

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

**DHAKA**  
H 26.0 L 14.0

**CHITTAGONG**  
H 26.7 L 15.6

**SYLHET**  
H 27.5 L 15.0

**RAJSHAHI**  
H 24.0 L 12.1

**KHULNA**  
H 25.5 L 13.5

**BARISAL**  
H 25.5 L 13.8

**RANGPUR**  
H 26.0 L 11.5

**COX'S BAZAR**  
H 27.6 L 16.7

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during mid-night till morning, the Met Office said. Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:28pm and rises tomorrow at 06:43am. The country's highest temperature 28.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 08.1 degree Celsius in Tetulia.



**কাজী মাহবুবউল্লাহ পুরস্কার বিতরণী অনুষ্ঠান ২০১৬**

প্রধান অতিথি : জনাব মোঃ আবদুল হামিদ, মহামান্য রাষ্ট্রপতি, পদ্মশ্রী বাংলাদেশ।  
বিশেষ অতিথি : জনাব খন্দকার মোশাররফ হোসেন, এম.পি, মাননীয় স্বামী, স্বনামধন্য, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়।

স্থান : জাতীয় নাট্যশালা, বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমি, সেগুন বাগিচা, ঢাকা।  
সময় : ৭ জানুয়ারি ২০১৭ইং, সকাল ১১:৩০ ঘটিকা

President Abdul Hamid with guests and recipients of Kazi Mahboobullah Award-2016 at a ceremony organised by Begum Zebunnessa and Kazi Mahboobullah Janakalyan Trust at the capital's Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy yesterday. Prof Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam (literature), Rafiqun Nabi (Fine Arts), Bangladesh Agricultural University (Science-Agriculture) and Sultana Kamal (lifetime achievement) were honoured with the awards. Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Begum Zebunnessa and Kazi Mahboobullah Janakalyan Trust Chairman Zobaida Mahub Latif and member of the trust Prof Kazi Shahidullah were present.

PHOTO: PID

**SAND FILLING FOR HOUSING IN NARAYANGANJ Villagers clash with project staff**

A CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

At least nine people were allegedly injured in a clash between staff of a housing project and villagers protesting filling of land with sand in Pirojpur union of Narayanganj yesterday. The protesters claimed that the injured were admitted to Sonargaon Upazila Health Complex and Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They alleged that the authorities of the "Sonargaon Resort City" project has been filling some privately owned farmland alongside those bought for the project in villages including Kandargaon, Jainpur, Bireshergaon and Bhatibandar. The protesters of Kandargaon, Ratanpur and Bhatibandar gathered yesterday afternoon and obstructed the staff dumping the sand, leading to an altercation and then the clash. One Md Sajib, who claimed to be an official of the project, refused to talk to The Daily Star over the sand filling allegation. However, he claimed that 50 to 60 of the locals attacked the staff on failing to extort Tk 30,000 from them. Sonargaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shah Md Monzur Quader said the project authority filed a complaint and they were conducting an investigating.

**Week-long book fair at SC starts today**

BSS, Dhaka

The curtain of a week-long book fair organised for the third consecutive year by Supreme Court (SC) Bar Association will be raised today on the premises of the apex court. "From 2015, we are holding this fair with much festivity and it is drawing more and more crowds each year," SC Bar Association General Secretary AM Mahub Uddin Khokon told the news agency. Stalls are being built in the open space on the ground floor and in the balcony on the south side of the bar building. Stall owners and their staff are giving finishing touches to make their stalls appealing to the crowd.

**Declare Halda river an ecologically critical area**

**Seminar urges govt**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a seminar in Chittagong city yesterday urged the government to declare the Halda river, the country's lone natural breeding ground for carp fishes, an ecologically critical area to protect its uniqueness. Integrated Development Fund and Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) jointly organised the seminar titled "Conservation and Development of Natural Breeding Ground for Carp Fishes in Halda River" at Theatre Institute, Chittagong, with Abdul Karim, PKSF managing director and former principal secretary to the prime minister, in the chair. In his presentation, Dr Manzoorul Kibria, associate professor of the department of zoology of Chittagong University, said sluice gates in the Halda river should be made fish-friendly, and rubber dams should be withdrawn immediately to increase the flow of the river. Effluents from the CDA Ananya Residential Area are released into the river, he said, adding that the area should be redesigned.

