

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 32.4   L 23.0	H 32.8   L 22.4	H 32.5   L 20.6	H 33.4   L 19.6	H 33.5   L 22.8	H 33.0   L 22.0	H 30.8   L 18.2	H 34.0   L 23.0

Rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Rajshahi and Pabna with hail at places till 6:00pm today. Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:09pm and rises tomorrow at 6:05am.

**BCL men 'assault' JU hall provost**  
*Probe body formed to investigate; asked to submit report within 7 workdays*  
**JU CORRESPONDENT**

The authorities concerned of Jahangirnagar University (JU) formed a three-member probe body to investigate the incident of an assault on Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall's (MMH) provost allegedly by some activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, a pro-ruling Awami League student organisation, at the dormitory on Friday.

Meanwhile, the university proctor office submitted its primary investigation report to the probe body with the hall administration on Saturday, urging the university authorities to look into the incident.

"The probe committee, headed by Prof Abu Dayen of Bangla department, was asked to submit its report within the next 7 workdays, and further decisions will be taken at the disciplinary body's meeting chaired by Vice-Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam," said Proctor Prof Tapan Kumar Saha.

Dayen said he received the university's resolution from the VC office on Tuesday in this regard, and hoped to be able to submit the probe report on 24 March.

On 11 March, BCL activists were at a "gono room", teaching "hall culture" to the freshers around 10:00pm. They got fed up with the hall's Provost Prof Obaidur Rahman going there to oversee the freshers, and started hurling abuse at him, said students who were present there.

At one stage, they forcibly drove him out of the room, according to the witnesses and an audio record containing their derogatory comments on the provost.

According to the witnesses, BCL leaders who were allegedly involved in the incident include religious affairs secretary of BCL's JU unit Mohitosh Ray Titu of history, deputy social welfare secretary Bashir Ul Haque of statistics, joint-secretary Ekram Uddin Omi, and 30 to 35 activists including Shamim Shikdar of International Relations, Asad Rimon of history, Robiul Islam of urban and regional planning (URP), Ajim Hossain Raton of URP, and Anik Adnan Sommo of geological sciences.

As per the campus sources, a number of allegations, including assault on journalists and general students and drugs taking on the campus, were earlier reported to the proctor office against Titu, who is illegally residing at MMH Hall while he was allotted to Rafiq Jabbar Hall.

Contacted, Mahmudur Rahman Jony, president of BCL's JU unit and vice-president of BCL central committee, said, "We are looking into the matter and talking to the provost and the BCL men involved," adding that steps would be taken according to the probe report.

# REARING HEALTHY CHILDREN No substitute for breastfeeding

*Nexus of companies producing substitutes, hospitals, doctors needs to be eliminated, say experts at Brac discussion revealing related survey*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Doctors "technically" prescribe breast milk substitutes in violation of the Breast Milk Substitute (BMS) Act-2013, a practice that must stop to promote exclusive breastfeeding, says a new study.

"Doctors technically prescribe BMS products so that none understands who prescribed it," said the study titled "Promoting Breastfeeding: Role of Stakeholders in the Light of the BMS Act-2013", conducted by Brac.

Exclusive breastfeeding (an infant only receives breast milk during the first six months) can significantly reduce child death and enhance cognitive development.

Globally, breastfeeding has the potential to prevent 220,000 deaths of under-5 children a year, the study noted.

BMS Act strictly prohibits BMS during this period unless it is an emergency; still the Act is widely violated. Exclusive breastfeeding was 64 percent in Bangladesh in 2011, but has come down to 55 percent, according to an official data.

In her presentation, Fahmida Akter, staff researcher of Brac, said people have limited

knowledge of BMS Act, whereas BMS company representatives are exceptionally knowledgeable about it and know how to bypass the law to promote BMS.

"They influence the doctors for doing business, some doctors even get commissions. It is a give and take policy," she told a discussion in Shahid Dr Milton Hall of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University yesterday.

On the other hand, most of the government's health officials are not much aware of their roles in code implementation.

Often, mothers do not think breastfeeding is enough for child nutrition, while educated and urban mothers have misconception that breastfeeding affects their health. This also influences the rural mothers, the study said.

The study collected data from 48 government officials, healthcare, and BMS providers, and held 10 focused group discussions in Beanibazar and Fenchuganj upazilas of Sylhet and Jessore Sadar and Sharsha upazila of Jessore during January and February of 2014.

