

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 28.4 L 13.6	H 27.9 L 13.5	H 28.2 L 13.9	H 24.8 L 12.3	H 28.2 L 13.6	H 28.5 L 12.4	H 27.4 L 14.6	H 30.4 L 17.5

Night temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:49pm and rises tomorrow at 6:36am. Country's highest temperature 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamati and lowest 09.2 in Sreemangal.

New UK envoy Alison pledges continued support

Makes courtesy call on PM
UNB, Dhaka

Newly appointed British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Alison Blake yesterday said Britain would continue to support Bangladesh in the country's development efforts.

"We'll continue support to the development efforts of Bangladesh", Blake said when she made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed the reporters after the meeting.

The British High Commissioner said that she would work for further strengthening the bilateral ties of the two countries.

She said that the British businesses want to expand their operations in Bangladesh, especially in the energy sector.

Blake also praised highly the performances of the Bangladeshi students in their 'O Level' and 'A Level' examinations.

The new envoy informed



With his bagful of books, a child heads home from the Ekushey book fair at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.

PHOTO: DARSHAN CHAKMA

JP MPs start boycotting Ershad's meetings

Till Raushan is made co-chairman 1
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party's (JP) Parliamentary Party yesterday decided to refrain from attending any meeting called by its Chairman HM Ershad, including today's views-exchange meeting until JP Presidium Member Raushan Ershad was appointed "co-chairman 1".

The decision was taken at a meeting in Opposition Leader in Parliament Raushan's parliamentary office with her in the chair and 27 MPs in attendance, says a press release, adding that the parliamentary party would protect JP's unity at any cost.

A meeting of the parliamentary party on January 19, in Ershad's presence, had taken three decisions, none of which had been implemented till date, it added.

The first was on cancelling the "unilateral and undemocratic" appointment of GM Quader as co-chairman and

Court takes case against AL MP Latif for "altering Bangabandhu's photo"

Designer takes blame onto himself but Ctg leaders reject claim
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday took cognisance of the case filed against Awami League lawmaker MA Latif over doctoring of the photo of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the festoons and banners, used for welcoming Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Chittagong city last week, and asked the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to investigate.

The court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Chittagong Nurul Alam Mohammad Nipu passed the order, said Chittagong Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Fakhruddin Chowdhury.

The court ordered PBI to probe into the matter by an officer of the rank of assistant superintendent of police (ASP) and to submit the report by February 22, the PP added.

Abdur Rahim Zillu, a former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), filed the case on February 4 alleging that Latif belittled the whole nation through the photo manipulation, which sparked an outcry among

The Daily Star in the house too

Genocide They Wrote exposes Pakistan once again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is a long history of Pakistan's efforts to deny its guilt and stop the trial and punishment of the ones involved in the genocide in 1971.

With the help of local collaborators, Pakistan committed atrocities and genocide over nine months in Bangladesh, and 44 years later when these collaborators were tried and punished by the International Crimes Tribunal, Pakistan expressed anxiety for the trial.

The Daily Star Books has published a book, "Genocide They Wrote", to make present and future generations aware about how Pakistan committed the genocide.

President Abdul Hamid unveiled the book on Friday.

The book is a compilation of a series of reports that were run following an unexpected denial of the very occurrence of the genocide by a



section of the Pakistani leadership.

The strength of these reports is that they are mostly based on Pakistani sources.

It is an audio-visual book written by Inam Ahmed and Shakhawat Liton.

To authenticate history, audio-visual clips were incorporated in the book through the use of Quick Code

or QR Code. Anyone interested to see the video clips should download a QR barcode scanner app from Google Playstore or iStore to scan the barcode.