Kibria also underscored the need for a ban on mechanised dredgers in the river and tobacco cultivation upstream, and for the formation of a public patrolling committee to protect the river from pollution. An integrated management programme for the river should be introduced, he said, adding that a Halda River Conservation Commission should be formed to save the river. Awami League lawmaker from Raosan upazila ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury said Halda is the lone natural breeding ground for carp fishes but only Tk 1.40 crore has been allocated to conserve the river. He urged the government to increase the allocation. Prof Sekandar Khan, vice chancellor of East Delta University, said coordination among the department of environment, department of fisheries and local people is a must to save the river. Raosan upazila Chairman Ehsanul Haider Chowdhury Babul said spawning in the Halda has gradually been decreasing. In the 1970s, spawning was reported as much as 5,000kg, which has decreased to just 1.2kg last year.

**NEWS IN brief**

**One jailed, another fined for poaching 11 barking deer**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person was jailed and another fined after being detained by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in the capital's Kadamtali yesterday over the illegal possession of hides of 11 barking deer. A mobile court of Rab-10 jailed Md Moniruzzaman for one year and fined Mostak Ahmed Tk 50,000 for illegally hunting the deer in Khagrachhari and possessing the hides. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab had carried out a search at a house around 4:30pm, Sarower Alam, executive magistrate of the team, told The Daily Star. Moniruzzaman allegedly confessed during interrogation that an organised team of poachers hunts deer in Khagrachhari and the Sundarbans and smuggles the hides to India and China.

**Flower fair begins in Rajshahi**

BSS, Rajshahi

A month-long flower fair-2017 began at Seroil Horticulture point in Rajshahi yesterday. Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) organised the fair displaying a wide range of blossoms. The fragrance of different types of roses, marigolds, gerberas, orchids, lilies, tulips, daffodils, petunias, sunflowers, morning glories, poppies, gardenia, gougainvillea, snapdragons, dahlia, nasturtium, begonia, evening primrose, clematis, knight queen, daisies, chrysanthemums, winter flowers, bleeding hearts, cosmos, hollyhock and many others wafting through the air has been attracting throngs of people to the fair.

**6 die in road crashes**

CITY DESK

Six people, including an eight-year-old boy, were killed and six others injured in road accidents in four districts yesterday and on Friday. In Sirajganj, two people were killed and three others injured as a sand-laden truck hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw on Kodda-Jamtoil road near Alokdia intersection of Kodda in Kamarkhanda upazila yesterday. The deceased were Sheikh Ahmad, of Haidarpur village and Golam Hossain, of Dhopakandi village in the upazila. In Bogra Sadar, eight-year-old Minhaj Ali, was killed as a bus ran him over at Boliya Charnath in Hazradighi area. Son of Ziaur Rahman of the area, Minhaj died on the spot. After the incident, angry locals vandalised the bus. However, the driver and his helper fled following the incident, said police. Two cattle traders were killed and three others injured as a cattle-laden human-hauler fell into a ditch beside Lahiri-Baliadangi road near Timoi Bridge in Baliadangi upazila of Thakurgaon on Friday afternoon. The deceased were Fazlul Haque, 40, of Senua village and Saddam Hossain, 32, of Vagura village in the district. The injured were rushed to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital. In Chittagong, Raju Kanti Nath, 18, of Mirerhat area was killed as a bus hit his bicycle near Medical Gate in Hathazari municipality yesterday. He died on the spot.