Professor Mohammad Shahidullah, president of Bangladesh Pediatric Association, said BMS companies use various techniques to allure the

physicians to promote BMS. It is crucial to enforce the BMS Act as well as educate all about breastfeeding.

Professor Laila Arjumand Banu, secretary general of Bangladesh Perinatal Society, said nurses and lower-level staff of the hospitals have links to the BMS company representatives, a nexus that needs to be eliminated.

She suggested a "to do checklist" after the birth of a child in the maternity clinics.

Noted gynecologist Prof TA Chowdhury suggested a total ban on advertisements of BMS products, and thoroughly train the health personnel, directly involved in neonatal services on breastfeeding.

Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation Chairperson Dr SK Roy said they were working on how to stop commercials that promote BMS.

Dr ABM Muzharul Islam, director of the Institute of Public Health and Nutrition, Rowshan Ara Begum, president of Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh, also spoke.

Dr Kaosar Afsana, director of health nutrition and population programme of BRAC, chaired it.

# CENTRAL BANK SCAM BNP finds delayed case mysterious

*Rizvi alleges 'govt high-ups involved'*  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

BNP yesterday found the mentioning of anonymous people as accused in a case 40 days past a cyber heist netting some \$101 million of Bangladesh Bank as mysterious, alleging it was "clear to the nation" that "government high-ups" were involved.

"If that is the case, it can be said the government is out to protect the real offenders," BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed told a press briefing at the party's Nayapaltna central office in the capital.

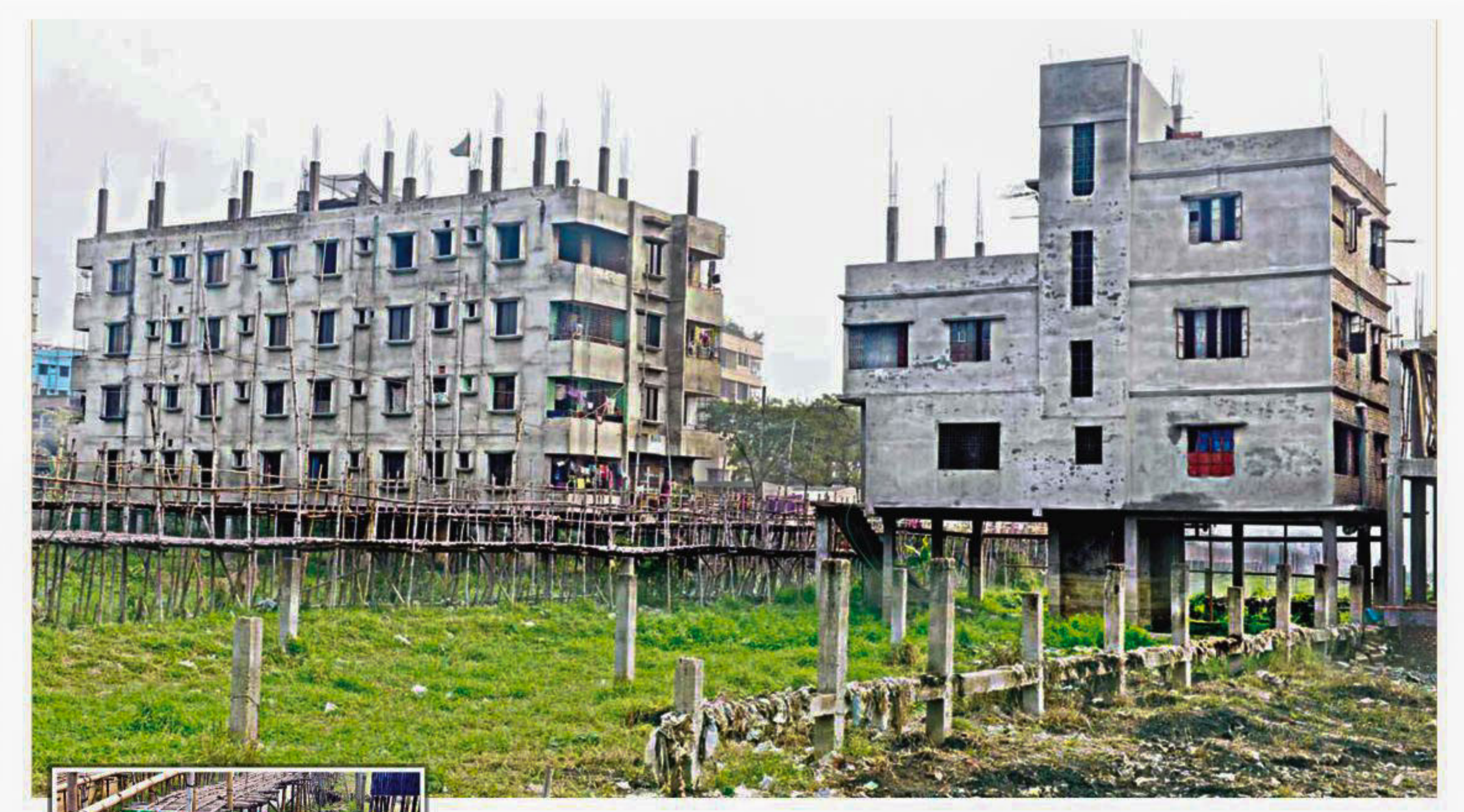
"Such a digital heist under the rule of a digital government has stunned people across the globe," he said, alleging that the entire country had turned into a safe haven for plundering.

