

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

**DHAKA**  
H 31.2 | L 20.0

**CHITTAGONG**  
H 31.9 | L 20.5

**SYLHET**  
H 30.9 | L 18.5

**RAJSHAHI**  
H 30.2 | L 19.5

**KHULNA**  
H 30.5 | L 21.0

**BARISAL**  
H 31.0 | L 19.4

**RANGPUR**  
H 29.5 | L 17.2

**COX'S BAZAR**  
H 31.0 | L 21.5

Rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions and the regions of Comilla and Noakhali till 6:00pm today, Met Office said. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged and day temperature may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:00pm and rises tomorrow at 6:22am.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

A girl is introduced to Bangla letters at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday, at a programme organised by theatre group Karak Natya Sampraday marking International Mother Language Day. The children also drew pictures and took part in a letter writing contest.

## CRUELTY AGAINST CHILDREN Man uproots nephew's teeth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A 10-year-old boy lost five of his upper front teeth when being brutalised by his maternal uncle in Dowarabazar upazila of Sunamganj Thursday.

He was being punished for bunking classes and instead visiting his grandfather.

Local people rescued Tajul Islam and had him admitted to Sylhet Medical College Hospital.

The incident happened when there has been a huge outcry over numerous reports of brutality against children all over the country.

Quoting the villagers, police said Tajul, a student of Tebali Hafizia Madrasa, missed the classes on Thursday and instead went to visit his grandfather at Rakhalkandi village.

The boy lives at the same village with his widowed mother Surjo Banu.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Manna's release demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming the allegations against Convener of Nagorik Oikya Mahmudur Rahman Manna false, a group of politicians yesterday demanded his immediate release.

They raised the demand at a rally in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal General Secretary Khalequzzaman, Jatiyatabadi Samajtantrik Dal-JSD General Secretary Abdul Malek Ratan, and Organising Secretary of Gonoforum Mostak Ahmed, among others, spoke at the protest rally, says a press release.

Detective police detained Manna on February 24, a day after the leak of one of his phone conversations with BNP leader Sadeque Hossain Khoka, in which he discussed strengthening of anti-government movement.

The rally also condemned filing of cases against The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, and said this was like an attack on the freedom of the press.

The protesters said the increasing incidents of repression of women and children and extrajudicial killings were only adding force to the culture of impunity.

## EC'S PLAN TO CUT NUMBER OF LAWYERS It's a conspiracy in UP polls: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday alleged that the Election Commission was trying to reduce the number of law enforcers in the polling centres to facilitate rigging by the ruling party men in the upcoming Union Parishad elections.

"We came to know that the Election Commission is planning to reduce the number of law enforcers and even it is relaxing the directives. It is clear why it is going to do so," said Rizvi Ahmed, joint secretary general of the party.

He said the party did not have candidates in 114 UPs as they election officials cancelled their candidacy on "lame excuses" and in some areas the aspirants faced obstacles and

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

## SAVAR LAND OFFICE People getting service without bribes

Says ACC, quoting civil society members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a public hearing last September by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), people of Savar Upazila are getting better services from the local land office without having to pay bribes, says an ACC press statement.

The statement made the claim quoting Savar's civil society members who spoke of the improvement in the government service to ACC through a videoconference.

"I could do the mutation of my own land on time without having to pay any money," Nazrul Islam, a lawyer and member of Transparency International Bangladesh's corruption prevention committee, told ACC.

"Besides, I had sent 39 cases for settlement, and each was disposed of properly without any bribe," Islam was quoted as saying in the statement sent Thursday.

Land offices across the country are notorious for

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## Students want raising of govt job age limit to 35

Police charge batons on them; detain 13 as they block Shahbagh intersection for 1hr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred students from different colleges and universities blocked the capital's Shahbagh intersection for about an hour yesterday, demanding that the age limit for entry into government jobs be increased to 35 from 30.

Under the banner of "Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Parishad", they blocked the roundabout from 4:30pm to 5:15pm, halting traffic.

Later, police charged the demonstrators with batons to disperse them and detained at least 13 students, including their leaders Imtiaz Hossain and Sanzoy Kumar Das,

on the spot.

Abu Bakar Siddique, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, confirmed to The Daily Star that no case was filed in this regard till 7:00pm.

Shibli Noman, assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Ramna Zone), told reporters that police had to intervene in the situation because the students were obstructing public life.

Even after being dispersed, the protestors reassembled in front of Bangladesh National Museum and chanted slogans demanding release of the detainees.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



# Healthy Living



## What is the matter with my baby?

Is your child falling behind in school? Are you noticing that your child is socially withdrawn, refusing to interact or play with the other children? Did the teacher call you in a meeting to inform you that your child is slow in speech and has additional learning disabilities?

