

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DKHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
H 29.5 L 29.5	H 29.3 L 29.2	H 30.4 L 30.6	H 31.7 L 31.7	H 29.1 L 28.8	H 28.2 L 28.2	H 29.3 L 29.3	H 30.1 L 30.0	H 32.0 L 32.0	

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:55pm and rises tomorrow at 6:30am. Country's highest temperature 32.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 11.6 in Sreemangal.

TRANSFER OF COURT
Khaleda's review
petition hearing
deferred

STAR REPORT
The High Court yesterday deferred until February 22 the hearing on a revision petition filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia seeking its order on a trial court for the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case against her to another court.

The court was set to hear the petition yesterday. But, the judges deferred the hearing following a time prayer moved by Khaleda's lawyer AJ Mohammad Ali on personal grounds. Anti-Corruption Commission lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan opposed the time prayer, saying Khaleda's lawyers were trying to make delay in finishing the trial proceedings at the trial court.

On February 8, the BNP chief filed the petition with the HC also seeking a stay on the trial proceedings against her in the corruption case.

Earlier on February 2, Khaleda expressed no-confidence in the judge of the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka. But Judge Abu Ahmed Jamadar rejected the no confidence petition. In the revision petition, Khaleda also challenged the lower court's rejection order. Meanwhile, Judge Abu Ahmed Jamadar yesterday fixed February 26 for the next hearing of Zia Orphanage and Zia Charitable Trust graft cases. The judge set the date after Khaleda's lawyer Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar submitted two separate petitions saying that Khaleda could not appear before the court due to her physical illness.



Due to lack of a proper drainage system, a road in the capital's Dania-Goalbarir Mor area remains submerged with drain water mixed with raw sewage almost round the year. Apart from locals and visitors, hundreds of students from seven schools and colleges in the area have to use the road almost every day, but the authorities seem to care little about their sufferings. When the monsoon arrives, the situation gets worse, increasing their plight. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MONIRUL ISLAM

Reckless driving claims six lives in two days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra
Road crashes on Dhaka-Bogra highway killed six people and injured six others in Bogra yesterday and on Wednesday night, thanks to reckless driving. In Shajahanpur upazila of the district, three people were killed as a Bogra-bound truck collided head-on with a CNG-auto-rickshaw carrying them on the highway in Lichutola area yesterday evening. The deceased were identified as Sharifa Sultana, 40, Saiful Islam, 33, of Gabtoli upazila and Abul Kalam Azad, 40, of Sherpur upazila in the district. Azad was the auto-rickshaw driver. The three died on the spot, said police. Three others who received injuries

in the collision were rushed to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in the district. They are Jui Khatun, Gini Begum and Sonavan Begum of Gabtoli upazila of the district. In another incident in the upazila, two youths were killed as their motorcycle was hit by a truck while in Shajapur area on Wednesday night. The deceased were identified as Mehedi Hasan, 19, of Talpukur village and Rakibul Islam Roki, 19, of Brikustia village under the upazila. Both were supposed to seat for the upcoming HSC examination from Demajani Komor Uddin Islamia Degree College in the upazila.

Police said the incident occurred when the youths were crossing the highway with their vehicle. The truck was seized. In Sherpur upazila of the district, a rice trader was killed in a head-on collision between a truck which was carrying rice and a three-wheeler on the highway in Krisnopur area of Mirzapur village yesterday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Ripon Mia, 32, of Fultola village under the upazila. He died on the spot, said police. Three people were also injured in the accident, said police, adding, they were rushed to a local upazila health complex.

7 govt colleges get affiliated with DU

DU CORRESPONDENT
Seven government colleges have been affiliated with Dhaka University following a decision of the government to increase quality of education in the institutions. The colleges are Dhaka College, Eden Mohila College, Government Shaheed Suhrawrdy College, Kabi Nazrul Government College, Begum Badrunnesa Government Mohila College, Mirpur Government Bangla College, and Government Titumir College. There are 1,67,236 students and 1,149 teachers in the colleges, said a DU press release yesterday.

