

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 31.0 L 20.5

CHITTAGONG
H 29.6 L 23.2

SYLHET
H 30.5 L 17.6

RAJSHAH
H 30.6 L 14.4

KHULNA
H 31.5 L 21.5

BARISAL
H 32.0 L 22.8

RANGPUR
H 28.8 L 13.9

COX'S BAZAR
H 30.2 L 23.0

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country, Met Office said. Night temperature may fall by 1-3 degree Celsius and day temperature may fall by 2-3 degree Celsius over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:58pm and rises tomorrow at 06:25am. Country's highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded on Tuesday in Patuakhali and lowest 12.8 in Dinajpur.

Pahela Baishakh celebration only event at Ramna Park from now on

Public works minister tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From now on any programme except the Pahela Baishakh celebration will not be allowed at the capital's Ramna Park to save its trees and beauty, said Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain yesterday.

As the chief guest, addressing a seminar "Ramna Park: keeping up beauty, utility and tradition," at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh, the minister said a committee of environmentalists and experts would be formed to identify the trees needed to be cut to save the important and rare trees.

He said the committee would also select the flower trees which would be planted there to increase the park's beauty.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), Bangladesh Institute of Architects, Tarupallab,

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Rajuk knocks down an illegal structure in front of the capital's Russell Square in Panthapath area as part of a simultaneous drive in Dhanmondi, Gulshan and Uttara yesterday to recover designated car parking spaces and remove illegal access ramps built occupying footpaths and road width.

PHOTO: STAR

Rajuk reclaims more parking lots, roads, footpaths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three teams of Rajuk cleared illegally occupied car parking spaces at over a dozen buildings in Gulshan, Uttara and Dhanmondi in the capital yesterday.

The Dhanmondi team knocked down illegal setups at six buildings on Panthapath, said Md Nasir Uddin, executive magistrate and penalised the offenders Tk 3 lakh.

Khandokar Zakir Hossain, executive magistrate, said the Uttara team knocked down a ceramic products showroom in place of a basement parking and penalised a pharmacy owner Tk 1 lakh for illegally occupying a ground floor parking space on Gausul Azam Avenue.

The Gulshan team cleared unauthorised shops and over half a dozen access ramps built blocking the sidewalks and occupying road width, from road-2 in J block of Baridhara, said Md Abdul Hamid Mian, executive magistrate.

Rajuk launched the

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Assam, Meghalaya people could use Sylhet airport

Hasina tells Indian Air Chief Marshall Arup Raha; stresses boosting regional economic cooperation

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the initiatives on regional cooperation like BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal) and BCIM-EC (Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar Economic Corridor) will generate greater economic activities among neighbouring countries, accelerating their development.

Sheikh Hasina came up with the view when visiting Indian Air Chief Marshall Arup Raha met her at her office. Lily Raha, wife of Arup Raha, was also present.

Ihsanul Karim, press secretary of Prime Minister's Office, briefed reporters after the meeting.

"Once the sub-regional cooperation initiatives like the BBIN and

BCIM-EC start functioning, these will create opportunities to generate more economic activities among the countries," said the prime minister.

Hasina said Syedpur Airport would be turned into a regional airport for airlifting cargos to the neighbouring countries.

She laid emphasis on increasing the number of border haats along the Bangladesh-India border, and said the residents of Assam and Meghalaya states could avail themselves of flights to and from London from Sylhet Osmani International Airport.

Terming his visit to Bangladesh significant, the Indian Air Chief said the bilateral relations have reached

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Murder of Hindu priest indicates ominous future

Says Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday condemned Sunday's attack on a temple in Panchagarh's Debiganj upazila and the murder of its priest, saying the killing indicated an ominous future.

In a media statement, she described the murder as "bestial" and demanded immediate arrest of the killers and exemplary punishment for them.

Unidentified criminals slit the throat of Jogeswar Dasadhikari, 50, at Sri Sri Shonto Gaurio temple on Sunday and fled the scene firing shots and exploding homemade bombs, which also injured two devotees.

