

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 35.0 L 27.6	H 33.6 L 26.7	H 34.0 L 26.4	H 33.4 L 26.7	H 35.5 L 28.0	H 34.0 L 27.6	H 32.5 L 24.4	H 32.5 L 25.0

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rangpur, Rajshahi & Dhaka divisions till 6:00pm today. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:39pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12am.



Students of Dhaka University form a human chain at the base of Raju Memorial on the campus yesterday demanding punishment for Jatiya Party lawmaker AKM Salim Osman for making Shyamal Kanti Bhakta, headmaster of Piyar Sattar Latif High School in Bandar area of Narayanganj, hold his own ears and do squats on May 13. The teacher was earlier physically assaulted by a mob over the allegation that he made derogatory comments about religion while beating up a student in class, which turned out to be a fabrication.

Tahmima's new novel 'The Bones of Grace' hits stand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Best-selling, award-winning author Tahmima Anam's third novel "The Bones of Grace", the last of Anam's trilogy on the Haque family, came out in the UK on May 19, 2016, published by Canongate Books.

The US edition of the book, published by HarperCollins, will be available in the market in June, says a press release from London, by HarperCollins.

Unlike the first two books of the series "A Golden Age" and "The Good Muslim", which are mostly set in Tahmima's home country Bangladesh, "The Bones of Grace" begins at Cambridge, Massachusetts. It tells the story of US-educated palaeontologist Zubaida Haque whose research interest in ancient whales brings her back to her homeland, Bangladesh, and subsequently she sets off on a journey to find her personal roots.

Anam in her debut novel, "A Golden Age", published in 2007, set out to chronicle three generations of the Haque family from Bangladesh's War of Independence to the present day. "A Golden Age", which begins in the late 1950s and describes the Liberation War, won Anam a devoted global readership as well as the 2008 Commonwealth Writers' Prize: Best First Book.

Its sequel, "The Good Muslim", was long-listed for the 2011 Man Asian Literary Prize. The time period of "The Good Muslim", where the characters of "A Golden Age" grow up, portrays the 1980s Bangladesh. "The Bones of Grace" is tied to these earlier books, yet it is distinctive and complete, describing the country's contemporary realities through a lyrical, deeply moving, modern love story about belonging, migration, tragedy, survival, and the mysteries of origins.

Kirkus Reviews, one of the most acclaimed international book review magazines, said, "Anam's story resonates powerfully within the saga of three generations of women, personifying Bangladesh's evolution from the clarity of revolution to the confusions of assimilation with the larger world."

Prominent authors also lauded Anam's new book. Kamila Shamsie, author of "Burnt Shadows", said about the book, "A novel of heart, brain, and muscle - the competing pulls of history and love are evoked here with a rare honesty, and great skill."

"Fierce and intimate, lyrical and expansive, 'The Bones of Grace' offers what a great novel does: symphonic movements, historical landscapes that



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Buet's first female VC Khaleda Ekram passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Khaleda Ekram, vice chancellor of Buet, died at a Bangkok hospital early yesterday, aged 66.

She was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and other complications earlier this month and was taken to Bangkok General Hospital on May 14 by an emergency air ambulance as her condition deteriorated, said information and publication section officials of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

As her health declined, the prime minister had granted Tk 20 lakh from her special fund to support her treatment in Bangkok.

Prof Khaleda started as a lecturer at the Department of Architecture of the university in 1975, and became the first female VC of Buet on September 13, 2014.

All academic activities of the university were postponed yesterday to mourn her death.

Her body, expected to arrive in Dhaka today, would be taken in front of her department around 4:00pm for paying tribute before a namaz-e-janaza on Buet field at 5:00pm.

The Bangladesh embassy in Bangkok, in



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Poverty should not be excuse for child labour

Prothom Alo, ILO roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poverty should not be considered the main reason behind child labour since it can be reduced by changing social perspective and taking coordinated initiatives among the stakeholders, speakers said at a roundtable in the capital yesterday.

A joint collaboration between the government agencies and a balanced legislation is needed among the stakeholders to stop child labour, they added, suggesting ensuring employment for the parents of the poor children, and increasing social safety-net programme to stop child labour.

Experts from different local and international organisations, and representatives of related ministries participated in the roundtable jointly organised by Prothom Alo and International Labor Organization (ILO) titled "Our responsibilities to stop child labour".