The parents of children suffering from a variety of conditions, from autism and epilepsy to headaches and hyperactivity, usually come for consultation too late, observes Dr. Sarwar Jahan Bhuiyan, Senior Consultant - Paediatrics (Special interest on Paediatric Neurology) at Apollo Hospitals Dhaka. "This is often the case because parents are ignorant about the parameters of intelligence in child development. Awareness of these standard milestones in paediatric development will allow for early detection by parents of their children's condition. And early detection means immediate treatment."

Dr. Sarwar Jahan Bhuiyan lists out the normal behaviour patterns of infants as they grow up and any deviations from these patterns is what parents should be on the lookout for:

- Within the first two months, he must display a social or interactive smile upon eye-contact. He will also prefer to look at his mother's face to that of a stranger and will register his mother's voice by blinking his eyes. If, however, your child is not making eye-contact or looks away from faces, do not make the mistake of thinking your baby is shy but consider these as probable warning signs of autism.

- By his 6 month, he should be growing his first set of milk teeth. He will be able to sit up by himself and will grasp at objects and put them in his mouth. He will be fascinated with his reflection in the mirror and you can help him with developing his basic sense of identity by coaxing him to repeat his name when he stares and smiles at his mirror image.

- When he is 7-8 month old, he will be babbling to you or his mirror image like he is having a conversation but this babbling will not make sense, but he will recognize words like "mommy" and "daddy" when he hears them. He will be using gestures to communicate, like waving goodbye and holding out his hand if he wants something and pushing something away if he does not.

- By his first birthday year, your baby, who is already exploring his environment by crawling, will be able to stand. He will also make one-word utterances with intention and purpose like "mama" and "dada."

- By one and a half years he will be able to walk confidently.

- By two years, your baby will be uttering two-word sentences and have a vocabulary of fifty words. And by three years of age, he will be making three word utterances,

"What unfortunate is that when a child is found out to be autistic or suffer from speech impediments, or any other condition, the mother, especially the working mother is blamed for the whole thing and

frequently accused of negligence," says Dr. Sarwar Jahan Bhuiyan. "However, the truth is that a disease or a condition is not anyone's fault. We need more awareness of these conditions, their signs and symptoms and treatment."

### What can I do for my child?

Once you have found out that your child is suffering from a condition, Dr. Sarwar Jahan Bhuiyan insists that parents should not become disillusioned and depressed. "Most diseases are treatable," he says, "and every condition can be managed." "If your child suffers from epilepsy, please do not consider it to be his bad luck. In case of a convulsion, provide a rectal diazepam suppository and put the child on his side and wait till the seizures stop.

"If your child complains of frequent or severe headaches, it is most likely that he is suffering from migraines," says Dr.



Sarwar Jahan Bhuiyan. "I would advise parents that they bring their child to the hospital for an MRI scan of the brain in order to rule out the dreaded possibility that the child's headaches are due to a brain tumour."

Dr. Sarwar Jahan Bhuiyan stresses on the importance of the interaction to a child's overall development. "Many times parents hold their children back because they are afraid that their children will not be able to mix with their peers or that they will be teased for being different. However, children must have the opportunity to interact with peers their own age for proper development."

"If your child is autistic, do not be tempted to pull him or her out of school. Try to continue with normal schooling. And in some cases, medications can sometimes prove helpful.



"Often in school, we notice that there is a particular child who frequently fights with other children and is unable to pay attention to teacher, disrupting the class and is prone to losing his belongings. Please do not become irritated or angry at the child. A child displaying such symptoms most likely suffers from Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) which affects nearly 10% of children. Do not, however, dismiss this behaviour as merely rowdy or childish and something that he will outgrow with age.

"The same thing is true for children who are slow in speech or who stutter. While stuttering is a common problem which most of the time does not require any treatment other than building confidence, parents should always be alert and notice whether or not their children are articulating appropriately, whether they have poor peer relations, or make poor eye contact. Such behaviours should not be taken lightly.

"More than anything, parents should never become so discouraged by their children's condition that they think of their child as somehow crippled, damaged or retarded," Dr. Sarwar Jahan Bhuiyan added. "Everybody is unique and it is a parent's job to make sure that the child knows that he is loved unconditionally so that he grows up confident that he can overcome the odds of his condition."

an initiative of:

Experience Apollo Care 10678  
\* This information is for public awareness only. Advice should be sought from qualified doctors.

Our Australian Registered Migration Agent Mohammad Ahasan Ali is currently in Dhaka being part of his professional visit. If you are interested to migrate to Australia please book your FREE Consultation with him.

**We can help you to process your:**

- General Skilled Migration Visas
- Temporary Work Visas
- Spouse Visas
- Student Visas
- Parent Visas
- Tourist Visas
- Business Migration Visas

Member of Migration Alliance

MARIN: 0851085

Mobile: +8801859886054, +8801956075172, +8801959996961, +8801921996529  
Dhaka Office: House-44, Road-15, Block-D, Banani, Dhaka-1213  
Sydney Office: Suite -11, 3A Railway Parade, Kogarah, Sydney, NSW -2217  
WWW.IMMIVISA.COM.AU