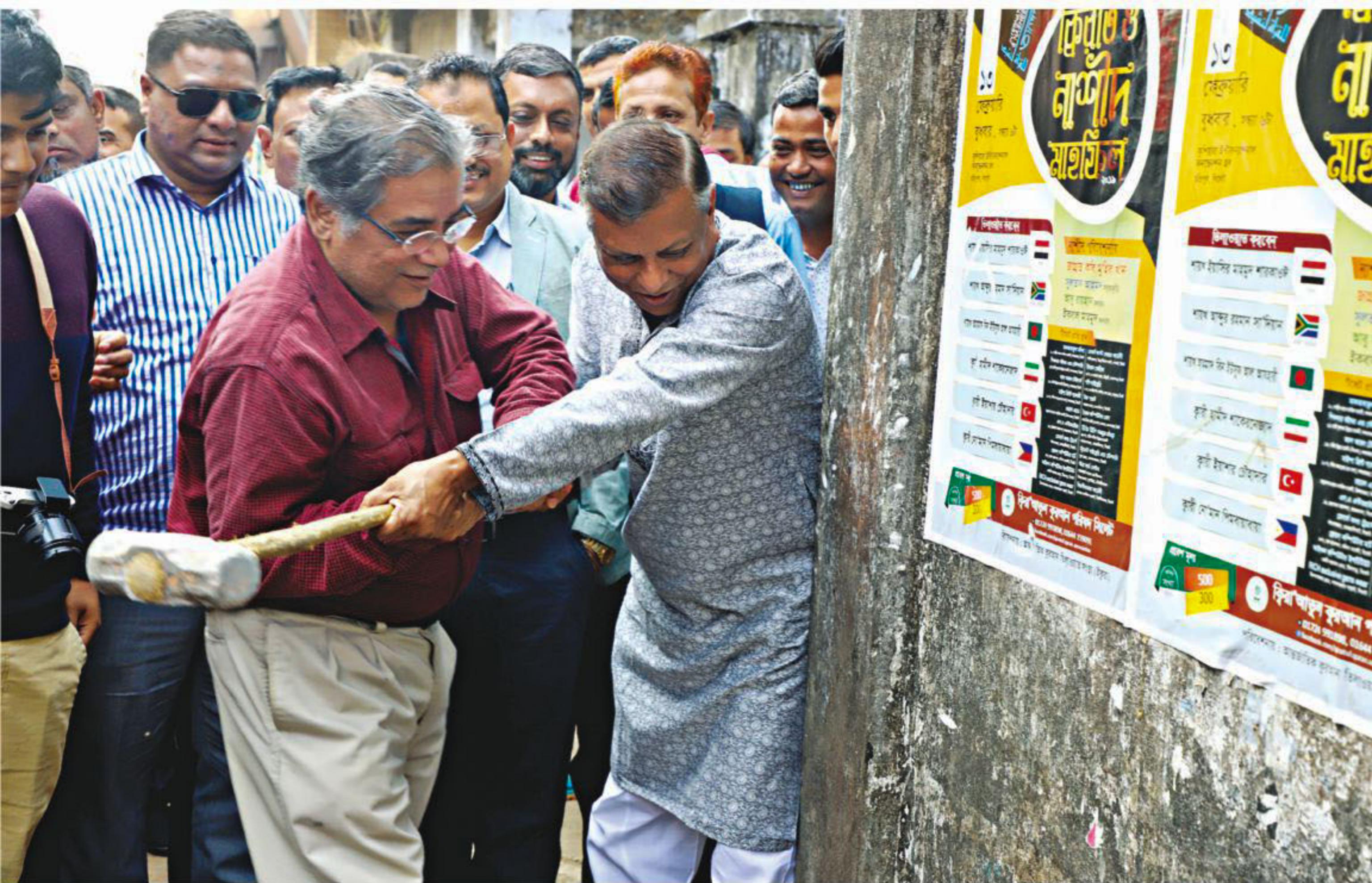


WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 26.7 L 16.6	MYMENSINGH H 24.5 L 14.2	CHATTOGRAM H 27.5 L 19.3	SYLHET H 28.7 L 16.6	RAJSHAHI H 24.0 L 11.6	RANGPUR H 24.0 L 12.8	KHULNA H 26.6 L 16.0	BARISHAL H 27.5 L 16.0	COX'S BAZAR H 28.0 L 19.3
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Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the country during late night to morning, Met Office said. **The sun sets in the capital today** at



