

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 22.8 L 16.7	CHITTAGONG H 27.4 L 15.5	SYLHET H 18.4 L 15.8	RAJSHAHI H 17.8 L 15.0	KHULNA H 25.0 L 17.0	BARISAL H 25.3 L 15.5	RANGPUR H 19.7 L 14.2	COX'S BAZAR H 28.0 L 15.0
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Night temperature may fall by (1-3) degree Celsius and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:37pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43am. Country's highest temperature 29.09 degree Celsius was recorded



Two opposing groups of Dhaka University students stage demonstrations just yards away from each other. One, left, holds a rally in front of Teacher-Student Centre, protesting construction of the proposed metro rail project route through the campus while the other, right, forms a human chain at the base of Raju Memorial, supporting the plan.

PHOTO: STAR, BANGLAR CHOKH

METRO RAIL THRU DU
Split students stage opposing demos next to each other
DU CORRESPONDENT

Two groups of Dhaka University (DU) students staged demonstrations just yards away from each other yesterday, one endorsing government plans to have a section of a metro rail route go through the campus and the other opposing it. Some 300 students of the opposing group brought out a procession and staged a solidarity rally in front of Teacher-Student Centre. They were joined by some teachers and leaders and activists of left leaning student organisations including Bangladesh Chhatra Union,

War babies, biranganas should be honoured

Says Mustafa Chowdhury, author of 'Ekattorer Juddhoshishu: Obidito Itihash'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
"If I ever meet my birthmother, I will thank her for not killing me through abortion. She just abandoned me with a hope that I will remain happy. She must be happy as I am now," this was the quote of a war baby who is living in Canada while expressing his reaction about her birthmother to the author of a book written on them. Mustafa Chowdhury, a Canadian citizen of Bangladesh origin who wrote the book titled "71'er Juddhoshishu: Obidito Itihash" shared this quote with the audience yesterday while speaking about the book at a programme organised by English and Humanities department of BRAC University in the capital. Mustafa said among the 15 war babies, one committed suicide from depression while another died normally. The remaining 13 are happy now as they are living their lives and are sympathetic towards their birthmother. "The war babies and biranganas of 1971 should be given honour and



compensation," he emphasised. In his book he described the journeys of the first contingent of 15 "war babies" to Canada who were embraced by their adoptive parents as their own when they reached there back in July 1972. He brought his readers up to speed by describing how the war-babies bear the stigma of illegitimacy in the eyes of Bangladesh. "My birthmother is neither a woman of disrepute nor selfish and uncaring.

There is no need to punish her for relinquishing me. She could not have offered me what I needed as a child," said Onil Mark Mowling, mentioned in a quote from the book. According to the historical documents, 2 to 4 lakh Bangladeshi women and teenage girls were raped by Pakistani occupation army and its auxiliary forces in 1971. After the independence, the government made abortion legal for a certain period so that the unfortunate women, who got pregnant, could have a choice regarding the war babies they were carrying. The book was published in Bangladesh last year. English version of the book, "Picking up the pieces: 1971 War Babies' Odyssey from Bangladesh to Canada" was published in the US last year and it will be available at the Ekushey Boi Mela this year. Rukhsana R Chowdhury, Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam and Afsan Chowdhury, among others, spoke at the programme.

WAR CRIME TRIALS
Evidence found against 5 Moulvibazar suspects



STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The International Crimes Tribunal's investigation agency yesterday said to have found evidence of the "involvement" of five Moulvibazar men in six incidents of crimes committed in their home district during the 1971 Liberation War. "The allegations...have been preliminarily proved during investigations," the agency's Coordinator Abdul Hannan Khan told journalists at a press conference in its Dhanmondi office in the capital. He said the incidents included murders and genocide leaving at least 18 people dead, abductions of 11 persons and looting and torching of at least 22 houses under Rajnagar Police Station between November 22 and December 8. Samsul Hossain Tarafder, 65, of Bagajura was an Al-Badr commander while Nesar Ali, 75, of Jamura; Yunus Ahmed, 71, of

Sonatik; Ujer Ahmed Chowdhury, 63, of Coashpur village; and Mobarak Mia, 66, under Rajnagar, were involved with the Razakar Bahini, he added. Yunus and Ujer have been in jail since their arrest on October 13 last year following a warrant issued by the tribunal-1. Hannan said the five were collaborators of the Pakistani occupation army working under the leaderships of now-deceased Barik Mia and Nasid Ali, the chairmen of anti-liberation Peace Committee in Munshibazar and Uttarbhag unions respectively. Starting on October 12, 2014, the investigation was completed yesterday with 36 people being cited as prosecution witnesses, he said. The case's investigating officer Hari Devnath said he would hand over the probe reports, witnesses' statements and other documents to the prosecution today for

Yunus Centre rebuts Hasina's claim
STAR REPORT

Yunus Centre has expressed deep dissatisfaction over Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus being implicated by the prime minister in the process of the cancellation of funds promised by the World Bank for the Padma Bridge project. The centre issued a rejoinder regarding the matter. Following is the full text of it. "Several newspapers have reported that, while addressing a programme at Shilpakala Academy held on January 16, honorable prime minister Sheikh Hasina had said, implicating Professor Muhammad Yunus, that a former MD of a bank provoked high officials of the US government to threaten the Bangladeshi PM to stop financing of Padma Bridge over his removal as Managing Director of the bank. We are saddened and frustrated by the baseless remarks made by the Honorable Prime Minister.

UK's reservation about last JS polls no secret

New British High Commissioner Alison Blake tells media after presenting credentials to president

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
It is no secret that the UK had concerns over the January 5, 2014 general elections because a majority of the people was deprived of exercising their franchise, said the newly appointed first female British high commissioner to Bangladesh yesterday. Although the British government does not comment on local elections, the recent municipal polls were peaceful compared to past ones due to the participation of the out-of-parliament opposition and less interference, said Alison Blake.



She, however, hoped that "future elections at all-levels will be participatory, fair and transparent" and the UK would continue to help Bangladesh bring stability and prosperity. Mentioning recent reports of abuses by law enforcers, Blake said both countries collaborate on law enforcement issues but the UK does not cooperate with the alleged abusers and that there should be investigations if there were specific allegations. The UK will continue to support Bangladesh on its democratic path as it grows

BNP shows diplomats 'municipal poll irregularities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
BNP yesterday played a 72-minute documentary before diplomats from the United Nations and 20 countries stationed in Dhaka, narrating "vote fraud and irregularities" in the December 30 municipality polls last year. Addressing the meeting at BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office at 4:00pm, the party leaders alleged that the municipality polls proved that no fair election could be held by the Election Commission and the

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