

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 20.0 L 14.8	H 23.8 L 17.5	H 20.0 L 12.5	H 18.3 L 11.5	H 21.0 L 12.5	H 23.5 L 22.5	H 18.0 L 13.6	H 25.0 L 18.0

Mild cold wave may sweep over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions. Night temperature may fall by 1-3 degree Celsius and day temperature may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:38pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.

### Subcontractor killed for 'refusing to pay extortion'

One attacker arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A construction subcontractor was killed after being shot twice and hacked by some six men, one of whom was caught with a gun and two bullets on his person by police who allegedly gave chase with locals last night in the capital's Rampura.

Bashai Shikder, 26, was at his construction site at Mollah Bari area of East Rampura around 7:30pm when the attack took place, locals who took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) told The Daily Star.

He succumbed to his injuries around 11:20pm, said Inspector Mozammel Haque of DMCH police camp.

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Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam delivers a speech at the inaugural session of a two-day Internal Annual Planning and Evaluation Meeting of BMP at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

### ATTACKS ON SAUDI MISSIONS Dhaka reiterates condemnation

Foreign minister joins OIC meeting

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has condemned the attacks on Saudi missions in Iran earlier this month and denounced Tehran's regional "interference".

Dhaka earlier condemned the attacks on the Saudi embassy in Tehran and its consulate in Mashhad, has fully endorsed the OIC joint communiqué issued yesterday in Jeddah saying such attacks are clear violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic and Consular Relations.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali attended the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers at the headquarters of the OIC General Secretariat on Thursday, reiterated Bangladesh's condemnation in such attacks and urged Iran to take urgent necessary measures to stop recurrence of such incidents, said foreign ministry officials.

The 57-member OIC said it "rejects and condemns Iran's inflammatory statements" over the executions, "considering those statements a blatant interference in the internal affairs" of Saudi Arabia, according to an OIC press release available on its website.

Iran, however, "rejected" the communiqué while Lebanon also "distanced itself" from the OIC statement.

The statement denounced "Iran's interference in the internal affairs of the states of the region and other member

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### ASI closed over torturing Ctg man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A policeman was closed on Thursday for torturing one Md Solaiman and realising money from him in Chittagong city's Beribandh area on Tuesday.

Assistant Sub-inspector Emdadul Haque of EPZ Police Station was attached to Bandar Police Lines, said Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC-Bandar) Joydul Abedin of Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

Further action will be taken against him after an investigation, he said.

The action came following a complaint from Solaiman, said the ADC on Wednesday.

## Marriage before 18 must be prohibited

Norwegian ambassador tells Mahila Parishad meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Childhood must be allowed till the age of 18, when maturity is reached and before which marriage should not be allowed, said Norwegian Ambassador in Bangladesh Merete Lundemo yesterday.

She also recommended that the government adheres to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which recognises everyone below 18 years as children.

"There remains much to be done in all countries to establish fair societies where everyone is represented equally. Everyone much struggle to increase women's participation in decision making and promote women empowerment," she said.

"With economic empowerment of women, we all win," she told the inaugural session of a two-day Internal Annual Planning and Evaluation Meeting of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

The draft of the proposed Child Marriage Restraint Act-2014 has a special provision stipulating that under special circumstances, marriage of 16-year-old girls to men above 21 years, with permission of parents or courts, would not be considered as "child marriage".

However, the same law defines minimum legal marriageable age of girls as 18 years.

Christine Hunter, country representative of UN Women in Bangladesh, said Bangladeshi women were facing "cumulative systematic exclusion" while their rights were diminishing.

She suggested collecting knowledge from different disciplines to address gender inequality.

Stating that BMP has been working for

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### Malaysian job market for Bangladeshis reopens soon

Says Nurul Islam

BSS, Nilphamari

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam yesterday said Malaysian job market will reopen soon for Bangladeshis and discussion is going on with the Malaysian government in this regard.

"Before sending our workers there, we have to make sure of their employment and other facilities in that country," said the minister while inaugurating a vocational training centre in Nilphamari yesterday.

Cultural Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, and Director General of BMET Shamsun Nahar also spoke.

## Household piped gas to be replaced with LPG

Three bodies formed to resolve delicate issues; LPG for motor vehicles also under consideration

UNB, Dhaka

Against the backdrop of the country's fast declining gas reserve, the energy division has initiated a strong move to introduce liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) within the next two or three years by phasing out the existing piped natural gas for household consumption.

According to the energy division, the gas reserve, which now stands at 14 trillion cubic feet (tcf), will start declining from 2017 if no new discovery is made.

"The natural gas will completely get exhausted by 2031 if no substantial reserve is discovered," said a top energy division official.

Under the circumstances, the official said, LPG is considered as the most suitable alternative to natural gas for household purpose as 2.8 million household consumers are now using 330 million cubic feet per day (mmcf) gas - 13.06 percent of the total gas production.

According to power and energy ministry, the country's total gas reserve (proven plus probable) is 27.12 tcf. Of this, 13.032 tcf gas has been extracted until June 2015, with 14.088 tcf remaining.

Energy ministry officials said the gas sector did not see any new discovery in the last 7-8 years although the state-owned Petrobangla made announcement on several occasions of new gas reserves.

