

# PM opens mobile app for faster weather info

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) has developed a mobile application "BMD Weather App" so that smartphone users will get daily update on weather.

Smartphone users can now download the mobile application from the Google Play Store as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated it at her office.

Briefing reporters, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said this application shows the latest weather information, including air temperature, air pressure, direction, and amount of rain from automatic weather monitoring centers situated in various parts of the country.

Besides, cautionary signals regarding cyclone, earthquake, and other natural calamities as well as agriculture weather, hydrology, cold wave, and drought related information will also be available.



Besides, overall weather forecast and cautionary signaling system will be further strengthened in determining the route of storm (position, direction and severity), and ensuring safe river and air movement.

Besides, the BMS has undertaken a plan to expand this weather information service to the common people, including farmers in all upazila headquarters, in phases by 2021.

Defence Ministry Senior Secretary Kazi Habibul Awal and Bangladesh Meteorological Department Director Shamsuddin Ahmed also spoke at the function.



Although industries and vehicles are primarily blamed for causing most of the pollution in the country, vessels such as this cargo carrier in the Karnaphuli river in Chittagong are also responsible for discharging harmful chemicals in the air, a scenario overlooked for long. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

# Two men found dead in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were found dead in separate incidents in the capital on Monday night.

Abdul Awal alias Sujon, 38, -- a supplier of bakery products and resident of Madarbari area -- was found dead around 11:30pm in Uttarkhan, within the one-kilometre radius of his house, said police.

Jahangir Hossain, brother-in-law of the deceased, told The Daily Star that Sujon was on his way home after collecting money on Monday night.

Sujon might have been strangled as his neck was tied up with a muffler, he said, adding, however, no valuable was missing.

In another incident, the body of an unidentified youth, aged around 22, was found in Nalbhogh area of Khalpar Bazar in Turag, said Mahabub-E-Khuda, officer-in-charge of Turag Police Station.

Both the bodies were sent to the Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

# Keeping students busy in creativity, sports urgent

Teachers suggest edu institutions at convention against militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Apart from imparting lessons of humanity, values and social and religious norms, Bangladesh's educational institutions must make more extracurricular and co-curricular activities available round the year to prevent students from getting involved in militancy, teachers at a convention said yesterday.

They said schools and colleges arrange sports competitions, debates and cultural events only once a year and these need to be held frequently so that students get more exposure to physical and creative activities.

Stressing on increasing monitoring on students, they said teachers would have to spend more time with students and love and guide them as if they were

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Regular co-curricular, physical, creative activities
- Lessons on mortality, social, religious norms
- Interesting classroom atmosphere
- Spirit of Liberation War, patriotism
- Social resistance
- Family bonding
- Correct interpretation of Islam

their own children.

The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka organised the convention on "militancy-free educational institution" in the capital's Krishibid Institution Bangladesh,

attended by secondary school and college headmasters and principals.

Muktijodhda College, Gazipur Principal Abul Hashem said, "Many educational institutions lack adequate recreational facilities and playgrounds. Yet, every institution must make it mandatory to hold more co-curricular activities regularly."

That of Government Gazaria College said students were now busy going to coaching centres and with cellphones.

"If we can engage our students in creative activities, there will be no scope to walk on the path of militancy," he said, underscoring the need for inculcating ethical values and the spirit of the Liberation War in children.

Kafil Uddin Salehin, a teacher of

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# Joypurhat raped girl still unconscious

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police could not trace the alleged rapists of a schoolgirl in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat till yesterday even after four days of the incident.

Besides, with injuries to the head and face, the 15-year-old is still unconsciousness at the neurosurgery ward at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said doctors.

Dr Bilkis Begum, coordinator of the one-stop crisis centre at the DMCH, told The Daily Star that initially evidence of rape was found in her body during the forensic test.

The family said some unidentified criminals entered into their house while the girl and her parents were asleep early Saturday. Later, they locked her parents' room from outside and raped her in her room.

The victim's father said the culprits also stabbed his daughter with a sharp weapon before leaving the spot.

The father alleged that some local youths, who used to stalk his daughter on her way to school and proposed her several times to get involved in illicit affairs with them, committed the crime.

"My daughter suffered a stroke during the rape incident," he quoted doctors as saying. The criminals tried to kill his daughter after rape, he further alleged.

One of the victim's uncles filed a case with Kalai Police Station on the incident day.