As part of an ongoing road expansion project, Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury initiates a drive in Dargah Gate area in the city yesterday. Under the project, boundary walls built occupying parts of roads will be dismantled. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

NEWS IN brief

Indian Air Force chief in city

UNB, Dhaka

Indian Air Force (IAF) chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa arrived in Dhaka yesterday evening on a five-day visit, at the invitation of his Bangladesh counterpart Marshal Masihuzzaman Serniabat. The IAF chief is accompanied by his spouse, Kamalpreet Dhanoa, and a two-member delegation. During his visit, he will pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and meet senior military leaders. The Indian Air chief will also be visiting major Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) air bases, said the Indian

Ducus polls schedule to be announced today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The schedule for Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducus) election will be announced today. Chief Returning Officer Prof Mahfuzur Rahman will announce the schedule at 10am, said a press release. Earlier on January 23, DU Vice-Chancellor and Ducus President Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman announced the polls date for March. The last election to Ducus and hall unions were held in

DIU software engineering dept gets research award

CITY DESK

The software engineering department of Daffodil International University has achieved best Research Award for 2018.

In this regard, an award ceremony was held at 71 Milonayoton of the university yesterday, says a press release.

University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Abdul Mannan was present as the chief guest with Dr Md Sabur Khan, chairman of DIU board of trustees, in the chair.

Besides, DIU acting vice chancellor Prof SM Mahbub Ul Haque Majumder, Registrar Prof AKM Fazlul Haque and Director and Chief of Research Division Prof Md

15 injured as bus skids off road

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least 15 passengers of a bus were injured as the vehicle overturned after skidding off a road in Nawabganj upazila of Dinajpur yesterday.

Locals took the injured to Nawabganj Upazila Health Complex.

Witnesses said the bus was going to Rangpur from Birampur upazila in Dinajpur.

The accident happened as the driver apparently lost control over the steering.

Ferdous, Purnima injured on set

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Popular film actors Ferdous and Purnima suffered minor injuries in a motorbike accident on set in Noakhali yesterday.

Purnima lost control over her motorbike while filming a scene for the movie "Gangchil", as she and her co-rider Ferdous both fell off the vehicle at Char Elahi under Companigonj upazila.

Ferdous was hurt in his shoulder while Purnima sustained injuries in her leg, said Md Asaduzzaman, officer-in-Charge of Companigonj Police Station.

Both received primary treatment at a local clinic, while shooting was called off for the day, he said.

The movie, directed by Noyeem Imtiaz Neamul, will see Ferdous play a journalist and Purnima in the role of an NGO worker. "Gangchil" is based on a novel written by Obaidul Quader.

Rizvi has disrespected the law: Info minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed showed disrespect to law, by calling upon Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to take initiatives to release BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia from jail. "Begum Zia is in jail according to the verdict of the court; Rizvi cannot urge the prime minister to intervene in the court's order. This is complete disrespect to law," said the minister.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of "Amar Ekshay Boi Mela" on gymnasium premises of MA Aziz stadium in the afternoon, with Chattogram City Corporation Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin in the chair.

BNP should continue their legal battle but they should not do any such thing that might make the people lose faith in them, he added.

About the book fair, Hasan said such fair would help people get back to their habit of reading.

"I will request parents and guardians to give books to their children instead of smartphones; youths of this time should develop the habit of reading to be successful..." said Hasan. Books would help children stay away from the negative impact of internet, he added.

The book fair began on gymnasium premises of MA Aziz stadium and will continue till the end of this month. A total of 110 publishers -- of which 55 are from Chattogram and 55 from Dhaka -- have set their stalls in the fair.

UPAZILA ELECTION

AL nominates murder, graft accused in Sylhet

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

Though ruling Awami League is taking a strong stance against corruption and pollution, the party has nominated candidates who are accused in murder and graft cases for next month's upazila election to Sunamganj and Sylhet.

Khairul Huda Chopol, convener of Sunamganj Jubo League and president of Sunamganj Chambers of Commerce, has been nominated by AL for Sunamganj Sadarupazila.

Khairul is an accused in a case filed by Anti-Corruption Commission on July 2, 2017 for corruption and purposeful mis-

management in levee construction in Sunamganj.

That year, Sunamganj was hit by flash floods and almost all the Boro rice cultivation was washed away.

ACC found gross negligence and corruption in the dam construction and filed a case against Nur Trading's owner Khairul and 64 others. He was arrested at Dhaka airport on August 16 that year while trying to board a Canada-bound flight. Khairul is now out on bail.

Contacted, Khairul told The Daily Star, "I was not involved in any sort of corruption... I will be acquitted in the case soon... ACC did not find anything against me."

