

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR	MYMENSINGH
H 26.7 L 16.6	H 27.8 L 15.5	H 28.6 L 13.6	H 26.8 L 09.8	H 26.2 L 12.5	H 27.4 L 12.0	H 26.6 L 12.4	H 28.2 L 17.2	H 27.0 L 14.3	

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Mild cold wave sweeping over Rajshahi, Chuadanga and Sreemangal may continue, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:39pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am. Country's highest temperature 29.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 9.3 in Sreemangal.

Seven writers get Bangla Academy awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven writers have been declared as recipients for Bangla Academy Sahitya Purashkar-2016, one of the prestigious literary awards in the country, ahead of the Amar Ekushey Book Fair to be held on February 1.

Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan unveiled the names under eight categories out of ten at a press briefing yesterday at the academy's auditorium.

Abu Hasan Shariar was named as the winner in poetry and Shahaduzzaman in fiction, said a press release.

The other winners are Morshed Shafiul Hasan (essay and research), Niaz Zaman (translation), MA Hasan (literature on Liberation War), Nurjahan Bose (memoir) and Rashed Rouf (Children's literature).

The academy did not declare any name for drama and science fiction due to a lack of significant works under these genres, said the release.



The ceiling of a building of the Karwan Bazar kitchen market is propped up by iron pipes to prevent any accident for the time being. But nobody knows how long the pipes are going to hold as the authorities of the market keep on adding more pipes with the condition of the heavily worn-out ceiling getting worse every day. A major wholesale hub of the capital, the market is frequented by buyers and traders almost round the clock and any major accident is likely to result in huge casualties. The photo was taken Sunday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

SYMPOSIUM ON BANGLADESH-MYANMAR Rohingya solution pivotal for ties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh-Myanmar relations will not deepen until the Rohingya refugee crisis is solved, speakers said at a symposium yesterday.

They also asked the Bangladesh government to put pressure on international, regional organisations like OIC, ASEAN so that they force Myanmar to find a sustainable solution in this regard. Former ambassadors, secretaries, foreign affair experts, and academicians spoke at the programme, "Bangladesh-Myanmar Relations", organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) in its auditorium.

"Due to mutual misunderstandings, suspicions, and lack of political will, particularly from the side of Myanmar, the relationship has been uneven," said Dr M Jashim Uddin, teacher of North South University, referring to the Rohingya issue and tensions on the border. Presenting a paper, he said the refugees started to come into Bangladesh in the late 70's due to ethnic conflict and sectarian violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state. Bangladesh now hosts 28,000 documented and 2-5 lakh undocumented refugees, he said, adding the unregistered refugees were gradually becoming a security concern for Bangladesh and they would soon outnumber the local population of Teknaf.

Maj Gen (retd) Anup Kumar Chakma, former ambassador to Myanmar; Prof CR Abrar of Dhaka University; M Afsarul Qader, former secretary and ambassador, and Nasrin Khaleque, political officer at the British High Commission, also spoke.

Star brings together change makers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bringing together more than two dozen change makers, The Daily Star held a meeting yesterday, recognising their efforts to initiate, create, and spread positive activities in the country.

The initiatives include educating street children, providing rehabilitation, creating web portals for blood donation, developing digital entertainment contents, among others.

From entrepreneurs to social media activists and volunteers joined the meeting at The Daily Star Centre.

The meeting helped the participants share their experiences and ideas on how to take their services to a vast majority of the people of the society.

Saying that the platform will connect all change makers of the society, Editor of The Star Weekend Elita Karim said, "You are bringing positive change to the society. Through the platform more people will be connected."

The founder of non-profit organisation Heroes for All, Rehnuna Karim, said people are working in their individual field. She hoped such a forum would give them the opportunity to work in collaboration.

Founder and president of Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) Ejaj Ahmad said there are many heroes in the society working behind the scene. Together they would be able to help find out these

Bangla version of handbook on statelessness launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) launched the Bangla version of "Nationality and Statelessness: Handbook for Parliamentarians" yesterday.

Speaker Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury attended the event as chief guest in the capital.

First published in 2005 and revised in 2014, the handbook provides detailed information on contemporary statelessness issues, development of international legal doctrine, good practice examples and possible solutions, said a press release of UNHCR.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, president of IPU, and Shinji Kubo, UNHCR Country Representative in Bangladesh, also spoke at the event.

GULSHAN CAFÉ ATTACK 'Neo JMB' leader Rajib confesses to plotting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Neo JMB" leader Jahangir Alam alias Rajib Gandhi confessed to plotting the Gulshan café attack, court sources said.

Rajib told the court that he planned the crime with some other top leaders but was not physically present in the attack, he said.

He also admitted that he recruited operatives in the militant outfit, they added.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ahsan Habib sent him to jail after recording his statements.

The July 1 café attack last year had left 22 people, including 17 foreigners and two police officials, killed.

The 32-year-old man, who gained position as a top position in the "Neo JMB" from a cook of a leader of the old JMB, was arrested by the counter terrorism unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police on January 14 in Tangail.

He is the only mastermind behind the attack arrested alive. Several others including Neo JMB top coordinator Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury was killed in separate police raids in Dhaka and elsewhere.

