

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 27.8 L 17.6	H 28.8 L 16.2	H 26.2 L 16.5	H 26.0 L 15.4	H 28.5 L 19.0	H 27.5 L 18.0	H 24.5 L 12.7	H 30.0 L 17.5

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning. Met Office said. Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. **The sunsets in the capital today at 5:46pm and rises tomorrow at 6:38am.**



President hopes payscale for journo will be revised

Tells them to contribute to progress while speaking at DUJ conference
UNB, Dhaka

Expecting due government attention to pay scale disparities between one announced recently for public servants and the existing one for journalists, President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged media persons to contribute to Bangladesh's continued "democratic march forward".

"Mass media is the fourth estate. The nation expresses its unrevealed hopes, expectations and desires through it," he said, adding that the media fulfills its duties by identifying underperforming government branches.

In turn, journalists face the wrath of others but "this is an important job and in its absence, democracy remains incomplete. So, the mass media is very important for building the nation," he said.

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A bulldozer demolishes an illegal structure in the capital's Dhanmondi area yesterday during a drive by Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) in a bid to reclaim parking spaces in basements of buildings along Mirpur Road. Story on page 5. PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh elected WFP board member

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has been elected member of the World Food Programme's executive body, the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger, for three years (2016-2018).

The election was held at the UN headquarters yesterday and all UN member states unanimously elected Bangladesh as member of the executive board, according to a message received in Dhaka from New York.

The executive board is WFP's governing body with 36 state members of the United Nations or member countries of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The board provides inter-governmental support for, policy direction and supervision of the activities of WFP.

Through this election, the world community's confidence on Bangladesh's development in the agriculture sector has been boosted, according to the message.

According to the message, the outcome was a recognition of the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina over the last seven years as the country has achieved massive success in the area of agriculture and food production.

"Bangladesh has achieved food security and self-sufficiency in food despite a rise in population and reduction of arable land as the country has implemented many pro-agriculture development initiatives since 2009," it reads.

"Through achieving this confidence from the world, Bangladesh will feel more inspired for further development in the agriculture sector," it says.

The country has witnessed establishment of agro-based industries while food grain production has now reached four crore tonnes a year, according to the message.

HC orders govt to recruit 2,500 as primary teachers

They qualified in 2012

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to immediately recruit around 2,500 candidates, who qualified as assistant teachers for government primary schools in 2012.

The court also ordered the government not to take steps for fresh recruitment of teachers for the schools until the 2,500 are recruited.

The HC bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Bishmadev Chakraborty announced the verdict after hearing 72 writ petitions collectively filed by the candidates.

Petitioners' counsels Sk Md Morshed and Siddique Ullah Miah told reporters that the government issued a circular on August 4,

2011 for appointing the assistant teachers across the country.

A total of 27,720 candidates, out of 11,20,299, qualified for the posts. Of them, the government appointed only 12,701 in 2014.

Without appointing the rest 15,019 qualified candidates, the government on September 14, 2009 issued another circular for fresh appointment of assistant teachers for the government primary schools.

Later, 2,500 candidates filed 72 writ petitions with the HC at different times challenging the legality of the September 14, 2009 circular.

They also prayed to the HC to order the government to recruit them as government primary school teachers, the lawyers added.

Fair offering e-books too

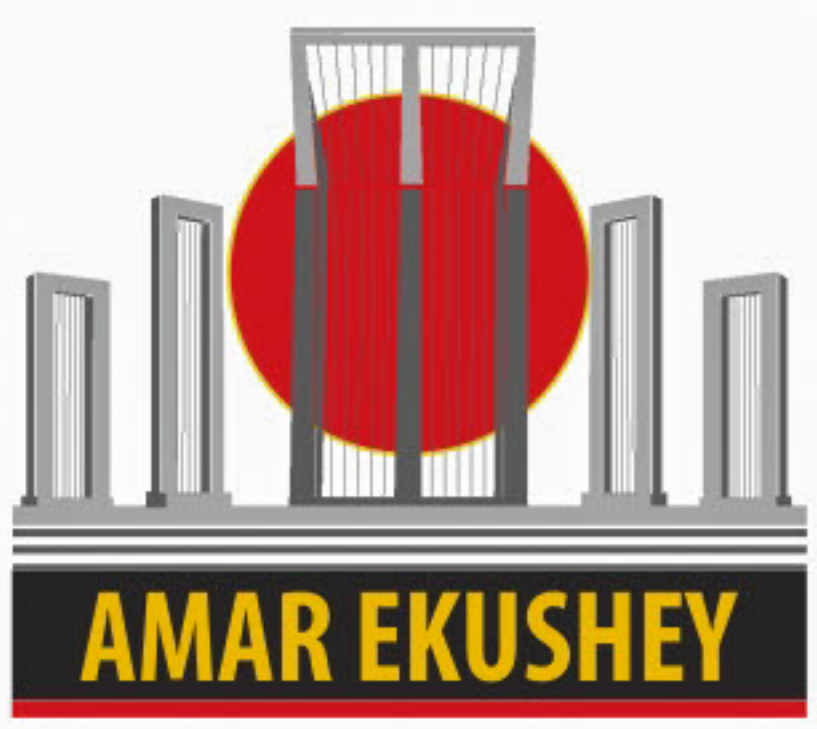
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aiming to promote Bangla literature and reach it to more people, many organisations at Amar Ekushey Granthamela are offering e-books, publications in digital format which can be downloaded and read on computers and electronic devices, some even for free.

