

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 29.0 L 19.2	H 29.2 L 21.1	H 29.1 L 16.3	H 28.6 L 12.7	H 29.7 L 18.5	H 28.9 L 20.5	H 26.8 L 13.8	H 31.0 L 21.5

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country. 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 over northern part and may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:52pm and rises tomorrow at 6:32am.

Democracy in exile

Claims PM's Special Envoy Ershad, says no freedom of expression in country now

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said democracy had been "exiled" from the country as there was no freedom of expression now.

Also a special envoy to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, he made the remarks while addressing the two-yearly council of JP's Munshiganj unit at the district Shilpakala Academy.

"There is no democracy in the country at present... Democracy exists in speeches only, not in reality," said the former military dictator. There is no rule of law as well, he added.

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BFUJ faction demands 9th wage board for journo

BSS, Dhaka

A faction of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) yesterday demanded immediate formation of the 9th wage board for enhancement of salaries for journalists and employees of the newspaper industry.

The government should take immediate steps for announcing the ninth wage board, leaders told the executive committee meeting of the BFUJ faction at Jatiya Press Club, said a press release.

The meeting was chaired by acting president of the faction Jafar Wazed and conducted by its secretary

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Merriment in good company during a weekend completes celebrations marking Pahela Falgun and Saraswati Puja yesterday in Dhaka University, where Amar Ekushey Granthamela 2016 is also being held. The photo was taken on the fair's Bangla Academy premises.

Ensure quick implementation of dev projects

PM asks bureaucrats; govt not to enact any law that goes against Sunnah, she adds

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked civil servant to ensure quick implementation of the government's development programmes with honesty and sincerity and thus steer the country towards prosperity.

She made the directive while addressing the fifth founding anniversary of the BCS Women Network at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Expressing her resolve to build a better world, Hasina said all will have to "sacrifice their present" for the brighter future of the next generation.

Hasina said the government has taken various programmes for the development of the rural economy. "If we can not strengthen the rural economy, the industrialisation will be pointless," she added.

She also emphasised that it was not possible to have a developed society or a country without the development of women who constitute the country's half of the population.

"In 2009, we formulated the Women Policy...we made it clear that the government will never enact any law that goes against the Holy Quran and Sunnah, but we have to ensure

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BCL man missing for 18 days

Family says he was picked up by detectives; DMP denies allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of a former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday alleged that he had been missing since some people identifying themselves as law enforcers picked him up more than two weeks ago from the capital's Bashundhara area.

SM Moazzem Hossain Topu, 28, a former president of ward-22 unit of BCL, was picked up by "plainclothes detectives" from a friend's flat on January 26, said the family members who formed a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club for his return.

They urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's intervention in the matter.

Maruf Hossain Sorder, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star over the phone that they did not arrest him.

An inhabitant of Rampura, Topu used to visit his friend's flat near Apollo Hospital at Block D of Bashundhara area, said his elder brother SM Moinul Hossain.

Three men identifying themselves as detectives picked him up around 11:00pm on that day, Moinul said, quoting Topu's friend Arnab.

One of the men carried a pair of handcuffs, he added.

Youngest among two brothers and three sisters, Topu was popular among locals, said Moinul, adding his political rivals might have had him kidnapped.

The family filed a general diary and an abduction case with Bhatara Police Station, he added.

His mother Saleha Begum said his father fell sick following their son's disappearance.

"I want my son back," she said.

Officer-in-Charge of Bhatara Police Station Nurul Muttakin said they were investigating the incident and working to find him.

Book fair wears colours of spring

MAHDI AL MUHTASIM

The book fair took up a festive look yesterday with people especially the youths clad in colourful clothes streaming onto the premises on the occasion of Pahela Falgun and Saraswati Puja. While children and women mostly wore yellow saris and flower crowns, men were seen in panjabis.

The fair ground was also abuzz with chattering children coming to enjoy the Shishu Prohor or Children's Hours. The young readers enjoyed their favourite characters of TV show "Sisimpur" Halum, Ikri and Tuktuki roaming around the premises.

Long queues were seen before the Bangla Academy and Suhrawardy Udyan. Visitors to the fair also dropped by at Jagannath Hall playground of Dhaka University to enjoy the beautifully decorated Puja Mandaps set up by different departments.

Meanwhile, the second part of the graphic novel series on the life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was launched at the book fair.

The Centre for Research and Information (CRI) published the series, with the first part being launched on March 17, 2015 on the last birth anniversary of the father of the nation and National Children's Day.

The comic series is available at the CRI stall on the Bangla Academy premises.

The second part focuses on Bangabandhu's political awakening and the development of a close relationship with Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, his political mentor. The price of the second part is Tk 110.

At the launching programme, Radwan Mujib Siddiq, grandson of Bangabandhu, said, "We want to make our children and youths aware about the historic activities of Bangabandhu. We want to portray how a boy of Tungipara enlightened himself in politics despite hailing from an ordinary family."

