

WEATHER
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA H 28.4 L 14.8	CHITTAGONG H 29.7 L 16.5	SYLHET H 27.6 L 13.4	RAJSHAH H 28.0 L 11.5	KHULNA H 28.8 L 14.8	BARISAL H 28.0 L 14.2	RANGPUR H 26.0 L 12.6	COX'S BAZAR H 27.6 L 16.0
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Night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius and day temperature remains nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:54m and rises tomorrow at 6:31am. Country's highest temperature 29.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Chittagong and lowest 09.4 in Sreemangal.

Worker killed in N'ganj wall collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A construction worker was killed and his fellow injured when a portion of a boundary wall of the house of Narayanganj city Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy collapsed on them at the city's Dewbogh on Friday night. Deceased Monir Hossain, 20, son of Rajbul Mian of the city's Beparipara; and injured Majibur Rahman, 40, were digging a road to construct a storm drain beside the four-storey house. Majibur was undergoing treatment at Narayanganj General Hospital. The project of Narayanganj City Corporation is being implemented by business firm Munia Enterprise, officials said. The city mayor is currently staying in New Zealand on a one-month leave. NCC Superintendent Engineer Abdul Aziz said they are investigating the incident. Md Siddique, contractor of the firm, could not be contacted over his cellphone as it was found switched-off.



Visitors crowd the Suhrawardy Udyan portion of Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015 in the capital with yesterday being a weekend and Valentine's Day.

PHOTO: STAR

KIBRIA MURDER Justice must for rule of law

Prof Anisuzzaman tells commemoration meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Perpetrators of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria's grisly murder must be tried and exemplary punishment handed out not as a means of exacting revenge but at least for the sake of the rule of law, said Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman yesterday. The killing was part of a national tragedy, he said while chairing a commemorative discussion on the 10 years past the murder organised by Shah AMS Kibria Foundation in the capital's Bangladesh National Museum. Ensuring justice would at least recognise the nation's indebtedness to Kibria and bring some solace to the bereaved family, said Prof Anisuzzaman. He said all along the investigation into the sensational case remained shrouded in mystery and the victim's family had to repeatedly state of having no confidence in it. The celebrated economist and lawmaker was brutally assassinated in a

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Taposh Prime accused still at large

CU CORRESPONDENT

Even after two months into the killing of Taposh Chandra Sarkar, an activist of Chittagong University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League, the prime accused in the murder case is still at large. On December 14 last year, Taposh, a first year student of Sanskrit, was killed and four others were injured in a clash between Choose Friends with Care (CFC) and Varsity Xpress (VX), two shuttle train based factions of the pro-Awami League BCL, on the campus. Hafizul Islam, an activist of CFC group, filed the murder case accusing 30 BCL men of the VX faction while police filed another one against five BCL men and 60 unnamed people. Ashrafuzzaman Asha, assistant cultural secretary to the dissolved committee of the CU unit of BCL, is the prime accused in the murder case. Contacted, Mohammad Ismail, officer-in-charge of Hathazari Police Station, said their efforts were going on to arrest those involved

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Love in the air

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On Friday the colour of the Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015 was yellow and yesterday it got drenched in the red of love. From morning, young people mostly dressed in red, women and little girls with flower tiaras began to arrive at the fair despite the busy traffic of the hartal-free city.

The relaxed mood of the young visitors would remind one of Anisul Hoque's book "Bikkhober Dingulite Prem" published by Prothoma Prokashan during this year's book fair.

"The book is based on the democratic movement against (former military dictator) Ershad in the late 80s and 1990 and our life in Buet (Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology)," said Hoque, one of the best-selling authors of the present day.

A good number of Hoque's new books including fiction "Mayer Kachhe Fera" published by Somoy Prokashon, collection

of his essays, fiction for teenagers "Bhoyongkor Diye Boka Goyenda" by Prothoma are also available at this year's fair. Hoque, also a journalist, screenwriter and dramatist, received a number of awards for his literary works including the Bangla Academy award for literature in 2011.

Praising the spacious organisation of this year's fair in the Suhrawardy Udyan portion, Hoque said all of the people for whom the arrangement was made could not all come to the fair because of the political unrest.

He mentioned how readers outside Dhaka commented about their inability to visit the fair this year on his Facebook account where he uploaded the first two chapters of "Bikkhober Dingulite Prem". "This year books cannot be sent outside Dhaka either. In other years, books which came out in the fair would be sent immediately to Chittagong, Sylhet, Rajshahi and

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AMAR EKUSHEY

To watch Anisul Hoque's interview, scan this QR code

BOOKS TO LOOK FOR

BIKKHOBER DINGULITE PREM
Author: Anisul Hoque
Publisher: Prothoma Prokashon
Price: BDT 400

RUPALI JOTSNAI BHEJA JIBON
Author: Mauli Azad
Publisher: Agamee Prakashani
Price: BDT 200

AARSHI
Author: Fariyah Preemaa
Publisher: Adorn Publications
Price: BDT 320

BoI must simplify investment process

Experts call for more power for the state agency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Calls for revamping the Board of Investment (BoI) are growing louder, with many experts holding its inefficiency responsible for the country's failure to attract foreign investment at a scale that it deserves.

