3 killed, 4 hurt

road accidents

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Three people were killed and four were injured in

separate road accidents in

Ghoraghat and Parbatipur

The deceased are Akhter

Hossain (38), Shahjahan

Ali (70) and Ashraf Ali (35)

Witnesses said a pick-up van coming from Naogaon

rammed into a bicycle

on Parbatipur-Fulbari

road in Sherpur area of

Shahjahan dead on the

Parbatipur upazila around

12:30pm, leaving bicyclist

spot. Besides, a pick-up van

passenger, Ashraf, died on

were injured as the vehicle

the spot and two others

turned over on the road

after hitting the bicycle.

inspector of Bhabanipur

said they recovered the

Police Investigation Centre,

bodies of two people from

the spot and handed over

those to family for burial.

Fire Service Station

said a Rajshahi-bound

truck hit another truck,

parked beside Dinajpur-

area of Ghoraghat, leaving

and two people, including

police team and fire service

truck driver Akhter dead

the truck helper, injured.

On information, a

members recovered the

body

Gobindaganj Regional Highway, in Birahimpur

Sources at Ghoraghat

Abul Bashar, sub-

upazilas of Dinajpur

yesterday.

in Dinajpur

Constable remanded over rape of 13-year-old COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Shimul Ahmed (27) a constable of Armed Police Battalion (APBN), on a one-day remand in a case filed against him on charge of raping a 13-year-old girl in Dhaka's Motijheel area.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jashim passed the order after Sujan Kumer Roy, sub-inspector of Motijheel Police Station and also the case's investigation officer, produced him before it with a three-day remand prayer.

In the remand prayer, the IO said the accused entered the house of the girl at around 9:30am of December 26 as her parents were out and raped her. He needs to be

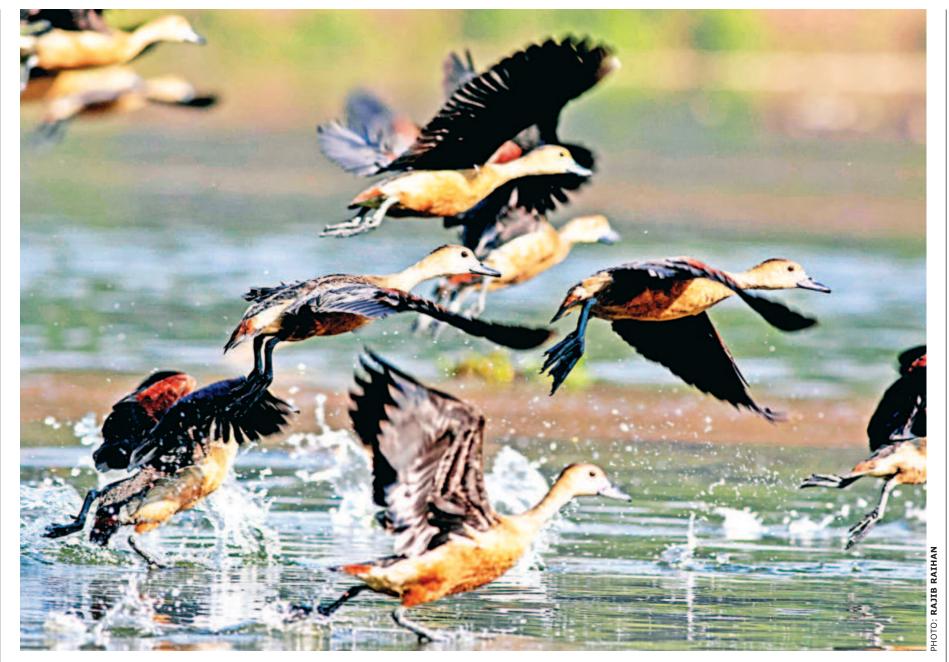
remanded to gather more information about the incident, the IO added.

Claiming himself innocent, Shimul told the court he was framed in the case.

Upon hearing, the magistrate placed him on the remand.

Shimul was arrested on Monday after the victim's father filed a case against him with Motijheel Police Station.

The victim was admitted to One-Stop Crisis Centre of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.



It's that time of the year. As winter slowly settles in, it marks the time when Chattogram's Laskar Dighi becomes a temporary abode for numerous migrant birds. For locals, this is indeed the season to be merry, as they wake up and enter the night surrounded by the pleasant tweets of these visiting birds. The amicable avians spend a good couple of months at the dighi, which is populated by local species for the rest of the year. This photo was taken from Raozan upazila's Kadalpur village.

'Place bill on EC formation in next JS session'

Workers Party calls upon president at dialogue RASHIDUL HASAN

Rejecting the government's argument that there is not enough time to enact a law on forming the next Election Commission, Workers Party of Bangladesh (WPB) yesterday said the caretaker government bill was passed in parliament within one night in 1996.

While holding dialogue with President

Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban on the matter, the party called upon the president to instruct the government to place a bill on

EC's formation i

the next session



Who will be the next chief justice?



Imman Ali

Ashutosh Sarkar

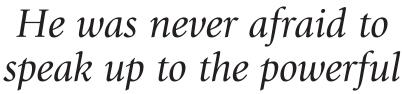
day after that.

the constitution," Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star on Monday.