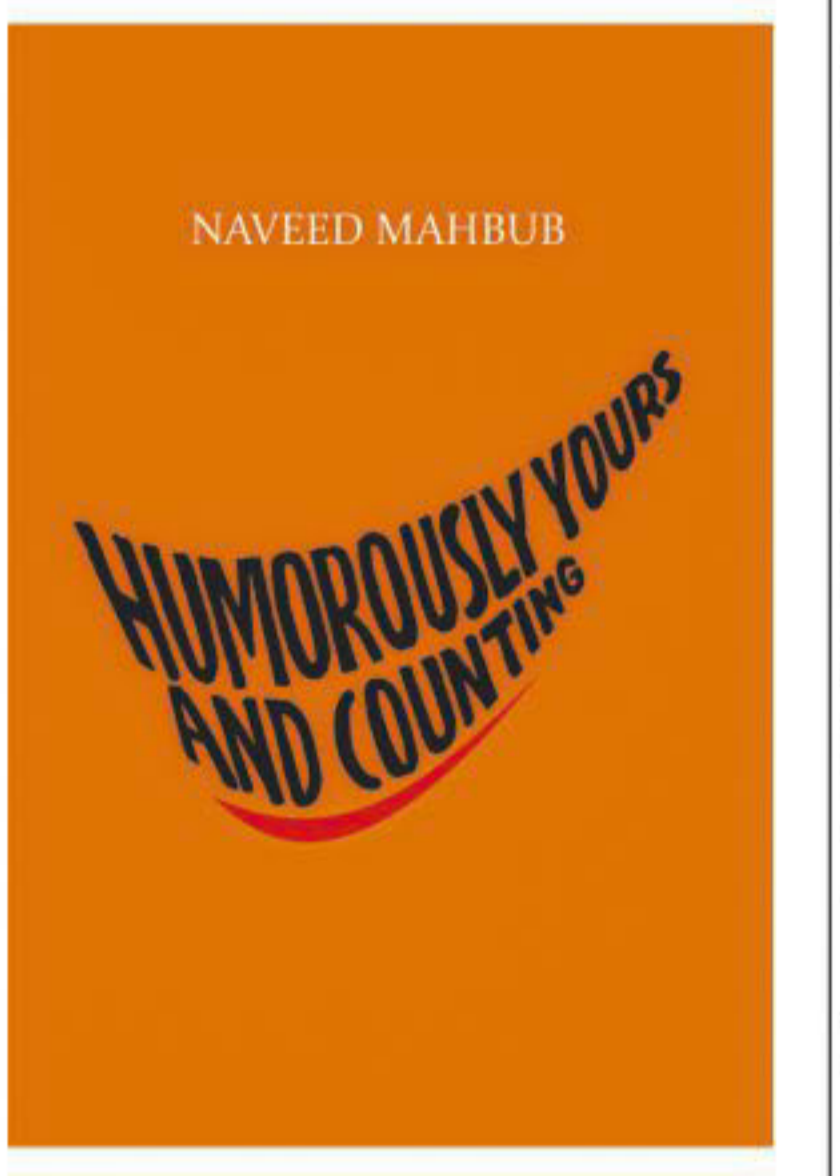
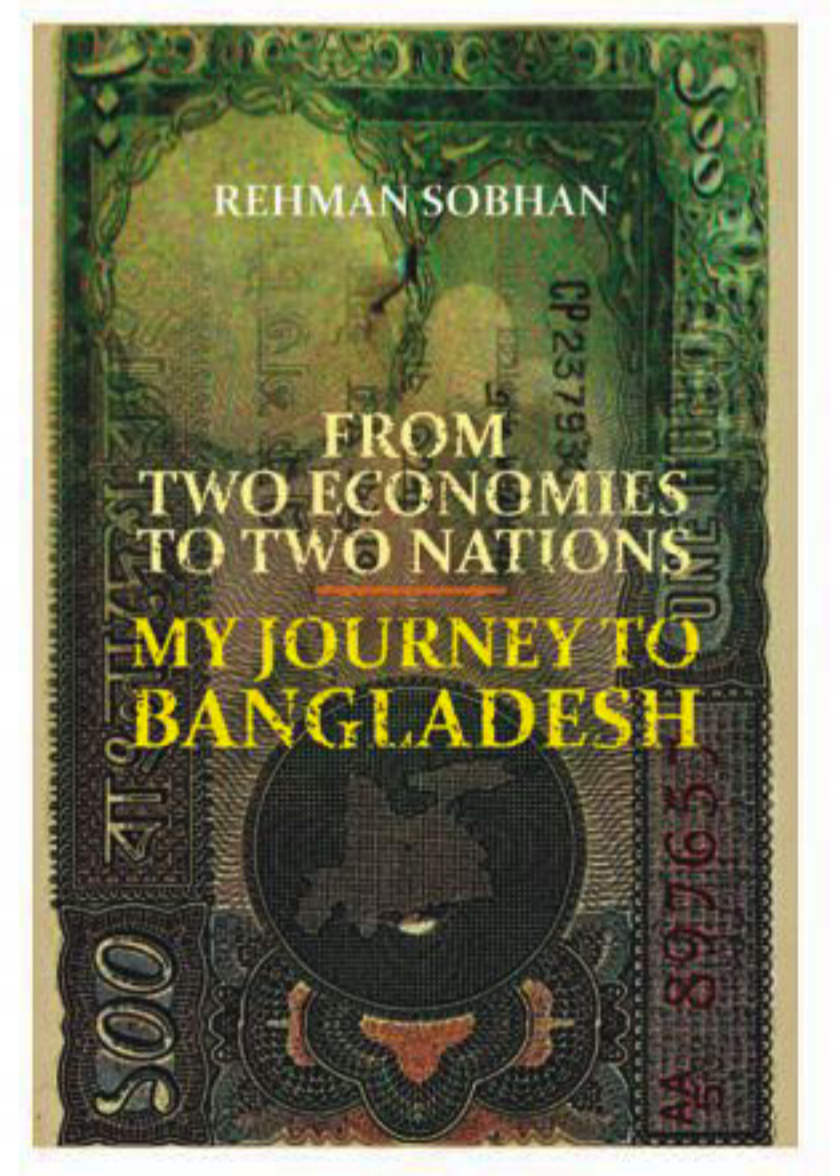
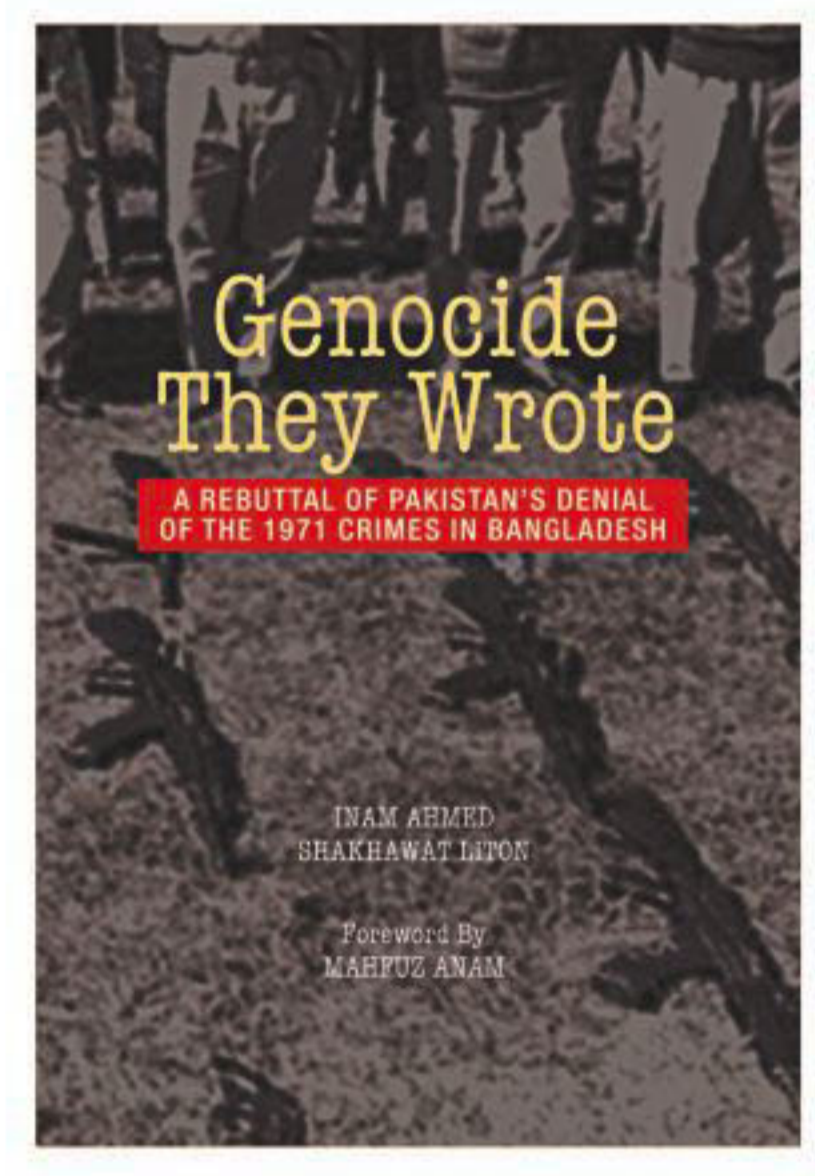
The book will be found at The Daily Star Books at stall 335-336 in the Amar Ekushey Granthamela.

