

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.5 L 25.8	H 32.7 L 25.4	H 33.0 L 26.4	H 33.2 L 25.7	H 34.5 L 25.3	H 32.6 L 26.2	H 32.5 L 26.6	H 32.6 L 26.6	H 31.8 L 25.0

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with temporary gusty wind may occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Rangpur and Rajshahi and at a few places over Mymensingh & Sylhet divisions with moderate to heavy falls at places over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:14pm and rises tomorrow at 5:41am. City/Town temperatures in Celsius.

# Jaywalkers not spared

## Mobile courts in full swing in Dhaka, Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) yesterday shifted its focus on jaywalkers, as drives against traffic rule violators went on in Dhaka and Chittagong.

Nine BRTA mobile courts conducted drives against errant vehicles, drivers and pedestrians in the two cities, filing 305 cases and realising Tk 4.38 lakh in fines. Of them, one in the capital conducted drives exclusively against jaywalking in Farmgate area.

Besides, the courts handed down different jail terms to two drivers and eight brokers. They also seized documents of 24 vehicles and dumped 15 more, said a press release.

The mobile court in Farmgate led by Executive Magistrate Sarah Sadia Taznin fined 77 people Tk 50 each for crossing the busy Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue violating traffic rules, although there are four foot over-bridges nearby.

The court also released 22 students and underage pedestrians upon taking bonds to not repeat the offence, Sarah Sadia told The Daily Star.

The six other mobile courts conducted drives at BRTA offices and surrounding areas at Uttara, Mirpur and Ekuria

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Clockwise from left, Police and volunteers lead jaywalkers to a BRTA mobile court where they were penalised for avoiding the foot-bridge. At the same place, a man risking his life navigates his way through moving vehicles. During the drive against traffic violations, each adult was fined Tk 50, while those under 18 made written pledges to not jaywalk again. The photos were taken at Farmgate yesterday.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# HC defers Shahidul Alam's bail hearing

## British artists voice support for his release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday deferred till today the hearing on the bail petition of internationally-acclaimed photographer Shahidul Alam in connection with a case filed against him under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act.

Yesterday, on the scheduled date of the bail petition hearing, the bench of Justice Md Ruhul Quddus and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman deferred the date following a time prayer moved by Attorney General Mahbubey Alam.

The attorney general sought time from the bench for preparation of arguments to be placed before the court on the bail petition.

Barrister Sara Hossain represented Shahidul.

Shahidul Alam's counsels, barristers Sara Hossain and Jyotirmoy Barua, filed the bail petition with the HC on August 28, saying that he may be granted bail as he is physi-

cally ill, and that he will face trial proceedings and will not leave the country if granted bail in the case.

The eminent photographer was sent behind bars on charges of "spreading propaganda and false information against the government".

Shahidul, 63, was picked up by law enforcers on the night of August 5 from his home in the capital's Dhanmondi area.

The following day, he was placed on a seven-day remand after police produced him before a court seeking 10 days' remand. He told the court that he was tortured in custody. Police, however, denied the allegation.

Upon completion of his remand, he was sent to jail on August 13.

**BRITISH ARTISTS JOIN CALL FOR SHAHIDUL ALAM'S RELEASE**

Meanwhile, a number of leading British artists and curators have voiced their support for the detained photographer and

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# PM will announce polls-time govt at the right time

## Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will announce the polls-time government at the right time.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina knows what the size of the election-time government will be, as she is responsible to form the polls-time government according to the constitution," he said.

He made the remark while talking to reporters after a meeting at Dhaka district registrar's office in Tejgaon. The minister attended the meeting on the occasion of giving wages to 'Nakalbish' (copyists) as the chief guest.

He said the current parliament will complete its tenure.

The last session of the current parliament will start on September 9.

The law minister said a proposal for amendment of the Representation of the People Order (RPO) has reached the legislative and parliamentary affairs division of the law ministry from the Election Commission.

Earlier in the day, the law minister told the meeting that the present government could achieve its development goals because of the prevailing democracy in the country.

The countrymen will not respond to the urges of "individuals, who sitting in their drawing rooms, shout that there

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# PM's speech disappointed the nation: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said that the government is not eager to arrange the next general election in a free, fair and inclusive manner.

"The Prime Minister is trying to establish a one-party rule. We don't think she intends to accept people's verdict. She also has no plans to take steps for creating a level playing field for all parties to ensure a participatory election," Fakhrul said in his reaction to the PM's speech on Sunday on different issues including the upcoming general election.

Speaking at a programme held on the Supreme Court premises, Fakhrul said the 11th parliamentary election is knocking on the door while the ruling party is continuing arrests of opposition party men.

Claiming that the entire nation is disappointed after hearing the prime minister's speech, Fakhrul said the country is going through a critical time over the fate of the upcoming general election.

The nation expected the prime minister to provide a positive indication for the sake of the people and democracy, to ensure equal scope for all political parties in the next election, but she did not do that, he said.

"The prime minister has rejected the people's demand. It is her failure and the government

must be held responsible for this," he said.