Syed Mahmud Hossain, the Meanwhile, some SC lawyers current chief justice, will retire told this correspondent that was appointed as the 22nd chief tomorrow, as he will turn 68 the the next chief justice will be justice on February 2, 2018, Article 96 (1) of the appointed from the four judges Appellate Division, the other provisions of this article, considering political issues and the next parliamentary election. There is a precedent of appointing chief justices by superseding other judges of the apex court who were their seniors. Some of the superseded judges had resigned from office due to this, they said. Of the sitting Appellate Division judges, Justice Muhammad Imman Ali will retire on December 31, 2022, Justice Hasan Foez Siddique on September 25, 2023, Justice Md Nuruzzaman on June 30, 2023, and Justice Obaidul Hassan on January 10, 2026, SC sources

Nuruzzaman **Obaidul Hassan** The pro-BNP lawyers have demanded no supersession in

appointing the new chief justice. Justice Sved Mahmud Hossain superseding Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, who had bee discharging duties of the chief justice for four months.



Speakers tell discussion on Reazuddin Ahmed STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Veteran journalist Reazuddin Ahmed upheld a time when the interests of journalism lay before political interests, reminisced speakers at a memorial discussion yesterday.

The memorial was held at Jatiya Press Club.

The session was organised by the Editors' Council and Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB). Ahmed passed away on December 25 while receiving treatment for Covid-related complications.

The Ekushey Padak-awardee was not only remembered for his material achievements, but also for his ability to lead the journalist community in unity. "We have lost a guardian of the community," said senior journalist Monjurul

Ahsan Bulbul. He said during today's trying times, there are more leaders who feed off of

strife than people willing to come to an understanding.

Bulbul explained how Ahmed was a staunch supporter of inclusive democracy and had the courage to speak up to the most powerful in state and society.

Reazuddin Ahmed's son Mashrur Reaz spoke about how his father had retired from his role of leading the management of a media organisation only to launch

Foez Siddique

said.



of parliament in January "You [Abdul Hamid] will

address the parliament in January, which will be the first session of next year. In the speech, you assure the nation that the law will be enacted in that session," Rashed Khan Menon, president of WPB, which is a part of the ruling-Awami League alliance, told reporters after the dialogue.

Pointing to Law Minister Anisul Hug's argument that the law cannot be enacted before expiration of the present EC on February 14 next year, Menon said it is very much possible, if the government wants it.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

'Subject to onstitution states, a judge shall hold office until he attains the age of sixty-seven vears."

However, it is still not clear who will be appointed as the next (23rd) chief justice of Bangladesh, and when will president announce the the appointment.

And so, there is a buzz at the Supreme Court premises over this issue.

"The honourable president will appoint the new chief justice. I don't know whom and when he [President Abdul Hamid] will appoint. He has the sole authority to do so, as per

The post of chief justice had remained vacant for about three months, after Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha stepped down on November 10, 2017.

Later in the day on February 2, 2018, Justice Wahhab resigned as an apex court judge.

Earlier, six other apex court judges -- Justice KM Hasan, Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain, Justice MM Ruhul Amin, Justice Md Tafazzul Islam, Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Md Muzammel Hossain -- were appointed chief justice, ignoring seniority of their colleagues.

a newspaper two years later.

"He had retired saying he was ageing, which was making his job difficult. But SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Attendees at the memorial observed a minute's silence in honour of their beloved colleague Reazuddin Ahmed. PHOTO: STAR

AIRFARE FOR EXPATS Govt, Biman, Baira served legal notice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday served a legal notice on the authorities concerned for taking proper steps to bring airticket fares for Bangladeshi expatiates to a reasonable price.

Mohammad Shishir Manir sent the legal notice on behalf of eight Bangladeshi expatiate labourers to the officials concerned of government, Balaka Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited and Bangladesh Association of Recruiting Agency (BAIRA).

In the legal notice, the lawyer asked the officials to explain in seven days why appropriate action should not be taken against the persons and organisations involved in the irregularities, corruption and unusual air-ticket fares

If the respondents do not response to the legal notice in seven days, a case will be moved before the High Court for necessary directives, Shishir Manir said in the legal notice.



As the year nears its end, all educational institutions around the country are gearing up for distributing free textbooks among students, traditionally given out every year on January 1. In Dhaka, freshly printed books are being circulated to different schools from Mohammadpur Govt Primary School's main campus under the supervision of teachers. This photo was taken on Monday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

2 Rab members hurt in clash with 'drug peddlers' in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least two Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members and several locals were injured in a clash with suspected drug peddlers during an anti-narcotics drive in Baromasia Tea Garden, under Chattogram's Fatikchhari upazila, on Monday night.

Two Rab vehicles were also vandalised during the clash, which occurred around 9:00pm.

The force had to open fire to bring the situation under control, said Rab officials.

The injured are Rab-7 media officer Flight Lt Niaj Uddin Chapal and deputy assistant director Samad, among others. Of the injured, Chapal was shifted to Dhaka CMH, Rab-7

Commanding Officer Lt Col MA Yousuf told The Daily Star. Rab claimed that a group of drug peddlers used to

produce alcohol in the guise of tea garden workers. The racket produced huge amounts of liquor to sell on December 31, ahead of thirty-first night celebrations.

"Based on a tip-off, Rab went to Baromasia Tea Garden area to destroy the liquor factory. As they were returning after destroying the liquor items, a gang of drug dealers swooped in on the law enforcers with lethal weapons, injuring two Rab men," he said. "Rab detained five persons in this connection so far. The drive is still ongoing."

Local sources and police, however, said the team of Rab went to the tea garden in plain clothes, in a microbus and private car.

Seeking anonymity, an elected public representative of Suabil union who visited the spot, said the Rab men were in plain clothes, which created confusion among tea workers. After the incident, the workers went into hiding.

Superintendent of Police of Chattogram SM Rashidul Haque said, "Till now, we haven't received any complaint from Rab.'