

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

<b>DHAKA</b> H 34.6   L 27.5	<b>MYMENSINGH</b> H 31.0   L 26.2	<b>CHATTOGRAM</b> H 33.0   L 25.5	<b>SYLHET</b> H 32.2   L 23.5	<b>RAJSHAHI</b> H 34.5   L 26.6	<b>RANGPUR</b> H 33.7   L 26.9	<b>KHULNA</b> H 35.0   L 27.5	<b>BARISHAL</b> H 34.2   L 27.2	<b>COX'S BAZAR</b> H 32.7   L 25.6
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Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with temporary gusty wind may occur at a few places over Rangpur, Mymensingh, Chattogram and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna & Barishal divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over Bangladesh in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:50pm and rises tomorrow at 5:49am.

# IGP asks police to monitor social media during Durga Puja

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Inspector General of Police yesterday directed law enforcers to monitor social networking sites so that none can spread rumours to disturb the communal harmony centering the upcoming Durga Puja, using Facebook and other social networking sites.

"If any individual or quarter spreads anything that can hurt religious sentiments, take immediate steps to stop it, and take tough actions against them immediately," IGP Mohammad Javed Patwary asked law enforcers.

The police chief issued the directives at a meeting held at the Police Headquarters to ensure law and order and security during Durga Puja.

Durga Puja, one of the biggest religious festivals of the Hindu community, will be celebrated from October 15 to 19.

The IGP also directed police officials to perform their duties with sincerity and professionalism, maintaining religious fervour.

Javed Patwary urged leaders of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad and Mahanagar Sarbajaneen Puja Committee to deploy volunteers during preparing of idols, setting up CCTV cameras and firefighting equipment at the puja mandaps, and use handheld metal detectors.

"Religious harmony has to be maintained showing respects to other religions," he told the meeting.

Assistant Inspector General (operations) Sayeed Tariqul Hasan presented the security measures planned for Durga Puja at the meeting.

Leaders of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad and

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Vendors continue their business occupying the entire stretch of this footpath and a part of the road in front of GPO in Gulistan, obstructing pedestrian movement. The makeshift shops are also covered for protection from heat or rain, at times, making it difficult for people to realise there is a walkway there. Inset, an aerial view of the area. The photos were taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

# Road crashes kill two in capital

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Two persons were killed in two separate road accidents in the capital yesterday.

Mohammad Rubel, 19, was going to Mirpur Section-10 by riding a motorcycle. A Nure Makka Paribahan bus from Dhaka Zoo gate to Malibagh hit the motorcycle. The bike fell on the road and the bus ran over Rubel, killing him on the spot.

Police arrested bus driver Azad, and seized the vehicle, said Sub-inspector Nuruzzaman of Mirpur Police Station.

Rubel used to live at Sadullahpur in Savar, he added.

Meanwhile, Saidul Islam, 40, a labourer who used to load sand on trucks, was standing behind a truck yesterday noon when another truck hit him from behind and sped away.

Saidul was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead around 2:30pm.

# 'Angered and saddened'

## 50 university teachers issue demand for release of CU Assistant Professor Maidul Islam

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Chittagong University teacher Maidul Islam has to be released immediately, demanded 50 teachers of different universities yesterday.

The CU authorities on Tuesday suspended Maidul Islam, an assistant professor of the sociology department, a day after he was sent to jail in a case filed under the controversial section 57 of the ICT Act.

A joint statement, issued by the university teachers yesterday, says, "We are surprised, angered and saddened at the incident."

"We learned from newspaper reports that Bangladesh Chhatra League stood against Maidul Islam and another teacher following their Facebook posts during quota reform movement across the country, and they were declared 'persona non grata' in their

departments on July 17," it reads.

"Facing threat from BCL, Maidul was forced to leave the campus and he sent a letter to the proctor seeking security," it adds.

A former Bangladesh Chhatra League leader filed the case with Hathazari Police Station on July 24, accusing Maidul of making "derogatory remarks" about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Facebook.

On August 6, Maidul received anticipatory bail for eight weeks in the case. On expiry of the bail term, he surrendered before a court that sent him to jail, rejecting his bail petition.

In the statement, the teachers slammed CU authorities for suspending Maidul Islam.

They also demanded that the persons who threatened him be identified and brought to book.

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# Nobody knows where they are

## Police stonewalling families of five 'missing' youths

**RAFIUL ISLAM**

Fourteen-year-old Nasrullah has no reply to his mother's repeated phone calls asking the whereabouts of his elder brother, who has remained missing since plainclothes men picked him up from Jatrabari two weeks ago.

"Police are trying to find out brother" is his only reply to an inconsolable Momtaz Begum, who lives in a village in Pirojpur.

"What should I say? That I have no clue? My mother has gotten ill and sometimes passes out over concern of my brother," Nasrullah told The Daily Star yesterday.

Shafuallah, 20, a student of Dhaka College, is among the five youths who were picked up by people identifying them as detectives, from Jatrabari and Dhaka airport on September 12.

Like Momtaz, parents of the other missing youths are anxiously waiting for safe return of their children.

The families alleged that police are reluctant to find out their loved ones, and they were even denied to register a general diary to this end.

The Daily Star has contacted police officials regarding the disappearances multiple times, and each time law enforcers have denied picking them up.