They will launch tough movements if the rapists are not

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# Votes stolen night before

Alleges BNP's Goyeshwar over NCC polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee Member Goyeshwar Chandra Roy yesterday claimed that the government "stole votes" the night before the December 22 Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) election but did not commit any offence the following day.

"We think they wanted to show people through a farcical election that they can hold fair elections and (imply) 'we are very popular even if the election is held in a free and fair atmosphere'," he added.

He was addressing a discussion pro-BNP platform Voice of Democracy organised in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

"It is unbelievable that

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# Dhaka extends support to Qatar in Unesco DG post

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has extended its support to the Qatari candidature in the post of director general of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco).

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina extended the support when Dr Hamad Bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari, the adviser of the Diwan Amiri of the State of Qatar and the Qatari candidate in the Unesco director general post, paid a courtesy call on the PM at her office yesterday.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said Dr Hamad sought Bangladesh's support to his candidature in the post.

In response, the prime minister told Dr Hamad, who is now on a two-day visit to Bangladesh, that she is very happy to know that for the first time a candidate from Arab countries is contesting the post.

The Qatari Emir's adviser informed the prime minister that the election to the post of Unesco director general will be held in October next in Paris.



Dr Hamad meets Sheikh Hasina

In this context, Dr Hamad also said he is visiting Bangladesh, the first in any country, after announcement of his candidature in the post.

While talking about the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on strengthening cultural cooperation, between the two countries, the Qatari Emir's adviser said the MoU would be inked during a suitable occasion.

Meanwhile our diplomatic correspondent reports, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali also conveyed his support for the candidature of Dr Hamad in the post during his meeting with the visiting dignitary yesterday.

# Lubna's body exhumed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Around five and a half months past the death of Lubna Akhter, the body was exhumed yesterday for post mortem as per a court order.

In presence of her relatives and executive magistrate, the body was exhumed from the graveyard at Miskinshah Mazar and was sent to the forensic department of Chittagong Medical College.

On July 16, Lubna died at her in-laws house at Manumiaji Lane in Chawk Bazar area. Claiming that Lubna committed suicide, her in-laws buried her without informing police or any autopsy.

On November 6, her mother Rehena Sultana lodged a case accusing that nine people, including Lubna's husband Md Mabudur Rahman, killed her for dowry.



President Abdul Hamid and Workers Party of Bangladesh President Rashed Khan Menon during talks with a delegation of the party at Bangabhaban in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PID



A group of writers, artists, cultural activists and citizens stage a protest outside Bangla Academy in the capital yesterday over its decision to not allow Shrabon Prokashani to put up stalls in the Amar Ekushey book fair for the next two years.

PHOTO: STAR

## AVOIDING QUAKE CATASTROPHES

# Enforcement of building code imperative

Says Jamilur delivering Ishtiaq Ahmed memorial lecture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To avoid catastrophes of earthquakes, it is imperative that measures are initiated to strictly enforce provisions of the Bangladesh national building code, said Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury yesterday.

"If we want to build a disaster resilient nation, efforts to reduce earthquake vulnerability must be given higher priority," he said while delivering The Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Memorial Lecture 2016.

The Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organised the programme, "Towards A Disaster Resilient Nation: The Bangladesh Scenario", at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban in Dhaka University.

A fellow of the society, Jamilur said loss of human lives and livestock during cyclone and storm surges has reduced for the con-

struction of a network of multipurpose shelters, coupled with improved forecasting and warning systems and dissemination of information through volunteers.

However, in case of earthquakes, vulnerability in the country remains very high, he added.

He said a major earthquake with a magnitude greater than 7 in the Richter scale and with an epicentre in or around Bangladesh may lead to considerable damage, including death of a large number of people in urban areas, disruption of utilities, the lifeline of the city, and very high economic losses.

Jamilur, also vice chancellor of the University of Asia Pacific, said Dhaka metropolitan building construction regulations, promulgated in April, 2006, (subsequently amended in August 2007) makes it

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# Ijtema starts in Ctg tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

For the first time, a three-day Ijtema, congregation of Muslims, is going to take place at Hathazari upazila in Chittagong from tomorrow.

Organisers expect around 10 lakh Muslims to join the congregation that will last till Saturday at Charia village in Mirzapur union.

Mufti Jashim Uddin, coordinator of the organising committee and a member of Tablig Jamaat, said this year 32 districts, including Chittagong, could not join the Ijtema in the capital due to limited space.

Around 1,000 police members in uniform and plain clothes will be deployed while digital security devices like close circuit camera, metal detector, and watchtower will be installed.