In addition, 28 other books are on sale at the stall.

Of these, From Two Economics to Two Nations by Rehman Sobhan, Abul Mansur Ahmader Shrestha Golpo, Beyond the Lines by Kuldip Nayar, 1971 by Tarashankar Bandyopadhyay, and Humorously Yours 2 by Naveed Mahbub have drawn people's attention most.

Meanwhile, 118 new books arrived at the fair yesterday.

A discussion on "Silver Jubilee of Bangla Academy: Translation from Past to Present" was also held at the Bangla Academy, where translator Prof Abdus Selim presented a paper.



Rajuk drive against misuse of parking lots halts again

Due to dearth of cops
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

None of the three Rajuk eviction teams yesterday could carry out their scheduled eviction drives against illegal establishments in parking lots due to the dearth of required police force.

"Getting police force is difficult and involves a long process in the capital as they remain occupied with various tasks", said Khandokar Zakir Hossain, executive magistrate designated for eviction drive in Uttara.

Executive Magistrate Md Nasir Uddin, designated for the Dhanmondi drive, and Authorized Rajuk Officer Md Adiluzzaman, designated for the Gulshan drive, said they too had to postpone their drives due to lack of adequate supply of police force.

Rajuk following a housing ministry decision launched the drive simultaneously in Gulshan, Dhanmondi and Uttara on January 18 in a bid to reclaim designated basement car parking spaces being illegally used for commercial purposes, and dismantle illegal ramps

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Cops accused of not arresting 'abduction mastermind'

Alleges victim's father, says Narayanganj councillor often seen in town
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are not arresting a Narayanganj councillor of ward 17 although he has been accused in a case of masterminding the abduction of a 19-year-old and is often going to his workplace, alleged the victim's father yesterday.

"If police arrests him, we will get my son back as he, of course, knows my son's whereabouts," Lutfar Rahman told a press briefing in the capital's Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh.

After Asif Imran went missing on October 7 last year, Lutfar said to have received calls from unknown numbers demanding from Tk 10 lakh to Tk 20 lakh as ransom at different times.

In the case filed on November 1 last year, Lutfar accused four people -- Alamgir Islam, the councillor; Golam Mostafa Ador, Lutfar's neighbour in Uttara and Asif's friend; Ador's father Golam Mohammad Kalu and Ador's friend Shakil.

Ador had taken Asif, a first-year student of the American International University of Bangladesh, and Shakil to his Paikpara home in Narayanganj on October 7 last year, said the case statement.

Alamgir called up Ador around 4:00pm asking to come over at his Baburail office in Narayanganj, says a letter Ador submitted to the Narayanganj superintendent of police on October 21 seeking Asif's rescue.

When the trio entered the office, Alamgir and some men



Asif Imran

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60m people face food insecurity in country

Reveals WFP study; another FAO study says 56pc pre-school children underweight; Unicef study claims one-third of reproductive-age women underweight
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 60 million people in rural and urban areas of Bangladesh face food insecurity, and do not consume the minimal daily caloric intake required for a healthy life, according to the World Food Programme.

