

YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURESDHAKA
H 27.4 | L 17.5CHITTAGONG
H 28.4 | L 18.6SYLHET
H 25.0 | L 15.5RAJSHAHI
H 28.2 | L 16.9KHULNA
H 27.5 | L 15.5BARISAL
H 28.1 | L 16.0RANGPUR
H 25.6 | L 15.2COX'S BAZAR
H 29.0 | L 18.3

Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:57pm and rises tomorrow at 6:28am. Country's highest temperature 30.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 15.2 degrees in Rangpur.

NEWS IN
brief

BNP's Dudu sent to jail after remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Shamsuzzaman Dudu, an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, back to jail after a four-day remand in an arson case.

The order came after Rupnagar police produced Dudu before the court and appealed to it to send him to jail. His lawyer did not file any petition seeking bail for him. Earlier, he was remanded for 11 days in phases in three such cases filed with Mirpur Police Station in January.

BCL scuffles in Ctg AL rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Chhatra League activists hurled chairs at each other over front-row seats at an Awami League rally in Chittagong city and a man was handed over to police after a crude bomb exploded nearby yesterday.

The clash lasted around 10 minutes before the rally, protesting the BNP-led blockade and hartals, began at the Shaheed Shahjahan grounds around 5:00pm.

Chittagong city AL Joint General Secretary Badiul Alam confirmed the incident.

Police could not provide details of the detainee.

Kuwait's Nat'l Day observed in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 54th National Day and the 24th Liberation Day of Kuwait was celebrated in the capital yesterday.

Kuwait Ambassador in Dhaka Ali Ahmad Ebraheem S Al-Dafiri hosted a reception for eminent personalities at a hotel, says a press release.

Farida president, Aireen secy general of PEN Bangladesh

CITY DESK

Dr Farida Hussain and Dr Syeda Aireen Jaman have been elected president and secretary general respectively of the executive committee of PEN International Bangladesh for 2015-2018, said a press release.

Other office bearers are vice presidents Masud Ahmed, Ali Ahmed, Shakib Lohani, treasurer Ferdousi Mahmud, joint secretary general Lovely Bashar and Md Mohi Uddin and members Jamal Ahmed, Shahida Khatun, Dr Mustafizur Rahman, M Rafique, Lipi Monowar and Anjuman Ara Shilpi.

DHAKA
TODAY

Exhibition

Monobhumi Art Space and other will organise a group print making exhibition on "print of self reflection."

Venue: Bornika Art Studio, Time: 3:00pm

Procession

Bangladesh Shangskritikormee Shanghai will organise a procession to observe "International Mother Language Day." Time: TSC, Dhaka University, Time: 10:30am

'BCL men' beat up 2 more JCD activists at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

Two more activists of Jahangirnagar University unit of Jatiyatabdadi Chhatra Dal were beaten up allegedly by Bangladesh Chhatra League men early yesterday.

Khalid Hassan Mithun and Atikuzzaman Atik were attacked in Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall around 1:00am for their alleged involvement in cocktail blasts on the campus during a strike enforced by JCD in the last few days.

Afterwards, the injured students were handed over to JU proctorial body, which admitted them to a private hospital for treatment.

JU unit of JCD, however, denied its involvement in such "terrorist" activities and demanded punishment for the BCL activists.

Md Jakirul Islam, president of JU JCD, said if the BCL men were not punished by today they would take a new course of action.

Denying the allegation of assaulting the JCD men, Faisal Hossain Dipu, organising secretary of JU BCL, told The Daily Star that they only asked them some questions about the cocktail blasts and then handed them over to the JU proctorial body.

Earlier on Tuesday night, BCL men allegedly beat up another JCD activist, Ajit Chanda Nandi, claiming that he was involved in the cocktail blasts.

About seven cocktail blasts took place during the strike enforced by the JCD from February 16 to 19 at the university.

11 burnt in N'ganj spinning mill fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

At least 11 workers of a spinning mill in Rupganj of Narayanganj sustained severe burn injuries in a fire that gutted the mill early yesterday.

The injured were admitted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Partab Shanker Paul, DMCH residential surgeon, said the condition of seven of them were serious.

"Over 70 percent of their body was burnt," he added.

Mahmudul Islam, officer-in-charge of Rupganj Police Station, said the fire broke out at Nawab Spinning Mill around 3:00am.

Four firefighting units of Narayanganj and Demra fire services doused the flames after a two-hour effort.

Md Momtaz Uddin, deputy director of Fire Service and Civil Defence, Narayanganj suspects the fire originated from a gas leak.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Shahab Uddin Ahmed, former headmaster of Lalmonirhat Govt Boys' High School, died due to old-age complications at his residence in Sapatana Bazar area of Lalmonirhat town on Tuesday evening. He was 91.

