

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.2 L 24.8	CHITTAGONG H 31.7 L 24.7	SYLHET H 32.8 L 23.0	RAJSHAHI H 34.2 L 24.2	KHULNA H 34.2 L 24.0	BARISAL H 33.2 L 23.5	RANGPUR H 29.5 L 20.6	COX'S BAZAR H 31.7 L 23.5
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Day and night temperatures may fall slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:13pm and rises tomorrow at 5:53am. Country's highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi, Khulna and Jessore and lowest 20.2 in Rangamati.

Khaleda smiles only when she can kill people
Claims Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Taking a swipe at her arch rival Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the BNP chief smiles only when she can kill people.

"Smile is seen on her face when she can kill people, she never flashes smile when she sees the development of people...her smile fades out when she sees smiles on people's faces," she told a discussion without mentioning Khaleda's name.

Awami League organised the discussion at Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh marking the country's 46th Independence Day and National Day.

Referring to an Awami League leader's comment in the discussion that there was no smile on Khaleda Zia's face when she went to place wreaths at National Memorial on March 26, the prime minister said a party leader went to the memorial and her face looked pale as there was no smile.

"Where will the smile come from? All her beloved



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at a discussion organised by the Awami League at Krishibid Institution in the capital yesterday, marking the country's 46th Independence Day.

BNP to petition against ban on publishing Tarique's speech

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will petition against a High Court ban on publishing its senior vice chairman Tarique Rahman's comments in the media, the party acting secretary general said yesterday.

Claiming that the Interpol had withdrawn its red alert notice for Tarique Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, "Now we will start a fresh legal battle [for withdrawal of the ban on publishing his comments]."

He made the remarks at a press conference at BNP's Nayapaltan headquarters.

The High Court on March 7 last year prohibited publication of Tarique's remarks in the media in response to a writ petition, filed by a Supreme Court lawyer. At that time, Tarique had been making derogative remarks about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The BNP leader left the country in 2008 and has been in London ever since.

On April 14, 2015, the Interpol issued a red alert notice for Tarique in connection with the August 21, 2004 grenade attack on an Awami League rally that had left 24 people dead.

PHOTO: BSS

MOGHBAZAR-MOUCHAK FLYOVER HC orders adequate construction site safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to take adequate safety measures at the construction site of the Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover within 15 days to avoid accidents.

The court also issued a rule upon the authorities to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to give appropriate compensation to the family of Rabbi Ahmed Emon, a construction worker who died after an iron rod fell on his head from the under construction flyover, on March 16.

The HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice Krishna Debnath gave the order and rule following a writ petition by the Supreme Court Lawyer Amit Das Gupta.

The court said the construction works of the flyover and its inauguration will not be stopped in any manner.

Amit Das Gupta, whose private car was also damaged when a stone fell on it on March 12, submitted the petition on March 17 seeking necessary orders from the HC in this regard.

Secretary to Local Government Rural Development, chief engineer of Local Government Engineering Division, deputy commissioner of Dhaka, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, project manager of the flyover and managing director of Toma construction, which is constructing the flyover, have been made respondents to the rule and order, the lawyer told The Daily Star.

Turbulent world in need of Lalon's messages

Prothom Alo discussion on 'Pursuit of Lalon Fakir' told; where former Indian envoy Muchkund Dubey talked about his endeavour for translating the saint bard's poetry in Hindi, embedded contemporary values of those

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Currently in turmoil which has been instigated by extreme religious and ideological differences, the world requires the message of humanity that exists in Lalon Shah Fakir's songs and poetry, said discussants at a seminar yesterday afternoon.

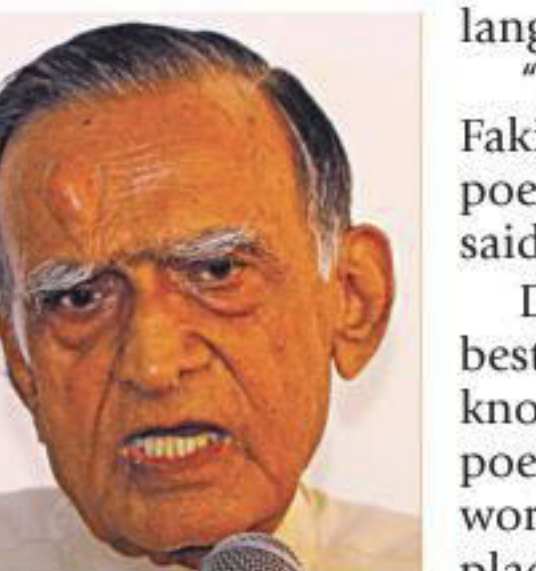
"Many things he said has contemporary values. The most important is his belief that humankind is one," said Muchkund Dubey, a former Indian foreign secretary, on the relevance of Lalon in the present world and more so in the subcontinent.

