

**WEATHER**  
FORECAST



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.0 L 20.4	H 32.0 L 19.0	H 26.5 L 17.7	H 31.3 L 17.7	H 31.2 L 20.7	H 31.0 L 20.2	H 26.4 L 18.4	H 31.4 L 19.0

Night and day temperatures may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:58pm and rises tomorrow at 6:25am. Country's highest temperature 32.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Jessore and lowest 16.3 in Sitakunda.

An injured elderly man being rushed to Joypurhat Modern Hospital after two crude bombs exploded at a rally organised by the Awami League-led alliance in Pachurmoar area of Joypurhat town yesterday. Inset, smoke rises from the BNP office in the town after an arson allegedly by agitated Awami League men following the explosions.

PHOTO: STAR



## Troublemakers won't last

IGP tells training course at Mirpur Staff College  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police (IGP) AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday said troublemakers would not last long.

"People do not like saboteurs. They want to live and work in a peaceful atmosphere. As there is no mass people's support to atrocity, we hope they will not last long..."

"Good sense should prevail with them (anarchists and those hiring them). Who are they killing? The innocent people of the country," he said after inaugurating a training course, "Transnational Crime: Saarc Perspective", in the capital's Police Staff College, Mirpur.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

## RAPE OF GAZIPUR GIRL HC asks cops to arrest all accused of cover-up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered police to immediately arrest all the accused including a schoolteacher of Gazipur for covering up an incident of rape of a ninth-grader to put them on trial.

Delivering a verdict on a suomoto rule, the court also asked the law enforcers to ensure security for the victim and her family.

Sujan Mahmud, a teacher of Daffodil Ideal High School in Gazipur's Kaliakoir upazila, allegedly raped the student at different times alluring the girl that he will marry her.

The victim's aunt on February 17 filed a case with Kaliakoir Police Station saying that local arbitrators including Anwar Hossain, Amir Ali, Abul Hashem, Mosharraf, Nahid and Roni settled the matter through arbitration on February 15.

In the negotiation, Sujan was exempted and the victim and her family members had also been beaten and forced to leave the village, Officer-in-Charge Omar Faruk told The Daily Star, citing the case statement.

Police arrested Amir, Anwar, Rony and Nahid, who were produced before the court as per the court's February 18 order.

Following a newspaper report, an HC bench on February 18 issued the suomoto rule asking the government to explain as to why it should not be directed to take appropriate action against the perpetrators.

## BNP-Jamaat planning grenade attacks

Hasina tells law ministry officials

UNB, BSS, Dhaka

The BNP-Jamaat-e-Islami alliance is now planning to attack innocent people with grenades as their petrol bombs yielded nothing in their favour, alleged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday.

"I have asked the intelligence to find those who said this," she told officials of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs at Bangladesh Secretariat.

"They are not getting any support from home and abroad...they thought there will be something from abroad and they will be placed in power. But those who kill people hurling petrol bombs never get support from anywhere."

"Having realised this, they are now planning to kill more people...carry out bigger subversive acts," she said, adding that this undoubtedly could degrade Bangladesh's image abroad.

Hasina asked the authorities concerned to ensure that the anarchists, culprits caught red-handed hurling petrol bombs, those giving the orders, financiers and suppliers were tried quickly and ensured exemplary punishment.

Delaying the trial encourages them to create

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Students bring floral help for arson victims

STAR REPORT

They were not traditional flower sellers on streets but they sold roses in various places of Dhaka and Rajshahi cities on the Valentine's Day to help arson victims rebuild their dreams shattered by recent firebomb attacks in the country. A group of graduate students under the banner of Swapno, a recently formed voluntary organisation, took this unique initiative for the victims.

Yesterday, Swapno distributed Tk 82,000, mostly earned by selling the flowers, among nine burn victims at a programme in the conference room of the Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH). Eight burn patients were given Tk 10,000 each at the event, said a press release of Swapno.

The voluntary organisation has taken another initiative to rehabilitate Nur Nabi, a burn victim from Kurigram, and initially gave him Tk 2,000, it said.

Addressing the programme as the chief guest, Prof Dr AZM Mostak Hossain Tuhin of DMCH highly appreciated the initiative of Swapno.

Some 150 students from universities and medical colleges as volunteers of the organisation on February 14 sold roses in various places, including TSC of Dhaka University, Bangla Academy premises, Ramna Batomul of Dhaka and Rajshahi University campus and Padma Garden of Rajshahi city.

They collected a total of Tk 1,05,736 for the fund mostly from selling the flowers. Some people from home and abroad also have sent money to the fund as donation, it added.

Scores of burn victims are being admitted to the burn units of different hospitals across the country. The arson attacks not only burned such victims but shattered their dreams and their families. So, Swapno has taken the initiative to rehabilitate such victims, it said.

## ARSON CASE BNP's Zainul denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday refused to grant anticipatory bail to Zainul Abedin, an adviser to the BNP chairperson, in an arson case.

An HC bench returned the bail petition of Zainul to his lawyers, saying that it would not grant anticipatory bail to the petitioner as per the guidelines of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Citing the guidelines, Deputy Attorney General Bashir Ullah told The Daily Star that the apex court had discouraged the HC to refrain from granting anticipatory bail to the accused whimsically and without considering the first information reports of the cases.

He said the law enforcers can arrest Zainul, a former president of the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Lawmaker Tarana Halim, left, with a group of protesters denouncing arson yesterday place flowers under a banner, containing names of 54 persons who died in petrol bomb attacks from January 11 to February 17 and hung opposite BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's office on Road 86 in the capital's Gulshan 2.

PHOTO: STAR

## ONGOING BLOCKADE, HARTALS

## Cross-section of people urge Khaleda to stop

Hang opposite her office a banner with names of people killed in arson attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 500 freedom fighters, students, teachers, cultural activists, family members of recent arson victims and day labourers formed a human chain while two dramas were staged on the streets during a protest in the capital's Gulshan 2 against violence during the BNP-led 20-party alliance's ongoing countrywide blockade.

Later, four protesters led by lawmaker Tarana Halim hung opposite BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's office on Road 86 a banner containing names of 54 persons who died in petrol bomb attacks from January 11 to February 17.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Scan this QR code to watch Tarana Halim's comments after yesterday's protest in the capital's Gulshan 2 against arson.



TO USE QR CODE ON YOUR SMARTPHONE, INSTALL FREE QR READER SOFTWARE LIKE "I-NIGMA BARCODE SCANNER" FROM GOOGLE PLAYSTORE OR APPLE STORE. TURN ON THE SOFTWARE AND HOLD THE PHONE CAMERA OVER THE QR CODE TO GET THE VIDEO LINK.

## NEWSIN brief

### Bangladesh Bank seeks SQ Chy, wife's bank account info

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank has directed the managing directors of all banks to submit all sorts of information about the bank accounts of convicted BNP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury and his wife Farhat Quader Chowdhury to the central bank within a week.

In this regard, the financial intelligence unit of the central bank issued a letter last week.

### Koica, Unicef Bangladesh sign \$8m deal for healthcare

CITY DESK

Korea International Cooperation Agency and Unicef Bangladesh signed a US \$8 million (Tk 62 crore) agreement yesterday to help reduce preventable deaths among children and women by improving healthcare in Khulna and Tangail.

Kim Bok-Hee, Koica resident representative of Bangladesh office, signed the deal with Edouard Beigbeder, Unicef Bangladesh representative, during a ceremony in Dhaka, says a press release.

Under the agreement, the money donated by Koica will be used for over four years.

### Govt signs MoU with Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

CITY DESK

Bangladesh power, energy and mineral resources ministry signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves yesterday to establish a foundation for a market-based sector transformation and scaling up of existing activities in the cookstove sector.

Among others, Nasrul Hamid, state minister for the ministry; Taposh Roy, SREDA chairman; Monowar Islam, additional secretary; Arijit Basu, GACC regional director; and Asif Ahmed, head of Programs and Planning, SNV Bangladesh, were present.

### Nazrul elected president of BECS

CITY DESK

Prof M Nazrul Islam, an eye and glaucoma specialist, was elected president of Bangladesh Eye Care Society (BECS) at its annual general meeting on Friday, says a press release.

He is also the president of Bangladesh Glaucoma Society. Other office bearers include, vice-presidents Syed Reza Husain, Shabneen Rahman, and KFM Abdullah, Secretary General Salahuddin Mahmud, Joint-Secretary General Matuiri Rahman, and Treasurer Brig Gen (retd) Bahar MH Khan.

