

'Where do they get the audacity?'

HC says about police officers conducting arbitrations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday observed that some officers-in-charge (OC) of police stations set up "courts" at night at their convenience, to conduct arbitrations regarding various incidents.

How do they do so, and from where do they get such audacity, the court questioned, adding that the whole police force suffers from bad reputation due to some 13,000 personnel posted at police stations.

Many policemen lead hard lives, while others have beautiful expensive houses, the court said. "Has the country become a state of thieves?"

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina awards a child at a programme marking World Autism Awareness Day yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

## WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY Allowances for differently abled in next budget: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced that the government would arrange allowances for all differently abled persons from the next budget.

She was speaking at the inauguration of 12th World Autism Awareness Day at Bangabandhu International Conference Center.

Currently, 10 lakh people with disabilities are getting allowance of Tk 700 per month from the government, she said, adding that according to the latest census, there are 14 lakh such persons in the country. All of them will be brought under the coverage from the next budget, she affirmed.

She called upon all to stand beside the differently abled and provide them with necessary assistance. She requested parents to put extra effort in this regard.

The PM handed over awards to five autistic children in recognition of their contribution to different fields and three individuals and organisations for their role in building awareness on autism.

She also joined a photo session with the award recipients, and also lit blue light as part of "Light it Up Blue" campaign. The day is being observed with the theme -- "Assistive Technology, Active Participation."

At yesterday's event, the PM said under Integrated Special Education Policy, students with disabilities are studying in 63 specialised schools and around Tk 23 crore have been allocated for running those.

Hasina said with her daughter, Saima Wazed Hossain, taking the lead, awareness on autism has increased nationally and internationally. Her government has established Suchona Foundation with Saima Wazed as chairperson. "Our goal is to create awareness among all," she said.

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## 3 held with 8.45 lakh yaba pills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion-1 yesterday claimed to have arrested three members of a yaba smuggling syndicate, which brought the contraband drugs to Dhaka from Myanmar using a new sea route via Patuakhali, for the last one year.

The ring used to smuggle five to seven lakh pills in each consignment and brought three to four such shipments during the period.

Commander Mufti Mahmud Khan, legal and media wing director of the elite force, disclosed this at a press conference at its Karwan Bazar media centre.

He said Rab-1 seized 8.45 lakh yaba pills worth about Tk 50 crore from the arrestees -- Tuhin Hossain, 25; Sabuj Howladher, 26; and Shahjahan Sarkar, 30.

From deep in Bay of Bengal, the pills reach Patuakhali and Barguna points in fishing boats, and then make their way to the capital via Barishal in cars, buses, trucks or launches, the Rab official said.

The syndicate members started using the route, after law enforcers had increased their vigilance in Teknaf, the major gateway for smuggling the pills.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-1 arrested Tuhin and Sabuj from the capital's Sadarghat Launch Terminal area around 5:30am yesterday. After gleaning information from the duo, the elite force picked up Shahjahan from Abdullapur about 2:30pm.

Mufti Mahmud said the arrestees were supposed to take

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## Zee Bangla off air in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One day into a government show-cause notice to two cable operators for airing Bangladeshi advertisements on foreign channels, one of them has shut down broadcasting some Indian channels, including Zee Bangla and Zee Cinema.

Nationwide Media Limited is sole distributor of foreign channels of Zee group, Sony group, Discovery group and Cartoon Network, while Jadoo Vision Limited represents Star and Colors groups.

Except the channels of Zee group, other channels are being aired.

Zee Bangla is popular among a good number of viewers for its daily drama serials. "I used to watch 'Karunamoyi Rani Rashmoni'. But now I'll be forced to watch advertisements and talk shows of local channels," wrote one Mohua Ahmed on Facebook.

Another viewer Saiful Islam said, "Popular children's show 'Doraemon' was shut down. Now Zee Bangla is off air. What entertainment have we left for women and the elderly?"

Wishing to be unnamed, an official of Nationwide Media Limited said once the problem is resolved, the

channels will be broadcast again.

He however declined to elaborate what "the problem" is.

Navidul Huq, Director of Jadoo Vision Limited, said they have received a letter from the information ministry yesterday asking them to take necessary measures to stop advertisements on the foreign TV channels it airs.

People will not pay Tk 400-500 every month only to watch Bangladeshi TV channels

"In the letter, the ministry also wanted to know whether it would be possible for us to stop advertisements on foreign TV channels and what steps we may take in this regard," he also said.

"The ministry gave us seven days time to inform it about our measures," added Navidul.

"I have informed Star and Colors

about the government's requirement and waiting for their reply to this end," Navidul said.

"We will inform the government once we get their [Star and Colors] reply," he said, adding, "We will work in line with the government's decision whatever it may be, and their decision is final."

Talking to The Daily Star SM Anwar Parvez, founding president of Cable Operators' Association of Bangladesh said the government has moved to destroy a huge organisation [COAB] in the name of saving Association of Television Channels Owners.