Contacted yesterday, Noor-e-Azam Mia, officer-in-charge of Airport Police Station told The Daily Star that they do not have any clue yet about the three youths being picked up from the airport.

Of the missing youths, two siblings -- Shafuul Alam and Monirul Alam -- along with Monirul's friend Abul Hayat were picked up while they were receiving their hajj returnee parents at the Shahjalal International Airport.

Shafuul, president of Dhaka city (south) unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir, was later taken to his Jatrabari hostel on that night, from where Shafuallah and Mosharruf Hossain Maaz, a ninth-grader, were taken away, families alleged.

"What a country we live in! An adolescent boy has been traceless for two weeks but law enforcement agencies could not yet provide us with any update of his whereabouts," said Maaz's uncle Haurun Or Rashid.

Maaz's parents are bedridden of worries over their youngest son.

A hapless Ramisa Khanam, mother of Shafuul and Monirul, says her two sons were dragged into a microbus and taken in front of her eyes at the airport.

"I have no one to complain to, or to seek help from. They have taken away my sons from me, and now nobody gives any clue as to where they are," said Ramisa.

The families reiterated what they said in a press conference in the capital on September 15: that the five are either produced before court or be released.

Talking to The Daily Star about the issue, human rights activist Nur Khan Liton said,

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National Human Rights Commission Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque speaks as chief guest at the inauguration ceremony of ODHIKAR, a two-year pilot project aimed at eliminating child labour in households and transport sector. Additional secretary of labour ministry Syed Ahmed was special guest in the programme, held at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Cops shoot two 'muggers' in city

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Police shot and injured two alleged muggers in front of Shishu Park in the capital early yesterday.

The duo was identified as Md Salman, 37, and Md Kabir, 38, said Abul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station.

Around 1:30am, police signalled a motorcycle with two riders to stop in front of Shahbagh police check post.

The duo rode away as one of them brandished a pistol and another a knife to the law enforcers, said the OC.

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# 'This is a country of lobbying'

## Says health minister about challenges to shutting down substandard clinics, hospitals

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Every private clinic and hospital across the country will have to maintain quality and no substandard one will be allowed to operate, said Health and Family Welfare Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday.

Addressing the national convention-2018 of Bangladesh Private Clinic and Diagnostic Owners' Association as chief guest, Nasim said clinics and hospitals are mushrooming across the country, many of which do not maintain minimum quality.

Bangladesh Private Clinic and Diagnostic Owners' Association organised the convention and health exhibition at Bangabandhu International Conference Center.

The health minister said whenever they go to close a substandard clinic, political lobbying rears its ugly head.

"This is the country of lobbying... No other country sees such level of lobbying," Nasim said.

He also urged Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) and Bangladesh Private Clinic and Diagnostic Association

not to give membership to those who do not have quality healthcare services in their clinics and hospitals.

He said they shut a clinic in Chittagong where a baby died due to wrong treatment of a doctor. For one bad clinic, ten other clinics have to bear the criticism, he added.

"Incidents like keeping a dead person in the ICU for two or three days to earn additional money is also happening, and you have to come forward against those people," Nasim said.

"I am giving you the power to shut substandard clinics and hospitals. Please close down at least 10 in a year," he said.

Others who addressed the programme included Additional Director General of Directorate General of Health Services Prof Nasima Sultana, BMA President and lawmaker Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Secretary General of BMA Dr Md Ehteshamul Huq Chowdhury, Director General of Directorate General of Drug Administration Dr Mustafizur Rahman, President of Bangladesh Private Clinic and Diagnostic Owners' Association and prof Dr Md Moniruzzaman Bhuiyan.

# Don't abolish quota system

## Jatiya Adibasi parishad demands

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Jatiya Adibasi Parishad yesterday demanded retaining of five percent quota in civil service recruitment for members of the country's indigenous community.

Leaders of the body also called for retaining quota for other people who were historically left behind, such as physically and mentally-challenged persons.

They made the call at a press conference at the capital's Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the wake of recent recommendations made by a high-powered government committee for abolishing the quota system for class-I and class-II jobs in civil service.

The committee also opined that quota is no longer indispensable to small ethnic groups and physically-challenged people, Cabinet Secretary M Shafuul Alam, who heads the committee, told reporters on September 17.

The development came in the wake of months-long quota reform demonstrations that saw arrests of the movement's leaders and attacks on students.

Those who opined quota is no longer

# Suggestions on quota may be placed in next cabinet meeting: It secy

**UNB, Dhaka**

The recommendations made by a government body over the quota system in civil service recruitment will be placed before the next cabinet meeting for approval, said Abul Kasem Md Mohiuddin, joint secretary of public administration ministry and spokesperson of quota review committee, yesterday.

"We've already sent the recommendations to the cabinet division. Hopefully it'll be placed in the next cabinet meeting for its approval. The public administration ministry will issue a gazette after the cabinet's approval," he said.

On September 17, the body, led by Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafuul Alam, recommended abolishing the quota system from the 9th to 13th grades (1st class and 2nd class) government jobs, and submitted their report to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

In April, students of public and private universities across the country waged a strong movement demanding reforms in the quota system in public service recruitment process. In the face of the movement, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced in parliament on April 11 the abolition of all types of quotas in government jobs.

But no gazette notification has so far been issued in this regard.



Health Minister Mohammed Nasim and guests rise to show respect to national anthem at the beginning of the programme.

PHOTO: STAR