### One held with 4,862 Yaba pills in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) held an alleged drug trader and recovered 4,862 yaba tablets worth Tk 19.4 lakh from an apartment in Chandgaon area of Chittagong city on Saturday afternoon.

The detainee is Nur Hakim, 25, hailing from Rajshahi, said a press release.

Tipped-off, Rab-7 members conducted a drive at the apartment of Chowdhury Mansion around 2:30pm where Hakim was staying and recovered the yaba tablets.

**DHAKA TODAY**

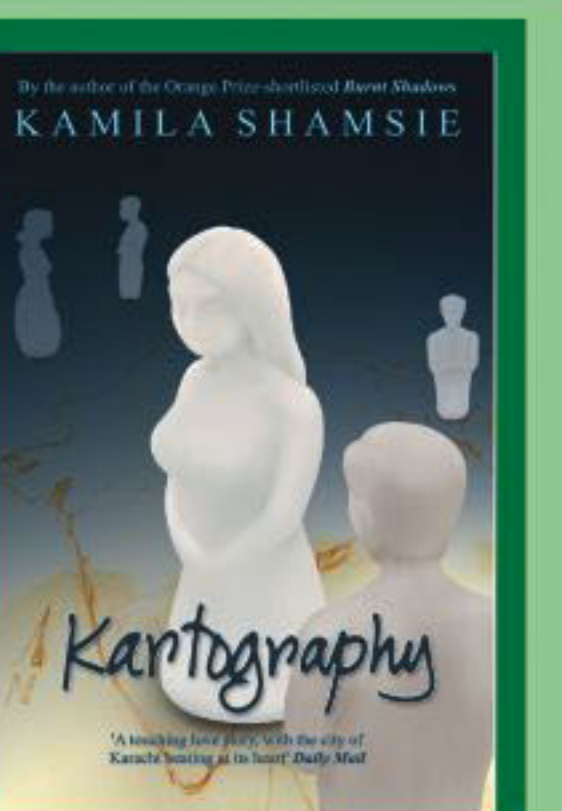
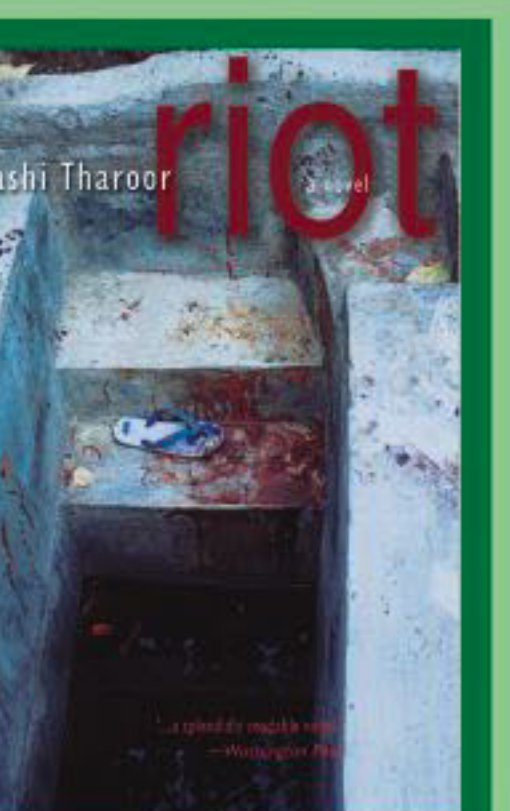
<b>Exhibition</b> Bangladesh National Museum (BNM) and other will organise an exhibition on Anne Frank. Venue: BNM, Time: 5:00pm	<b>Discussion</b> Ghashful will organise a discussion on Language Movement and playwright Munir Chowdhury. Venue: The Daily Star Centre, Time: 4:30pm
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**এবির ধ্বনি**  
সুলভ কথক  
আবুল মনসুর আহমদ

**আবুল মনসুর আহমদকে নিয়ে**  
প্রায় ৬০০ পৃষ্ঠার কালের ধ্বনি'র পূর্ণাঙ্গ সংখ্যা পাওয়া যাচ্ছে একুশের বইমেলায় লিটল ম্যাগ কর্নার "কালের ধ্বনি" বাংলা একাডেমির মূল অংশের চনং স্টলে এছাড়াও পাওয়া যাচ্ছে-পাঠক সমাবেশ আজিজ সুপার মার্কেট, শাহবাগ  
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প্রচ্ছদ পরিকল্পনা ও নামলিপি  
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