The first part portrays the childhood and growing up of Bangabandhu. The next parts will focus on the vision and mission that paved his way to great leadership. The entire autobiographical book by Bangabandhu, "The Unfinished Memoirs", would be presented in 12 parts in the series, said Radwan, a publisher of the book.

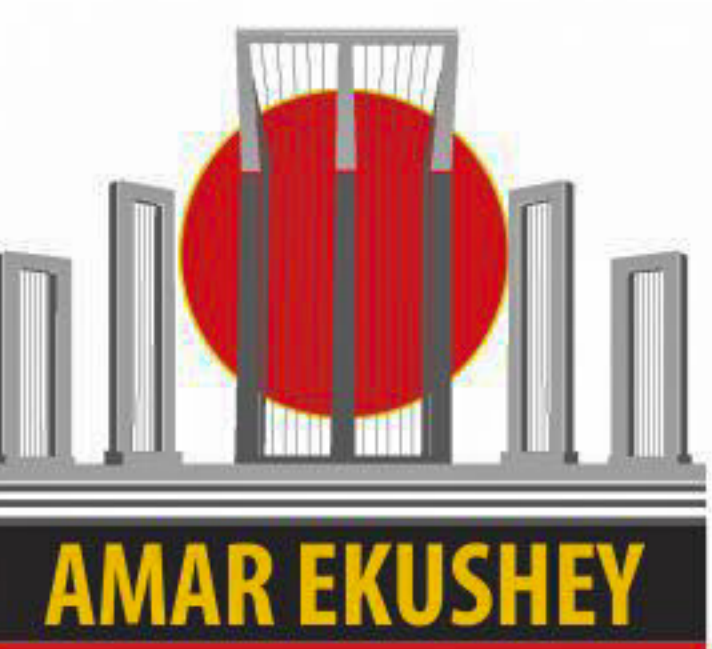
Later, 100 children who won Friday's quiz competition on the first part of the graphic novel were awarded.

Ashrufa Tabassum, a winner and class V student of BGB Government Primary School, said, "I am always curious about Bangabandhu. I am very happy to have won the prize and got the new beautiful book."

A total of 135 books arrived, and five new books were launched at the fair yesterday.

Today the fair is open from 3:00pm to 8:00pm.

At 4:00pm, a discussion titled "Bangladeshe Rabindra Charcha: Otiti Theke Bartaman" will be held at the main stage of the Bangla Academy. There will be a cultural event in the evening as well.



A Dhaka South City Corporation worker replaces a conventional sodium street light in the capital's Intercontinental Hotel area yesterday with a light emitting diode (LED) bulb, some to be run by solar power. The installation of the LED lights, which will save electricity and emit brighter lights is an initiative taken by DSCC as part of its Clean Dhaka campaign.

PHOTO: STAR

UNION PARISHAD ELECTIONS 2016

BNP dist leaders asked to send names for chairmen candidacy

Chairperson Khaleda to give final nod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

District unit presidents and general secretaries will have to send names of probable chairman candidates for the upcoming union parishad elections to BNP's central office in the capital's Naya Palatan at least seven days before the nomination submission deadline.

Chairperson Khaleda Zia will give the final approval, said a press release undersigned by BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed.

BNP candidates would be selected by five-member committees comprising the party's respective UP unit president, general secretary and organising secretary and upazila u n i t

Ctg teenager chops man into 10 pieces

Gets caught after a month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A 19-year-old boy, Ariful, killed a family acquaintance, in their single-room rented house at EPZ area of Chittagong city by suffocating the sleeping man, cutting the body into 10 pieces and dumping those in different places in the city including the Karnaphuli river after keeping the body hidden under a bed for two days.

After nearly a month of investigation police arrested Ariful by tracking the cellphones he used, said Devdash Bhattacharya, Chittagong Metropolitan Police additional commissioner (crime), yesterday.

The victim, Md Mohsin, 51, captain of an oil vessel was

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4th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In the Loving Memory of
Al Hajj Lt. Col. Hesamuddin Ahmed
psc (Retd).

Al Hajj Lt. Col. Hesamuddin Ahmed, psc (Retd), served as a Secretary to the Government of Bangladesh in various ministries. He served as the Administrator of the Dhaka Municipality, Chairman of RAJUK and other important corporations.

Being the Founder President of the National Shooting Federation Bangladesh, One of the Founder Member and Vice Chairman RAOWA, his contributions will always be remembered.

He was associated with UCEP Bangladesh, SAHIC and various sports and social welfare organizations. In recognition of his remarkable contributions in the field of Sports development and social welfare he was awarded the National Sports Award (2003), Atish Dipankar Gold Medal, Poet Sarojini Naidu Gold Medal, C R Das Gold Medal etc.

Dearly Missed & Always Cherished by
Wife, Son, Daughter, Son in Law,
Daughter in Law & Granddaughter.

"Our heart still ache with sadness, and many tears will flow. What it means to lose you, no one will ever know. We hold you close in our hearts, to walk with us until we meet in the stars"