YESTERDAY'S

TEMPERATURES

DHAKA

H28.0 L 21.3

KHULNA

H 28.5 L 23.0

RAJSHAHI

H 29.5 L 17.9

BARISAL

H 27.8 L 21.4

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Int'l Criminal

DU CORRESPONDENT

Celebrated cultural person-

"The atrocities...are listed

Syed Hasan was address-

faction led by Imran H

Sarker in the capital's

severing diplomatic and

Pakistan on November

30 denied committing any

War. It also rejected

CHT PEACE ACCORD Chalk definite roadmap for implementation Jatiya Nagorik Udyog

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The government must immediately set a definite roadmap for the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace accord's effective implementation and

discussion told

help the region's people overcome frustration, speakers told a discussion in the capital yesterday. People of the CHT might

start having suspicions and feel deceived if the government fails to gain their trust, they observed. Jatiya Nagorik Udyog

organised the discussion, "Implementation of CHT Accord: A National Pledge" in the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh marking the agreement's 18th anniversary. Ushaton Talukder, law-

maker of Rangamati, urged politicians and civil society members to unite for the implementation, alleging that the government was not taking it seriously and that it was not in the national policy. "Parbatya Chattagram

Jana Samhati Samiti has already declared a noncooperation movement," he said, adding that the government must realise that it was important for the sake of national interest. Sanjeeb Drong, general

secretary, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, placed a four-point demand including taking legal and administrative measures. Communist Party of

Bangladesh President Mujahidul Islam Selim termed the agreement an unachieved part of the Liberation War, saying Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was failing to fulfill her commitment.

Oikya NAP President Pankaj Bhattacharya alleged that the state was treating the CHT as its "colony" and that this was threatening the country's unity.

Noted journalist

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



denied committing any war crime or atrocities in Bangladesh during the 1971 Liberation War. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

awards four govt officials

2nd Edition

CHITTAGONG

H 27.5 L 21.4

SYLHET

H 27.7 L 18.2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Commission of Canada yesterday awarded four government officials for demonstrating leadership in efforts to prevent child marriage in Bangladesh.

FIGHTING CHILD MARRIAGE

Md Gaus, divisional commissioner, Barisal; Md Mostafa Kamal, deputy commissioner, Khulna; Md Shahbuddin Khan, deputy commissioner, Jamalpur; and Syed Faruq Ahmed, upazila nirbahi officer, Kaliganj, were honoured at a ceremony held at a hotel in the capital in observation of the International Day of the Girl Child 2015.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mostafa Kamal, who was the first to develop a detailed district action plan in Bangladesh to eliminate child marriage from Khulna district, said, "This January the rate of child marriage

was 70 percent, but now according to an 40 percent." Kamal spread messages about . the impacts of child marriage through the · STAFF CORRESPONDENT use of Pot Song, a traditional music of : southern Bangladesh where stories are told . The proposed special provision in the through pictures painted on pots. His : child marriage restraint act to keep 16 efforts were supported by Rupantar and ; as the marriageable age for females funded by Unicef.

absent, were highlighted. He developed a 'women's rights activists yesterday. database of 42,000 adolescents between the · They said through such a condition ages of 10 and 19 in 23 unions of Jamalpur, . the state itself is encouraging "marital where Unicef is working to prevent child 'rape". marriage.

Pierre Laramée lauded the awardees. The : Special Provision in Section-16 of nation funds Plan Canada with · Child Marriage Restraint Act-2014 and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PROPOSED LAW FOR FEMALES' MINIMUM MARRIAGEABLE AGE Canadian high commission Scrap provision for making it 16 under special circumstances

assessment by Unicef, the rate went down to : Women's rights activists urge govt

· under special circumstances would be Initiatives of Shahbuddin Khan, who was : tantamount to "child killing", said

The rights activists were addressing Canadian High Commissioner Benoît- : a press conference on "Cancellation of

death for two

The convicts,

Mofakkharul's driver Saiful

According to the prose-

Islam, 36, and Saiful's

cution, a gang of miscre-

Mofakkharul in his resi-

dence on January 11 for

ants led by Saiful killed Dr

grabbing his property. They

Keeping Minimum Marriageable Age for Female Child 18 Unconditionally" organised by Samajik Protirodh Committee, a platform of 68 NGOs, at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

The law ministry recently vetted and returned, to the women and children affairs ministry, the draft of the child marriage restraint act which has a special provision stating that under special circumstances, marriage of a 16-year-old girl to a man above the age of 21, with permission from either parents or courts, would not be considered as child marriage.

Zakia K Hassan, president of Women for Women, said, "We personally and collectively believe that enacting it will be tantamount to child killing."

Advocate Salma Ali, executive director of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association, questioned the necessity of lowering the minimum marriageable age to 16 and said a female, with rare exceptions, is not fully mentally and physically prepared for marriage before 18.

