we have locked the main entrance of the university administration building for last four days," said Al Rubai Bin Hassan, another student, adding that anybody from the university was yet to contact them. If the authority does not solve the matter as soon as possible, they will call for a bigger movement, Hassan said, adding they would submit a memorandum to the president, also chancellor of the university. Contacted, Md Delower Hossain, registrar of Gono University, said they are looking into the matter. The problem will be solved as soon as possible, he added.

## Sufferings mount

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

When Syed Rafiqul Islam arrived at the Rupatoli Bus Stand in Barisal with his wife and children to catch a bus for Pirojpur, he did not know what was in store for him. He was startled to know about the suspension of all buses from Rupatoli Bus Stand and that his bus would leave from Raiapur bus stop, which is seven kilometers away from Rupatoli. "... Now I have to board an auto-rickshaw to catch a bus from Raiapur, which is troublesome and risky," he said. Along with him, hundreds of other passengers of southwestern areas have been suffering as all bus services from Rupatoli Bus Stand have remained suspended since Monday. Passengers of six routes of Barisal with Pirojpur, Bhandaria, Pathorghata, Jhalakathi, Amua, and Khulna are suffering the most. The transport halt started following an internal clash between Barisal and Jhalakathi bus owners' associations, according to sources in both the associations. However, Jhalakathi bus owners' body arranged a temporary bus stand at Raiapur, seven kilometers away from Rupatoli, to relieve commuters from the sufferings.

Now passengers are forced to pay high fares to auto rickshaw for crossing the seven kilometer between Rupatoli and Raiapur. "We have to count double fares for going to Jhalakathi," said Nurjahan Aktar, a school teacher. Sardar Md Shah Alam, president of Jhalakathi Bus Owners' Association, said, "We have been forced to cut off all ties with Barisal Bus owners association at Rupatoli Bus Stand as they always deprive us of our rights." "We have to pay extra toll to Barisal Association for using Rupatoli bus stand," he added. Md Bahadur, secretary of Jhalakathi Bus Sramik Union, said, "We have tried to settle the issue but they don't respond to our demands." Previously, both the bus owners' associations locked in some clashes at different times. Denying all allegations, Kawser Hossain, secretary of Barisal Bus Owners' Association, said, "It is a whimsical decision of Jhalakathi Bus owners' association." Uttom Kumar Roy, deputy commissioner (traffic), said the commissioner of Barisal division called a meeting yesterday afternoon to settle the issue. However, the outcome of the meeting could not be known immediately.

### BARISAL BUS SERVICE HALTED OVER OWNERS' ROW

## Govt won't be able to return to power: Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will not be able to return to power by sending Khaleda Zia to prison, said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday. "... People won't let it happen," he said while addressing a discussion in Mohanagar Natya Mancha auditorium marking Victory Day. "We would like to tell the government that your days are numbered. You won't be able to gain anything by resorting to conspiracy," he added. Referring to some media reports on Khaleda Zia's assets abroad, the BNP leader said the government is carrying out propaganda by circulating false news in fake web portals. "We've asked them (govt) to prove it. We've sent a legal notice as they failed to do so."



Poet Rassel Raihan, right, receives the first Mahbul Hoque Shakil Award for his poetry book "Bibrato Mayur". From left, poet Habibullah Siraji, Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Shakil's father Jahurul Hoque. Mahbul Hoque Shakil Sangsad announced the award to mark Shakil's 49th birthday. The ceremony was held at Bangla Academy in the capital yesterday.

## Shakil touched many hearts

Programme marking his 49th birth anniversary told STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahbul Hoque Shakil left his mark in all the fields he worked -- be it in politics or in literature -- in his 47 years old life, said speakers at a programme yesterday. As a dedicated student leader, Shakil played a crucial role in anti-government movements during Ershad regime and BNP tenure. When it comes to research work, he played a major role while working in Centre for Research and Information (CRI), they said. And above all, he was an altruistic, honest and friendly man who never misused power despite remaining closer to the power centre, they said.

## Beheaded body found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police recovered the beheaded body of an unidentified youth in Kapasia upazila of Gazipur yesterday. The body was recovered from Kholartek forest area in the upazila. Locals informed the Kapasia Police Station when they saw the body in the forest. The corpse was found wearing black pant, white sweater and shoes. No further details were known immediately.

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