The government has already stopped

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# Healthy Living

## 6 TIPS FOR PARENTS TO DEAL WITH AUTISTIC CHILDREN

In our society autism is considered as a curse and many parents hesitate to admit if there is autism in their child. It is also one of the reasons to delay receiving the treatment for autism. A lifelong developmental condition that affects the way an individual behaves with his or her environment and their interaction to other people on regular situations is autism. Basically the areas to identify autism in a child are in social and communication skills, and restricted or repetitive behaviors. By 18-24 months of age, there are certain 'milestones' that a child should be meeting if autism is there in him or her. It is better to pick the signs in the child early. Someone with autism may seem different, especially when compared to other children at their own age, although there is no other indicator; there are several signs that could signify autism.

**Family Issues:**

A child's autism affects every member of the family in different ways. Parents or other family members focus on helping their child with primary consultations, which may put stress on their marriage, other children, work, finances, and personal relationships and responsibilities. Parents should allocate much of their resources, time and money towards providing treatment for their children, to the exclusion of other priorities. The needs of a child with autism are familial relationships or affection, especially with siblings or other child in the family. However, parents can help their family by telling their other children about autism and the complications it makes, understanding the challenges siblings face and helping them to cope, and involving members of the extended family to create a cordial bonding of help and understanding.

### Identifying autism:

- If by six to nine months your baby fails to make eye contact or smile with you
- If after one year of age your baby fails to recognize or respond to her name when called for/not achieved single meaningful word without imitating or repeating.
- Your baby just plays by her/himself and is not responsive to you or doesn't care much for your attention.
- Even after the first birthday your baby shows no gesture of verbal or sign communication. At times a baby can have delayed speech but will start to point to toys and things.
- Even after 18 months your baby fails to show any meaningful gesture or throws blank expressions when you talk or try to communicate.

If you notice any of these signs in your baby talk to a pediatrician and get a detailed status on your baby's neurological wellbeing. Get a consultation done with a pediatric psychologist to evaluate.

### Limit use of audio visual devices:

If you know that your baby has autism it is even more necessary to limit usage of all the electronic devices like the smart phones, iPhones, iPads or even television viewing. These devices are known to hamper mental development in a child. These devices are passive medium of entertainment and don't help in normal brain development of a baby. Instead invest in toys that are interactive like push button toys that have lights, music, rhymes for specific ones. These interactive ones can help in developing the brain normally.

### Keep off processed foods:

Don't allow or overload your baby's plate with junk or processed foods [such as canned juice/colored drinks, crackers/candy]. The chemicals present in the processed and canned foods can have an effect on the neurological development of the babies suffering from autism/ any others behavioral disorder [such as attention deficit] also.

### Encourage Interaction:

Talk to your baby and do that often. Human interaction is more necessary in children suffering from autism. Tell stories, rhymes or just talk to your baby. This provides a lot of stimulation to the baby and helps to encourage social behavior. These actions will do your baby a great deal of good to help brain development.

### Allow the child to socialize:

The best way to help in brain stimulation of your special child is by helping socialize more. Get your child admitted to a play school where enough emphasis is added to knowledge development using toys of different colors, shapes and make believe games. All this helps foster better brain development and cope with the disorder and better communication level.

### Practice the therapy at home:

The best way to treat autism is with help of therapies and not medications. Not only the child but also the caregiver needs to learn the techniques and nuances of the therapy. The mother or the active parent, who is supposed to take care of the kid, should practice the techniques at least four to five times a day to encourage alteration in behavior and help in skills development. Medication has minimal role to overcome these problems. Regular follow up by therapist and by child psychologist is the main key option to treat a child with Autism as well as other developmental delay child.

Unfortunately many pediatrician in our country show less interest to refer a child in child development center and advice parents to wait up to child's two / three years of age. Many believe that if the communications skill, social interaction, hyperactivity, eye contact, attention span and self-stimulatory behavior can be nurtured the expected improvements in autistic children can result better. Depending on conditions or difficulties, some individuals may be able to live independent lives while others will always need assistance and support.

**#HealthyLiving**

The Daily Star  
20 January · 🌐 · 📍

Autism is not a curse, but a disease. Learn about Autism, the more you know, the better care you can give to them. #HealthyLiving is a platform where all your disease-related queries will be answered by expert doctors of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka. This week's topic is "Autism". If you have any query on this topic write that in the comment field and look for reply in the same section.

Don't give up on them, fight Autism

Abdur Abd Rahman, Bishwajit Paul and 12,760 others like this. Top Comments ·

What are the symptoms of autism?  
Like Reply · 5 · 20 January at 20:02

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka: Through symptoms vary for every child, the following are the primary symptoms:  
Not communicating verbally and non-verbally  
Not relating to others and the world around them  
Not thinking and behaving flexibly  
Doesn't make eye contact (e.g. look at you when being fed)  
Doesn't smile when smiled at  
Doesn't respond to his or her name, or to the sound of a familiar voice  
Doesn't follow objects visually  
Doesn't point or wave goodbye, or use other gestures to communicate  
Doesn't follow the gesture when you point things out  
Doesn't make noises to get your attention  
Doesn't initiate or respond to cuddling  
Doesn't imitate your movements and facial expressions  
Doesn't reach out to be picked up  
Doesn't play with other people or share interest and enjoyment  
Doesn't ask for help or make other basic requests  
Like Reply · 31 mins

Thank you for your answer.  
Like Reply · 13 mins

Is there any responsibility from parents to birth an autism children?  
Like Reply · 1 · Yesterday at 01:10

No  
Like Reply · 1 · Yesterday at 10:05

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka: Parent can recognize the early signs and symptoms and take their children for assessment. Early assessment and management is beneficial for such special children.  
Like Reply · 17 mins

an initiative of:

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Experience Apollo Care 10678  
\* This information is for public awareness only. Advice should be sought from qualified doctors.