The BNP chief said the civil society repeatedly warned against the possibility of emergence of extremist and radical

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Wildlife finds place at book fair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



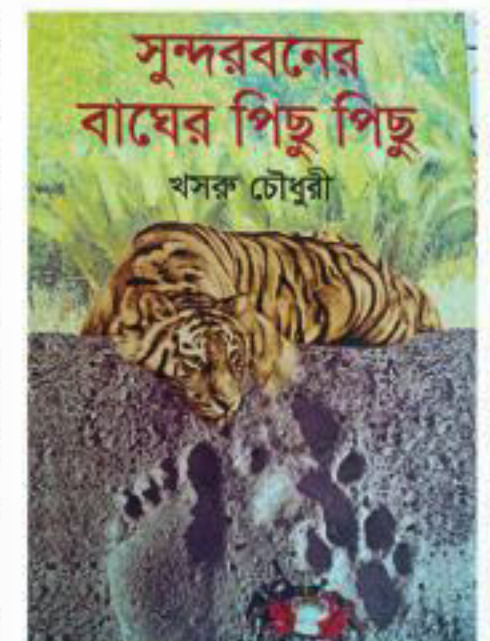
There is something majestic about the national animal of our country. The reddish orange with narrow black, gray or brown stripes and the icy blue eyes of a Bengal Tiger not only creates fear among its preys; it exudes royalty through its strength

and splendour.

According to Tiger expert Khasru Chowdhury not more than 50-60 people were killed by tigers in the 14 countries where the animal dwells primarily; where as, 300 were killed by elephants, 7,000 from snake bites and 300 by crocodile every year. Still, there are a good numbers of stories on tigers, its agility and hunting prowess compared to other animals.

Khasru, in his book, "Sundarbaner Bagher Pichhu Pichhu [Following Tigers of the Sundarbans]" wrote about the habits and habitats of the Bengal Tiger.

In one of his stories, Khasru vividly pointed out how a tiger attacked a fisherman Torab Ali and dragged him to the deep forest. Locals followed the tiger by tracing its footprint on clay. Three hours later, they only found some leftover body parts of Torab. Hunter Ziaul Huq set up a 12-foot high tower to hunt it down. Several hours later, the tiger reappeared to eat the leftover. As it approached, Huq shot it.



The Bengal Tiger is one of the prominent indigenous animals of Bangladesh. Two hundred years ago, they were found everywhere. But after 60s, it has been found only in the Sundarbans.

The book, published in this February, is now available at the pavilion of Somoy Prokashon at the Amar Ekushey Granthamela 2016.

Also, a book on the birds of Bangladesh "Feathered Splendours Birds of Bangladesh" written by a bird expert Enam Ul Haque can be found at The University Press Ltd.

In the book, bird enthusiasts can find much information on birds and enjoy stunning photographs. The book, published in 2014, classified birds according to its habitats.

Meanwhile, Director General of Bangla Academy Dr Shamsuzzaman Khan yesterday formally launched the book "Sangbadikota: Offline Online"

written by senior journalist of The Daily Star Mahamudul Haque.

Among others, Secretary of ICT Division Shyam Sunder Sikder and noted thinker, social scientist Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, former secretary general of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Abdul Jalil Bhuyian were present. The book is available at stall no 281-282 of Academic Press and Publishers Library at the Granthamela.

A total of 93 new books hit the fair yesterday.



Visiting Indian Air Chief Marshall Arup Raha meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PHO

WAR CRIMES IN JESSORE

Ex-MP Shakhawat shot FF informer dead

Testifies fifth witness; tribunal asks for formal charges, if any, against three Mymensingh suspects on March 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday testified that he had seen former Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP lawmaker Shakhawat Hossain shoot dead an informer of the freedom fighters in Jessore's Keshabpur upazila during the Liberation War in 1971.

Kazi Abdul Aziz, of Chingra village in the upazila and the fifth prosecution witness in the case against nine Jessore men including Shakhawat, told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that he himself was tortured by Shakhawat's accomplices at the time of the killing.

The eight others accused are Mujibur Rahman, Abdul Khaleq, Lutfar Morol, Billal Hossain, Kazi Ohdul Islam, Aziz Sardar, Aziz Sardar (2), and Ibrahim Hossain.