"Poverty cannot be an excuse. Social development is necessary to overcome this problem," said Fred Witteveen, national director of World Vision.

Tofael Ahmed, director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said, "Using children of poor families to do our household chores has become a part of our mindset, which we need to change."

State Minister for Labour and

Employment Mujibul Haque termed child labour in domestic sector a "habit" of some families who want to hire a child seeking cheap labour.

"We have several programmes to stop child labour, but we need coordination among the related ministries," said Nazrul Islam Khan, additional secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Srinivas B Reddy, country director of ILO in Bangladesh, emphasised ensuring employment opportunities for the parents, and increasing social safety-net programme to stop child labour.

"The parents send their child to work thinking about their livelihood. If we can employ them, and provide them incentive, they will send their child to school," said Jamil Hassan, child protection officer of Unicef.

"No such reports of child labour has been found at formal sectors like the garments industries, but we have found child labourers working in informal sectors like tannery, transport and household," said Faruk Ahmed, secretary general of Bangladesh Employers Federation. "We are strictly monitoring these sectors to eliminate child labour," he said.

"In 2003, there were 3.2 million child labourers in the country; by 2013 it was reduced to 1.7 million. We will be able to reduce the rest of the number within 2025," said Mujibul Haque, quoting ILO Report 2013.

Allocate Tk 2,000cr for minorities

Demands Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad yesterday demanded that at least Tk 2,000 crore be allocated in the upcoming budget for the development and welfare of the minority communities.

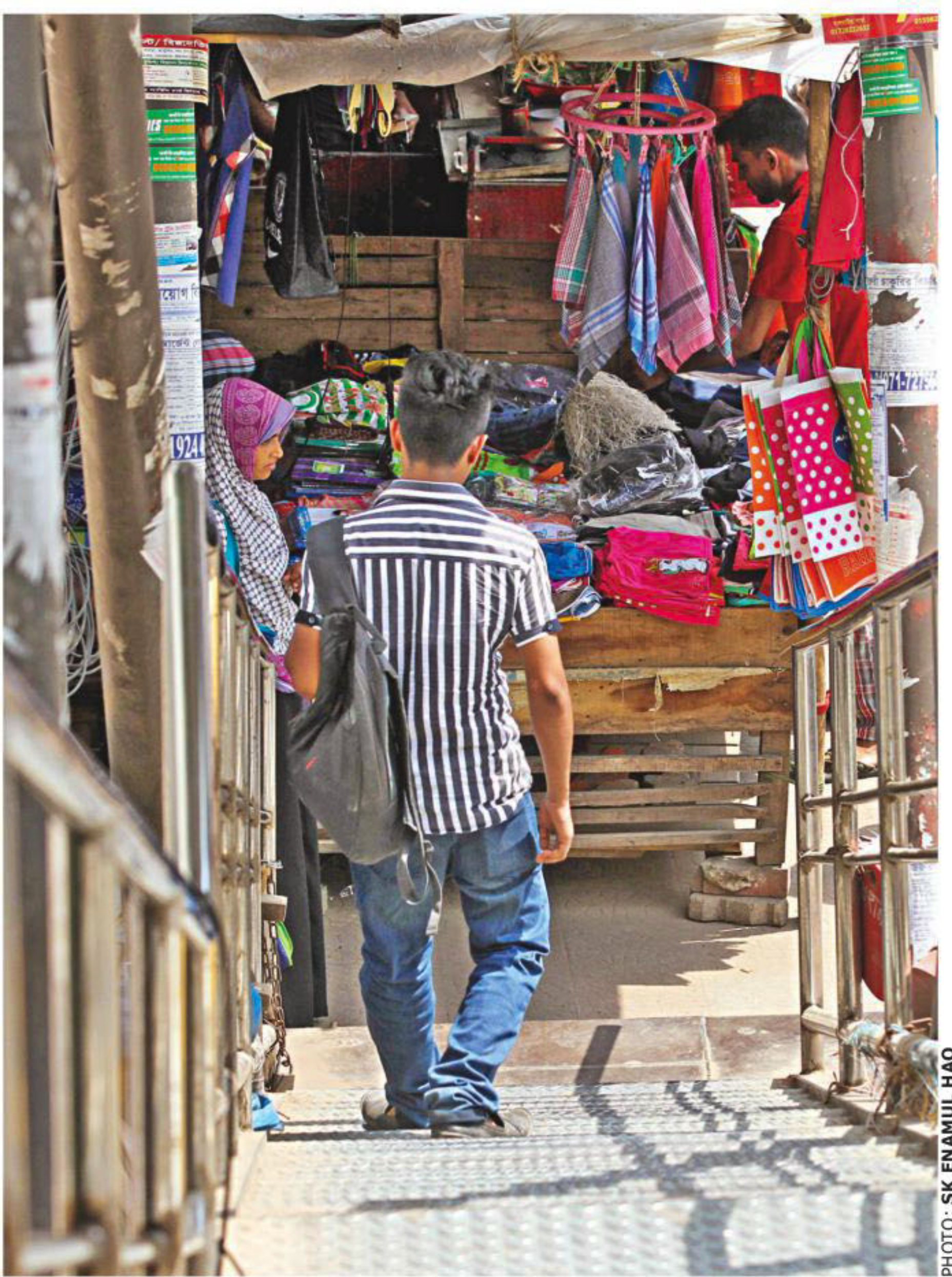
The government was discriminating against them when allocating a budget for the religious affairs ministry and an end to such discrimination and equal distribution of resources must be ensured to establish a secular democratic country, it said.