The discussion, "Pursuit of Lalon Fakir", was organised by the daily Prothom Alo at

Bengal Shilpalaya in the capital's Dhanmondi.

Dubey, also a former high commissioner to Bangladesh of 1979 to 1982, came to the country recently to work with Lalon researcher Prof Abul Ahsan Chowdhury on translating Lalon's poetry into Hindi.

Currently president of the Council for Social Development, India, Dubey has translated 100 poetry of the saint bard into Hindi for a book which would be published by Sahitya Akademy, Indian's national academy for promotion of literary works, in 24 Indian



languages and English.

"In my opinion, Lalon Shah Fakir is one of the greatest saint poets of undivided India," he said.

Dubey assured of doing his best to make Lalon widely known so that, like Persian Sufi poet Jalaluddin Rumi, Lalon's works could claim their own place in bookshops and libraries all around the world.

He spoke about the beauty and literary value of Lalon's poetry and the simplicity of his metaphors.

"He picked up the language from the soil,

from the village, from the people and turned them into jewels," he said, citing examples from Lalon's works including "Milon Hobay Koto Diney" and "Bedheche Emono Ghor".

Dubey noted that despite being illiterate, Lalon's knowledge on the holy books of Islam and Hinduism was immaculate. He said for his translations, he selected songs based on different philosophies including Vaishnavism, Islam and Tantra.

"Lalon was both a spiritual person and a rebel," said Prof Abul Ahsan, adding how the bard fought against extremism,

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A Christian woman prays on Easter Sunday yesterday, at the T&T playground near Manik Mia Avenue in the capital. Easter is celebrated by the religious community, marking the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

'TERRORISM FINANCING' Lawyer Shakila's bail stayed for 3 more months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday extended its stay order on the bail of lawyer Shakila Farjana, accused of financing terrorism, for next three months.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha passed the order following two government petitions seeking a stay on the High Court verdict.

Following two separate bail petitions, the HC on February 22 granted bail to Shakila in two cases. On February 23 following a government petition, the chamber judge of the Appellate Division stayed the HC verdict. The Appellate Division on February 29 extended the chamber judge's order till yesterday.

Shakila along with two other lawyers, Hasanuzzaman Liton and Mahfuz Chowdhury Bapon, were arrested in Dhaka's Dhanmondi area in August last year for their alleged links to funding a Chittagong based militant organisation.

Later, they were shown arrested in the two cases on February 20 last year.

Sagir Hossain Leon, one of the lawyers for Shakila, told The Daily Star that his client cannot get released from jail in next three months following the SC order.

ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS FOR GOVT OFFICIALS Only regularised civil servants with GO eligible

Says home ministry circular

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry, through a circular yesterday, imposed stringent measures for issuing official passports against the backdrop of allegations that some were used in human trafficking last year.

Only those appointed under the government revenue budget, meaning regularised employees, will be eligible on condition that they obtain a government order (GO) and upload it to their respective government website for verification by the Department of Immigration and Passports (DIP), it said.

"...no NOC (no-objection certificate) will be accepted," DIP Director General Brig Gen Masud Rezwani told a press conference at its head office in the capital, adding, "The decision came following some scandals with official passports."

Previously either a GO or a NOC sufficed.

Renewal of those already issued will require GOs, he said, adding that around 2,00,000 government employees were now using official passports.

Last year, the Turkish government informed the foreign ministry of three persons carrying fake official passports.

The DIP found the allegation to be true in preliminary probes. Four of its officials and staff, who had signed the passports giving clearance that the information provided for those had been verified, were later suspended.

The home ministry is also conducting probes and Masud said severe punishment would be handed down once the investigation reports were available.

On reducing harassment of passport seekers, he said they were planning to accept applications online. Senior DIP officials were present.

Deal signed for building metro rail depot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday signed an agreement with a Japanese firm to develop and construct a depot on the metro rail line-6.

Mofazzal Hossain, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, and Hiroshi Asakami, authorised representative of Japan's Tokyu Construction Ltd, signed the deal in presence of Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, at the capital's Sonargaon hotel.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to launch the construction works of the main depot of the metro rail in the last week of

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নিয়মিত স্কুলে যাই ভাল ফল করে উপবৃত্তি পাই

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