

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHATTOGRAM	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISHAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 26.2 L 13.0	H 25.8 L 10.0	H 25.3 L 15.4	H 26.0 L 13.5	H 24.8 L 08.8	H 24.4 L 11.8	H 25.2 L 10.5	H 25.8 L 08.2	H 26.0 L 15.4

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. Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Mymensingh division. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:29pm and rises tomorrow at 6:44am.

# TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR

## Flycatchers

Winter brings good tidings for birdwatchers in Bangladesh. The pleasant weather gives us an incentive to explore the woods, fields and waterways. It is easier to find birds because the avian population swells due to the arrival of migrant birds. When we think of migratory birds we often think of ducks and shorebirds; in reality, birds of all sizes and shapes migrate to our land. Among them are about a dozen species of delightful little creatures called flycatchers, most of them from the bird family Muscicapidae. They show up all over and it is likely that a flycatcher is spending the winter close to you.



Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher.

PHOTO BY: IHTISHAM KABIR

We have some pretty ones too. These include the blue Verditer Flycatcher seen in and around forests. Several other blue flycatchers, including the red-and-blue Blue-throated Flycatcher, are harder to find. The graceful Asian Paradise Flycatcher is a year-round resident. Its male in breeding season has an exquisitely long white tail that streams behind in flight. I found it deep inside Satchori forest. Another year-round flycatcher is the Black-naped Monarch. The male is a jewel-like deep azure with a black crown; the female is a paler blue and brown. I found this shy bird in several places including Koromjol in Sundarban.

In behaviour, I find the Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher to be the most delightful. After taking a

perch on a branch, it continues its aerial sorties non-stop in all directions chasing insects. In my experience it is approachable. It sports a smart and mischievous look and makes up for its lack of pretty colours with a great personality. A square grey head adds to its charm.

Globally, flycatchers are broadly divided into the Old World and New World groupings. Of the 115 species of Old World flycatchers, about fifteen are seen in Bangladesh. On the other hand, New World flycatchers of the Americas comprise the family of Tyrannidae (Tyrants) which, at 429 species, is the largest bird family on earth.

facebook.com/ikabirphotographs or follow "ihtishamkabir" on Instagram.

# Shifting of inmates to new Sylhet jail begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A total of 2,300 prisoners are being transferred to the newly-constructed Sylhet Central Jail, outside the city, from the 229-year-old jail at Dhopadighir Par.

According to the jail authorities, all the prisoners will be shifted to the new jail in Badaghat area of Sylhet Sadar upazila by tomorrow.

Yesterday morning, the prisoner shifting started amid high security by police, Rab and fire service. Many of the prisoners' relatives were waiting outside the old jail to catch a glimpse of them.

Abdul Jalil, senior jail superintendent of Sylhet Central Jail, said all necessary measures have been taken to transfer the inmates to the new loca-



Prisoners being transferred to the newly-constructed Sylhet Central Jail in Badaghat area of Sadar upazila yesterday.

Chengerkhal river. There are four barracks and a division ward for men and one barrack and a division ward for female inmates. Moreover, there are also high-security and condemn cells inside the new prison.

The old prison was built in 1789 by the then British collector for Assam John Willish on 24.76 acres of land. It was upgraded to Sylhet Central Jail on March 1997 with a capacity of 1,210 prisoners.

Due to the old jail's condition and overflow of prisoners, the Ecneec (Executive Committee of the National Economic Council) in 2010 approved a project for the new jail. Its construction works by the Public Works Department started on January 2012 and ended in June last year.



Prisoners being transferred to the newly-constructed Sylhet Central Jail in Badaghat area of Sadar upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## Man killed in Chandpur road crash

UNB, Chandpur

A man was killed and five others were injured when a pick-up van rammed a human haulier in Mothkhola area of Chandpur Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased -- identified as Osman Goni, 18, son of Manik Bepari from Matlab Sadar Dakkhin upazila of the district -- was driver of the human haulier.

Serajul Islam Chowdhury, sub-inspector of Sadar Police Station, said the accident happened around 8:30am, leaving Osman dead on the spot and five others injured.

The injured were taken to a local hospital for treatment.

## Declare February 1 National Poetry Day

Jatiya Kabita Utshab organisers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Kabita Parishad yesterday urged the government to declare February 1 as National Poetry Day.

They made the call during a press conference at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University.

Reading out a written statement, the platform's General Secretary Tarik Sujat said the 33rd Jatiya Kabita Utshab (national poetry festival) will be held at Hakim Chatter near DU central library on February 1 and February 2.

The theme of this year's festival is "Desh-hara Manusher Sangramer Kabita" [Poems of the struggles of stateless people.] "Every year, we organise this fest, which is regarded as the most prestigious poetry festival in the south-east Asian region. So, the government should take necessary steps so we can celebrate February 1 as 'National Poetry Day' every year," he said.

