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## Bodies of two newborns found near DU Ekushey hall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two infants' bodies were found in a pile of garbage on a footpath near Dhaka University's Amar Ekushey Hall.

Police recovered the bodies from in front of Anowar Pasha building of Ekushey Hall on Friday afternoon after getting a call at the national helpline 999, said Shabbagh Police Station Sub-inspector Harun-Or-Rashid.

The bodies were wrapped in an old clothe (lungi), he added.

It is not known who left the bodies of the newborn boys there, the officer said, adding that they will be approximately one-day old.

Their bodies were kept at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue after an autopsy.

## Two workers die falling from building

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Munshiganj

Two people died yesterday morning after they fell from a height of about 50 feet while painting a building's exterior in Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients Industrial Park in Munshiganj's Gazaria upazila.

The deceased were identified as Md Shahid, 27, and Abdus Sobhan, 25, both from Madaripur, said Molla Soheb Ali, officer-in-charge of Gazaria Police Station.

Three building painters were working on the fourth floor of a five-storey utility building inside Acme Laboratories Limited in Gazaria's Bausia area, according to eyewitnesses.

Two of them were hanging from ropes and painting while the other was helping them from the building's rooftop.

Around 9:00am, the rope holding them tore and they fell.

Dr Arshad Kabir of the emergency department at Gazaria Upazila Health Complex declared them dead. The bodies were sent to Munshiganj General Hospital for autopsy, the OC said.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Rickshaws remain parked in front of Shishu Hospital, occupying more than half of the busy Agargaon-Shyamoli link road. Though the road was widened to avoid traffic congestions, a lack of supervision often leads to gridlocks in the area. The photo was taken yesterday.

## DHAKA-CHATTOGRAM HIGHWAY

# Robbers on the prowl

10 vehicles robbed in one night

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

A group of masked men unleashed a wave of terror on the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway early yesterday, leaving behind a trail of looted vehicles and injured passengers.

The incident, which occurred past midnight near Panthachila area in Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila, marks the latest in a series of robberies that have plagued this crucial route.

At least 10 vehicles fell victim to the gang. The gang targeted vehicles by hurling iron rods, compelling the drivers to stop and check their cars. Taking advantage of this, the robbers snatched away all the passengers' belongings, according to victims.

"We have got some names of those involved in this connection and shared it with Sitakunda Police Station for the next course of action. Most of the criminals are addicts and frequently change their location during raids on the highway," said Md Shahadat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kumira Highway Police Station.

**Several groups of armed robbers are active in different parts of Dhaka-Chattogram Highway in Chattogram, Feni, and Cumilla, looting and harassing passengers and transport workers, law enforcers said.**

Most of the robbers are aged between 20 and 40. The victims often opt to not report the crimes to police fearing legal hassles.

On April 7, Rab-7 arrested 10 alleged highway robbers during a drive in Sitakunda's Foujdarhat area and recovered firearms, ammunition, and knives from them.

Rab said the group used to rob people on the highway in Sitakunda.

On June 27, a gang tried to stop a private car in Feni's Mathbaria area, but failed.

Neeloy Sen Gupta, who was in the vehicle, told The Daily Star, "That night, three of us were traveling from Dhaka to Chattogram. A man suddenly appeared out of thin air and hurled a large stone at the vehicle's windshield, completely shattering it."

"When we realised we were being ambushed by robbers, our friend continued driving at full speed for 600 metres. Later, we dialed 999 because our tyres had also been damaged," he recalled.

He said two policemen visited the spot half an hour later and noted down the details. But no case was lodged in this connection, he added.

On July 18, Nayan Dhoom, a resident of Chattogram's Mirsarai upazila, shared his experience of highway robbery on Facebook.

He said the alleged robbers threw iron rods at his car at East Major Gate of Barowalia of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Polls as per constitution Says Momen

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said the next general election will be held according to the country's constitution.

He made this comment while talking to journalists after awarding certificates to students of RTM Al Kabir Technical University at Shahi Eidgah in Sylhet city in the afternoon.

He said, "The government has done everything necessary for fair elections in the country. A strong Election Commission has been constituted for this purpose."