Executive Director of Manusher

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Standing from left, Kaliganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Syed Faruq Ahmed, Barisal Divisional Commissioner Md Gaus, Khulna Deputy Commissioner Md Mostafa Kamal, and Jamalpur Deputy Commissioner Md Shahabuddin Khan, who were honoured by the Canadian high commission; with, sitting from left, Canadian High Commissioner Benoît-Pierre Laramée, State Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology Tarana Halim, and UN Resident Coordinator Robert Watkins, at a ceremony in a Dhaka hotel yesterday marking International Day of the Girl Child.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3 Singair Pourasava polls stayed for 6 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has stayed for six months the process for holding elections to Singair Pourasava in Manikganj on allegation of irregularities in voters' list.

The order came on Tuesday after hearing a petition filed by Mostak Ahmed Bhuiyan, a voter of Singair, challenging the legality of the schedule of the election, which was supposed to be held on December 30.

Petitioner's lawyer ABM Golam Mostafa Taj told The Daily Star that earlier the HC issued a rule asking the Election Commission to explain why the existing voters' list for Singair should not be declared illegal and why it should not be directed to make a

fresh voters' list.

WASTE MANAGEMENT No secondary station

at Pantha Kunja Park

Orders High Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

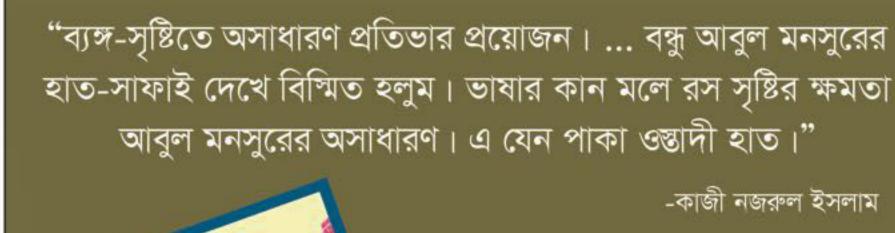
The High Court yesterday declared illegal the construction of a secondary transfer station (STS), a structure for waste management, at Pantha Kunja Park in the capital's Karwan

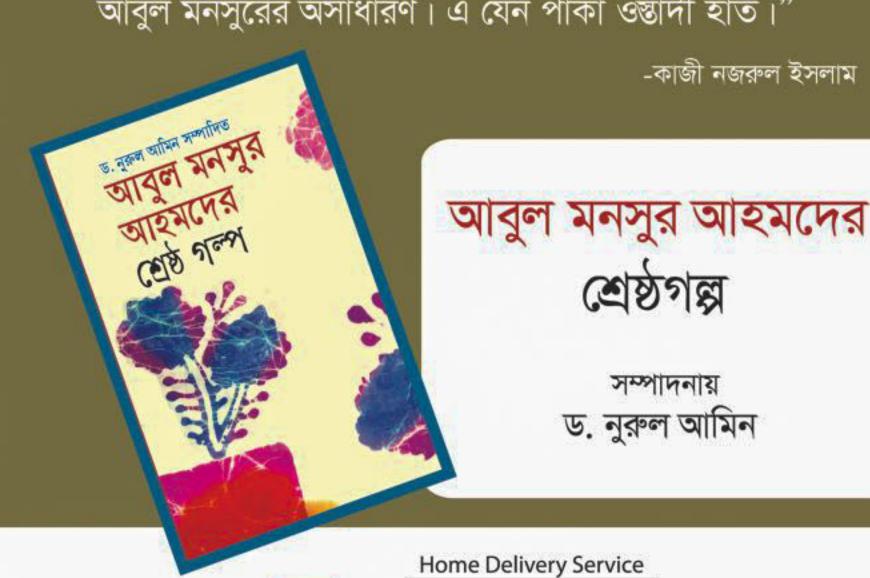
The court delivered the verdict after hearing a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association challenging the legality of constructing the STS at the park and its adjacent public road.

Dhaka South City Corporation had been erecting the structure in violation of the conditions of the Department



We request all relatives and friends to pray for Mrs. Yasmin Rahman, the dearest member of our family who passed on to eternity sixteen years ago.





Daily Star -BOOKS-

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আজিজ সুপার মার্কেট, শাহবাগ: প্রথমা (৯৬৬৪৮২৫), পাঠক সমাবেশ (০১৭১৩০৩৪৪৪০) কাঁটাবনঃ প্রকৃতি (০১৭২৭৩২৮৭২৩), বেইলি রোডঃ সাগর পাবলিশাঁস (৯৩৫৮৯৪৪) বিমান বন্দর: বুক ওয়ার্ম (৯১২০৩৮৭)। নরসিংদী: বই পুন্তক (০১৮১৮৫৩৪৮৯৩) কুষ্টিয়া: বইমেলা (০১৭১১ ৫৭৫৬০৬)।

চট্টগ্রাম: বাতিঘর (০১৭১৩৩০৪৩৪৪), প্রথমা (০১৭১১৬৪৯৪২২)



With a fresh new format, new writers and a new perspective, the Star Weekend has an array of interesting articles for you. This week our spotlight is about the adverse impact of banning social media websites in Bangladesh. There is also an important article on the history and present condition of a British colonial era building that was used as the first court of Chittagong. Don't forget your copy of Star Weekend tomorrow, Friday!