Earlier at another programme, Fakhrul termed BNP's Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman "a victim of the government's politics of vengeance, has long been in exile."

"Tarique Rahman has been implicated in the August 21 grenade attack case deliberately," Fakhrul said.

Fakhrul was speaking at a press conference at the party's central office in Dhaka's Nayapalton, marking the 11th anniversary of Tarique Rahman's release.

Fakhrul said the 1/11 government could not implicate Tarique in the case while Awami League-led government had done that in a supplementary charge sheet.

Tarique Rahman was arrested during the rule of the army-backed caretaker government on March 7, 2007. He secured bail from the court on September 3, 2008 and went to London for medical treatment. Since then he has been living there.

"I think, Tarique Rahman is not yet physically fit, and he can't return home as he has been implicated in various false cases," Fakhrul said.

Fakhrul alleged that the ruling Awami League is "turning the country into a prison with its misrule", and said Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman have been subjected to extreme political vengeance.



A supersonic fighter jet of the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) being handed over to its user -- the flying squadron -- after its overhaul for the first time by BAF technicians. The ceremony was held yesterday at BAF Base Bangabandhu where Prime Minister's Security Adviser Maj Gen (retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique was present as chief guest.

PHOTO: ISPR

# 2007 VIOLENCE DU observes 'Black Day'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred students, teachers and staff members of Dhaka University yesterday observed "Black Day" in remembrance of the violence in 2007 against the university's students and teachers by the then military-backed caretaker government.

The participants formed a human chain wearing black badges at the base of Aparajeyo Bangla in protest of the brutal acts carried out between August 20 and August 23 in 2007.

DU authorities postponed all classes from 11:00am to 1:00pm to observe the day and organised a discussion in the TSC auditorium. DU

Vice Chancellor Prof Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman attended the programme.

The university observed this year's Black Day yesterday since August 23 fell within the Eid-ul-Azha vacation.

Speaking at the discussion, the DU VC said, "The university has a glorious history of being vocal against autocratic or undemocratic situations. I hope that we would all work sincerely from our respective places by taking lessons from this incident."

Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association, said, "The national election is a few months away. Many will start hatching conspiracies ahead of

this election. Because Dhaka University has always taken a stand against injustice, we are also vocal against all conspiracies."

On August 20 in 2007, violent student protests broke out on the DU campus in protest against manhandling of a DU student by security personnel during a football match.

Protesting the incident, students took to the streets and demanded withdrawal of an army camp from the university campus. Following the violent protests, the then government imposed curfews in divisional cities and confined four DU teachers and eight students to jail for five months.

# ACC files 12 more cases over Tk 62cr scam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has filed 12 more cases against 15 persons over alleged misappropriation of about Tk 62 crore of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB).

On Thursday, ACC arrested three persons in connection with another case filed over alleged misappropriation of about Tk 3.07 crore of the statutory corporation.

Abdus Samad, a manager of IFIC Bank; Tipu Sultan Farazi, former deputy general manager of ICB; and Abia Mondal, assistant general manager of ICB, were held in the capital's Segunbagicha area.

ICB Assistant General Manager Sharikul Anam, Assistant General Manager Samsul Alam Akanda and Senior Principal Officer Dhananjay Kumar Majumdar are made accused in the 13 cases.

The other accused are: Samad's wife Nasima Aktar, Kazi Mahmudul Hasan, Shima Aktar, Sheikh Mezbahuddin, Bulbul Aktar, AKM Atikuzzaman, AKM Rezaul Haque, his wife Papiya Sultana, and Laila Nur.

ACC Assistant Director Gulshan Anwar Pradhan filed the 12 cases with Ramna Police Station on Saturday.

According to the statement of the case filed over Tk 3.07 crore, Abdus Samad opened an account with ICB on September 1, 2004.

Records show ICB officials gave Samad opportunity to buy shares exceeding the ceiling on March 25, 2008, misusing power.

On October 15 in 2008, the credit balance of his account was Tk 17.48 lakh but on October 16, he was allowed to withdraw Tk 18 lakh, which is violation of Margin Loan Rules.

On October 20, 2008, another Tk 7 lakh was withdrawn.

In 2009, price of shares was gradually increased. Although he had already exceeded the ceiling on loan, ICB officials gave him opportunity to buy shares with public money. The negative balance in Samad's account on April 1, 2009, was Tk 1.27 crore.

Later, price of shares fell and the government incurred a huge loss due to the irregularities.

# Amir Khasru challenges ACC notices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC), challenging the Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC) notices that ordered him to appear before it for interrogation over graft allegations.

The petition sought stay on the ACC notices, as those were not issued in accordance with the law, Amir Khasru's lawyer Barrister Abdullah Al Mahmud Masud said.

On August 16, the anti-graft watchdog in a notice asked BNP leader Amir Khasru to appear before it on August 28 for interrogation over corruption allegations.

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INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF BANGLADESH

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**Dr. Nusrat Farooq**  
MBBS, FCPS (Paediatrics) | MRCPCH (UK)  
Fellow- Neonatology (Singapore)  
Consultant- Paediatrics & Neonatology

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