The nine face five charges. Of them, Shakhawat, Billal and Lutfar are now in jail and have pleaded not guilty. The rest are on the run.

The 66-year-old witness said he used to work at his uncle's storehouse at Chingra Bazar during the war and Razakar camps were set up at Chingra Bazar Sub-Registrar's Office, Union Council Office and the primary school there.

Shakhawat was the commander of the camps, he said.

Around 8:30am on the 28th of Bangla month of Ashwin, when he was working at the storehouse, he saw accused Ibrahim, Abdul Aziz (son of Fulmia), Abdul Aziz (son of Ahmed Sarder), Abdul Khaleq, Lutfar Morol and four to five other armed Razakars, were taking a boy, hands tied

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GOVT PAY SCALE DISPUTE Public univ teachers postpone strike again

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association yesterday extended the suspension of the indefinite work stoppage for the third time till March 6, hoping for positive responses from the government to remove "discrepancies" between teachers and bureaucrats in the eighth national pay scale.

The federation secretary general, ASM Maksud Kamal, made the announcement at a press briefing after holding a general meeting of FBUTA at Dhaka University Club.

Briefing journalists, Prof Maksud said the teachers would sit down with the Finance Minister AMA Muhith-led cabinet sub-committee on the salary discrimination on March 6.

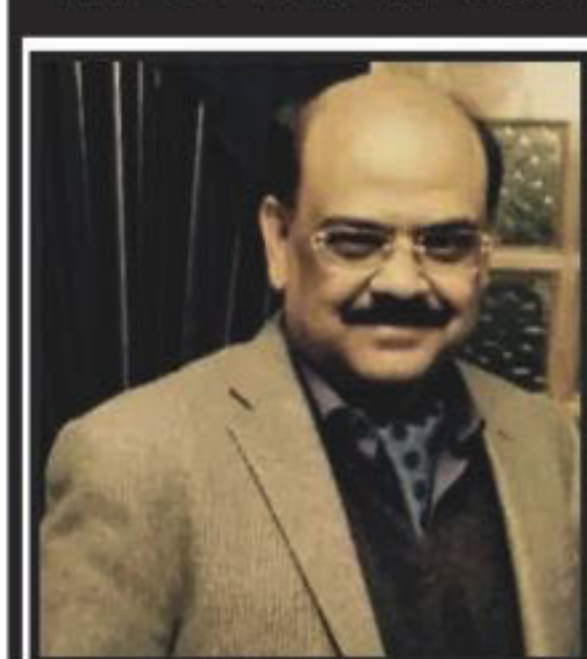
FBUTA President Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed said, "We hope that a respectable solution will come out in the next meeting. But a lot depends on the mindset of the bureaucrats."

However, the teacher leaders threatened to go for tougher movement if their demands were not met within March 6. FBUTA will meet again on March 8 to plan the next course of action. "We have seen the government dilly-dallying in

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1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MD. RAFIUDDIN BABLU



Today the 24th February is the 1st death anniversary of late Md. Rafiuddin Bablu, Managing Director of Modhumita Group and youngest son of late Md. Sirajuddin founder of Modhumita Group.

Though he is not in this world he lives in our hearts, in our minds and in our memory.

All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

All Members of Modhumita Family



WE MOURN

With great respect and profound grief, we mourn the sad demise of eminent industrialist and Chairman of Chand Group of Industries Al-Haj Saleh Ahmed on 21st February, 2016 at United Hospital from a sudden cardiac failure (Inna lillahe wa inna ilaihe rajiun). He was 79 years old. He was the past President of BTMA and also the executive member of Dhaka chamber of commerce. With his demise, the country has lost a pioneer in Textile, a visionary entrepreneur and a renowned business leader. He left behind one son, two daughters, wife, grieving family members and a host of well-wishers to mourn his loss. May Allah give him eternal peace and provide salvation of the departed soul. May the Almighty in His infinite mercy give the members of the bereaved family the strength to bear the loss.

From the bereaved family members