Police said Rajib supplied two operatives for the Gulshan and one for the Sholakia attacks.

Rajib and his family had stayed at a Bashundhara Residential Area house where the Gulshan café attack was planned. He used to "guide" the attackers there, police and court sources said.



A bunch of change makers from entrepreneurs to social media activists to volunteers gather at a meeting at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday. Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, commended them for their outstanding jobs in respective fields. PHOTO: STAR

MYMENSINGH MEDICAL COLLEGE Classes suspended, students asked to leave dorms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The Mymensingh Medical College (MMC) authorities yesterday suspended three second-year students for their involvement in a clash on the campus last week.

The students are: Anupam Datta, Himel and Niamat Hossain Siam, said Prof Fazlul Haque Pathan, provice chancellor of MMC.

All classes of undergraduate level have also been suspended for an

AL leaders want

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starting on December 18 last year, and is likely to form the search committee soon.

During its meeting with the president, BNP proposed some names for the search committee but neither the party nor the Bangabhaban disclosed those.

The country's political arena had gone from bad to worse when the last BNP government extended the retirement age of judges, resulting in Justice KM Hasan being in line to head the then next caretaker government.

Addressing a programme in the city, Quader on Sunday said, "You [Khaleda] have proposed the name of ex-chief justice KM Hasan, whom you wanted to make your chief adviser, to be included in the search committee. Was not KM Hasan the international affairs adviser of BNP? Then who is neutral? Who is biased?"

Meanwhile, senior AL leader and Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday at his office at the secretariat told journalists that Quader need not go to the president to know whose names BNP proposed to include in the search committee because BNP leaders disclosed it to Quader.

Now dowry case against cricketer

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Besides, none named Anwar Hossain was found in the area, who, as per the certificate, registered the marriage.

Md Salim Ullah Khan, the designated marriage registrar in Meradia, said he never had any office at the place.

Seeing a copy of the marriage certificate, he said it was not prepared by him and was looking like a fake one.

However, there is a marriage registrar named Anwar Hossain in Goran.

When Nasrin was called over the phone repeatedly to know about the certificate, she did not respond.

NEWS IN brief

Recent deaths of judges hamper judiciary: SK Sinha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday said the judiciary has been harmed due to the death of the judges who had expertise on particular issues.

He made the comment while speaking as chief guest at a meeting organised in memory of former chief justice MM Ruhul Amin, Justice Mohammad Bazlur Rahman and Justice JN Deb Choudhury.

The Supreme Court Judges' Corner organised the meeting in SC auditorium.

Former chief justice MM Ruhul Amin died of heart diseases at a hospital in Singapore on January 17. Justice Mohammad Bazlur Rahman, a sitting judge of the Appellate Division and Justice JN Deb Choudhury, another sitting judge of the High Court Division, died on January 1 this year and last December 15 respectively.

Music festival starts at DU today

DU CORRESPONDENT

A two-day annual music festival starts today at Dhaka University (DU) with the slogan "Music for Global Bonding".

The music department of DU is arranging the festival for the eighth time in Teacher-Student Center (TSC) auditorium.

"We will also honour 12 distinguished lyricists, composers and singers at the programme," said music department's Chairperson Dr Leena Taposhi Khan at a press conference at Dhaka University Journalists' Association (Duja) office. Artists from France, China and India will also perform at the festival which will start at 6:00pm every day.

Sue Lautze new FAO rep in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sue Lautze, a former senior adviser and deputy humanitarian coordinator of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in South Sudan, has joined as FAO Country Representative in Bangladesh.

According to FAO Dhaka office, a national of the United States of America Dr Sue Lautze took over as the immediate past FAO Representative Mike Robson moved on to FAO headquarters in Rome last month.



4 held with 130kg of cannabis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-13 arrested four alleged drug paddlers with 130kg of cannabis, worth Tk 13 lakh, near China Cinema Hall at Satmatha in Rangpur city yesterday.

Abu Kalam, of village Anantapur, Nurul Amin, of Kurimgam, Razu Mia, of Mothupur, and Bachchu Mia, of Kustia Sadar upazila, were handed over to Rangpur police.

IN FOND MEMORY



Mrs. Anwara Islam, died on 24-01-2006 – exactly the same day and date as her husband Mr. Sirajul Islam who died twenty four years earlier in 1982.

Please join us in praying to the Almighty Allah to grant them eternal peace.

Lubna, Akbar & Duree (Children)
Anika, Talita, Numair (Grand Children)
Amani, Tijaan & Jinaan (Great-Grand Children)

Ms Lubna Choudhury
Founder-Principal, B.I.T.

We Mourn



We are deeply shocked and grieved at the sad demise of Mirza Ali Behrouze Ispahani, Founder Trustee of the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) who breathed his last on Monday, 23 January, 2017 (Innalillaha Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajeun). On behalf of the Education, Science, Technology & Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT) and the IUB Board of Trustees, members of the faculty and management, students and alumni, we express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to his departed soul.

Fondly remembered and sadly missed by ESTCDT, IUB Board of Trustees, members of the faculty, management, students and alumni

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH