

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.8   L 26.2	H 35.0   L 25.3	H 33.2   L 20.0	H 35.7   L 24.7	H 34.8   L 26.2	H 33.2   L 25.2	H 31.6   L 22.3	H 35.5   L 25.0

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:19pm and rises tomorrow at 05:39am. Country's highest temperature 35.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamati and lowest 20.0 in Sylhet.

**NEWS IN brief**

**NHRC wants proper steps to trace missing BNP leader Salahuddin**

Expressing grave concern over the disappearance of BNP Joint Secretary Salahuddin Ahmed for 34 days, the National Human Rights Commission once again yesterday urged the authorities concerned to take proper steps to trace him.

In a statement, the commission said the family members of Salahuddin have been passing days in fear and uncertainty since the BNP leader went missing.

According to Salahuddin's family, plainclothes detectives had picked up the BNP leader from a house in Uttara around 10:10pm on March 10. Law enforcement agencies, however, denied the allegation.

**SC okays Rizvi's fresh remand**

Police now can take BNP leader Rizvi Ahmed on a three-day remand in a vandalism case after the Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court order that halted it for a month on April 8 following a petition filed by him.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha cleared the way of remand following a government petition filed against the HC order.

A Dhaka court on March 31 ordered to send the BNP leader on remand in the case filed with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station on March 18.

**Five more held with smuggled gold at Shahjalal Airport**

Customs officials detained five persons with gold bars and ornaments, weighing around 9.5kg, worth around Tk 4.25 crore, at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday.

Acting on a tip off, Customs Intelligence officials detained Main Uddin, his wife Abida Sultana, their five-year-old son Muzzakir Moin, and their co-passenger in Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight, BG 087, which flew from Kuala Lumpur, Lucky Akter. They recovered 20 gold bars and some ornaments weighing 4.98kg from their bodies. Meanwhile, airport customs detained Poly Rani Das after recovering 4.5kg gold bars from her luggage at green channel.

**Unfair polls to create fresh**

Dhaka South City Corporation polls, said time allotted for campaigning was not sufficient.

He also asked that the EC handle four ministries -- the local government, public administration, home and defence -- during voting for a credible election.

Prof Naseem Akhter Hussain of Jahangirnagar University said it was the government and EC's first duty to deal with apprehensions so that voters can exercise their franchise without fear.

**RAMPAL POWER PLANT PROJECT**  
**Assess impacts thru impartial, independent experts: SAHR**

Environment experts and activists yesterday demanded that the government halt construction of the coal-fired Rampal power plant in Bagerhat until an environmental impact assessment (EIA) was conducted by impartial and independent specialists.

They were talking about their findings at the site from April 5 to 8 working under a regional rights network, South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR), at a press conference in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

The SAHR team with four members from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka had also exchanged views with stakeholders. "If the impartial EIA finds the power plant damaging to the Sundarbans, the project work must be postponed immediately and relocated somewhere else," said one member, Sharif Jamil.

It has been observed that the government did not comply with a major-

ity of Department of Environment (DoE) conditions before starting the construction, he said.

"The current EIA, conducted by a government-owned organisation, is faulty on many counts. It used secondary data collected before 2010 for most of the parameters," he added.

It is a matter of concern that the plant will lead to a considerable loss of livelihoods, scarcity of food and drinking water and habitat loss for vegetation and animals, said Sharif.

The plant, on the banks of the Pashur river and surrounded by the Maidara river, is only eight kilometres away from the Dhangmari dolphin sanctuary, he said. "No dolphin was seen by the mission during a six-hour boat ride on the Pashur river even in Dhangmari dolphin sanctuary, which is alarming," he added.

The team also observed that no due process was followed in land acquisition and relocation of locals.

A large number of landless families whose livelihoods depended on the land and water-bodies have been displaced without being provided any compensation, they said.

The rights body observed that the river belt from the Mongla port to Rampal was undergoing rapid industrialisation with business conglomerates gradually taking over land legally and illegally.

Rights activist Sultana Kamal, on behalf of SAHR's Bangladesh chapter, alleged that some locals were being harassed by the plant authorities.

She said the SAHR was not opposing the construction but had some observations, for it was directly related to the safety of the Sundarbans and livelihoods.

Former SAHR co-chairperson Hameeda Hossain, Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University, SAHR Executive Director Deekshya Illangasinghe and Prof Abdullah Harun Chowdhury of Khulna University were present.

**Dhaka-Delhi co-op, political will must to save Sundarbans**  
*Bhorer Kagoj discussion told*

Connecting and comprising Bangladesh and India's ecology, the Sundarbans cannot be protected from natural disasters like those induced by climate change and human intervention without political will and joint collaboration of the governments and people.

The warning came at a discussion, "Protecting the Sundarbans: our role", organised at the daily Bhorer Kagoj's office in the capital by some journalists working on the unique mangrove forest.

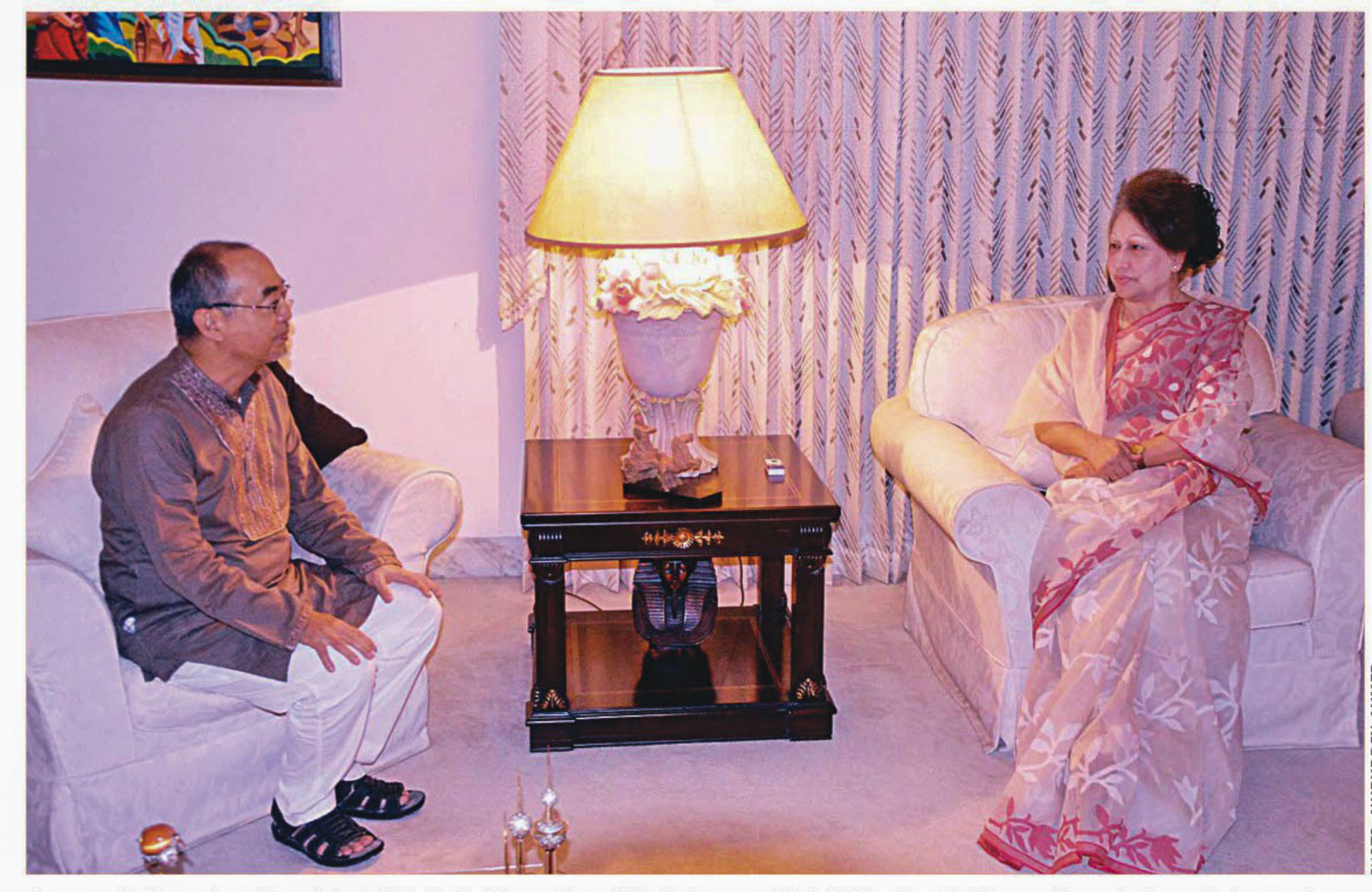
Whip Mahbub Ara Gini said Bangladesh would have to take the lead for it was a national resource.

Prof M Ataur Rahman of Buet's civil engineer said though diverting water to the Hooghly river using the Farakka barrage, India was experiencing higher salinity levels.

This was a threat not only to the Indian part of the Sundarbans but also to the Bangladeshi part, he said.

Dr Ishtiaq Uddin Ahmed, country director of International Union for Conservation of Nature, talked about several threats needed to be addressed properly.

The meeting decided organising a joint meeting in the Sundarbans in a few months comprising media personnel and environment activists and experts from the neighbouring countries to extend joint conservation efforts.



Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Shiro Sadoshima calls on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan residence in the capital yesterday.

**Children's book launched**

"Chhotoder Anandbarshiki", a ceremony on the launch of the fourth instalment of a series of children's books published in five volumes by Chandrabatee Academy with AB Bank's support, was held in the capital's Bangla Academy on Saturday.

The series, costing Tk 2,400, features nursery rhymes, short stories, novels, travelogues, science fiction, non-fiction, history and folklore.

Containing writings of the likes of Al Mahmud, Sukumar Barua, Nirmalendu Goon, and Prof Anisuzzaman, the books are illustrated by artists including Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi and Biren Shome. Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman, writer Selina Hossain, and AB Bank Chairman Wahidul Haque were present.

**Khokon makes smooth traffic**

son of former Dhaka city mayor Mohammad Hanif, said he would ensure special bus service for women and construct more underpasses, footbridges and multi-storey buildings for car parking.

He also pledged to set up the city's own power plant, solve waterlogging problem, shift tanneries from Hazaribagh to Savar, launch anti-mosquito drives, ensure primary medical treatment for slum dwellers and construct more public toilets especially for women.

"I did not make any unrealistic commitments in my manifesto. My commitments are possible to implement and I will even sacrifice my life to implement my promises," Khokon said and

requested all to vote for him.

The Dhaka city unit AL's organising secretary is contesting with the symbol hilsha.

Khokon's other promises are making a digital Dhaka city, ensuring education for all and preserving heritage.

Besides, the AL-backed mayoral hopeful vowed to ensure people's participation in running the city and set up a people's consultative centre, coordinating among the organisations involved in providing services in the city.

Meanwhile, three organisations -- BGMEA, BTMEA and BKMEA -- at a programme yesterday showed support to AL-backed mayoral candidate for Dhaka North City Corporation Annisul Huq in the polls.

**They killed eight in Netrakona**

accompanied by Obaidul and Ataur attacked Baushi Bazar of Barhatta Police Station on August 17, he said.

Renowned footballer Dabir Hossain was held by Razakars led by Obaidul and Ataur on October 4, tortured in a camp and shot dead near Moktarpara Bridge, added Nurul.

The remaining six who were shot dead and a bank officer who survived had been detained by the Pakistani army along with Obaidul, Ataur and other Razakars who had gone to Birampur Bazar on November 15 around 10:00am, he said.

He stated that 26 of 27 Hindus detained from Jail Gate on the first week of October were shot dead at Trimohoni Bridge, Nurul added.

Defence counsels cross-examined him and proceedings were adjourned until April 19.

**UNDP to host dialogue**

platforms, for the mayoral candidates.

Although young people comprise approximately 40 per cent of Bangladesh's population, they are rarely included in election and policymaking processes of the country. So, the event aims to strengthen advocacy for youth inclusion surrounding current issues that matter to them, it added.

**Tobacco companies flouting**

healthcare expenditure caused by tobacco use outweighed the revenues generated from tobacco companies.

Rangpur-2 lawmaker Abul Kalam Md Ahsanul Huq Chowdhury said tobacco companies often lure farmers in his constituency into growing tobacco instead of paddy by paying them in advance.

**Court asks Khaleda to appear**

The other accused include Giasuddin Al-Mamun and his wife Shahina Yasmine, Nasrin Iskander, wife of late Sayeed Iskander, Shams Iskander, Shafin Iskander, Sumaiya Iskander, Mozaffar Ahmed and Kazi Galib Abdus Sattar.

**BNP demands deployment**

attacked allegedly by BCL and Jubo League men.