**Punishment**

FROM PAGE 4 Justice Studies (BICJS) at Bangla Academy in the capital. Presided over by BICJS executive committee Chairperson Dr Mokarram Hossain, the function was attended by Prof Mizanur Rahman Miah and Prof Shafiqur Rahman, among others. Patterns and tactics of committing crimes are changing in the world with time. In Bangladesh, the government is very much committed to tackling crimes. But the society and citizens also have to come forward, the law minister urged.

**Youths hold**

FROM PAGE 4 generation wants to save the environment. He inspired the young leaders of the website, hoping that they would continue their work. Lisun said the website environmentmove.com deals with environmental issues and was established in 2014 by Tawhid Hossain who is now doing his PhD in Germany.

**Army always ready to stop evil force: PM**

BSS, Swarna Dweep, Noakhali

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh Army, a force imbued with the spirit of the War of Liberation, is very much ready than ever before to foil plans of any evil force. Confidence of the people in the army has been strengthened as the force is equipped with vast resources of modern war machines and able to operate those efficiently, she said at a maneuver exercise of Bangladesh Army at Swarna Dweep in the district yesterday. Sheikh Hasina said modern armament of the army and their tough activities manifest their professionalism. Excellent maneuver is an example of modern and strong military force, she said praising the attractive exercise of the 11 Infantry Division. "We don't want war, but we have to have every preparation to foil any attempt against our independence and sovereignty," she said, adding, "Our armed forces are growing up as befitting enough required for an independent country." The exercise was organised under the management of the 93 Armour Brigade Group of 11 Infantry Division of

Bangladesh Army. Brig Gen Sharif Ahsan led the exercise. "I'm confident over the overall capacity of the army after seeing the use of newly inducted MBT-2000 tank, APC BTR-80, Self Propelled Artillery Gun, NORA-B-52, Radar Vehicle SLC-2, anti-tank missile METIS-M-1 and professionalism of the army," she said. Army Chief General Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiqul Huq gave the welcome address on the occasion, attended by ministers, chiefs of navy and air forces, parliament members, GOCs of 11 and 33 infantry divisions. The island popularly known as Jahaijhar Char under Noakhali district surfaced in 1978. The inaccessible island for long had been used by the organised miscreants and pirates as their safe haven, disrupting the activities of the civil administration. Situated over a three-meter height from the sea level, the island is about 360 square kilometers in area. In 2013, the island was renamed as "Swarna Dweep" and the government allocated it to the Bangladesh Army in 2013 for training as well as development of the island for habitation, improved law and order and afforestation.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talks to officials at a manoeuvre exercise of Bangladesh Army at Swarna Dweep in Noakhali yesterday. On her left is Bangladesh Army Chief of Army Staff General Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiqul Huq.

PHOTO: PMO



A photo exhibition organised in front of Bangladesh National Museum in the capital yesterday by a platform, "Simanta Hotta Protirodh Mancha", protesting and demanding just trials over border killings, including that of 15-year-old Felani Khatun who was gunned down by the Indian Border Security Force when she, along with her father, was returning home from India through the Anantapur border of Kurigram on January 7, 2011.

PHOTO: STAR

**President for promoting**

FROM PAGE 3 Award" distribution ceremony organised by Begum Zebunnessa and Kazi Mahboobullah Janakalyan Trust at the capital's Shilpakala Academy. Apart from the government, various social service-oriented organisations have to come forward to flourish good sense and moral values in this regard, he said. "There are many wealthy persons in our society. They do not have shortage of money. They lead lavish lives. I will urge them to contribute to social development," he added. "Come forward to serve the distressed people and contribute to developing the living standard of the poor by arranging sources of income for them. Then people of your area will remember you and your contribution," he said, adding that real happiness can come through dedication in the welfare of the humanity. Prof Dr Syed Manzoorul Islam (literature), Rafiqun Nabi (Fine Arts), Bangladesh Agricultural University (Science-Agriculture) and Sultana Kamal (lifetime achievement) were honoured with awards in the programme. Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Begum Zebunnessa and Kazi Mahboobullah Janakalyan Trust Chairman Zobaida Mahub Latif and member of the trust Prof Kazi Shahidullah also spoke.

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