

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 31.3 L 20.3	H 31.8 L 21.3	H 31.0 L 17.6	H 30.5 L 16.5	H 31.7 L 21.5	H 31.5 L 19.5	H 29.5 L 15.2	H 34.0 L 21.6

Weather may remain dry with temporary 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, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:54pm and rises tomorrow at 6:30am.



US hopes for breakthrough in probe

UNB, Dhaka

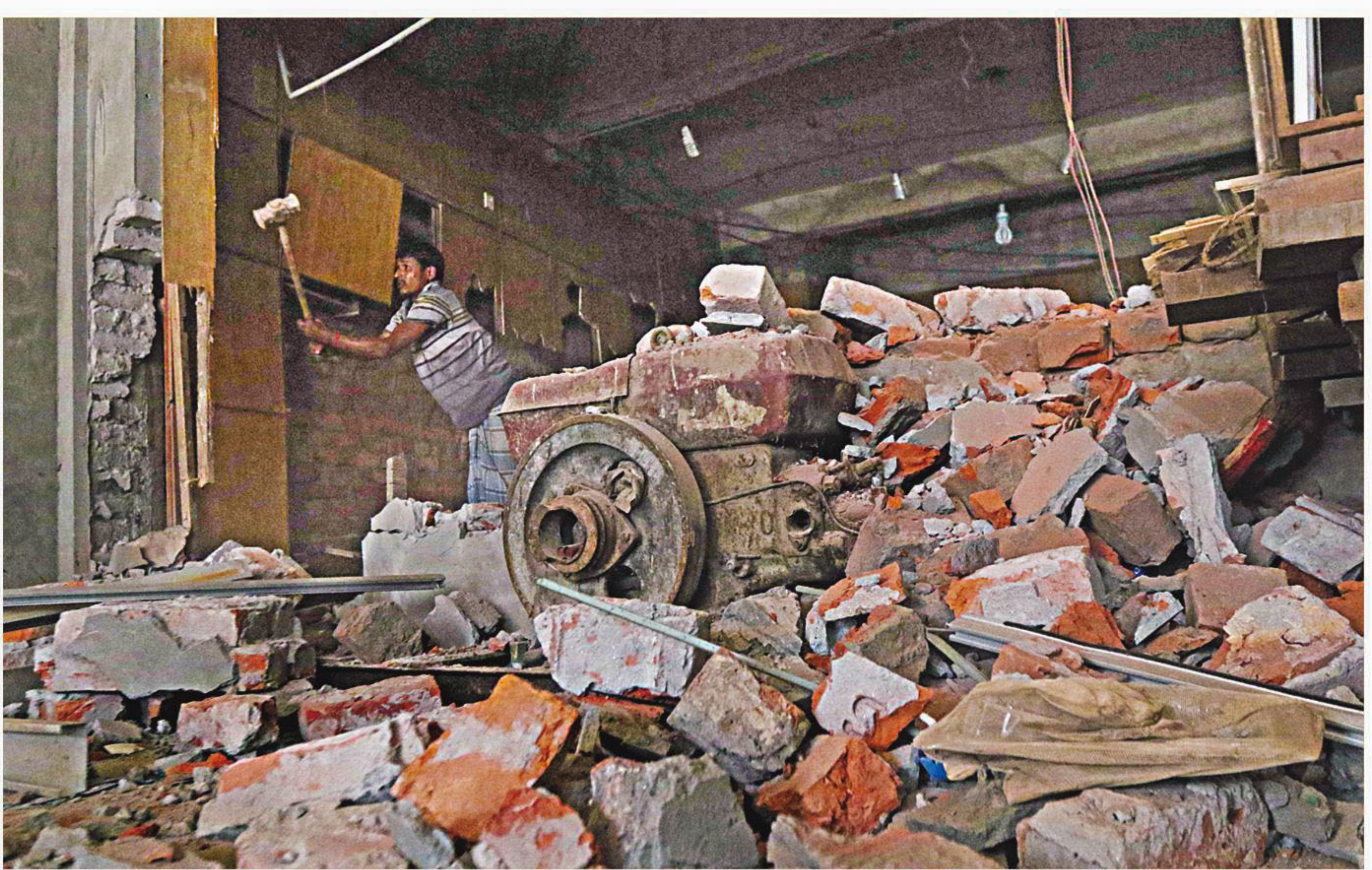
The United States is hoping to see a "breakthrough" in the ongoing investigation into the murder case of Bangladeshi-American blogger Avijit Roy and the "real culprits" will hopefully be netted, US Ambassador in Dhaka, Marcia Bernicat, told the reporters yesterday after attending a function in the capital's Mirpur area.

