

**WEATHER FORECAST**

| YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES | DHAKA           | MYMENSINGH      | CHATTOGRAM      | SYLHET          | RAJSHAHI        | RANGPUR         | KHULNA          | BARISHAL        | COX'S BAZAR     |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                          | H 32.4   L 21.0 | H 30.0   L 21.0 | H 31.0   L 22.5 | H 27.9   L 21.4 | H 32.9   L 21.8 | H 30.6   L 20.6 | H 32.0   L 22.5 | H 31.8   L 22.0 | H 31.0   L 23.0 |

Light rain may occur at one or two places over Dhaka, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and the region of Cumilla in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. **The sun sets in the capital today at 05:16pm and rises tomorrow at 6:08am.**

## Dhaka Lit Fest 2018 begins this Thursday

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The 8th edition of Dhaka Literary Festival (DLF) will commence this Thursday on the Bangla Academy premises, bringing some of the biggest contemporary literary minds from across the globe.

While Pulitzer Prize-winning author Adam Johnson and Commonwealth Writers' Prize winning British-Pakistani journalist Mohammed Hanif will have their say on global issues, Indian actress-activist Nandita Das and Oscar-winning British actress Tilda Swinton will also have sessions with local literature aficionados.

Also among the big names in the three-day fest will be winner of the Ondaatje Prize Philip Hensher, winner of the Orwell and Ondaatje prizes James Meek, popular Indian author Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay, and Nepalese actress Manisha Koirala who earned fame in Bollywood.

Bangladeshi luminaries like Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, Imdadul Haq Milon, Kaiser Haq and Selina Hossain will also grace the fest.

"Our main aim is to disseminate Bangla literature across the globe," Ahsan Akbar, one of three



**Equipment and instruments that Rab impersonators used to commit crimes. These were displayed at the media centre of Rab on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday. Inset, victim Mohiuddin Ahmed was present at that time to share his story.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



## Gang of Rab imposters busted

*They used to loot people using fake vests, handcuffs*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

They are all criminals but have tactical vests, walkie-talkies and handcuffs usually used by law enforcers.

Using these to impersonate Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) men, they used to pick people up from the streets and looted their valuables before dropping them elsewhere, Rab officials said yesterday after arrest of seven members of a gang of imposters.

A Rab-1 team arrested them while they were attempting to prey on their next target in the capital's Kawla area on Sunday night, Mufti Mahmud Khan, Rab's Legal and Media wing director, told reporters at a press briefing at Rab media centre.

Two tactical vests (used by law enforcers) with Rab inscribed on them, a firearm, two pairs of handcuffs, a walkie-talkie and a microbus carrying a Rab sticker were also recovered.

"The gang was carrying those to

convince victims that they are real Rab men," Mufti Mahmud said.

The arrestees are: Kashem alias Jibon, 58, the ringleader; Ibrahim Khalil, 40, the driver; Zakir Hossain Suman, 27; Billal Hossain Aslam, 32; Abdul Mannan, 50; Sohag, 27 and Arif, 28.

They had looted around Tk 40 lakh from at least 13 victims in the last two months in different districts, Rab officials said.

With a broken hand hanging from an arm sling, Mohiuddin

Ahmed - one of the victims of the gang - arrived at the briefing and narrated how the gang tortured him to loot his money on October 28.

The gang members, identifying as Rab men, forced him into a microbus near Tongi Modhumita road area, tortured him inside the vehicle and looted Tk 4 lakh he had been carrying, Mohiuddin said, adding that he was dropped in a deserted area of Rupganj upazila in Narayanganj.

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## 'Rate of violating traffic rules higher among Bangladeshis'

*Says Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Violation of traffic rules is responsible for frequent road mishaps in the country and the rate of violating rules is higher among Bangladeshis, said National Professor Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury yesterday.

"Traffic signals were installed spending crores of taka but they are not followed. They [traffic police] let vehicles to go when the signal shows red... so people become habituated to crossing even when the signal light goes red," he said.

Saying that influential persons are more prone to violating traffic rules, Choudhury said, "When an influential person is on board, drivers do not care about traffic signals."

Dr Choudhury was speaking at a press conference organised to mark the launch of an online course titled "Road Safety Awareness Course-1" by Esociety BD at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

Esociety BD is an awareness and education oriented web-based platform created to bring behavioural changes among people on different issues like road safety.

Pointing out the recent agitation programme of transport workers, Choudhury said drivers are not always responsible for road accidents. Pedestrians also have responsibility when walking along the road.

Choudhury said using the platform students could learn about road signs and road safety issues like crossing roads on zebra marks.

Praising the initiative, journalist and cultural activist Kamal Lohani said students will learn a lot about road safety from Esociety and can educate their parents, siblings and friends about it.

ATM Kamruzzaman, who took the initiative, said children can register on Esociety BD through their parents' e-mail and take the course.

After successful completion of the course, certificates will be handed over to learners.

So far, 750 persons have completed the course and 188 teachers joined as mentors, he added.



**Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina commissions naval base BNS Sheikh Mujib in Khilkhet, opens 22 multi-storied buildings, and lays the foundation stone of BN Township in Savar through a programme.**

PHOTO: PID

## Navy to be made much stronger: PM

**UNB, Dhaka**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh Navy will be made much stronger if Awami League is voted to power again.

"If we can return [to power], we'll surely make this navy much stronger, Insha Allah," she said.