"We will have to empower the BoI. Many investors lose heart and leave because there is no serious problem-solving mechanism," Farooq Sobhan, a former chairman of the BoI, said.

He said the board of BoI, which is headed by the prime minister, has perhaps met only twice in the last six years. So, its capacity to fast-track things is very limited.

Sobhan, who is also the president of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute, a non-profit research centre, said there is a need to revisit the whole decision-making process in order to get more effective response.

"At the end of the day, we really need to make life a lot easier for investors, both local and foreign. And, we need a problem-solving mechanism," he said, while citing the case in Malaysia as an example.

Investors do not need to visit any government agency other than their investment board for permission in Malaysia, whereas in Bangladesh, they have to visit many government agencies to get approvals.

Sobhan said Japanese investors have recently raised the issue of an ineffective BoI. "They were told that there will be renewed effort to empower and activate the BoI -- we shall see how that effort turns out."



PHOTO: STAR

Experts at a roundtable titled "Breaking through the Frontier" organised by City Bank and FinanceAsia at City Bank Centre in the capital on Thursday.

"If we are to activate the BoI, we have to ensure that it has the necessary power and leadership to really deliver."

A high-level committee should be set up which will meet once or twice in a fortnight to take decision on pending cases, he said.

"For the investors, time is money. If they have to run around from pillar to post trying to get their problems solved -- and at the end of the day, they can't -- they will go elsewhere."

Sobhan said the litmus test for the government would be to operationalise the Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ).

It is now fully developed and ready to take off, he said. The operator of KEPZ, Youngone, has already 20 factories in production. There

could be 100 more factories in production tomorrow if the government gives it the go-ahead.

"If we don't clear the path for KEPZ, it is going to be very difficult to move forward with other country-specific zones and special economic zones. We really need to fast-track the initiative."

In response, Gowher Rizvi, international affairs adviser to the prime minister, said the BoI was supposed to be an institution to help investors, but it has failed to do that.

So, something more institutionalised is needed, he said, adding that the government plans to revamp the BoI to give it more power to fast-track processes.

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People with disabilities enjoy Valentine's Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

People with disabilities celebrated a different kind of Valentine's Day with games, songs, and other fun activities at Foy's Lake Amusement Park in Chittagong yesterday. Srot, an organisation of volunteers working to promote education for blind people, organised the event, which was participated by 60 physically disabled people. Organisers and the participants gathered at the amusement park at 10:00am for a whole day of enjoyable activities. The programme began with organisers releasing balloons and giving roses to the disabled people most of who were blind students.

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EMPOWERING SPECIAL NEEDS PEOPLE At least 17 ministries should seek budget

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The at least 17 ministries dealing with development of people with disabilities should all specifically demand budgetary allocation for the purpose, which at present is only available for the Ministry of Social Welfare, speakers told a discussion yesterday.

The talks on the issue was organised by Bangladesh Visually Impaired People's Society (BVIPS) with support from Sightsavers and European Union in the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

"It is estimated that there are above two crore people with disabilities in Bangladesh but there is no comprehensive plan of action regarding their development," said BVIPS Chairperson Mosharraf Hossain Majumder.

The country's overall development cannot be achieved without including people with disabilities to the mainstream development programmes, he said, urging the government to increase the allocation.

Addressing as chief guest, State Minister for Finance MA Mannan said proper utilisation of resources could be ensured if ministries concerned with people with special

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Couple's bodies found in house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A married couple was found dead in their Monipur Moddhopara house in Gazipur Sadar upazila on Friday night.

The body of Monirul Islam, 40, was found hanging from a ceiling fan in their room while the body of Moyna Begum, 30, of Chuadanga, was found there in a bed. Both of them worked at Elegant Garment Factory.

Monirul first tried to cut Moyna's throat and then smothered her, suspect police who recovered a blood-stained knife from the room and sent the bodies to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsies.



A bullfight organised in Biswanath upazila of Sylhet yesterday, defying a High Court ban. A total of 42 pairs locked horns in the daylight contest, which was enjoyed by several thousand villagers. Though it is an traditional spectacle, the court prohibited all types of animal fighting in December last year, which often end up in the horrific deaths of beasts.

PHOTO COURTESY: SHEIKH NASIR