Matiur Rahman, president of Sunamganj district unit of AL, said, "We suggested several names for the central committee's consideration. The candidates' records were also attached along with Khairul's."

"It was their [central] decision. They even nominated two candidates who were not proposed by the grassroots," he said, adding that such decisions affect grassroots politics.

Abdur Rahim in Dowerabazar upazila and Rafiqul Islam Talukder of Bishwambarpur in Sunamganj were not in the primary proposal, he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

BB HEIST PROBE CID fails 56th report deadline

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again asked Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to submit probe report by March 13 in Bangladesh Bank cyber heist case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Sadbir Yasir Ahsan Chowdhury passed the order after Raihan Uddin Khan, assistant superintendent of CID and investigation officer of the case, failed to submit the probe report yesterday. With this, CID has taken 57 dates to complete its probe in the heist of \$101 million from the central bank's account with Federal Reserve Bank of New York in February 2016.

At least \$81 million was transferred to accounts in Manila-based RCBC, from where it disappeared into the casinos of Philippines.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

New attractions breathe life into Ctg zoo

AMIR HASAN SHAHRIAR, Ctg

With new attractions being incorporated and more in the pipeline, Chattogram Zoo has started to draw huge numbers of visitors.

Last year, the zoo saw around 8.5 lakh visitors, the highest turnout since its inception in 1989, after a number of new animals were introduced.

Despite increment in ticket pricing, people are thronging the zoo due to the efforts of the authorities concerned in reviving the zoo through improved collection and better maintenance and security.

The zoo authorities are planning to continue the trend this year. The zoo will add five ostriches, six emus, four kangaroos and two camels -- at a cost of Tk 1 crore -- this month.

Ticket price was raised to Tk 30 from Tk 20 in February last year, which was then raised to Tk 50 in phases for renovation and purchasing new animals, they added.

"Tickets are our only source of income. Since recreational places have always been scarce in the city, people don't mind paying some extra for spending time with their family in a fun and secured place. The zoo is

providing that space," said Dr Shahadat Hossain Shuvo, deputy curator.

He said the zoo brought six zebras from South Africa last year, which garnered much enthusiasm among visitors.

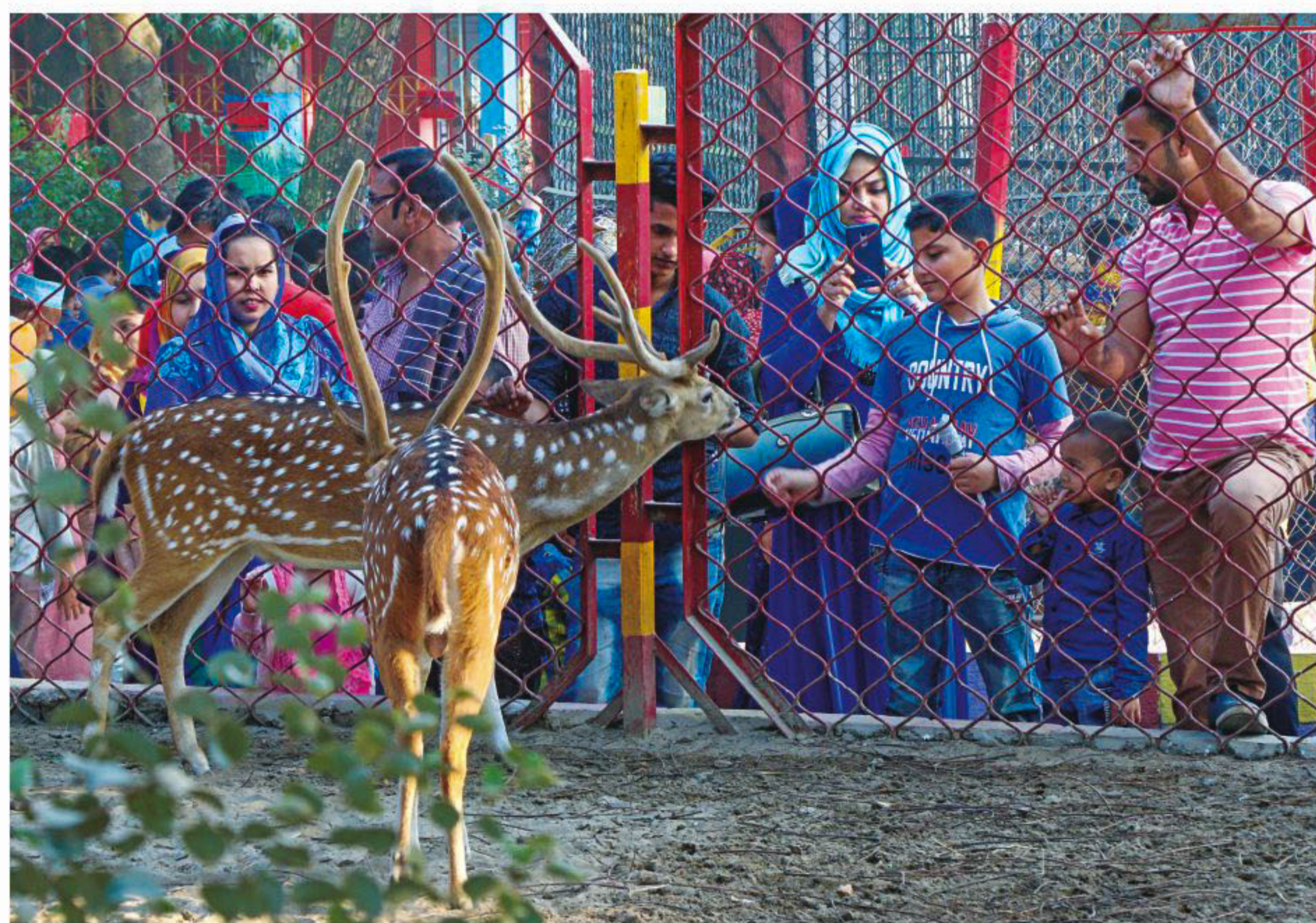
The crowd increased further after Pori, a female tiger, gave birth to triplets on July 19, 2018. "One of the cubs turned out to be an albino, and that added more enthusiasm among animal lovers," he added. The zoo now boasts 65 species of birds, reptiles and mammals.