There has not been much headway into the killing over the last one year as the suspects, who are in jail, did not give any confessional statement.

Avijit, son of a noted physicist, Ajoy Roy, and the founder of Mukto-Mona blog, was hacked to death, and his wife Rafida Afrin Banya was injured as unidentified killers attacked them with meat cleavers near TSC on the Dhaka University campus on February 26, 2015.

The expatriate couple returned home a few days before the killing as Avijit's

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha conducts a demolition drive to free the parking space of a house on Green Road in the capital yesterday. It had been illegally rented out as an office space. The capital faces crippling traffic congestion almost every day for a host of reasons, a huge lack of parking space being a major one. Rajuk has started the campaign recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

S'pore polytech instt to train Bangladeshi teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nanyang Polytechnic International (NPI) of Singapore will provide special training to 1,150 teachers of different polytechnic institutes and officials of technical education in Bangladesh.

An agreement was signed in Singapore yesterday in this regard, says an education ministry press release.

Director General of Directorate of Technical Education Ashoke Kumar Biswas and NPI Chief Executive Officer Foong Tze Foon inked the deal on behalf of the respective sides in the presence of Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Singapore Mahub Uz Zaman and NPI Principal Jeanne Liew.

As per the deal, teachers of polytechnic institutes and officials in technical education will receive training at NPI on 60 courses in the next three years.

Besides, the NPI will fund construction of 10 modern laboratories at 10 polytechnic institutes in Bangladesh under this deal.

The education minister

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

HC verdict on Tarique's plea for scrapping bribery trial March 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fixed March 16 for delivering verdict on the petitions filed by four accused, including BNP leader Tarique Rahman, for quashing the proceedings against them in the Tk 21 crore bribery case.

The Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case on October 4, 2007 against Tarique, former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and four others involving

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN Rising violence against them negates Liberation War spirit

Sultana Kamal tells publication ceremony of report by Kapaeeng Foundation, Bangladesh Indigenous Women Network

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Increasing violence against women of ethnic minorities is tantamount to disregarding the fundamental spirit of the country's Liberation War, human rights activist Sultana Kamal said yesterday.

Impunity to the perpetrators of such violence has made the victims even more vulnerable, she said.

Addressing the launch of a report on ethnic minority women, Sultana Kamal called for full implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace accord to prevent violence against them.

Kapaeeng Foundation and Bangladesh Indigenous Women Network, with support from Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), organised the launching ceremony of "Annual Situation Report 2015 on Indigenous Women in Bangladesh" at The Daily Star Centre.

According to the report, between 2007 and 2015, a total of 434 minority ethnic women and girls were subjected to physical and sexual violence with no single instance of justice done.

In 2015 alone, 38 out of 69 incidents of violence occurred in CHT.

Violence against ethnic minority women is used as a strong tool to displace the minority communities from their ancestral homes, said Prof Sadeka Halim, former information commissioner.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam said violence against women was used as a tool to serve certain agenda in the hill tracts. Though it was envisioned in the constitution, a country free of discrimination still remains.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

UNION PARISHAD ELECTIONS

BGB will not be deployed

EC initially decides

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has initially decided not to deploy members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in the upcoming Union Parishad polls, said officials.

The level of violence in UP elections will be lower than other polls. So, regular law enforcement agencies are enough to maintain the law and order situation during the polls, the EC thinks.

"As these are grassroots level elections, all candidates are known to each other. Even, many contestants are each other's relatives. So, we think the polls will witness less violence," Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz told The Daily Star.