"Bangladesh will not make any new agreement with any country in haste before the elections... Bangladesh is an independent state and we adhere to a balanced foreign policy," he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

## DHAKA AIRPORT

# Bird strikes damage two aircraft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bird strikes damaged two aircraft of two airlines at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport during take-off yesterday.

Fortunately, both incidents didn't cause any casualties.

In the first case, a flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, BG 388, on the Dhaka-Bangkok route had to abandon takeoff at the last stage of acceleration as a bird strike caused one of its tyres to burst.

Passengers of the plane had to disembark in the taxiway, said a senior pilot of the national flag carrier.

Later, passengers were flown to Bangkok by another aircraft of Biman, said a senior Biman official.

A team of engineers inspected the plane to assess the damage.

In the second case, a flight of Fly Dubai abandoned take off after a bird strike on its left engine damaged three propeller blades. As the plane had to be halted on its final

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Dhaka seeks int'l support to bridge the digital divide

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has sought international support for reducing digital divide and ensuring equality in development.

The call was made at a meeting with the foreign diplomats and representatives of development agencies at the state guest house Padma in the capital yesterday.

**Information and communication technology is developing very fast, but its benefits are not reaching out to all equally. The poor people and the rural areas are lagging behind within the country. It is also the same globally. The small and developing countries are lagging behind.**

SHAMSUL AREFIN  
ICT Division Secretary

"Information and communication technology is developing very fast, but its benefits are not reaching out to all equally. The poor people and the rural areas are lagging behind within the country. It is also the same globally. The small and developing countries are lagging behind..." ICT Division Secretary Shamsul Arefin told The Daily Star about the meeting.

Bangladesh is trying to lead in ensuring equal

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

# 20 RMG workers hurt in clash with cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

At least 20 readymade garment workers were injured in a clash with Industrial Police yesterday.

The clash broke out after the workers blocked a road in Savar, demanding their arrears.

The workers of Pride Group's HR Textile Mills Ltd and Fashion Knit Ltd found a notice when they went to work around 9:00am, which read, "Factory authorities declared yesterday as a general holiday."

Other workers joined the crowd and tried to know the reason behind such a declaration, but to no avail. This prompted them to take to the streets.

Witnesses said they saw workers and police arguing on the Dhaka-Aricha highway in front of the factory.

At one stage, a clash broke out, they added. Police charged truncheons, lobbed teargas shells and fired rubber bullets to disperse the workers, who threw brickbats at the law enforcers.

Around 20 workers were injured in the clash, said a worker wishing anonymity.

The protesting workers also said their salaries for July are pending.

Referring to the police attack, Rafiqul Islam Sujon, president of Bangladesh Garments and Shilpa Shramik Federation, said several types of raw materials --

including yarn -- were being removed from the factory for a few days.

"The workers are fearing that the factories might get closed," he said.

Contacted, Alfaz Hossain, assistant superintendent of police of Ashulia Industrial Police-1, said they did not charge batons or fire rubber bullets on the workers. They only lobbed tear gas canisters when the protesters threw brickbats at them.

**Several types of raw materials -- including yarn -- were being removed from the factory for a few days. The workers are fearing that the factories might get closed.**

This correspondent found the phone of factory general manager (administration) Monirul Islam switched off. When he went to the factory to talk to the authorities, the security guard told him that no officials were available there.

Shafiqul Islam, the factory's security officer, said, "No officers came to the factory [today]. Besides, I can't reach any of them over the phone. The factory will reopen tomorrow [Sunday] and the workers will be paid." Asked about the removal of raw materials from there, he said it was a rumour.



The censor certificate of "Mujib: The Making of a Nation" was handed over yesterday. Information Minister Hasan Mahmud gave the certificate to the movie crew during an event at a hotel in the capital. Stars of the film including Arifin Shuvoo, Atul Tiwari, Nusrat Imrose Tisha, Chanchal Chowdhury, Raisul Islam Asad, Rozina, Shahid Alam Sachchu, Khairul Alam Shabuj, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Riaz, Dilara Zaman and Prarthana Fardin Dighi were present on the occasion, among others.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED