

**WEATHER**  
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S  
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA  
H 29.8 L 18.4

CHITTAGONG  
H 28.8 L 17.4

SYLHET  
H 30.2 L 15.0

RAJSHAHI  
H 28.8 L 17.4

KHULNA  
H 30.0 L 19.0

BARISAL  
H 29.7 L 17.5

RANGPUR  
H 28.2 L 15.0

COX'S BAZAR  
H 30.4 L 17.5

Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:56pm and rises tomorrow at 6:29am. Country's highest temperature 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Patuakhali and lowest 11.8 in Sreemangal.

**NEWS**  
IN  
brief

**Arrest warrants issued against 23 leaders, activists of BNP**  
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against 23 leaders and activists of the then BNP-led 18-party alliance, including Amanullah Aman and Sultan Salauddin Tuku, in two arson cases filed in December 2012.

On November 13 last year, the court framed charges against them in the cases, filed with Savar Police Station for damaging and torching vehicles during a road blockade programme enforced by the alliance on December 9 of 2012.

On December 25 the same year, the investigation officer pressed charges against them.

**BCL men beat up JCD activist**  
JU CORRESPONDENT

Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League of Jahangirnagar University unit have beat up a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal man suspecting him as "a Molotov cocktail thrower" on the campus.

BCL men caught Ajit Chanda Nandi, also a third-year student of finance and banking department, near Shaheed Salam Barkat Hall soon after a cocktail was blasted before it. They later beat him up mercilessly in the dormitory.

JU proctorial body rescued Ajit and admitted him to the university medical centre and later shifted him to Enam Medical College and Hospital.

The JU unit of JCD in a statement demanded punishment for the BCL men.

**Foreign cigarettes worth Tk 10cr seized at Ctg port**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Customs officials yesterday seized a container with 55,200 cartons of foreign cigarettes worth Tk 10 crore at Chittagong Port as those were allegedly imported under false declaration.

SK Trade Corporation in Dhaka imported the container from Singapore with a declaration for 10 tonnes of cosmetics, customs sources said.

**Dhaka Shishu Hospital launches cardiac ward for poor children**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Shishu Hospital yesterday launched a 20-bed cardiac ward to provide cardiac treatment for poor children, said a press release.

Health Minister Mohammed Nasim inaugurated the ward which has eight beds for cardiac surgery and 12 beds for cardiology.

Apart from the ward the hospital has 10 free beds at ward no-4 for poor children.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**March**  
Help for U will organise a march from National Press Club to Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 10:00am

**Discussion**  
Nagorik Chhatro Oikko will organise a discussion on recent political crisis. Venue: National Press club, Time: 11:00am

**OBITUARY**

**M. A. Muid (Masud)**, son of late Abdul Hady Talukdar, of Dashmina Talukdar Bari of Patuakhali, died on 15 February at his Gulshan residence. He was 70.

His Namaj-e-Janaza was held at Gulshan-1 Jame Masjid after Zohr prayers and later buried at Azimpur Graveyard.

Late M. A. Muid left behind his wife and three sons.

A Milad & Dua Mahfil will be held on Friday, February 20, after Asr prayers at House # 4, Road # 1A, Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

Friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to join the Mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

# RTI Act's success hinges on govt's openness

## Cabinet secretary tells int'l workshop in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proactive disclosure of information by government agencies is crucial to implementing the Right to Information (RTI) Act in the country, Cabinet Secretary Muhammad Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told an international workshop in the capital yesterday.

"But government officials sometimes feel insecure thinking some information might cause discomfort for the government, and that they might face higher authorities'

**OTHER Recommendations**

- Civil society should make govt responsive
- Mass media should create public awareness

reprisal. So they hesitate in disclosing information," he said.

Transparency Advisory Group (TAG), a regional platform promot-

ing transparency and accountability in governance, and Research Initiative Bangladesh (RIB) organised the two-day workshop, "Empowerment through Information: The Evolution of Transparency Regimes in South Asia", at a hotel.

"After taking over public offices, some politicians start behaving like bureaucrats," said Bhuiyan. "As a result, it becomes difficult to bring changes to the government's mindset."

The secretary said the government is more reactive than

proactive, so civil society has to make the government responsive, he said.

The government, however, has instituted a working group in line with the national Integrity Strategy to promote RTI, he said, adding that the national portal had links of 25,000 government offices.

Mohammad Farooq, chief information commissioner of Bangladesh, said essentially the act gave every citizen the right to have information, and the officials were

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Helpers Md Selim, left, and Md Dulal, right, in critical condition at Chittagong Medical College Hospital suffering burns to their faces, hands and chests. Their truck was targeted by unidentified arsonists while crossing Mohajan Battal on Tuesday night while the BNP-led 20-party alliance's blockade was underway.

PHOTO: STAR

## PM alleges Khaleda has IS links

Says BNP chief will face trial for killing civilians  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia had links with international militant outfit Islamic State (IS) and said categorically that she would be brought to trial for killing people.

"She has connections with them (IS). She is now burning people of my country to death joining hands with the IS. This cannot be tolerated," she told parliament.

Replying to a supplementary question from Awami League lawmaker Shamim Osman, she said cases had been filed against Khaleda for killing people and the law would take its

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## Law enforcers open fire in self-defence

Claims IGP  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday claimed that law enforcers open fire during "shootouts" in self-defence.

"Everyone has the right to protect himself. There were incidents that police teams went on operations and came under attack," he told journalists after a meeting with top Rab officials at its headquarters in the capital.

On the allegation of killing innocent people during "shootouts", the IGP said such allegations would be probed.

He said the banned militant outfit Hizb-ut-Tahrir was not a threat for the country. "Yet all the law enforcement agencies are aware and prepared."

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## Keeping an almost extinct script alive

### A publisher's story

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Beyond business interests, one man's efforts to recover and preserve an almost extinct script are visible at the stall of Utso Prokashan in the Suhrawardy Udyan portion of Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015 in the capital.

Mustafa Salim, Utso Prokashan's chief executive officer and proprietor, has been publishing ancient puthi (poetic fairy tales and religious stories) and contemporary books in Sylheti Nagri Lipi, a set of 32 alphabets used to write Bangla particularly in Sylhet, Kishoreganj, Mymensingh, Netrakona, Bhairab, Assam, Karimganj and Shilchor.

"It was a script developed to make writing Bangla easier and was used by common and non-academic people," said Salim, who along with another researcher Md Abdul Mannan have been working to preserve the scripts since 2007.

"Many conjunct letters have been dropped in the script besides only one letter has been kept for letters with similar sounds," he said giving example of how vowels "Roshshoe" and "Dhirghoe" which represent the "e" sound are represented by "Roshshoe".

Thus instead of 11 vowels, Nagri has five. Besides, the language is written from the right to the left like Arabic.

Salim said the script evolved during the 14th century and was used mostly by Muslims but as more and more people began attaining modern education, its use slowly declined.

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## One bomb shatters 3 families

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

The window was shut when Ali Hussain was driving the truck home. It was dark outside. But all of a sudden, an object broke through the window glass and the whole cabin went up in flames in no time.

"I don't know who they were. They came from the darkness and hurled the bomb at us," Ali said, lying in a bed at Chittagong Medical College Hospital. "We didn't see their faces. We just heard the sound of the glass getting shattered and then saw the fire."

There were three of them inside the cabin. Ali jumped off instantly but could not escape the blaze. It scalded his forehead, face, hands and chest.

The 44-year-old and two of his helpers were returning to their village at Rangunia upazila in Chittagong after unloading sand in the port city Monday night. They came under the petrol bomb attack at Mohajan Battal around 9:30pm on Tuesday.

"I don't know what my fault was. Why did they burn us? We live hand to mouth," Ali asked. "How long could we stay at home without work? Who will run our families? How will we feed our children?"

Ali had eight stitches in the forehead, suffered inhalation injuries, and his legs were swollen. Living in Rangunia, he is the only earning person of his five-member family.

With 20 percent burns, Ali's assis-

tant Md Selim, 42, lay unconscious nearby. His face, chest and hands were wounded.

Attending him at the burn unit, Ruma Akter, his daughter, said, "All I see is darkness. How will we pay for his treatment?"

Of the five members of the family, only Selim earns.

Another helper, Md Dulal, 55, sustained 15 percent burns, covering his face, hands and chest. He supports a six-member family with his income.

Dr Mishma Islam, a medical officer of the unit, said none of the three was out of danger. "As all had burns in the face, their condition is critical," she said.

Md Yusuf, nephew of Dulal, said the

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**Baily Star titles are available in**

**Pathak Shamabesh Pavilion # 10 Suhrawardy Udyan**

**The Guerrilla** Shahzaman Mozumder Price: 350/=

**Humorously Yours** Naveed Mahub Price: 250/=

**Selected Macroeconomic Issues** Mirza Azizul Islam Price: 330/=

Pathak Shamabesh-Contact: 01819219081 Mail: pathak@bol-online.com

Daily Star Books-Contact: 01756220320 Mail: dailystarbooks@gmail.com

**বিজিএমইএ ইউনিভার্সিটি অব ফ্যাশন এন্ড টেকনোলজি (বিইউএফটি) পাবলিক পার্লামেন্ট বিতর্ক প্রতিযোগিতায় ফাইনালে উন্নীত হওয়ায়**

**অভিনন্দন**

২০ ফেব্রুয়ারী শুক্রবার সকাল ১১.০৬

এটিএন বাংলা এক ডিবেট ফর ডেমোক্রেসি আয়োজিত পাবলিক পার্লামেন্ট বিতর্ক প্রতিযোগিতায় বিজয়ী দল বিজিএমইএ ইউনিভার্সিটি অব ফ্যাশন এন্ড টেকনোলজি (বিইউএফটি) এর বিতার্কিকদের সাথে প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়ের মাননীয় সচিব জনাব খন্দকার মো. ইফতেখার হায়দার ও ডিবেট ফর ডেমোক্রেসির চেয়ারম্যান জনাব হাসান আহমেদ চৌধুরী কিরণকে দেখা যাচ্ছে।

উক্ত বিতর্কের বিষয় ছিল "এ সংসদ মনে করে যে, সরকারী ব্যবস্থাপনায় জনশক্তি শ্রেণণ অভিযানের গতিকে ত্বরান্বিত করবে।" বিইউএফটি সরকারী দল হিসেবে প্রত্যাবর্তনের পক্ষে বিতর্ক করে এবং বিপক্ষে ছিল প্রাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি অব বাংলাদেশ।