In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, Tk 243.35 crore was allocated for Bangladesh Islamic Foundation while Hindu Religious Welfare Trust got Tk 70 lakh, Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust Tk 80 lakh and Christian Religious Welfare Trust Tk 10 lakh.

Such discrimination has been going on for decades, the parishad General Secretary Rana Dasgupta told a press conference organised in the capital's Jatiya Press Club to place the demand.

Moreover, the government allocates a particular amount of money every year only for the Hajj sector, he read out from a statement, demanding transforming the Hindu, Buddhist and Christian religious trusts into foundations for widening the development activities.

Over a dozen parishad leaders, including Presidium Member Kajal Debnath, attended the conference.



The illegal occupation of footpaths has gone too far, as evident from this one in front of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons in the capital's Mohakhali where makeshift shops almost touch the staircase of the footbridge. In the event of emergency, the structures are likely to seriously hamper pedestrians' movement.

Attacks on innocents assault on freedom

British High Commissioner Alison Blake says in statement ahead of Nazrul's 117th birth anniversary

UNB, Dhaka

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Alison Blake has said the attacks on innocent inhabitants of Bangladesh, including bloggers, foreigners, human rights activists and civil society figures, religious and other minorities, are assaults against its hard-won freedom.

"Today, we remember Nazrul's works and life and the value of tolerance, inclusion, justice, and diversity," she said in statement yesterday to mark the 117th birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

This is the first-ever statement from any British diplomat in Dhaka ahead of Nazrul's birth anniversary.

Blake, however, said Bangladesh was rightly proud of its great traditions and its rich cultural heritage.

She quoted a few lines from the poem "Manush" (Human Being) and said "Gahi shammyer gaan, manusher cheye boro kichu nai, nohe kichu mohian" (I sing of equality, nothing is greater than human kind, there is nothing nobler than humanity).

The British High Commissioner said this week Bangladesh would celebrate the birth of its national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, better known as "Rebel Poet".

She said 117 years after his birth Nazrul's writings remained works of great literature with significance for all. "As the poet himself wrote, 'I don't belong to just this country, this society. I belong to the world.'"

Blake mentioned that Bangladesh was born as a result of a struggle against intolerance and exclusion.

"Nazrul's works have inspired generations to pursue freedom and equality. He was writing before the adoption in 1948 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with its statement that 'all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights'," she said.

The British diplomat mentioned that Nazrul gave a powerful voice to a passionate belief that every person had the



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জীবনের জয়গান উৎসব

স্থিরচিত্র ও চলচিত্র প্রদর্শনী

কুমিল্লা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

তারিখ : ২৬ মে ২০১৬

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মেকনিজাম

এ টেলিভিশন তাঁরাস

নিবাসিত

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জোকের তেল

আয়োজনে : পাবলিক অ্যাডমিনিস্ট্রেশন অ্যাসোসিয়েশন, কুমিল্লা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

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