

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 25.6 L 14.0	MYMENSINGH H 25.0 L 11.5	CHATTOGRAM H 25.2 L 14.5	SYLHET H 26.0 L 13.5	RAJSHAH H 23.8 L 08.2	RANGPUR H 24.0 L 09.6	KHULNA H 25.2 L 12.5	BARISHAL H 25.6 L 10.8	COX'S BAZAR H 26.2 L 16.0
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Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the country during late night till morning. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:29pm and rises tomorrow at 6:44am.

Justice Habibur Rahman's 5th anniversary of death today

CITY DESK

Today marks the fifth death anniversary of Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, a multifaceted luminary who served as the chief of the nonpartisan caretaker government of the country prior to the 1996 general election.

Born on December 3, 1928, Habibur Rahman was a language movement veteran, an academic who taught history and law at Dhaka University and Rajshahi University, among others, and wrote 95 books on various topics including politics, religion and works of Rabindranath Tagore.

He served as a judge of High Court from 1976 to 1985, and as a Supreme Court justice from 1985-1995. He became the



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Amid oncoming traffic, a youth tries to jump over a road divider to cross the Airport Road, presumably to avoid climbing the stairs of two nearby footbridges. Once on the other side, he was also seen running on the road, inches from a moving vehicle, inset. The photos were taken in Uttara's Azampur area on Wednesday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



A suave conman!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He bore all the signs of a suave executive. Immaculately dressed, he drove an SUV and met his clients at posh restaurants, escorted by his two secretaries.

At times, he introduced himself as a customs official, other times as a high official of Bangladesh Bank. He also used many names; to some he was Omar Mabin, to others Zulfikar.

His clients were mostly well-offs. As a customs official, he offered them seized gold bars at a cheaper rate than the market price at auctions.

Once he made a deal with a prospective buyer, he asked them to transfer money into his accounts. Once the transaction was completed, he "disappeared".

On Wednesday, the fraudster was arrested by officials of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police along with his two accomplices at a restaurant in the capital's Baily road area, said Syeda Jannat Ara, special superintendent of CID.

She was speaking at a press briefing yesterday at CID headquarters in Malibagh.

The man is identified as Khandakar Mohammad Faruk, 52. His two assistants are Elias alias Nur Islam Talukder, 38, and Saiful Islam, 30.

In primary interrogation, Faruk told CID that he used to work as a personal secretary of a Jamalpur lawmaker. He stopped working for the lawmaker around five years ago and started duping people. Police, however, said they were



Khandakar Faruk

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HOLEY ARTISAN CASE Hearing adjourned till Jan 16

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court adjourned the hearing of the Holey Artisan attack case till January 16, as the prosecution failed to produce any witness yesterday.

Judge Majibur Rahman of Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal of Dhaka passed the order, after the prosecution submitted a petition seeking an adjournment of the hearing.

The judge also issued summons upon six prosecution witnesses to appear before it on Jan 16.

Earlier, eight prosecution

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Discipline in road transport a priority: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said bringing back discipline in the road and transport sector will be his first priority.

"Work of different infrastructure projects will continue and new projects will be initiated. But discipline is most important... There is no point in undertaking major projects if there is no discipline," Quader said.

"Discipline has to be ensured on the roads first and then in the transport sector. I have already met with the officials of the ministry and given necessary directives. Prime minister also gave the directive to prioritise this," he added.

Quader was talking to journalists at his secretariat office, three days after he took

charge of the ministry for the third term.

The minister, at a programme on October 22 last year, admitted his failure in bringing discipline to the road transport sector.

"The caravan of death has not stopped yet. Neither has the irregularities and indiscipline... We still have a major failure here... Being the minister, I cannot shrug off responsibility," Quader had said.

Blatant indiscipline in road transport sector was exposed when tens of thousands of students took to the street across the country for road safety, following the deaths of two college students in road accident in the capital on July 29 last year.

Yesterday, Quader said work to bring discipline in the road transport sector has to start right now, because

there will be election and political pressure in the last phase of the tenure.

Quader mentioned small vehicles on highways, drivers without licence and reckless motorcycles as elements of indiscipline in the sector.

"The work [ensuring discipline] is not easy. It cannot be rushed. However, if we are sincere and serious, and can deploy coordinated effort, it is possible," he said.

Quader said work of many major projects has already gained momentum, while two important road projects - upgrading Dhaka-Sylhet and Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highways to four lanes - will start.

Work of Dhaka-Sylhet highway will start within June while work of Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway may take some time, he added.

DUCSU POLLS

Student leaders suggest curtailing VC's power

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different student organisations yesterday sat for discussion with a Dhaka University (DU) committee to provide their recommendations for an amendment, if necessary, to the constitution of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu), but failed to reach any decision.

A number of student leaders suggested curtailing the power of the Ducusu president (Vice Chancellor of the university) to ensure a balance among other post holders, including vice president and hall union leaders.

BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) demanded ensuring a level playing field for all student platforms on campus, Awami league-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) proposed ensuring participa-

tion of regular students in Ducusu up to masters, while leftist student platform Bangladesh Chhatra Union opted for enhancing participation up to MPhil, sources from the respective organisations told The Daily Star.

The last Ducusu election was held in 1990. No election was held in the last 28 years, though a constitutional amendment was brought in 1998. However, the Supreme Court (SC) order delivered on January 6 has made it compulsory to hold an election.

On September 15 last year, after a meeting with representatives of student organisations, DU Vice Chancellor MD Akhteruzzaman said the Ducusu polls might be held by March 2019.

