

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 29.0 L 24.9	H 34.0 L 26.6	H 27.5 L 22.9	H 33.2 L 23.4	H 35.2 L 25.8	H 34.3 L 26.8	H 32.0 L 21.4	H 32.7 L 27.4

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:41pm and rises tomorrow at 5:11am. Country's highest temperature 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Satkhira and lowest 21.4 degree in Rangpur.



Random commercial sand extraction going on in the Bangshi River on the outskirts of the capital on Wednesday. Sand and silt on the riverbeds of the country are considered natural resources like oil and gas by the law of the land. But almost never it is seen to have that kind of scrutiny when sand is extracted from the rivers by usually influential people tied to all major political parties and the ministries and related government divisions and departments. Of course the rumour has it that money plays a big role in the racket. Such unscrupulous sand extractions are a major reason for land erosions by rivers that leave thousands homeless every year, let alone other destructions it brings to the marine ecology, and the natural flow of rivers. But money reigns supreme. Years of media campaign against the practice is yet to see any result. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Disabled persons deserve better budgetary attention

### Say joint research findings

UNB, Dhaka

Though there is no specific figure about the persons with disabilities in the country, inadequate budgetary allocation is depriving them of their basic rights and forcing them to compromise in every step.

Initiatives taken so far for the allocation for their education, health services and communication services are "very inadequate". Such scenario came up in a recent research analysis book on budget titled "National Budget 2016-2017: In Quest of People's Participation".

Parliamentary Caucus on National Planning and Budget, Centre on Budget and Policy, University of Dhaka and Democratic Budget Movement jointly brought out the research publication. They urged the government to come up with a concept paper like "budget thoughts for persons with disabilities" reflecting their demands.

Every year, the government takes up new projects for their development, but there is no required budget allocation, the research analysis read. The paper also mentioned there is no allocation for implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act, 2013.

The three organisations showed that the actual numbers of persons with disabilities are yet to be specified despite there have been five censuses so far. They recommended increased allocation for the persons with disabilities in the coming budget and adequate steps for their integrated development.

Some 6.1 percent and 9.1 percent respectively of the total national budget were allocated in the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 fiscal years for social safety and empowerment sectors, they said. Allocation for programmes taken for the persons with disabilities came from the allocation made for the social safety and empowerment sector.



## President urges students to earn knowledge to lead nation

BSS, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday asked the students to prepare themselves with knowledge and skills for turning Bangladesh into a prosperous country as per the government's "Vision-2041".

"Bangladesh has already become lower-middle income country and it will soon turn into a middle-income country," the president said while addressing the closing ceremony of the National Education Week-2016 in the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

He said the students must achieve the leadership abilities.

"You must know the history of liberation struggle and Liberation War. This country achieved independence through a long struggle and a bloody Liberation War under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and three million people had to sacrifice their lives," he said.

Flourishing of talent and knowledge of students should be the main objective of education, he said.

The president congratulated the students who participated in the divisional level competition in different categories and achieved recognition.

He handed over medals to 89 students who won the competition in different categories.

## BCL hacks two CU students as 'resistance to Shibir conspiracy'

CU CORRESPONDENT

Two Chittagong University (CU) students were hacked yesterday afternoon with the president of the suspended Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) unit there terming it "resisting of Islami Chhatra Shibir men" by members of the pro-ruling party student organisation.

Master's students of history, GM Saiful Islam and Sujit Hossain are undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital for critical injuries all over, except the head.

The duo had just left the biological science faculty around 3:00pm when some 30-40 BCL men attacked, Sub-inspector Delwar Hossain Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

The president, Md Alamgir Tipu, claimed that the "Shibir men" were "planning subversive activities". Shibir's CU unit President Mahmudul Hasan Sani could not be contacted over the phone despite several attempts.

Proctor Ali Asgar Chowdhury said steps would be taken following an investigation.

## Book on Quader Mollah's war crime trial published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parijat Prakashani yesterday launched a book titled "Abdul Quader Mollah: Juddhaporadh, Bichar O Fnasi," (Abdul Quader Mollah: War Crimes, Trial and Hanging) at Dhaka Club.

Edited by Syed Jahid Hasan and Sonia Huq, the book discusses the role of executed war criminal and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Quader Mollah and anti-liberation organisations during the war, testimonies of the prosecution and defence witnesses in the Quader Mollah case, tribunal's verdict, Gonojagoron Mancha, and reactions after his execution in December 2013.

The book was unveiled by Momena Akhter, a victim and prosecution witness in the case.

While addressing the launch, academics and trial campaigners stressed the need for writing and publishing more books on the ongoing war crimes trial so that the common people can know more about the atrocities the war criminals had committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

They said books with detailed information on this issue were also needed to counter the anti-trial propaganda at



home and abroad.

Prof Emeritus of Dhaka University Dr Anisuzzaman said detailed information about the ongoing trial should be precisely compiled, and like this, books on the trial proceedings of the other war criminals should be written in both Bangla and English languages.

Food Minister Qamrul Islam, too, stressed the necessity of writing more books on the issues.

Talking about Jamaat-e-Islami, veteran war crimes researcher Shahriar Kabir said this anti-liberation organisation tried to justify genocide and rape in the name of Islam.

"These are the philosophy of Jamaat, and this is what is called Moududibad," he added.

Awami League Presidium Member Nooh Ul Alam Lenin said the trial would have never been possible had there been no firm determination of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina...to bring the perpetrators to book.

