

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 27.9 L 17.5	H 27.2 L 16.3	H 27.3 L 17.5	H 27.2 L 14.8	H 29.4 L 18.5	H 28.0 L 17.3	H 27.0 L 14.2	H 28.8 L 19.4

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the country during late night till morning, Met Office said. Night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:51pm and rises tomorrow at 6:34am.

## Protect public life, property

PM tells Ansar, VDP

UNB, Gazipur

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the members of Bangladesh Ansar and VDP to discharge their duties with utmost sincerity and courage to protect public life and property.

The prime minister was addressing the 36th National Rally of Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) at Yeard Ali Parade Ground at Ansar-VDP Academy in Shafipur.

Hasina hoped that the members of this force will remain worthy partners and extend support in the future, as they did in the past, in turning Bangladesh into a poverty- and illiteracy-free middle-income country by 2021 and a modern technology-based prosperous and developed country by 2041.

The premier handed over Bangladesh Ansar Medal (Bravery) to three Ansar personnel, President Ansar Medal (Bravery) to seven, Bangladesh VDP Medal (Bravery) posthumously to one, Bangladesh Ansar Medal (Services) to six, Bangladesh VDP Medal (Services) to six VDP members, President Ansar Medal (Services) to 37 Ansar



A group of activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), a pro-BNP student organisation, run for cover during chases which occurred for the fourth consecutive day yesterday near the party's Nayapaltan central office in the capital over a newly formed JCD committee. One person was injured and three cocktails were reported to have exploded.

## Ershad forms team for organising party council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday formed a 171-member preparatory committee for organising the party's upcoming national council scheduled for April 16.

Earlier, JP Co-chairman GM Quader was made convener and Secretary General Ruhul Amin Howladar member secretary of the committee.

In the committee, Ershad also included dissident leaders Raushan Ershad, also the opposition leader, Anisul Islam Mahmud, also water resources minister, and Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, ex-secretary general.

The factionalism surfaced when Ershad made GM Quader co-chairman and Ruhul Amin secretary general. Raushan wants to be appointed co-chairman-1.

Insiders said if the conflict went on, it would affect preparations of the council.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## CTG BEACHES

### Govt to acquire 43 acres in two months for tourism boost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Within two months the government will acquire 43 acres of land to build tourism infrastructures at Patenga and Parki sea beaches of Chittagong.

Five acres of land in Patenga beach in the city and 38.02 acres of land in Parki beach under Anwara upazila will be acquired to build hotels, motels and other modern facilities, said Deputy Commissioner of the district Mesbah Uddin at a meeting of Chittagong Beach Management Committee at the DC office yesterday. Bangladesh Tourism Corporation will implement the projects.

The committee also decided to take various initiatives to ensure tourism facilities at the beaches. The measures include formation of diving unit at Patenga beach and deployment of tourist police and setting up tourist police camps at the two beaches to ensure tourists' safety and security, rehabilitation of traders at Patenga beach and deployment of cleaners at Patenga beach. Initiatives have been taken to improve electricity connection of Parki beach from a single-phase to three-phase as well as to construct a 5.45km connecting road of this beach, said the meeting.

## WAR CRIMES TRIAL

### Nasir Uddin Yousuff testifies against eight 'Al-Badr men'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighter Nasir Uddin Yousuff yesterday testified as the 22nd prosecution witness in a case filed against eight "Al-Badr men" from Jamalpur, who allegedly committed crimes during the Liberation War in 1971.

The accused are Ashraf Hossain, Prof Sharif Ahammed, Abdul Mannan, Abdul Bari, Harun, Abul Hashem, Shamsul Haque, and SM Yusuf Ali, 83. All are on the run except for Shamsul and Yusuf.

They are facing five charges including genocide. Shamsul and Yusuf, however, pleaded not guilty.

Yousuff, also an eminent cultural personality, told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that between 2007 and 2011, he presented a documentary programme "Muktijuddho Protidin" on Channel i, where the crimes committed by the Pakistani army and their local collaborators in 1971 were projected with evidence.

It also highlighted the valour of freedom fighters and

## Music no less a subject at book fair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Music lovers and enthusiasts can find suitable titles to explore the area of their interest, as the Amar Ekushey Granthamela offers over 100 of books on various aspects of music this year.

Kakoli Prokashoni is selling 57 music books written and edited by Shankar Roy.

The volumes are on songs written by Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, and Lalon and on different genres including folk, folk-verse, classical, modern, patriotic and devotional.

"Shreshtha Sangeet Songroho [compiling 1,556 best songs of 37 genres], Rabindra Sangeet Swaralipi, and Shreshtha Sangeet Swaralipi of Shankar Roy are selling most," said Rezaul, a salesman of the stall.

They also have books on easy learning of harmonium and tabla, he said.

Foyezur Rahman, a visitor, who was looking for Rabindra Sangeet Somogro, said, "I love Rabindra Sangeet very much. The book will help me sing his songs correctly."

Rezaul said they sold four to five music books every day.

Momo Prokashoni has 50 books on music and songs of different writers including Dilip Biswas, Shamim Chowdhury Shyamal and Pritam Ahmed.

Tawhidul Islam, a salesperson of Momo, said most people were buying Ganer Khata and Lalon Sangeet (Okhondo), edited by Dilip Biswas.

With over 30 books on music, the stall of Merit Fair Prokashon was set up at the north-west corner of the Suhrawardy Udyan.



## European Parliament team lauds Bangladesh for moderate Islam

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A visiting European Parliament delegation yesterday appreciated Bangladesh on being a moderate country in the Islamic world and expressed interest to work together in countering global terrorism, extremism and radicalisation.

Meeting Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali at the state guesthouse Padma, they appreciated the progress made concerning labour rights and factory safety in the readymade garment industry.

Welcoming the visit, Mahmood referred to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's "zero tolerance policy" in countering terrorism and violent extremism and assured of Bangladesh's sustained efforts, said a foreign ministry press release.

"We have come a long way since Rana Plaza despite many challenges," he said, expressing optimism that relations would continue to grow and emphasising on building long-term partnerships and seeking continued support.

Mahmood also apprised of Bangladesh's engagements in regional and sub-regional fora, including Saarc, BBIN, Bimstec and BCIM-EC, seeking support for realising potentials of "Blue Economy".

Earlier, the delegation also called on Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Law Minister Anisul Huq and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

The delegation is scheduled to hold a press meet today before departing, ending their three-day visit.



Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid awards a graduate at the 16th convocation of the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) yesterday, on the university property at Uttara-10 in the capital. Prof Abdul Mannan, chairman of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, attended the convocation as a special guest, and Hanne Fugl Eskjaer, Danish ambassador to Bangladesh, was the convocation speaker. A total of 2,517 graduates were conferred degrees at the ceremony.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

**Call 10678**

For Appointments and Emergencies  
Apollo Call Centre is Open 24/7

---

**CORPORATE BOOKING**

Water Kingdom will remain reserved on 12 February, 2016 (Friday) for UNICEF Bangladesh.

Water Kingdom will remain open for all from 13 February, 2016 (Saturday).

TEL: 01913531387, 01913531381



Gift storybooks to underprivileged children of remote Bangladesh! Light their lives with imagination

The Daily Star | jaago |

JOIN US AT STALL 335-336