

YESTERDAY'S  
TEMPERATURESDHAKA  
H 27.3 | L 13.8CHITTAGONG  
H 29.0 | L 15.0SYLHET  
H 27.5 | L 14.9RAJSHAHI  
H 26.0 | L 11.2KHULNA  
H 27.5 | L 13.5BARISAL  
H 27.6 | L 12.0RANGPUR  
H 27.0 | L 11.2COX'S BAZAR  
H 28.5 | L 16.2

Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country, reports UNB. Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:29pm and rises tomorrow at 6:44am. Country's highest temperature 29.9 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 07.2 in Tentulia.

# TREE FELLING FEST ON HIGHWAY



(Clockwise from left) This serene archway made of foliage giving shade to those passing under from Keraniganj to Mawa is set to disappear within a month or so to give way to development as the authorities concerned continually chop down hundreds of trees to widen the stretch of road. It will take at least a couple of years for a fraction of the greenery to return once saplings are planted afresh. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BFUJ seeks PM's help to form 9th wage board for journalists  
BSS, Dhaka

A faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) yesterday sought Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's direct intervention in forming the 9th wage board for journalists. "The journalists' community of the country is extremely annoyed and upset as the information ministry is dillydallying, breaching its pledges in a cunning manner despite the president's moral support and the prime minister's repeated assurance (in constituting the wage board)," said the BFUJ in a statement issued after its executive committee meeting at Jatiya Press Club with its president Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul in the chair.

Bangladesh permanent OAS observer  
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has attained the status of permanent observer of the Organization of American States (OAS), a multilateral regional organisation founded by the United States in 1948.

OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro, in a letter, to Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, hoped for strengthened engagement and cooperation between the organisation and Bangladesh for the common benefit of the two countries.

OAS has 35 members with 72 permanent observers.

## Hasina seeks cooperation to sustain pace of development

BSS, Dhaka



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sought cooperation from all to continue the present pace of development.

The premier was speaking at the inaugural of a three-day Development Fair-2017 across the country through videoconferencing from her official Gono Bhaban residence in the capital yesterday.

The fair has been organised to bring all people under the government's activities by informing the success stories to achieve Vision 2021 and Vision 2041 as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Terming terrorism and militancy as the main barriers to development, the prime minister reiterated her call to the people of all levels to build a social spirit against the twin social vices.

Highlighting various initiatives of her government to reduce poverty, Hasina said, "Bangladesh would be considered as a poverty-free middle income country if we can cut the rate by 7/8 percent by 2021."

Elaborating her government's steps for development, the premier said, "Whenever Awami League comes to power, we think it's our responsibility to serve the people."

She said the government has introduced micro-saving project instead of microcredit to make the marginal people self-reliant and free them from the high interest rate of microcredit.

Her government is establishing 100 economic zones across the country to create employment opportunities, she added.

The premier said Bangladesh has earned food autarchy and in order to ensure food for all, misuse of agriculture land should be stopped by banning the establishment of industries here and there.

She also underscored the need for proper marketing of various agro items that are being produced in different areas of the country so that the interest of the farmers could be protected.

The premier hoped that the Bangladesh missions abroad will arrange similar fairs to project the development strides of the government to the expatriate Bangladeshis as well as the development partners.

Senior ministers and government officials were present on the occasion.

Later, the people and officials of four districts -- Tangail, Barisal, Khulna and Gopalganj -- were connected through the videoconferencing. Various government and non-government organisations, banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions are taking part in the fairs.

## HC clears way to resume trial against Adilur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for the lower court to resume trial proceedings against rights organisation Odhikar's Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan and its Director ASM Nasiruddin Elan in a case filed allegedly for distorting information.

The HC rejected an appeal filed by the two against the lower court order that framed charges against them.

The HC also lifted its earlier order that stayed the trial proceedings.

An Odhikar report had claimed that 61 people died following law enforcers' drives against Hefajat-e Islam in Motijheel of Dhaka on May 6, 2013. But the government put the number of deaths at 13.

## NEWS IN brief

### SC orders return of Mahmudur Rahman's passport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered the lower court concerned to return the passport of Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman in 24 hours.