Additional police, Rab and Ansar members will be deployed in some UPs if tension of violence prevails in the areas, said the commissioner.

"If the situation gets worse ahead of the polls, we will rethink the issue of deployment of BGB members at that time," he said.

However, BNP on February 14 in a letter expressed fear that partisan UP polls might create unrest at grassroots level and wreak havoc on public life.

For the first time in Bangladesh, elections for the post of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Ex-info minister complains about being sidelined in JS Q&A session

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former information minister Abul Kalam Azad yesterday expressed his grievance over not getting a reply to a question he submitted in parliament.

Speaking on a point of order, Azad, also chief of the parliamentary standing committee on planning, said, "I had the Right to Information Act passed in parliament for ensuring transparency and accountability. But it's an irony of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



From left, Dhaka University's Prof Sadeka Halim, Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam, Kapaeeng Foundation Executive Director Pallab Chakma, rights activist Sultana Kamal, and DU's Prof Obaidul Haque hold copies of the "Annual Situation Report 2015 on Indigenous Women in Bangladesh" at its launching ceremony at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

In fond memory of

M.A. RASHID
May 3, 1939 - February 17, 1993

"You are not forgotten
Nor ever shall you be
As long as life and memory last
We will remember thee".

Mahmudul Islam was true officer of court

CJ, jurists mourn ex-attorney general's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha and eminent jurists yesterday deeply mourned the demise of renowned lawyer and constitution expert Mahmudul Islam.

"His death is an irrecoverable loss to the legal arena and Bangladesh's judiciary. The nation has lost one of the most accomplished legal experts," he said in a condolence message.

Former attorney general Mahmudul Islam passed away at the United Hospital in Dhaka early yesterday at the age of 79.

"The entire Supreme Court family is deeply saddened," Justice Sinha said. He said the country's legal system had been enriched with Islam's research based publications on constitutional laws, interpretation of laws and policy of their enforcement, and civil laws.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Ecneec okays construction of 12 new police barracks

Eight other projects also approved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BANGABANDHU SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN NOVO THEATRE

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) approved the construction of 12 new barracks in different units of police.

The approval came at a meeting of the Ecneec held yesterday.

The barracks will be constructed at the cost of Tk 219 crore.

According to the planning ministry's proposal, in the last five years, around 30,000 police personnel had been recruited and in the next few years, 50,000 more will be recruited.

Though the number of police increased, their accommodation facilities did not. That's why 12 new barracks will be built in 10 districts, the proposal added.

At present, the number of police personnel is 1.77 lakh, according to the ministry.

The Ecneec approved another project, worth Tk 222 crore, for setting up of a Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novo Theatre in Rajshahi to provide space-related education to the new generation.

Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said such Novo Theatres (planetarium) would be set up in all divisional cities in phases. After the one in Rajshahi, another planetarium will be built in Chittagong.

In addition, two separate projects were approved for the construction of some 744 flats for government staff in the capital's Malibagh and Mirpur areas.

The projects, scheduled to be completed by 2019, were allocated Tk 314 crore.

A total of nine projects, including the above four, were approved yesterday, involving Tk 4,961 crore.

A REBUTTAL OF PAKISTAN'S DENIAL OF THE 1971 CRIMES IN BANGLADESH

Genocide They Wrote

INAM AHMED
SHAKHAWAT LITON

Foreword By
MAFUZ ANAM

350/=

বইটি পাওয়া যাচ্ছে অমর একুশে গ্রন্থমেলায় ডেইলি স্টার বুকসের ৩৩৫-৩৬ নং স্টলে।

Home Delivery Service
www.rokomari.com
16297

Our books are available at:
Aziz Super Market, Shahbag; Prothoma (9664825), Pathak Shamabesh (01713034440) New Market; Book Web (01712533330) Dhanmondi; Gyankosh (8623251), Baily Road; Sagor Publishers (9358944), Gulshan; Gloria Jean's Coffees (01970008989), Banani; Ananya Crafts (9882542), Old Airport; Bookworm (9120387), Airport; Omni Books (8901808), Chittagong; Batighar (01713304344) and Prothoma (01711649422)