

WEATHER
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA H 28.7 L 16.6	CHITTAGONG H 27.4 L 17.2	SYLHET H 30.0 L 14.3	RAJSHAH H 28.8 L 14.6	KHULNA H 29.0 L 17.0	BARISAL H 28.7 L 14.8	RANGPUR H 26.4 L 14.1	COX'S BAZAR H 29.8 L 18.0
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Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:55pm and rises tomorrow at 6:30am. Country's highest temperature 30.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sylhet and lowest 09.5 degrees in Srimangal.

AZHARUL VERDICT AT ICT March 3 fixed over contempt charges

5 Jamaat-Shibir leaders,
counsel accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rejecting an adjournment petition, International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday fixed March 3 to pass order on whether contempt of court proceedings will be initiated against Tajul Islam, a counsel of war criminal ATM Azharul Islam, and five leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chattra Shibir for their statements before the media after a verdict.

Against the tribunal's show-cause notice on January 12, Tajul has sought "unconditional apology" but the rest are yet to reply.

A junior defence counsel Gazi MH Tamim sought the 8-week adjournment, saying the leaders could not move freely and safely and could not communicate with their lawyers.

The three-member tribunal Chairman Justice M Enayetur Rahim, however, said they would count it as an explanation if the leaders provide a written reply by March 3.

The prosecution filed the contempt petition for the statements "demeaning the court", made after Azharul was convicted.

HASAN ALI'S CASE

Afterwards, the tribunal began recording in the war crimes case deposition of an eyewitness who said she was only 10 feet away when fugitive Syed Hasan Ali shot dead her husband, brother-in-law and another man fleeing with them in Kishoreganj on Ashwin 10 of the Bangla calendar in 1971.

The 16th prosecution witness, Sanjubala Ghosh, 62, said Razakars, auxiliary forces of the Pakistani

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An eerie blue hue taken on by the Louhajang river in Tangail due to the unabated discharge of toxic chemicals from the nearby mills and factories in the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) and adjacent areas despite repeated fines imposed by the Department of Environment (DoE) and protests by the locals. The photo of this tributary of the Jamuna river was taken behind the BSCIC area at Taratia, around one kilometre from the district DoE office.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL



Badsha laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Press Secretary to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Khondker Aminul Haq Badsha, who died after prolonged illness at London's Orpington Hospital on February 9, was buried at his family graveyard in Kushtia yesterday. He was 73.

Before burial, the body of the veteran journalist was taken to Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday and to the Central Shaheed Minar on Sunday where hundreds of people paid their last respect.

His first namaz-e-janaza was held at the national mosque Baitul Mukarram on Sunday while at

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Defence installations should undergo external audits

TIB chief Iftekharuzzaman tells roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh Iftekharuzzaman yesterday called for independent and external audits of performance and management of defence installations of the country including specific cost-benefit analysis of their role in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

"There should be an independent, objective and impartial audit of the cantonments and their operations in the country, particularly in the CHT

region, to assess the rationale and implications in terms of national security and public interest," he said.

"We are not asking for disclosure of any information that may compromise national security or defence capacity. But the process of acquisition of land and buildup must be transparent, consistent with the law of the land and must be without adversely affecting public interest," he said.

As taxpayers, the people have the right to know such information, he told a roundtable titled "Eviction of

indigenous people from lands and ensuring good governance in land management".

The Association of Land Reform and Development (ALRD) and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum jointly organised it at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Iftekharuzzaman said such scrutiny would develop greater trust in the armed forces and the important role they were raised to play in public interest by using public money and resources. In many places, indigenous

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ACC charges two ex-BNP ministers

Rizvi remanded; Falu denied bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against five people, including former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas and state minister Alamgir Kabir, in a case filed for causing the state a loss of Tk 16 crore.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court placed BNP leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed on a three-day remand in a case filed over violence in the capital's Jatrabari area on January 23.

Other accused in the case against Mirza Abbas are: former joint secretary of housing and public works ministry Bijon Kanti Sarker, National Housing Authority Cashier Mansur Alam and Assistant Cashier Motiar Rahman.

Hamidul Hassan, a deputy director of the ACC and also investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet

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First US-funded shaheed minar opens in New Jersey

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The first US-funded shaheed minar (monument in honour of the Language Movement martyrs) was inaugurated in Paterson, New Jersey on Sunday, says a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

Paterson City Council allocated the land at Westside Park in 2012 and Passaic County provided the financial grant in 2013 in honour of the Bangladesh community there and

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Not a stranger anymore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The language for which Rafiq, Salam, Barkat sacrificed their lives in 1952 has fascinated many foreigners throughout decades.

Japanese development worker Naomi Watanabe is one such admirer of Bangla. While researching in Ramkrishna Mission in Kolkata in 1989 she came across Satyajit Roy's masterpiece "Pather Panchali", a 1955 film, which aroused her interest towards the language.

Gradually, Naomi strengthened her ties with Bangla and Bangladesh, first through her master's thesis on the Liberation War and then volunteering for a Japan-based NGO that worked on the development of a Bangladeshi village.

However, her formal lessons on Bangla started when she came to the country in 2009 and stayed for five years, while working at a private institution here. "That was when I began writing, encouraged by a colleague," she said.

Naomi wrote about her life in Bangladesh in her first book in Bangla

AMAR EKUSHEY

To watch Naomi Watanbe's interview, scan this QR code with your smartphone

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second title in Bangla "Ami Kothai Darabo" about her vacillation over choosing between Bangladeshi and Japanese lifestyles was brought out by Biswa Sahitya Bhavan.

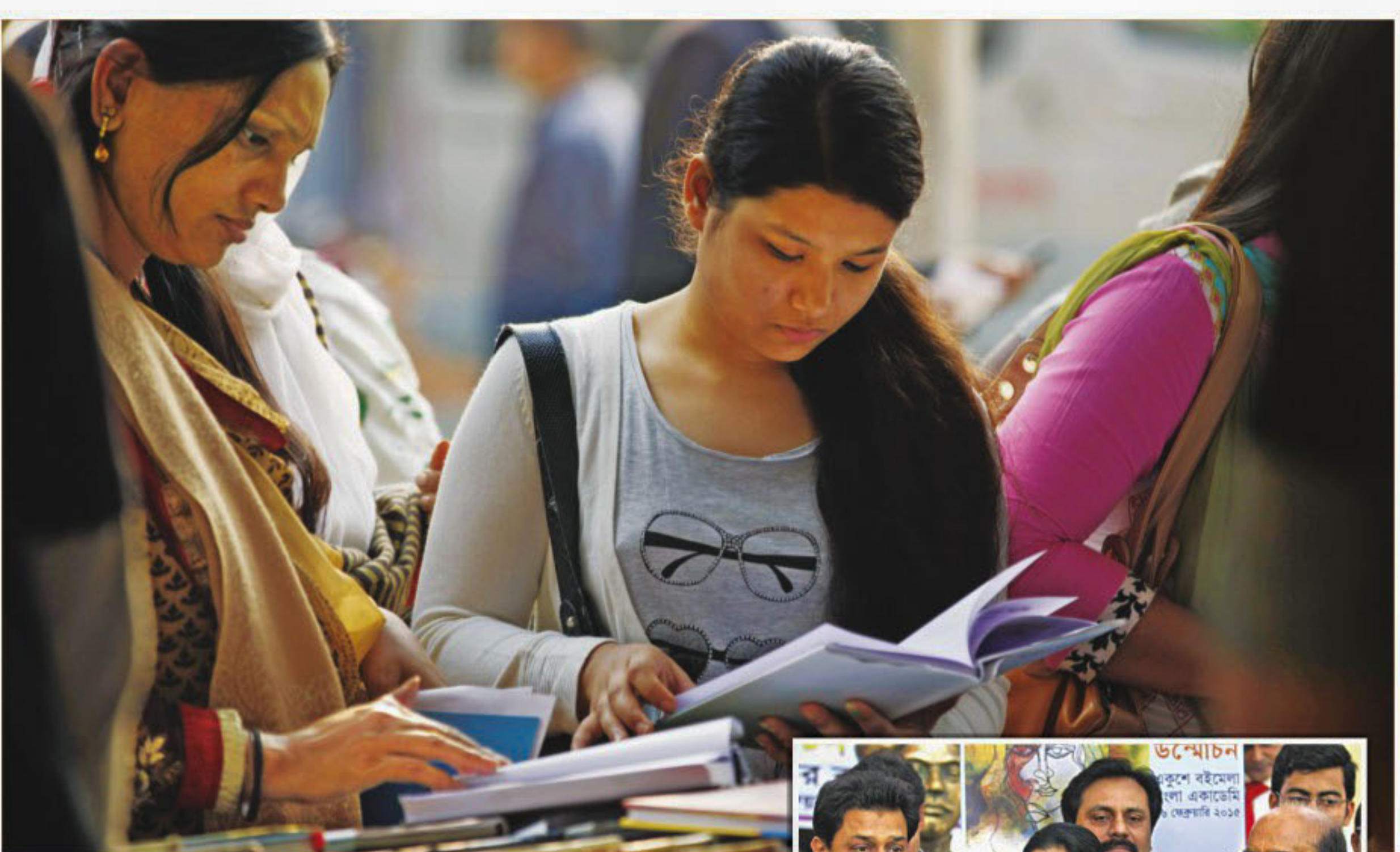
About the language, Naomi said the sentence structure in Japanese and Bangla was same--subject, object and then verb, but she struggled with learning the aspirated consonants.

"But I have to fix it because I am taking lessons in Lalon songs and pronunciations have to be clear while singing," she said, sitting at Biswa Sahitya Bhavan's stall at the Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015 and signing her book for interested readers.

Meanwhile, University Press Ltd (UPL) as part of its celebrations of 40 years in the publishing sector has been holding book launches at its stall at the Suhrawardy Udyan portion of the fair to bring readers and writers closer.

On February 14, Rizwanul Islam's book "Unnoyon Bhabnay Kormoshongsthan O Sromobajar", written on popular economics for

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One visitor engrossed in a book at Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015 yesterday with less than a week to go before February 21 or Language Movement Day. Inset, Leena Hasina Huq, centre, at the launching of her collection of stories "Golapbala", published by Daruchini Prokashani, at the Nazrul Mancha in the Bangla Academy portion of the fair yesterday afternoon.



PHOTO: STAR



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