"The government earlier said there will be no Bangladeshi advertisements on foreign TV channels and we fully agreed with it. But now the government has instructed not to air any kind of advertisement on foreign channels," he also said.

Parvez said Bangladeshi local distributors do not have any control on airing advertisements on foreign channels.

"If popular foreign channels stop broadcasting in Bangladesh, who will buy our service? People will not pay Tk 400-500 every month only to watch Bangladeshi TV channels," he said.

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## A rape victim's rocky road to justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This is the story of a brave girl who chose not to give up her fight for justice for a gang rape committed against her in October last year. She knocked the doors of Bhatara police, National Human Rights Commission and even the Prime Minister's Office before the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) took over the case only about two weeks ago and arrested the three rapists.

All the accused -- Nabirul Islam, Shahadat Hossain, and Mohammad Kawser -- confessed on Sunday to committing the crime under section 164.

Following the arrests, Investigation Officer Al-Amin, sub-inspector of PBI, Dhaka Metro North, said he was yet to arrest a female accomplice who had taken Laboni [not her real name] on October 12, 2018 to meet Nabirul on Kuril Bishwa Road.

Laboni and her female friend had gone out to have dinner at a restaurant with some friends of the latter. Laboni said it was a set-up. They were all in Nabirul's car, and the friend got off the vehicle around 9:30pm that night. Suddenly finding herself alone with three men whom she did not know well, she screamed and then scuffled with them before the men took turns to rape her.

All three accused are drivers by profession who drove rental cars and for ridesharing services.

Being let go after midnight, Laboni went straight to Bhatara Police Station to file a rape case. There, police suggested that she file an attempt-to-rape case since rape would "draw negative attention".

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## FR TOWER FIRE Firefighter still in critical condition



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sohel Rana, a firefighter who sustained serious injuries during the FR Tower fire rescue operation, remained in critical condition at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in the city until yesterday.

"His condition is critical and he has been put under life support as doctors conducted two surgeries after his arrival at the hospital," Lt Col Abdullah Ibn Zaid, director of Inter Service Public Relations told The Daily Star yesterday.

His colleague Rubel Ahmed who was in CMH said, "Now, he can move his limbs and blink."

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## BNSS felicitates Khairul Anam Shakil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Nazrul Sangeet Sangstha (BNSS) yesterday arranged a celebration programme to felicitate renowned singer Khairul Anam Shakil's receiving Ekushey Padak this year.

The programme was held at the National Art Gallery Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Eminent elocutionist, thespian and cultural personality Asaduzzaman Noor graced the event as chief guest while Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam was special guest.

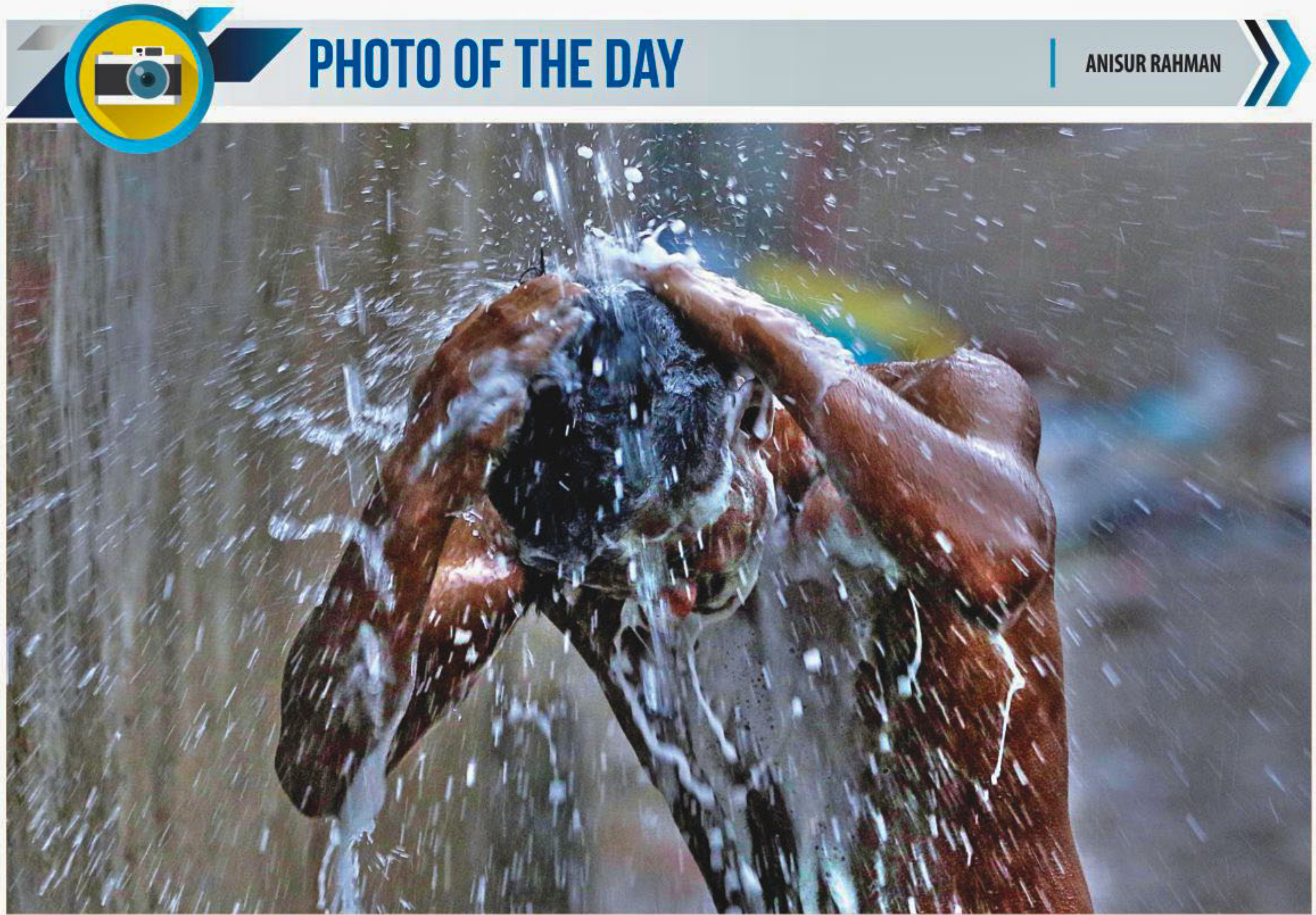
Renowned Nazrul and Tagore singers Sadya Afreen Mallick, Yakub Ali Khan, Ferdous Ara, Bulbul Islam, Laiza Ahmed Lisa, Joseph Kamol Rodriguez and Yasmin Mushtari spoke, among others, to congratulate Shakil at the event. President of BNSS Khalid Hossain presided over the programme.