"It seems the government is plundering public money as much as it could before getting ousted from power so that the ruling party men can use it if they have to flee the country," he added.

Rizvi said the government would not be able to hide the heist masterminds through the central bank governor's resignation and by removing two deputy governors.

"Misdeeds cannot be kept hidden for a long time. The ugly faces of the masterminds of the heist will get exposed before people in one way or the other in this era of globalisation," he added.

Citing media reports, Rizvi said information on the plundering of about Tk 3,100 crore of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited has surfaced.



**This wooden bridge is all that there is to remind us there used to be a canal here. Now, Manda Khal looks like a barren land full of moss and a place for dumping garbage, thanks to people's lack of awareness and authorities' indifference, as grabbers erected illegal structures encroaching upon it despite the presence of a glaring signboard, inset, put by Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, prohibiting occupation of the canal and any sort of construction on it. But monsoon is around the corner, and large amount of water will be looking for ways to channel to the rivers. The photos were taken on Sunday.**

PHOTOS: BANGLAR CHOKH

# NEWS IN brief

**President, PM congratulate new Myanmar president**  
**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday extended their congratulations to newly elected President of Myanmar Htin Kyaw, said a press release.

In a message, president hoped that the election will pave the way for a greater peace in Myanmar and joint efforts of both the countries would help make this region a better place.

In her separate message, prime minister expressed hope that under the leadership of Htin Kyaw, Myanmar would undertake bold initiatives to infuse a greater trust and understanding between Bangladesh and Myanmar.

**Barisal-Patuakhali hwy blocked for HSC exam venue change**  
**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

HSC examinees of Bakerganj Islamia Women College yesterday blocked the Barisal-Patuakhali highway in Barisal for an hour, demanding a change in their examination venue.

The students claimed that for several years, students of their college have been sitting for HSC examination in Government Bakerganj College centre where teachers harassed the examinees.

Police said due to the blockade, vehicular movement came to a halt. Later, the blockade was withdrawn after police rushed there. Mainul Islam, principal of Bakerganj Islamia Women's college, said students confined him after the blockade.

**9 brass statues stolen from Ctg puja mandap**  
**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

Nine brass statues were stolen from a mandap (worship house) in Gujara village of Anwara upazila in Chittagong, anytime between Tuesday night and early yesterday.

Five stone statues were also stolen; they were later found beside a pond, near the mandap, said Shymol Das Gupta, president of Sadarghat Thana Puja Udjapan Parishad, claiming that the stolen statues were hundred years old.

# Chances for women, children must for achieving SDGs

*NHRC-World Vision seminar told*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Speakers yesterday urged the government, business community and civil society to remove obstacles and ensure opportunities for women and children to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDG).

They echoed this while addressing a seminar titled "SDG-Focusing Women and Children: Challenges; Role of Government, Civil Society and Business Community", organised by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in association with World Vision Bangladesh, at the capital's Brac Centre Inn.

Justice Md Imman Ali, an appellate division judge, said, "Limiting women in kitchens is a waste of country's 50

percent productivity."

"Girls are kept away from school at a certain age because of the fear of security...We have to change this attitude," he said.

He suggested providing girls with bi-cycles. "They will ride in groups and go to school together, thus, the risk of harassment will reduce," he added.

Justice Ali said domestic helps are often cheated and not treated as workers. "They must be given all the facilities ensured by the Labour Law," he added.

