

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

<b>DHAKA</b> H 25.2/L 13.8	<b>CHITTAGONG</b> H 25.0/L 12.9	<b>SYLHET</b> H 25.7/L 12.2	<b>RAJSHAHI</b> H 24.7/L 10.8	<b>KHULNA</b> H 24.6/L 12.9	<b>BARISAL</b> H 25.8/L 10.4	<b>RANGPUR</b> H 24.1/L 09.5	<b>COX'S BAZAR</b> H 25.8/L 15.0
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Mild to moderate cold wave may continue to sweep over Rangpur division and Tangail, Mymensingh, Sitakunda, Sreemangal, Pabna, Naogaon, Satkhira, Jessore, Chuadanga and Netrakona. Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:20pm and rises tomorrow at 6:40am. Country's highest temperature 26.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and Sitakunda and lowest 7.0 in Sreemangal and Dimajur.



Freshly printed books are being received at Harimohon Government High School in Chapainawabganj yesterday. On January 1, the government will distribute 35 crore books among four crore students of primary and secondary levels for free. In the New Year, every school have a reserve of five percent additional books for use should a natural disaster strike.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

# PAY SCALE PROTEST

## Teachers threaten shutdown of public universities

*Demand apology from Muhith for comments; JU teachers to observe work stoppage from today till Jan 2*

**DU CORRESPONDENT**

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) yesterday threatened a complete shutdown of all public universities across the country if the government did not deliver on its pledges of removing "discriminations" in the 8th national pay scale by December 31.

"We will hold a meeting on January 2 with teachers of all universities to

decide on tougher programmes if our demands are not met by this month. There may be a complete shutdown," President of FBUTA Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed told a press conference at Dhaka University Teachers Club.

Meanwhile, Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (JUTA) announced to observe work stoppage from December 28 to January 2 over the same demand.

At the conference, ASM Maksud

Kamal, general secretary of FBUTA, alleged that Finance Minister AMA Muhith had assured them of retaining selection grade and time scale for university teachers in the 8th pay scale, but he did not keep his words.

He demanded a fresh pay structure reinstating selection grade and time scale benefits, and giving salaries to a certain percentage of senior professors equal to that of senior secretaries.

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# WAR CRIMES IN HABIGANJ, KISHOREGANJ, GAIBANDHA

## Evidence found against ex-chief of upazila AL

*Also against ex-MP of Jamaat, six others; court's investigators provide findings to prosecution today*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

International Crimes Tribunal's investigation agency yesterday said to have found evidence of crimes committed by eight persons, including a former Awami League (AL) leader and a Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker, from Habiganj, Kishoreganj and Gaibandha during the 1971 Liberation War.

The accused, on the run, were "involved" with the Pakistani occupation army's two auxiliary forces, Razakar Bahini and Al-Badr

Bahini, and "committed" genocide, murder, abduction, confinement, torture, arson and looting, investigators told journalists at its Dhanmondi office.

Liakat Ali, 61, former president of Habiganj's Lakhai upazila unit AL, and Aminul Islam alias Rajab Ali, 62, of Astogram upazila in Kishoreganj are accused in one case.

Abu Saleh Md Abdul Aziz Mia, 65, a former Jamaat lawmaker from Gaibandha;

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Newspaper hawkers slam demolition of 2 Dhaka kiosks

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Dhaka Sangbadpatra Hawkers Bohumukhi Samabaya Samity has condemned the demolition of two newspaper sale centres at the capital's Gulistan.

The association, in a statement, said the High Court earlier directed the authorities to maintain the status quo of the newspaper sale centres.

But the centres adjacent to T&T Bhaban and Gulistan

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# Strengths of children with disabilities must be lifted

*The Daily Star-ADD-Cordaid, Netherlands roundtable told*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Strengths of children with disabilities should be highlighted for creating positive attitude towards the kids and widespread adoption of inclusive education, said discussants yesterday.

Besides policymakers, teachers and the people around them, parents will also have to help such children discover, encourage and promote their potentials to ensure their acceptance in schools as well as in the society, said the discussants at a roundtable on "Inclusive Preschool Education for Children with Disabilities: Experiences, Challenges and Way Forward".

The Daily Star, and Action on Disability and Development (ADD) with support from Cordaid, Netherlands jointly organised the

roundtable at the newspaper's office building in the capital.

Citing the story of a Chinese animation and software development firm run by people with disabilities, Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, consultant to The Daily Star, said such examples should be introduced as case studies in university education to change the perception of the youth.

Researcher Dipti Das presented an ADD study carried out between December 5 and 13 in six out of 15 government primary schools in Dhaka, Tangail and Sirajganj where ADD's project on inclusive pre-school education was implemented.

The study, conducted on 68 children with disabilities and their teachers, parents and peer groups, revealed parents' tendency towards hiding information about their

children.

Besides, a lack of teaching aids, assistive devices and materials as well as trained teachers, and the high student-teacher ratio stand in the way of providing special care to such children while due to transportation problems many poor parents cannot send their children with special needs to schools, the study stated.

Dilara Sattar Mitu, executive director of the Society for Education of the Intellectually Disabled (SEID), cited their research which was conducted in 2014 on 120 schools of Dhaka and Barisal and showed that 90 of the schools had children with disabilities while 79 of those did not have any trained teacher.

Shahnaj Parvin, deputy director of Inclusive Education Cell, Directorate of Primary Education, stressed the need for coordination among education, social welfare and health ministries to properly identify the problems and needs of such children and help them accordingly.

About insufficient government allowance, which is only Tk 500, given to children with disabilities, Benedict Alo D'Rozario, executive director of Caritas Bangladesh, and Amiya Kumar Chowdhury of Brac shared the idea of community funding for the education of the children which has been helpful in their respective project areas.

Shafiqul Islam, country director of ADD, moderated the roundtable where Khondoker Ariful Islam, country director of Sightsavers, also



Participants at a roundtable, "Inclusive Preschool Education for Children with Disabilities: Experiences, Challenges, and Way Forward," at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. It was jointly organised by the newspaper and ADD International with support from Cordaid, Netherlands.

PHOTO: STAR

# CLEAN DHAKA CAMPAIGN

## Mayor Khokon brings together 26 govt agencies

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon yesterday urged different government institutions to create public awareness about keeping the city clean.

In a meeting with officials of 26 institutions including the city corporation, Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), he called upon the organisations to hold campaigns like a cleaning drive or a procession at least once in the month of January or February.

"On Valentine's Day (February 14), we (residents of Dhaka) will gather in solidarity to show our love for Dhaka by taking

steps to keep it clean," said Khokon.

He will hold meetings with other organisations quarterly to make good coordination.

Director General of Rapid Action Battalion Benazir Ahmed at the meeting suggested conducting a survey to know the exact number of hawkers to rehabilitate them.

He also suggested making arrangements for holiday markets on the roadside during holidays and night markets for the hawkers to keep the footpaths free for pedestrians.

Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Asaduzzaman Mia said the city corporation should introduce penalty for setting up banners or posters without permission.



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