Registration for participating poets at the festival started on January 1 at TSC, and will continue till January 31, from 4pm to 9pm.

Among others, the parishad's President Muhammad Samad, Aminur Rahman Sultan and Kazi Rosy were present at the press conference.

The national poetry festival, featuring poetry recitation, open discussions and seminars, was first held in 1989.

## Ex-BCL leader threatens Jashore univ professor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A professor of Jashore University of Science and Technology (JUST) has been passing days in insecurity after being threatened by former general secretary of Jashore District unit Chhatra League Anwar Hossain Bipul.

According to an audio of a recorded call that The Daily Star received, Bipul called Prof Iqbal Kabir Jahid on his cellphone at 6:24pm on Tuesday, verbally abused him and threatened to "teach him a lesson".

"The man who issued the threat can even kill me. I want to live with honour," Iqbal told the newspaper on Thursday.

Iqbal is the convener of pro-Awami League blue panel and the current president of JUST Teachers' Association.

In the call, Bipul blamed Iqbal for removing some symbolic boats hanged on bamboo sticks on the campus, and termed him a pro-Jamaat man.

Iqbal said those boats were not removed. Rather, those went behind the anti-ragging (hazing) banners that the university admin-

istration hanged. "I have nothing to do with hanging of anti-ragging banners. It is the university authorities that hanged the banners," he added.

He said he informed the matter to the vice-chancellor (VC) of the university.

Asked whether he informed the matter to police, he said he did not.

Protesting the incident, teachers, officers and employees of JUST will form a human chain on the campus today.

JUST VC Prof Md. Anwar Hossain on Thursday said he knew about the incident, and heard the call record.

"Bipul had earlier showed overbearing and arrogant attitude to me. He indirectly threatened that he would not allow me to come to the university if we do not listen to his demands," the VC said.

"He is responsible for unrests created in the university on different times. He is not a student of the university, but controls the university from Jashore town through

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## NEWS IN brief

### Fire guts six houses in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A fire gutted six houses in Hathazari upazila of Chattogram yesterday.

The fire originated from a stove in the kitchen of a house in Garduara village around 9:00am, said Jasim Uddin, deputy director of Fire Service and Civil Defence, Chattogram.

It spread to the adjacent houses, and valuables worth around Tk 4 lakh were damaged, he added.

### Man held with 2,000 yaba pills

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested an alleged drug peddler with 2,000 yaba tablets in Jashore yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, BGB conducted a drive at the house of Ashraf Islam in a border area of Sharsha upazila and held him with the contraband drug, said Lt Col Imran Ullah Sarker, commanding officer of BGB-21 battalion.

Later, the arrestee was handed over to Sharsha police.

### Man arrested with 300 bottles of Phensedyl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rab arrested a man with 300 bottles of Phensedyl in Chattogram city's Pathantuli area yesterday.

The arrestee -- Mohammad Islam, 45, from the area -- confessed to being involved in Phensedyl peddling, says a press release.

A team from Rab-7 conducted the drive around 7:00am, on a tip-off.

### Whirlpool Pitha Fest begins Jan 16



PHOTO: COLLECTED

The first season of Whirlpool Pitha Festival will begin on January 16, said a press release. During this festival, a nationwide cooking competition will also take place.

The programme will be held jointly by multi-brand electronics retail chain Best Electronics and Lobbi Rahman's Cooking Foundation. An announcement ceremony was recently made at the Corporate Head Office of Best Electronics.

Four winners, selected during regional auditions, will participate in the grand finale in Dhaka on February 2.



FOR THE LOVE OF THREE-POINTED STAR... A classic Mercedes Benz on display beside 100 Feet Road at Badda yesterday. Aficionados were treated to rare spectacle of old and new machines rolling together in kindred spirits at the "Mercedes Benz Heritage Meet". Mercedes Benz Classic Car Owners Club organised the exhibition in association with Mercedes Benz Bangladesh and Absolute Thai. Over 20 classic Benz cars along with newer models, inset, available through Rancon Motors, were exhibited at the event.



PHOTO: ARBAAR MOHAMMAD, FARHAN AHMED

## Rab finds 34,000 yaba in salt truck

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) claimed to have foiled delivery of a consignment of 34,000 yaba pills from a truck and arrested three drug dealers in Siddhirganj of Narayanganj on Thursday night.

They also confiscated Tk 1,85,000 in cash from the arrestees, said Bina Rani Das, additional superintendent of police (ASP) and staff officer (operation) of Rab-3.

The arrestees -- Saiful Islam, 32; Faruk Islam, 30; and Ershad Hossain, 25 -- confessed that they were transporting the contraband items in the salt-laden truck from Teknaf to Dhaka, and had delivered consignments this way before, she also said.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-3 set up a check post in Siddhirganj and stopped the truck. The pills were found behind the driving seat of the truck, ASP Bina added.