Almost one-third of all women of reproductive age in the country are extremely underweight, and the analogous condition is prevalent even in the wealthiest section of the society, reveal Unicef data while another study by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations shows that 56 percent of all pre-school children are underweight.

Given such conditions, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands will fund three projects in Bangladesh with Tk 150 crore in the next 3 to 4 years to improve food security and enhance nutrition and health security of the people.

The inaugural event of the three projects, titled "Development Partnership between the Netherlands and Bangladesh: Food Security and Safety, Sexual and Reproductive Health", was held yesterday morning at the Pan Pacific

Sonargaon Hotel in the capital.

Of the two food security projects -- 'Krishi Utsho' and 'Making Market Work for Women (MMWW)', the first one will be implemented by CARE Bangladesh while the other one by ActionAid Bangladesh, and an ongoing food safety project being implemented by FAO will be extended.

Being present as the programme's chief guest, Health Minister Md Nasim said, "Though we have achieved self-sufficiency in food, we could not provide food security to people".

"With the projects, we want to contribute to the development of efficient and inclusive value chain to enable farmers to access quality seeds and other inputs, make agri-entrepreneurs and improve food safety", said Ambassador of the Netherlands to Bangladesh Leoni Margaretha Cuelenaere while delivering her welcome speech.

Anowarul Haq, director of Extreme Rural Poverty Programme of CARE Bangladesh, said 65000 smallholder farmers, including 26000 women, would be reached out under the Krishi Utsho project through 230 informal shops that sell products including

Qatar to recruit over 3 lakh skilled workers

Says Expatriates' Welfare Minister Nurul Islam

UNB, Dhaka

Minister of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Nurul Islam yesterday said Qatar assured him of recruiting over 300,000 skilled Bangladeshi workers in the next two years.

Talking to reporters the same day after his recent visit in Doha, he said a consensus had been reached with the Qatari government during a bilateral meeting on 3 February, and the assurance is seen as a boost for the country's economy, which is heavily dependent on remittances sent by Bangladeshi workers employed abroad.

Qatar was represented by their minister of administrative development, labour and social affairs, Issa Saad Al-Fafali Al-Nuaimi.

The minister also added that a bilateral joint committee meeting would be held in Dhaka for the final agreement. The meeting would also revise the cost of sending workers.

He said that due to the upcoming 2022 World Cup, Qatar has great demand of skilled workers and Bangladesh can meet it. Some of the positions in demand include salesmen, nurses, doctors, engineers and office executives.

During his meeting at Doha, he urged minister Issa to come to Dhaka and formally meet with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The minister also paid a courtesy call to the Qatari Prime Minister Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani on 4 February to formally convey Hasina's invitation to Dhaka in March.

During the visit, he also requested his Qatari counterpart

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"ব্যঙ্গ-সৃষ্টিতে অসাধারণ প্রতিভার প্রয়োজন। ... বন্ধু আবুল মনসুরের হাত-সাহায্যে দেখে বিস্মিত হলাম। ভাষার কান মলে রস সৃষ্টির ক্ষমতা আবুল মনসুরের অসাধারণ। এ যেন পাকা গুস্তাদী হাত।"

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আজিজ সুপার মার্কেট, শাহবাগ: প্রথম (৯৬৬৪৮২৫), পাঠক সমাবেশ (০১৭১৩০৩৪৪০০) কাঁটাবন: প্রকৃতি (০১৭২৭৩২৮৭২৩), বেইলি রোড: সাগর পাবলিশার্স (৯৩৫৮৯৪৪) বিমান বন্দর: বুক ওয়ার্ম (৯১২০৩৮৭), নরসিংদী: বই পুস্তক (০১৮১৮৫০৪৮৯৩) কুষ্টিয়া: বইমেলা (০১৭১১ ৫৭৫৬০৬)।
চট্টগ্রাম: বাতিঘর (০১৭১৩০৩৪৪৪), প্রথমা (০১৭১১৬৪৯৪২২)