He also served as the founder principal of Saptibari Degree College at Aditmari upazila and was an enlisted writer of Bangladesh Islamic Foundation.

Govt's nod last drag

FROM PAGE 3
necessary procedure within next one month to hold the election.

The DCC election has been overdue since May 2007.

In November 2011, the government split the city corporation into two--south and north--and appointed administrators to run them.

On Wednesday, Sirazul Islam said the EC was ready to conduct the vote but waiting for the LGRD ministry's gazette announcing completion of the delimitations.

As per the electoral law, the city corporation election must be held within 180 days prior to the expiry of its tenure or within 180

days after formation of a new city corporation, but the act says nothing about EC's role after expiry of the 180 day timeframe, the EC secretary said yesterday.

"As it is a long overdue local government election, we can't play a proactive role to conduct the vote. We have to act as per the request and demand of the ministry."

At Monday's cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asked LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam to take steps for holding the elections.

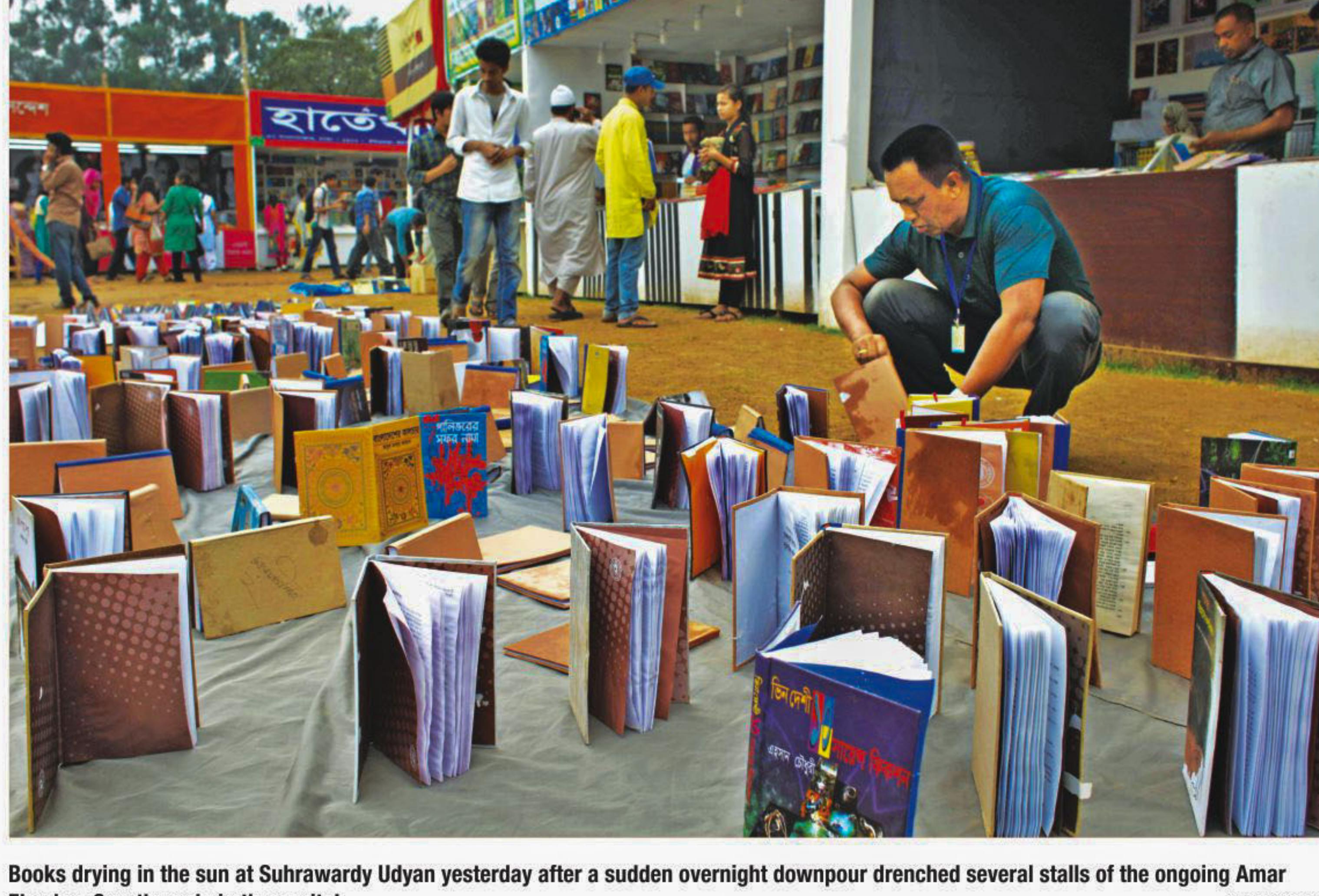
The newly delimited south has got 32 more paras and mahallas (localities), which were under Hazaribagh and Kamrangirchar police stations before.