"We are bringing out books in electronic version in a bid to familiarise the world with Bangla," said Asker Ibne Firoz, head of business operations, Bengal eBoi, which offers e-books in pdf, epub and mobi, payable through Visa, Mastercard and bKash.

Talking to The Daily Star, a visitor, Jahir Ahmed said he loved e-books for being portable. "I came here to know which stalls were giving lucrative offers," he added.

EB Solutions (EBS) Limited is offer-



AMAR EKUSHEY

ing Banglalink users an e-book reader, Banglalink Boi Ghor, on Android and iOS devices which allows font customisation and turning of pages like traditional books.

Asharf Us Shafi, content provisioning executive of EBS, said favourite parts or memorable quotes can also be highlighted and pages

bookmarked. They are charging from Tk 5 to Tk 20 for each e-book.

Seiboi is providing around 250 e-books for free. Its senior data entry officer, Shajedul Islam, said four books of Rakib Hasan -- Norboli, Pagla Ghonti, Jao Akhan Theke and Bishodhor -- cost in total Tk 480 in print and Tk 120 in digital version.

"Reading books can be a great way to pass time in traffic jams which are a common scenario in Dhaka. But it is not possible to avail printed books at that time. Digital books (downloadable on handheld devices) can be a great saviour at that time," he said.

Senior Executive Ashikuzzaman of www.chorui.com said they took the writers' permission before publishing these books.

Meanwhile, 63 new books were published while Bangla Academy

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TRYING PAK ARMY OFFICERS FOR WAR CRIMES

Shajahan-led social org submits memo to JS Speaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A pro-liberation social organisation yesterday provided a memorandum to the speaker of parliament to press home a 10-point demand, including trial of former officers of Pakistan's armed forces who allegedly committed war crimes during the 1971 Liberation War.

Led by Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, Antorjatik Juddhaporadh Gonobichar Andolon first organised a rally in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club, blocking the thoroughfare for around one hour and causing immense traffic gridlock.

Addressing the rally, Shajahan said Pakistan violated the tripartite agreement of 1974, following which

195 Pakistani prisoners of war (POWs) were repatriated, as its president did seek pardon from Bangladesh and it did not repatriate citizens stranded in Bangladesh.

Since the agreement ceased to have effect, the former officers must be brought to book, he added.

Accusing Pakistan of still conspiring to patronise militancy in Bangladesh, the organisation demanded that the Bangladesh government reconsiders the extent of the diplomatic relations it wants to maintain.

On Tuesday, the organisation revealed a list of 200 officers, saying they found five more to have been involved in war crimes.

Starting around 3:00pm, the rally

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Hasina tells MPs to see if development money spent properly

Orders completion of Rooppur nuke plant on time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday in parliament urged lawmakers to investigate whether money allocated for development activities are being spent "for the interest of people properly".



She made the appeal while replying to a Jatiya Party MP's query on whether the implementation of the Padma bridge project with the government's own fund would affect other projects.

"All the development projects have been implemented properly without any need for extra funding," she assured, adding, "We have the economic ability to implement a big project, other projects will not be affected...construction of the Padma bridge is going on satisfactorily

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STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

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 birth of The Daily Star, some of the significant developments in this paper's evolution from a daily struggling to establish itself as an independent voice, to becoming the leading English newspaper that people have come to trust. There is also an important article about the stories of the dedicated workers working hard behind The Daily Star, so that everyday more than sixty five thousand readers all over the country get their copy of the newspaper on time. Don't forget your copy of *Star Weekend* tomorrow, Friday!

25 YEARS OF THE DAILY STAR

The birth of The Daily Star and the beginning of democracy in Bangladesh happened almost at the same time. This is seen as a landmark event in the country's history. It was the result of a long struggle for freedom and democracy. The Daily Star was born out of the struggle for a free and democratic Bangladesh. It has been a witness to the country's growth and development. It has been a platform for the people's voice and a catalyst for change. Today, as we celebrate 25 years of The Daily Star, we look back at the journey we have taken and the challenges we have overcome. We are proud of what we have achieved and we are confident about the future. The Daily Star will continue to be a voice for the people and a catalyst for change.

4th February WORLD CANCER DAY

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