The SC passed the order after hearing a petition filed by Mahmudur seeking review of its order that asked him to deposit his passport to the lower court. Earlier on October 31 last year, the apex court upheld a High Court order that granted bail to Mahmudur Rahman in a case filed for alleged attempt to abduct and murder Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy.

### Zianagar to be Indurkani again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday approved proposals to reinstate the name of a Pirozpur upazila, create a new one in Comilla and turn a Chittagong union into a municipality.

A meeting of the National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reform, where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was present, approved the proposals on public demand, said Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shaiful Alam.

Indurkani was renamed Zianagar during the BNP-Jamaat alliance government in 2002.

The 491st upazila, Lalmalai will be formed with eight unions of Comilla sadar upazila and one of Laksam upazila with its headquarters at Joynagar, cover 147.03 square kilometres. Dohazari become a municipality as its population crossed the 50,000 eligibility mark.

### Arrest challenged woman's 'rapist': HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the law enforcers to immediately arrest a man, who allegedly raped a mentally challenged woman in Comilla in last December.

The court also directed police to record the complaint over raping the woman and hacking her brother as the first information report of a case in 48 hours.

The Comilla superintendent of police and Bhangora Bazar police officer-in-charge were asked to submit a report before the HC by January 19 after complying with the directives. The HC bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice JBM Hassan came up with the order on a suomoto move following a daily's report.

### Khairul new president of Plant Breeding and Genetics Society

CITY DESK



Dr M Khairul Bashar, country manager of HarvestPlus-Bangladesh, has been elected the president of Plant Breeding and Genetics Society of Bangladesh for 2017-18, says a press release.

Prof AKM Aminul Islam was elected general secretary while Dr Noresh Chandra Deb Barma senior vice president, and Dr Md Aziz Jalani Chowdhury and Prof Md Sarwar Hossain vice presidents.

Besides, Dr Md Motiur Rahman was elected treasurer, Dr Md Selim Uddin joint secretary, Dr Md Abdul Malek organising secretary. Members are Prof Md Abdul Kashem Chowdhury, Prof Bhavendra Kumar Biswas, Dr Md Khalequzzaman, Prof Nasrin Akhter Ily, Dr Nahid Zeba, Dr Md Anisur Rahman, Dr Md Ashraful Haq, Dr Md Shahidur Rashid Bhuiyan, Dr Chandan Kumar Saha, and Dr Md Shah-e-Alam.

### ULAB team joins Thai univ event today

CITY DESK

Center for Language Studies (CLS), University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh will participate in a 13-day language and cultural programmes at Chiang Mai University, Thailand from today.

Ten ULAB students, led by CLS Director ATM Sajedul Huq and accompanied by Assistant Professor Shaheen Ara, will join the events, where there will be various workshops hosted by Language Institute, Chiang Mai University, says a press release.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Project Director  
"Modernization of Fire Service & Civil Defence" Project  
Department of Fire Service & Civil Defence  
Kazi Alauddin Road, Dhaka.

Memo No : 44.06.0000.017.07.005.16.

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Date: 01/01/2017

#### CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

It is notified for all concerned that the following amendments are hereby made against International Tender Notice Published vide memo No. 44.06.0000.017.07.005.16.11999 dated 13.11.2016 in the Daily Kaler Kantha & The New Nation dated 16.11.2016 and Daily Janakantha & The Daily Star dated 17.11.2016 respectively for the Procurement of fire fighting & rescue equipments :

SL. No.	Item	Scheduled	Amended
01.	Tender document Selling date	Up to 15.01.2017	Up to 07.02.2017
02.	Tender Submission and Closing date and time	On or before 16.01.2017 at 12.00 hours	On or before 08.02.2017 at 12.00 hours
03.	Tender Opening date and time	16.01.2017 at 12.15 hours	08.02.2017 at 12.15 hours

The other terms and conditions of the tender notice will remain unchanged. This amendment notice will be the part of the Tender documents.

*Abdul Razzaque*  
Joint Secretary &  
Project Director.  
T: 9557577.