Prof Syed Anwar Husain of Dhaka University, Sector Commanders' Forum Secretary General Haroon Habib, former diplomat Waliur Rahman, and Convenor of the War Crimes Facts Finding Committee MA Hasan were present, inter alios.

## PM considering 9th wage board for newspapers

Says her media adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is considering formation of the ninth wage board for the pay hike of journalists, the PM's media adviser said yesterday.

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said the journalists' demand for a new wage structure was valid after announcement of the national pay scale, and the prime minister was considering it sincerely.

Sobhan was addressing a discussion, "Dignity of Journalists, Labour Movement and Democratic Progress", organised by the Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) at Chittagong Press Club.

Sobhan said the prime minister did not want to control the media.

Mentioning the journalist couple Sagar-Runi killing, he said the murder had initiated a united movement but it was later hampered because of division among journalists.



The newly built chancery complex of Bangladesh embassy in Tokyo, Japan being inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, inset, yesterday. PHOTO: PTI

## Dhaka not ready

FROM PAGE 3  
Compliance with the building codes and quality of construction materials is crucial, said other noted experts and top officials.

The quality of soil and construction materials must be ensured for a building's resilience, said Prof Mehedi Ahmed Ansary, country's one of the few leading earthquake experts.

More than half of the soil in 1,530-sq-km Rajuk area is weak and needs improvement, he said, adding, columns of soft-story buildings (ground floors vacant for car parking) needed strengthening for stability.

Mohammed Jahangir Alam, chairman of Crown Cement, emphasised ensuring the quality of construction materials, and said public awareness is extremely crucial.

Our vulnerability to earthquake is primarily associated with the overwhelming density of population and unplanned industrialisation and urbanisation over the past quarter century, said Brig Gen Ali Ahmed Khan, director general of FSCD.

Civil-military coordination and decentralisation of resources are some of the key factors in earthquake disaster management, he said, adding that retrofitting key public buildings like control room, prime minister's office, secretariat buildings, armed forces division office, all headquarters, fire and police stations and major hospitals would help critically.

He called for setting up a national emergency operation centre, update and put the contingency plan into mock exercise, planned urban development for open space and automatic shutdown device for electricity and gas supply.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Md Mozammel Haque Khan, senior secretary to the ministry, and Satya Brata Saha, additional secretary to the disaster management and relief ministry, also spoke.

## Hasina for common Saarc platform for remittance flow

FROM PAGE 3  
Hasina mentioned the sanction of Tk 1 billion for the flood victims saying she would give necessary directives to send necessary relief materials in line with a requirement of the Sri Lankan government, Ihsanul said.

Abul Kalam said the premier urged the Sri Lankan president to import jute goods from Bangladesh along with pharmaceutical items. Upon request from the Sri Lankan president, Hasina assured him of resuming Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight on Dhaka-Colombo route. Shahidul said the Sri Lankan president

was likely to visit Bangladesh in December. Both Hasina and Maithripala Sirisena arrived in Nagoya at the invitation of the Japanese prime minister to attend the G7 meeting. Meanwhile, Hasina yesterday inaugurated the newly built chancery complex of

Bangladesh embassy in Tokyo, Japan, reports UNB. The 714-square metre chancery building was constructed at a cost of Tk 100 crore. The premier laid its foundation stone on November 28, 2010 during her visit to Japan.

## Workers Party also demands expulsion of Salim Osman from JS

FROM PAGE 3  
On May 13, Salim forced the headmaster of Piyar Sattar Latif High School to do squats holding ears allegedly for defaming Islam, the allegation Shyamal rejected outright. It was not the end of the teacher's sufferings as the school management on May 17 suspended him on the same allegation.

However, a probe committee formed by the education ministry found no evidence of defaming Islam and the ministry had Shyamal reinstated. The Workers Party statement said the constitution allowed all citizens to practice

respective religions, and any interference in one's right to practice his or her religion was in no way acceptable. Salim Osman, only to unseat the headmaster, humiliated him in a planned way, the party alleged, adding, when the cross-section including several ministers protested, he tried to play religion cards using communal forces like Hefajat-e-Islam to divert the issue. Ripping into Osman, Health Minister Mohammad Nasim said the lawmaker should refrain from joining the upcoming session of the House if he had "any shame". Different organisations demanded his

punishment and cancellation of his parliamentary membership. But, Salim Osman, seemingly oblivious to criticism, on Thursday held an opinion sharing meeting where he once again used religion to defend his action and termed the school-teacher an "atheist" and advised all not to call him a Hindu. He also lambasted Nasim. Representatives of Hefajat-e-Islam were brought to the meeting in exchange for money to defend Osman against public outrage, alleged the statement.

The Workers Party statement said some miscreants were trying to create social instability

in different parts of the country on the pretexts of atheism or defamation of religion recently. The patrons of religious fanatics are now conducting militant activities in the name of Islam, which not only goes against religion but also against the constitution and existing laws of the land, it said. "Narayanganj lawmaker Salim Osman has done and is doing these misdeeds in a planned way," it added. "Harbouring such misdeeds means destroying the existing norms of social and religious tolerance by instigating anti-constitution and anti-law activities," the statement further said.

# 4

## BEDROOM APARTMENTS AT UTTARA

**ASSET DEVELOPMENTS**

Call: 55068001-5  
01713 018407, 01714 039846, 01714 016717