

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 28.6 | L 16.8

CHITTAGONG
H 26.7 | L 16.5

SYLHET
H 25.2 | L 16.2

RAJSHAHI
H 27.5 | L 14.6

KHULNA
H 29.2 | L 18.5

BARISAL
H 28.2 | L 18.6

RANGPUR
H 23.6 | L 15.2

COX'S BAZAR
H 28.0 | L 17.0

Night temperature may fall slightly over the northern part and it may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:46pm and rises tomorrow at 6:38am.** Country's highest temperature 30.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Khepupara and lowest 12.6 in Dima.

**'ASSAULT ON COPS'
Court accepts charges against Fakhru, Moudud**

Also 34 other BNP men
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday took cognizance of the charges against BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, standing committee member Moudud Ahmed and 34 other party men for hurling crude bombs at policemen in March 2013.

Judge Kamrul Hossain Mollah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court gave the order and fixed March 3 for hearing on charge framing.

BNP leaders Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, Mirza Abbas, Abdullah Al Noman, Amanullah Aman, Moazzem Hossain Alal, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annee, Habibunabi Khan Sohel, Barkatullah Bulu and Sultan Salauddin Tuku are among others.

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DMP celebrates 41st founding day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) celebrated its 41st founding day amid festivity and fanfare in the capital's Rajarbagh Police Lines yesterday.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal attended the programme as the chief guest while Senior Secretary to the Home Ministry Mozammel Haque Khan and Inspector General of Police (IGP) AKM Shahidul Hoque were present as special guests.

Starting from DMP headquarters, an ecstatic rally led by DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia ended at Rajarbagh Police Lines.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Young bookworms poring over illustrated books at a stall of Amar Ekushey Granthamela on Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital yesterday. Books on fairytales, ghost stories, myths and comics strips were the priorities of children on the second day yesterday of the month-long book fair. Seven new books were launched on the day.

Young readers find trove at book fair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fairy tales, ghost stories, myths and comics strips feature invariably highly on the priority list of young readers, and it was evident at the Ekushey book fair yesterday, with kids browsing stalls which are selling the books.

Samanta, 4, came with her mother for the first time, and was happy to have the book "Bagh Mamar Golpo" (story of the tiger). "I love to read about tiger and jackal," she said.

Hafiz Uddin, another visitor, bought a magic book for his grandson Sharif.

For Avro, visiting the fair has been an annual ritual since he was two months old. The six-year-old's passion for books has grown over the years.

Avro's mother Samia said, "I read out books to him since he was two months old...I want him to grow love for books."

SM Arif, a businessman, came all the way from Chittagong with his two children -- Sekandar Md Abrar and Ruwaida Arif. "They love books. So I came here to buy them some."

Bangla Academy, Shishu Kishore Academy, Tuntuni, Toitumbur, Chhotoder Boi, Kishore Bhuban, Patabahar, Shishu Prokash and Sisimpur are selling children's books.

Ferdous, a salesman of Tuntuni, said they were getting a good response from young readers.

On the second day of the month-long fair, seven new books were launched.

A discussion was also held to mark the 60th founding

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



BSMMU to focus on poor
Ecneec approves project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to upgrade Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) into a super specialised hospital where the poor will get treatment for various complicated diseases at low cost.

The ECNEC yesterday approved a Tk 1,366-crore project for the purpose with 77 percent financing by the Korea Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) at a very low interest rate.

Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal after the meeting told reporters that such a specialised hospital was going to be set up in Bangladesh for the first time.

He said the specialised services would not be free for the poor, but

the cost would be much lower. Normally, costs of treatment in public hospitals are very low -- one percent of the costs in other countries, he added.

Citing an example, the planning minister said, "Saying hello to a doctor in Singapore costs \$ 110."

The project is likely to be completed by December 2019. A 13-storey new building will be constructed and modern equipments will be purchased under the project.

Seven modern units/departments -- emergency medical care centre, gastroenterology and hepatobiliary centre, child and mother health care centre, cardio and cerebro-vascular centre, kidney diseases centre, intensive care unit (ICU) and central diagnostic

and pathology department -- will be set up as per the planning ministry proposal.

Once the super specialised hospital is established, treatment of different complicated diseases will be available in Bangladesh.

The EDCF will provide Tk 1,047 crore in loan for the project with an interest rate of 0.01 percent payable in 40 years, including a 15-year grace period, which means the loan would have to be paid in 55 years.