Meanwhile, BNP-backed ward councillor Jonab Ali alleged that police refused to file cases in connection with the attack.

He said they went to Bayezid Police Station three times but police did not file any case.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge of the police station Basul Chandra Banik said they filed a case against three named and 60 unnamed men in the afternoon.

He denied any delay in filing the case.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Party-backed mayoral candidate Md Solaiman Alam Seth announced his election manifesto at Chittagong Press Club.

Other commitments of Seth include ensuring education for all, reducing traffic congestion in the city, and free WiFi at schools and colleges.

Bangladesh Islami Front-backed mayoral candidate MA Motin also announced his manifesto at the press club.

His pledges include developing the education system, easing traffic jam, creating a "digital" Chittagong, ensuring transparency and accountability and creating a healthy city.

Awami League-backed mayor candidate AJM Nasir and ward 28 councillor candidate Mohammad Abdul Quader from Agrabad Badamtoli area.

BNP city unit President Amir Khasru Chairman Abdullal Al Noman demanded army deployment at a press conference at Khasru's residence.

The conference was organised protesting the attack on BNP activists in Bangla Bazar in the city's Sher Shah area on Saturday afternoon.

Former BNP lawmaker Syed Wahidul Alam, who was among the injured in the attack, was present at the conference.

Claiming that ruling party men are using muscle power to create a tense atmosphere among voters, Khasru said, "City residents are now doubtful whether a free and fair election would be held."

Khasru said without army it was tough to defy "muscle power", and alleged that law enforcers were working as associates of the ruling Awami League-backed mayor aspirant.

On Saturday, while inaugurating election offices of two BNP-backed ward councillor aspirants, BNP activists were

**Khaleda to introduce Dhaka**

through his lawyers seeking anticipatory bail in three cases.

Tabith Awal visited Kalachandpur and Baridhara while his mother Nasrin Awal campaigned for her son in Banani Bazar

area.

Ganasanghati Andolon leader Zonayed Saki, mayoral hopeful for DNCC, started his campaign in Mirpur Zoo area, and later visited Mirpur's Godhara Ghat area.

**Stronger regional diplomatic ties**

he said, stating of Bangladesh's willingness to import gas for power generation.

Mahmood noted that the two countries were considering a preferential trade agreement.

Prof Muntassir Mamoon, president of Bangladesh History Congress, said over the past six years Bangladesh has successfully addressed India's concerns of insurgency in the northeast states and provided transit facilities.

However, India is yet to equally respond to issues sensitive to Bangladeshis like water sharing, land boundary agreement ratification and border killings. However, bilateral relations now are better than anytime before, he said.

Meanwhile, the maritime dispute settlement with Myanmar has changed attitudes of the two neighbours but Rohingya intrusion, illegal drug and arms smuggling and human trafficking are burning issues that need to be addressed for stronger economic cooperation, he said.

Muntassir thinks initiatives from China

and India can solve these problems and proposed Bangladesh, India and Myanmar create a "triangle growth zone" centring the Bay of Bengal.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pankaj Saran suggested identifying common interests to unite the three countries to go forward in building infrastructure and expanding trade and energy that can benefit all.

Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh U Myo Myint Than said the three countries should move in the journey of progress together with a positive attitude.

Former Indian foreign secretary Krishnan Srinivasan stressed political will and capacity to further regional cooperation.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof Arefin Siddique, Makiias Director Dr Sreeratha Datta, RDC Chairperson Prof Mesbah Kamal, Indian High Commissioner to Myanmar Gautam Mukhopaddhaya and Indian Deputy High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sandeep Chakraborty also spoke.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Discussion**  
The Daily Bhorer Kagoj will organise a discussion titled "Approach to stunting free villages: a brainstorming workshop" Venue: the Daily Bhorer Kagoj, Time: 10:00am.

**Discussion**  
Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) and other will organise a discussion on "Women migration to Saudi Arabia: opportunities and challenges" Venue: The BRAC Centre Inn, Mohakhali, Time: 10:00am.

The Daily Star

**CELEBRATING LIFE 2015**  
Theme: Celebrating the HERITAGE of Bangladesh

**FILM CONTEST**  
Deadline: 30 July 2015

Prizes:  
Best Short Fiction & Documentary: Tk. 2,00,000 each  
Best Debut Short Fiction: Tk. 1,00,000  
Best Debut Documentary: Tk. 1,00,000

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