With an aim to continue offering visitors new attractions, the authorities also built an aviary on November 21 last year.

But the condition was quite different even around two years back. For lack of animals, unsafe and unhygienic condition and disturbance of hawkers, turnout of animal lovers and enthusiast visitors was significantly low.

To change the scenario, the zoo authorities renovated the entire area, constructed boundary walls, walkways for easy access, new public toilets, zone for children

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Visitors throng Chattogram Zoo to enjoy its latest attractions. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



VICTIM OF DEVELOPMENT: A number of trees have been felled on the Khamar Bari Road in the capital recently, to make way for the construction of the metro rail project. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Steel mill workers demand pay hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Several hundred workers of the PHP Steels Mills yesterday staged a demonstration in front of the factory's main gate at Boro Kumira area in Sitakunda upazila, demanding a salary hike.

The demonstration began at 7am and lasted four hours before it ended at 11am, said Delower Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sitakunda Police Station.

"Owners assured the agitating workers that steps will be taken the next month to meet the demands of the workers," the OC said after holding separate meetings with the owners and workers.

"The pay of a newly-appointed or trainee worker of the steel mills ranges from Tk 3,000 to Tk 4,000 a month," a mill worker told this correspondent, seeking anonymity.

Average wages of an experienced worker is not more than Tk 7,000, he also said.

Except for RMG sector, the absence of government guideline for wages for mill workers, allows owners to decide the pay scale -- in most cases too low to afford basic amenities, the worker said.

Man arrested for setting woman on fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) arrested a man on Friday in Dhaka's Dhamrai on charges of pouring octane on a woman and setting her on fire in Rajshahi on January 29.

The accused, Nayeem Islam, is an honours student at a college in Dhaka, said Sub-inspector Mohidul Islam, who led the four-member team of Rajshahi Police Bureau of Investigation.

The woman, a student of a Rajshahi college, is being treated at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The police official said Nayeem had developed a relationship with the woman, who is married with children, some years ago when she used to live in Dhaka along with her family.

Though the family moved to Rajshahi over a year ago, they still maintained contact.

Recently, she wanted to end the relationship, which made Nayeem furious.

On January 29, Nayeem, clad in a burka, went to her house in Puthia upazila in the morning with bottles of octane he purchased the day before.

He waited till she came out of the house, and attacked her.

He poured octane on her and set her on fire. Hearing her screams, locals rushed in and rescued her.

Nayeem managed to flee, added the police official.

The woman's brother filed a case with Puthia Police Station, accusing an unidentified person.

During an investigation alongside Puthia police, the PBI team found Nayeem's involvement.

"Tracking their cellphones and Facebook activities, we found out about the incident and detected Nayeem's presence at the scene of occurrence," said the PBI official.