

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 26.8 L 13.3	H 27.7 L 13.5	H 28.4 L 13.5	H 26.0 L 09.6	H 28.0 L 13.5	H 27.8 L 12.3	H 24.7 L 09.5	H 29.0 L 15.6

Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:48pm and rises tomorrow at 6:37am. Country's highest temperature 29.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Cox's Bazar and Sitakunda and lowest 07.8 Celsius in Sreemangal.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina bestows IEB gold medals on eminent engineers Nurul Huda, former Rujuk chairman, *left*, and Prof AMM Shafiulla, vice-chancellor of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology for their contributions to their respective fields at the inauguration of the 56th convention of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, held at the capital's IEB auditorium yesterday.

PHOTOS: PID

Make all public services available at upazila level

Hasina tells engineers; bestows IEB gold medals on Prof AMM Shafiulla, Nurul Huda for contributions

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked engineers to work out a master plan for each upazila so that people could avail themselves of all public services from one point.

She came up with the instruction while inaugurating the four-day 56th convention of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), held at the capital's IEB centre, with the theme "Engineers for Sustainable Development".

Hasina suggested keeping a provision of water bodies or ponds before taking plans and constructing large structures, and also playgrounds and walkways before constructing any big housing complexes.

She also sought all-out cooperation from engineers in attaining seven percent GDP growth this fiscal year saying that the key to development is in their hands and steering the country towards progress depends on their skills, sincerity and quick implementation of projects.

"When you formulate a plan, please make sure it does not entail high costs...it should be inexpensive and serve the maximum number of people," the premier urged.

She said building a poverty-free nation is not possible without educated people and the government gives top priority to education, especially multipurpose vocational education.

Earlier, Hasina awarded IEB gold medals to Prof AMM Shafiulla, vice-chancellor of the Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, and Nurul Huda, former Rujuk chairman, two eminent engineers, for their contributions to their respective fields.

She also inaugurated a 15-storey IEB Bhaban.

Children of FFs try to besiege Khaleda's house

Cops foil attempt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday foiled an attempt of several hundred people to besiege BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's residence protesting her remarks about the number of 1971 Liberation War martyrs which started a controversy.

As per a previous announcement, the members of Muktiyoddha Sangsad Santan Command, an organisation of the children of freedom fighters, started gathering at the Gulshan-2 intersection in the capital from 10:00am and marched towards Khaleda's house.

Police barred them, saying no gathering was allowed in a diplomatic zone.

Later they congregated at the Banani playground and briefly rallied there, demanding Khaleda's punishment. The protesters made another attempt to move to Khaleda's house but were stopped by police again.

On December 21 last year, Khaleda said, "There are controversies over how many were martyred in the Liberation War. There are also many books and documents on the

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Poetry lovers waning

Observe publishers at book fair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The readership of poetry is declining, and people do not have the passion for verses like before, observe a few publishers and sales persons at the ongoing Ekushey book fair.

There was a time between 1960s and 1980s, when people had a passion for verses, said Milan Kanti Nath, proprietor of Anupam Prakashani.

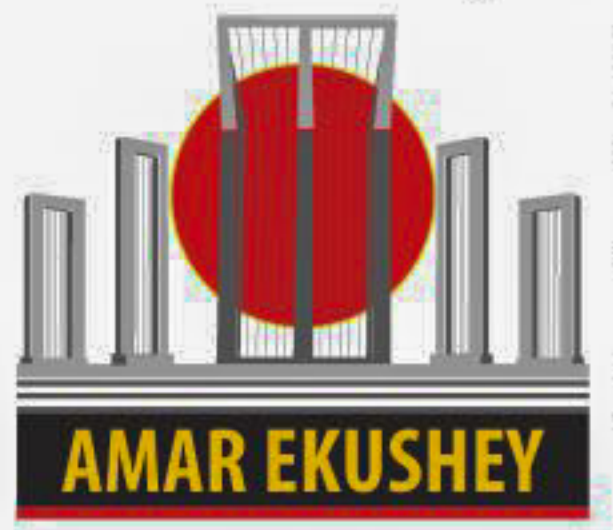
"People were eager to learn how to recite poetry during that time," he said.

"The new generation now spends most of their time on Viber or Facebook. They have no time to read poetry."

Some others think people are so consumed by the complexities of their daily lives today that there is no place of poetry in the lives.

A visitor at the fair, Sagar Ahmed, thinks, "Creative practice has declined because people do not find interest in reading or writing poems like before."

Shankar Das, salesperson of Somoy



Prakashana, said people were very interested in buying novels, plays, and stories. "They don't find interest in poetry," he added.

However, poetry books are coming out in the book fair every year.

Anupam Prakashani has already launched two poetry books.

There are also people who find time to compose poetry in their busy lives.

Mahbubul Hoque Shakil is one. His book "Mon Kharaper Gari" containing 102 poems was launched at Bangla Academy yesterday.

A total of 155 books arrived and five new books were launched at the fair yesterday.

There was also "Shishu Prohor" (children's hour).

The graphic novel series on the autobiography of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which was on sale at the stall of the Centre for Research and Information (CRI), drew many children.

The series is based on Bangabandhu's "Unfinished Memoir".

Unemployed BCS job seekers block Shahbagh intersection

Three held

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) cadre job seekers under the banner, 34th BCS Pass Cadre Deprived Forum, yesterday blocked the capital's Shahbagh intersection for half an hour for the implementation of their three-point charter of demands.

They demanded cancellation of the 34th BCS results and re-evaluating it on the basis of merit, recruiting them for the 672 vacant posts and not to fill-up the posts from those of the 35th batch and ensure appointment of all candidates passing in tests for non-cadre posts.

Police allegedly charged baton to disperse the agitators and detained three

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. Irene Z. Khan, Director-General, International Development Law Organization (IDLO), will deliver the 2nd *The Daily Star* 25th Anniversary lecture on "Human Rights and Free Media: Help or Hindrance to Development?"

Date : Monday, February 8, 2016
Time : 3:30pm
Venue : The Daily Star Centre (A.S. Mahmud Seminar Hall, L-3) 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.

You are invited

JP leader Bablu urges for nat'l convention on politics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, former secretary general of Jatiya Party, yesterday urged the government to arrange a national convention with all the registered political parties to formulate a process for handing over of power through an election as well as change the "existing political culture of destruction".

Bablu also emphasised on unity to control population and crime at educational institutions and ensure good governance,

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WOMEN'S RIGHTS ISSUES Columnists can build public opinion

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Columnists, as opinion formers, can play a crucial role in building public opinion on issues women face in society, women's rights activists and media personalities said at a discussion organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday.

"Though books have more permanence but columns enjoy a larger readership through newspapers which are circulated all over the country every day," said eminent former banker and columnist Ibrahim Khaled.

"One well-written piece on women's

issues in a widely circulated paper per month can bring a huge change," media personality Muhammad Jahangir told the discussion, "Columnists can change the Society", on the rights organisation's Segunbagicha premises in the capital.

Editorial boards can make it a policy for their regular columnists, he said, suggesting publishing post-editorial materials on debatable issues concerning women by taking opinions of different experts.

Columnist Syed Abul Maksud said, with more women joining the workforce than ever before, issues centring their work and

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