Prof Dr Sharfuddin Ahmed, pro-vice-chancellor (admin), BSMMU, told The Daily Star that 1,000 more beds would be added to the existing 1,300 beds when the hospital is upgraded.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

Miracle boy suffers minor head injury, leg fracture

DMP will bear treatment cost, says Ramna OC; two cases will be filed against mother, 'rapist'

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Miracle boy turns three-day-old today. The infant, who miraculously survived a four-storey fall on Monday, was diagnosed with a slight injury in his head and legs yesterday, informed police.

"There are some injury marks on both sides of the head and a fracture on left leg," Moshir Rahman, officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station told The Daily Star, quoting doctors of Ad-din hospital, where the baby was admitted after his rescue.

"Dhaka Metropolitan Police will bear the treatment cost and we have informed doctors to continue treatment

without negligence," he emphasised.

The newborn's mother, undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital could not provide the cops with the correct address of the alleged rapist, her brother-in-law, he added.

"Once she recovers, we will conduct a drive to find him in Comilla, where the incident took place," he said.

The 15-year-old mother, who works for an elderly couple, delivered the out-of-wedlock child in her employer's house on Monday morning with the help of another girl who also works for the couple.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

TWO YEARS OF FEB 2 VIOLENCE
RU makes students suffer

Neither finishes investigation nor withdraws cases; RMP Commissioner Shamshuddin recognises students' plight

RU CORRESPONDENT

More than 700 students of Rajshahi University have been haunted by six cases for the last two years since their protest against a tuition hike and introduction of evening programmes ended up in violence on February 2, 2014.

The students said the university neither did withdraw the cases nor complete an investigation into the violence that had injured over a hundred general students and eight journalists. Their rally was allegedly attacked by armed men of Bangladesh Chhatra League and police.

Of the six cases, two each were filed by the RU administration, BCL and police, accusing some 750 students.

"We, the victim of the cases are searching jobs after graduation but we fear the cases would create obstacles in getting government jobs," said Sohrab Hossain, one of the agitators and then president of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front of RU unit.

The victims said the university repeatedly assured them of withdrawing the cases, but to no avail. Some even alleged that the RU administration was using the cases as a tool to stifle further protest.

Aiatullah Khomeni, an accused, and former president of RU unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Union said, "Whenever we want to hold any programme over student related issues, the authorities threaten us with arrest, reminding us of the cases."

Saju Sarder, a master's student of marketing, said in mid-2015 police called his family and threatened to arrest him when he took part in a programme for reconstruction of the TSC.

Marking the second anniversary of the protest, scores gathered in front of the RU central library yesterday and demanded withdrawal of the cases and cancellation of ongoing evening programmes at the faculties of law, business and social science.

Meanwhile, the university's five-member investigation committee

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Nat'l poetry festival ends with call for peace, justice

Poets Sazzad Qadir, Belal Chaudhuri awarded

DU CORRESPONDENT

The 30th National Poetry Festival concluded yesterday with the call for peace and justice and awarding of two poets.

Sazzad Qadir was conferred with the National Poetry Award-2016, while Belal Chaudhuri received a citation from the Jatiya Kabita Parishad.

Addressing a discussion on the occasion, Rafique Ullah Khan, professor of Bangla at Dhaka University, said growing apathy towards arts and literature was one of the

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2

Local member of SA kidnapping gang arrested in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday arrested a local member of a South African gang in the capital.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) came to know about the gang when it abducted a Bangladeshi expatriate on January 2 and contacted his family for ransom.

After abducting Shahidullah, 30, from Sasolburg in South Africa, the gang contacted his mother and demanded Tk 25 lakh, to be collected by their Bangladeshi associate Akhter Hossain, said Mirza Abdullal Baqui, a special superintendent of CID.

The family, after negotiations, agreed to pay Tk 5 lakh.

Officials aware of this, kept watch over the family members and were able to arrest Akhter, minutes after he took the money from beside the Jatrabari highway, added Baqui.

In primary interrogation, Akhter admitted about the South African gang and where they were keeping Shahidullah.

"We've imparted the information to the South African police and hope they would be able to rescue Shahidullah and bust the gang in no time," he said.

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Prof. Dr. AKM Fazlul Haque
International Scholar (USA); Fellow, Colorectal Surgery (Singapore)
Founder Chairman (Retd.), Dept. of Colorectal Surgery
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka
Edited by: DR. ASIF ALMAS HAQUE
MBBS(SMCC) MRCS(ENGLAND) FCFPS(SURGERY), Consultant Surgeon.

EDEN MULTI-CARE HOSPITAL
753, Satmosjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Phone : 02-58150507-10
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