Amidst repeated calls for an election, DU

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The contrast of a white cloth in the pitch-black water of Buriganga, due to pollution, makes one wonder the purpose of this cleaning. They are used as tablecloths at wedding ceremonies. The photos of a "dhopa" (washerman) washing and subsequently drying the cloths were taken at Koilaghat in Kamrangirchar on Wednesday.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

VIOLENCE IN NAYA PALTAN Youth held for setting fire to police vehicle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth who allegedly set police vehicle on fire in front of BNP's Naya Paltan central office on November 14 last year, was arrested yesterday, police said.

The arrestee was identified as Wasim, 28. He was detained by a Pallabi Police team from Bihari Camp area around 12:10am, said Abdul Baten, additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police at the DMP media centre yesterday.

Asked about his political affiliation, the police official claimed that the arrestee is involved with the politics of BNP. However, he could not say whether Wasim holds any post in the party.

With Wasim, 14 people have been arrested in connection with the cases over assaulting police, setting fire and vandalising police vehicles.

"We are considering this a sensitive case, as the perpetrators went on a frenzy setting fire to police vehicles," he said.

Asked whether Wasim was named in the FIR, the police official said he was not named, but they identified him analysing photos and video footage.

Claiming that the arrestee primarily admitted to his involvement in the crime, the police official said that the physical evidence as shown in photos that surfaced in media proves that he was involved.

Out of the 14 arrestees, three have given confessional statements before a magistrate, he also said.

On November 14, the third day of BNP's nomination form sale for the general election, clashes broke out between police and BNP supporters, activists in front of the party's central office.

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Development activist Shahjahan Kabir no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former senior advisor of The Asia Foundation in Bangladesh, Shahjahan Kabir, passed away in Dhaka on January 8, according to a press release. He was 70.

He was being treated for kidney-related ailment, the release added.

He left behind his wife Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, two sons and many well-wishers.

Several NGOs and organisations, including ActionAid Bangladesh, The Asia Foundation, INGO Forum, Naripokkho and Dhaka Theatre mourned his death. He was buried in Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard on January 8 after Zohr prayers.

Completing his masters from Dhaka University in 1969, Shahjahan Kabir joined International Red Cross the same year. He was also a founding member of Dhaka Theatre.

He joined The Asia Foundation in 1972 and involved himself with its scholarship project for girls in the 1980s to inspire their education.

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HARASSMENT OF 2 WOMEN HC asks Etihad to hand over footage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed authorities concerned of Etihad Airways to hand over the video footage containing the alleged incident of harassing and torturing two Bangladesh-born women at Abu Dhabi International Airport, and to the inquiry committee of Bangladesh foreign ministry in the next 15 days.

On June 28, the women -- en route to Canada by an Etihad Airways flight, were allegedly harassed by the airline staff at Abu Dhabi International Airport, and were forced back to Dhaka at their own cost over a brawl that sparked due to a fault of a staffer.

The HC also asked the inquiry committee of the foreign ministry to submit the probe report before it in one month after getting the video footage from the airline, and fixed March 6 for passing further order on this issue.

The HC bench of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil passed the

order while hearing a writ petition filed by Tanzeen Bristy, one of the victims, in July 2011 -- seeking its order for compensation and legal action against Etihad Airways for their harassment.

Petitioner's counsel Advocate Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that the HC passed the order yesterday as Etihad Airways recently submitted a report to it through a lawyer claiming that they (Etihad Airways) had no fault in the incident; rather the passengers including the writ petitioner were unruly in the occurrence on June 28, 2011.

Deputy Attorney General Mokhlesur Rahman told this correspondent that the inquiry committee formed by the foreign ministry is proceeding with the probe and needs time to complete it.

Following the same writ petition, the HC on July 14, 2011 issued a rule asking authorities of Etihad Airways to explain why they should not be directed to pay compensation to the victims and why appropriate action should not be taken against them.

BCL factional clashes leave 10 injured at JnU

JNU CORRESPONDENT

Consecutive clashes between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Jagannath University (JnU) unit left at least ten of their activists injured on the campus yesterday.

Among the injured, Aahsanul Karim Mohammad Parvez, Sazzad Ahsan, Nure Alam and Shahriar Shakil sustained severe head injuries.

All the injured were admitted to nearby medical facilities including Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Mitford Hospital.

Witnesses said posts on Facebook and establishing supremacy were reasons behind the clashes that started around 8:00am when a group of activists led by Salman F Rahman, a follower of JnU BCL unit General Secretary Joydul Abedin Rasel, swooped on the followers of Shahriar Shakil.

Chase and counter-chase between the two groups continued on the campus till 12:30pm.

Speaking with The Daily Star, JnU BCL President Tarikul Islam, however, said, "No internal conflicts exist in JnU Chhatra League. Those who were involved in the incident have no relation with Chhatra League."

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Actress injured in scuffle with trucker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ahona Rahman Lucky, a popular television and film actress, was seriously injured early Wednesday as she latched on to a truck whose driver was trying to shake her off after an accident with the actress' car.

Ahona was driving home with her cousin Liza Mitu from Old Dhaka after attending a wedding, when the sand-laden truck hit their car in Uttara sector-7 at around 4am, said Liza.

Ahona came down from the car and charged the trucker. At one stage of the altercation, the trucker tried to drive off, and the actress tried to climb on the vehicle, said Liza.

The truck driver sped off with Ahona hanging by the door and snaked the vehicle at high speed to throw her off for around one kilometre. She was severely injured when the truck flipped over and some stones fell on her at Uttara sector-12.

Ahona was undergoing treatment at Uttara Crescent Hospital since Wednesday,



Ahona Rahman Lucky

and will have to stay there at least two more days, said Liza, who filed a case in this regard with Uttara Paschim Police Station on Wednesday night.

Inspector Abdur Razzak of the police station said they recovered the truck, but both the truck driver and his helper were on the run.