The prime minister said this while attending a programme marking the commissioning of new naval base BNS Sheikh Mujib, opening of 22 multi-storied buildings and laying the foundation stone of BN Township in Savar and BNS Sheikh Mujib in Khilkhet area of the capital.

"We're trying to put the country's

economic condition on a solid ground... we're also trying to modernise the forces, which are the symbols of our independence so that we can move forward in the global arena with dignity," she said.

After assuming power in 2009, the prime minister said, her government has implemented a good number of projects for the development of the navy.

Talking about the BNS Sheikh Mujib, Hasina said this base - apart from its own operational activities - will play a special role in ensuring people's wellbeing and tackling natural calamities.

The PM said the accommodation crisis of navy personnel will ease to

some extent with the inauguration of residential buildings for them.

Sheikh Hasina handed over the commissioning warrant to the commanding officer Captain Munir Uddin Mallik followed by hoisting the Colours and striking of ship bells.

After the inauguration of the 22 multi-storied buildings, which will be used for various purposes in Dhaka, Chattogram and Khulna naval areas, the prime minister talked to some beneficiaries through videoconferencing.

She also unveiled a book titled "Bangladesh Navy in 21st century".

Earlier, on her arrival at the venue, the prime minister was received by Navy Chief Admiral Nizamuddin Ahmed.

## Court rejects Mainul's bail petition

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected Barrister Mainul Hosen's bail petition in a case filed under Digital Security Act for defaming journalist Masuda Bhatti during a TV talk-show.

Metropolitan Magistrate Baki Billah passed the order after the petition was moved by Mainul's lawyer.

Earlier on November 1, Mainul was shown arrested in the case after Ziaul Haque, sub-inspector of Gulshan Police Station, also investigation officer of the case, submitted a petition in this regard.

On October 24, Sumona Akhter Lily, member of Awami League's Youth and Sports sub-committee, filed the case against the lawyer under sections 25 (2) and 29 of the Act.

In the case statement, Sumona said Mainul had "dishonoured all women" by calling Masuda "a person of loose character" during a live television talk-show on October 16.

The former caretaker government's adviser is also charged in 18 other cases.

He was arrested on October 22 in connection with a defamation case filed in Rangpur.

The following day, another Dhaka court sent him to jail after rejecting his bail.

**TWO CASES OVER AL-BNP CLASH**  
Meanwhile, two cases have been filed against around 146 people over a clash on

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## DSCC, DNCC setting up 50 new bus stops

*Experts skeptical of their effectiveness in bringing discipline to Dhaka traffic*



**A newly built passenger shed near Khilgaon flyover in Dhaka.**

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

**HELEMUL ALAM**

Two city corporations of Dhaka have started to set up 50 passenger-sheds at as many bus stops in the city, to bring the city's chaotic traffic under discipline.

Of them, 40 are being constructed in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) areas while rest will be constructed in Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC).

Joint commissioner (traffic-South) of DMP Mofizuddin Ahmed said they have identified 130 bus stops through a survey - 70 in DSCC and 60 in DNCC. "We have already requested two city corporations to set up passenger sheds and to mark the designated areas," he said.

"We have demarcated the areas at most of the 130 identified places and put up signboards, and work for rest of them are going on," he said.

"We are going to set up 40 bus stops along with passenger sheds so that bus drivers keep their buses at designated places instead of taking and dropping passengers haphazardly," said Rajib Khadem, executive

engineer of DSCC. "We have already started construction work, and around 20 of them are in near completion stage."

The cost of the project is around Tk 8 crore, he said.

Sub-assistant engineer of DNCC, Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, said they are constructing 10 passenger sheds and bus stops under a project of Clean Air and Sustainable Environment, eight of which have already been completed.

"We are going to put road marking, traffic signs and signposts at the bus stoppages," said Mizanur. It will take around two weeks to complete the tender process and after that their work will start, he said.

Mizan said they could not take initiatives to set up more passenger sheds due to lack of land, but they are renovating 30 traffic police boxes at different points.

However, experts are not optimistic about the move, saying the situation cannot improve without bringing changes to the overall transport sector.

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## Uphold Nakshi Kantha Speakers say at book launch

**CITY DESK**

A book titled "Nakshi Kantha: Bangladesher Nondito Shilper Smarak", written by Maleka Khan, was launched in Dhaka yesterday, says a press release.

Anannya, a fortnightly magazine, published the book at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro.

National Professor Anisuzzaman, artist Hashem Khan, former cultural affairs secretary Aktari Momotaj and Bangladesh National Museum Director General Abdul Mannan Ilias, among others, were present at the programme.

Tasmima Hossain, editor of the daily Ittefaq and Anannya, presided over the ceremony where writer of the book, Maleka Khan, delivered welcome speech.



**Distinguished guests at the publication ceremony of the book.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## CASES AGAINST BNP MEN HC to hear writ petition on November 20

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A High Court bench yesterday fixed November 20 for hearing on the writ petition filed over "fictitious" cases against activists of BNP and other political parties.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder set the date after Advocate M Masud Rana, a lawyer for the petitioners, prayed for deferring the hearing saying that Dr Kamal Hossain will place argument on it.

order on the same writ petition.

The petition was then sent to the chief justice along with the orders of the HC bench.

The CJ then assigned the bench of Justice Nazrul Islam Talukder for hearing and disposing of the petition, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik said.

Earlier on October 9, another HC bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashrafal Kamal delivered a split