Sayema Dipti, a teenage participant of the seminar, said the government is determined to end child marriage but they are drafting a contradictory law where marriage age is lowered to 16 in special cases. "This should not hap-

pen," she said, demanding an increase of the number of law enforcers at night to ensure the security of girls.

Another teenage participant, Masud Rana said stalkers often get patron from politically influential persons.

"When we'll recognise the rights of women and give them value, life would be better for everyone," said David Montague, national director of World Vision Bangladesh.

State Minister for Finance MA Mannan said, "Civil society should be vocal against atrocities towards women and children from their respective positions."

Kazi Rezaul Hoque, a full-time member of NHRC, presided over the seminar.

# Another kid

**FROM PAGE 4**  
 The deceased were Mizanur Rahman, 45, and his wife Porimon Begum, 38, of Dhunkurail village.

Meanwhile, in Dinajpur, Azizar Rahman, 60, of Biskini village was killed when a tractor hit him in front of Pallavi Cinema hall in Birampur upazila yesterday.

# Every dist to have medical college hospital soon: PM

**FROM PAGE 3**  
 ophthalmologists to work sincerely so that people can see an enlightened future and said the government will give posting of eye specialists in every upazila hospital to ensure better treatment to rural patients.

She also directed the authorities concerned to look into the issue of tax and duty on the import of medical equipments required for eye specialists and reduce it to encourage students to study ophthalmology.

Pointing to the importance of nursing, Hasina

said it is also a great and noble profession and asked the authorities to make nursing courses open for all students, irrespective of their backgrounds. "Necessary directives have already been given to the secretary concerned," she added.

Laying emphasis on creating more awareness on taking care of expectant mothers, the premier said all will have to be careful so that they do not give birth to blind babies.

Earlier, she awarded Alim Memorial Gold Medal to eminent eye specialist Dr Deen

Mohammad Nurul Haque for his outstanding role in spreading treatment of eye-related problems across the country.

Presided over by Prof Sharfuddin Ahmed, president of Ophthalmological Society of Bangladesh, the programme was addressed among others by Mohammed Nasim, minister for health and family welfare, Zahid Maleque, state minister for health and family welfare, Dr Syed Modasser Ali, former adviser to the prime minister, and Deen Mohammad Nurul Haque, director general of the department of health.

# Low transboundary water flow, siltation key causes

**FROM PAGE 3**  
 required in a couple of years, said Shajahan.

Royal IHC, a company of the Netherlands building dredgers, organised the seminar, the third of its kind in Bangladesh, at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. Two dredgers named Delta that the company supplied to Bangladesh in 1972 are still operational.

Citing rivers and canals as integral parts of the landscape and culture of Bangladesh and the Netherlands, Dutch Ambassador Leoni Cuelenaere said rivers were major transporters and sources of drinking water, irrigation, fishing and recreation.

Dredging with trained manpower and river management are vital for tackling climate change impacts in Bangladesh, with an annual popula-

tion growth rate of 1.2 percent and agriculture land loss of 1 percent.

SS Rahman Dredging Limited Managing Director Sharif Afzal Hosain, Abdul Monem Limited Deputy General Manager Shahjahan and IHC Executive Director Arnold den Boon and Product Director Kees Jan Verkaik spoke among others.

"আবুল হায়াতের গল্পের কতগুলো নিজস্বতা আছে। চরিত্র সৃষ্টিতে তাঁর কুশলতা অবাক করার মতো। তাঁর গল্পগুলোও তিনি তুলে আনেন চেনাজানা পরিপার্শ্ব থেকে।"

—সৈয়দ মনজুরুল ইসলাম

**নির্বাচিত গল্প**  
 আবুল হায়াত

Home Delivery Service  
 www.rokomari.com  
 16297

Daily Star  
 BOOKS

আজিজ সুপার মার্কেট, শাহবাগ: প্রথমা (৯৬৬৪৮২৫),  
 কাঁটাবন: প্রকৃতি (০১৭২৭৩২৮৭২৩), বেইলি রোড: সাগর পাবলিশার্স (৯৩৫৮৯৪৪)  
 বিমান বন্দর: বুক ওয়ার্ম (৯১২০৩৮৭)। নরসিংদী: বই পুস্তক (০১৮১৮৫০৪৮৯৩)  
 কুষ্টিয়া: বইমেলা (০১৭১১ ৫৭৫৬৩৬)।  
 চট্টগ্রাম: বাতিঘর (০১৭১৩০৩০৪৪), প্রথমা (০১৭১১৬৪৯৪২২)