"Music is not just the greatest entertainment form of our culture. It also plays an important role in creating the sense of patriotism. We witnessed how music constructed the conscience of our Bangalee nationalism during the Liberation War. We are proud of Khairul Anam Shakil and sincerely thank the government for conferring him Ekushey Padak this year," said Mahfuz Anam.

"Shakil bhai is a big-hearted person and a very good leader in our musical arena. He is in such a position that respect towards him comes naturally. We are happy and proud that the deserving person has been recognised nationally," said Laiza Ahmed Lisa.

Khairul Anam Shakil expressed his gratitude to all for showering blessings and good wishes on him.

An audiovisual presentation showcasing Shakil's journey as a singer was also screened at the event. A musical programme followed where Yakub Ali Khan, Khairul Anam Shakil, Ferdous Ara, Yasmin Mushtari, Bizon Chandra Mistry and others performed.



All soaped up, a man stands underneath a splash of rainwater falling from a tin roof, making the best of the rather unseasonal downpour that swept the city yesterday afternoon. The photo was taken from Pinerbag area of Moghbazar.

## DHAKA TODAY

**DANCE WORKSHOP**  
Classical & Creative Dance  
Workshop  
Venue: Centre for Advance Nurturing & Visual Art Studies  
Time: 4pm

**SEMINAR**  
Sher-e-Bangla  
AK Fazlul Huq: Leader of the people and democracy  
Organiser: Bangladesh National Museum  
Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum  
Time: 4:30pm

**EXHIBITION**  
Unsettled  
By Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo  
Venue: Jatra Biroti, Banani  
Time: 11am

**FILM FESTIVAL**  
National Film Day  
Organiser & Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy  
Time: 5pm



## POULTRY AND FISH FEED Close factories using tannery waste: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed authorities concerned of the government to immediately stop operation of poultry and fish feed factories across the country that use hazardous tannery waste for producing feed, and to submit a report to it in a month after complying with the directive.

The court also issued a notice asking six government high officials to show cause by April 9 why contempt of court proceedings should not be brought against them for not stopping the operation of poultry and fish feed factories in line with its earlier order.

The six officials are: secretaries to the ministries of industries, commerce, food, health and fisheries, and livestock and the inspector general of police.

The HC came up with the order after hearing a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

The bench of Justice Moyoenuel Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashraf Kamal also fixed May 12 for passing further order on this issue, HRPB's lawyer Advocate Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star.

The HRPB recently submitted the petition as a supplementary to its earlier writ petition upon which the HC in 2011 ordered respondents to stop operation of poultry and fish feed factories.

Manzill said HRPB had filed the petition in July 2010 following a report published in The Daily Star titled "Toxic poultry feed poses health risk".

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Eminent Nazrul Sangeet singer Khairul Anam Shakil, centre, receives a congratulatory crest at an event marking his receiving of this year's Ekushey Padak. The event, held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, was attended by renowned cultural personality Asaduzzaman Noor and noted Nazrul exponent Sadya Afreen Mallick, among others.

PHOTO: STAR