Blitz editor Shoaib jailed

FROM PAGE 4
Hossain had filed the case, accusing Shoaib of swindling him out of the money.

The verdict came while Shoaib is serving

in jail after he had been sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment on January 6, 2014 in a sedition case filed over his involvement with Israeli intelligence agency Mossad.



Books drying in the sun at Suhrawardy Udyana yesterday after a sudden overnight downpour drenched several stalls of the ongoing Amar Ekushey Granthamela in the capital.

PHOTO: STAR

Storm wreaks havoc on book fair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With only a few trees protecting the Suhrawardy Udyana, Wednesday night's storm wreaked havoc on the portion of the Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015 held there.

Most stalls got soaked and decorations made of plywood were damaged.

"Once a book gets soaked, it loses smoothness and cannot be sold," said AR Hasan, spokesperson of Nowroz Sahitya Sambhar, which lost books worth about Tk 5,000 in the downpour.

"About 100 of our books worth around Tk 10,000 got soaked," said AK Nasir Ahmed Selim of Kakoli Prokashani, which is set up on the Suhrawardy Udyana.

Selim explained that rainwater trickled down through the gaps in the bamboo roof of stalls and

then through the cracks in the plywood false ceiling and wet the books inside.

"Since the last time something like this happened we have repeatedly announced that books should not be

left, at night, where they are displayed during the day, but should be kept inside trunks or boxes," said Jalal Ahmed, member secretary of the book fair management committee.

"Next year we will try to use tin sheets to make the roof to mitigate losses," he added.

Seventy seven books arrived at the fair yesterday and 20 were launched.

BOOKS TO LOOK FOR



GONOMADHYAM
Edited by: Muhammad Jahangir
Publisher: Nabajuga Prokashani
Price: BDT 625

ICT IN AGRICULTURE IN
DEVELOPED AND
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Author: Anwarul Azim,
Hak-Kyo Lee, Sung Hoon Kim
Publisher: Shobdokosh Prokashani
Price: BDT 400

SYLHETI NAGRI LIPI
BORNO PORICHoy

Author: Mustafa Salim
Publisher: Utso Prokashan
Price: BDT 125

WAR CRIMES TRIAL
Third witness also
implicates Hasan
in killings of eight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A martyr's daughter yesterday testified that fugitive war crimes accused Syed Hasan Ali himself shot his father and two paternal uncles to death and instructed Razakars to kill five more family members in Kishoreganj on September 27, 1971 when the victims were fleeing to India.

Mina Rani Sarker, daughter of Satis Chandra Ghosh of Kendua upazila of Netrakona, and the 18th prosecution witness in Hasan's case, told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that she was two-year-old in 1971 and heard about the killings from her mother.

Earlier, two witnesses testified on the massacre.

Mina, now 46, said Hasan and his men also looted gold ornaments and cash from her mother and aunts but they were saved by a local union parishad chairman.

"I want justice," she said, breaking into tears.

The proceeding was adjourned till March 8 after her cross-examination was completed.

Hasan faces six charges, including mass killings.

Ex-diplomats question

FROM PAGE 3
president of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies, disagreed with the observations and claimed that all issues had been taken into consideration before the decision to send the maids was taken.

However, they did not delineate on how the concerns would be addressed.

"We are not sending our women without thinking of their vulnerabilities. Rather we have decided to send them after getting assurance of their safety," said Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry.

Lawmaker Israfel Alam said the government was aware of the criticism. Another lawmaker and former foreign minister Dipu Moni observed that the opportunities must be utilised through coordination between the government and private sector.



Daily Star titles are available in

Daily Star BOOKS

Pathak Shamabesh
Pavilion # 10
Suhrawardy Udyana

The Guerrilla
A PERSONAL MEMORIUM OF BRI
SHAZAMAN MOZUMDER

Humorously Yours
Naveed Mahbub

Selected Macroeconomic Issues
Mirza Azizul Islam

অম্র
ঢেক্সুল

প্রকাশন সংস্থা

বাংলা একাডেমি

আগ্রাম মাহসুর

প্রকাশন কার্যক

বাংলা একাডেমি

বাংলা একাডেমি