NEWS IN brief

US embassy closed Sunday, Tuesday

CITY DESK
The US Embassy will remain closed Sunday and Tuesday to celebrate President's Day, an official holiday in the United States, and in observance of International Mother Language Day in Bangladesh. The closure also includes the Consular Section and the American Center with the Archer K Blood American Center Library and the EducationUSA Student Advising Center. Emergency services for American citizens will be available. Please call 5566-2000 to speak with the duty officer.

Shishu Mela returned to lessee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
After around three months' closure of Shishu Mela, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) yesterday handed over the children's amusement park in Shyamoli to its earlier lessee. But it will reopen around one week later because of maintenance work, said DNCC Executive Magistrate SM Ojior Rahman. They have allowed the owners of Via Media Business Services Ltd, to which the park was leased out, to run it for a year, after realising Tk 47 lakh dues from them, he said.

Stamford awards essay writers

CITY DESK
The prize giving ceremony of "Economics Essay Writing Contest" of Stamford University Bangladesh was held on its Dhanmondi campus yesterday, said a press release. The Department of Economics organised the programme where Vice-President Fatimaz Feroz was present as chief guest and Rumana Haque Rita, director of Library and a trustee, as special guest. Prof Habibur Rahman, chairman of Economics, chaired the programme. Top three contestants were Zinnat Ara Reshma, Tabassum Tazin and Sadbin Hossain.



A graduate of IDB-BISEW (Islamic Development Bank-Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Educational Wafk) IT Scholarship Project receives a certificate at a ceremony held at the capital's IDB-BISEW Bhaban Wednesday. Nineteen graduates were awarded certificates for academic performance and career achievement. A total of 304 graduates belonging to seven professional courses received certificates. Members of the project's consulting company Show & Tell Consulting Ltd were also present.



Rickshaws are parked illegally on Gulshan link road in Dhaka yesterday with the authorities concerned turning a blind eye.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

SC declares Anisul's candidacy valid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court verdict that declared valid Law Minister Anisul Huq's candidature through which he was elected unopposed to the 10th parliament from the Brahmanbaria-4 constituency on January 5, 2014. A four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah dismissed an appeal filed challenging the HC verdict. On May 15, 2014, the HC rejected a petition that challenged the legality of Anisul's candidacy and declared his candidature legal. Khandker Hebzur Rahman, a Jatiya Party (Manju) nominee whose nomination papers was cancelled, filed the petition. Hebzur submitted the petition to the HC in 2014, saying that the Awami League lawmaker resigned from the post of Anti-Corruption Commission's chief legal adviser after submitting his nomination paper. As per the Representation of the People Order, a candidate must resign from government posts before the submission, he said. Hebzur's nomination papers were cancelled as a case was pending against him. The HC in the verdict said Anisul Huq did not hold a profitable post and so allegations of him are not correct. Later Hebzur challenged the verdict in the SC. Later on Hebzur submitted a leave to appeal petition to the Appellate Division challenging the HC verdict.

Publish ads for 3

FROM PAGE 3
Liberation War. The other five who are in jail are MA Hannan, a Jatiya Party lawmaker from Trishal in Mymensingh; his son Rafique Sajjad, Khandakar Golam Sabbir Ahmed, Mizanur Rahman Mintu, and Hormuj Ali. The prosecution on October 30 last year pressed six charges against the eight and the tribunal took the charges into cognisance on December 11 last year. Hannan is the second sitting lawmaker facing the war crime charges. Executed war criminal Salauddin Quader Chowdhury was arrested in December 2010 when he was a lawmaker of BNP, the then opposition in parliament. Most of the accused were either involved with Muslim League or Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, according to the tribunal investigation agency. Both Muslim League and Jamaat fought against the country's independence. Later, they got involved in the politics of Jatiya Party and Jamaat, it added.

Novels most sought-after literary adventure

MAHDI AL MUHTASIM with MATHEWS CHIRAN
We all love to read stories. Whether those are larger-than-life tales or narratives based on own experiences, reading books remains a great way of spending and sharing time together. The allure of a novel, which can take a reader on a captivating journey through their imagination, is everlasting. With the wide variety of books to choose from, the Ekushey book fair is a perfect place for the booklovers to get their favourite novels and initiate the literary voyage. And, a major selection of books available at the fair is dominated by novels. Novelist Imdadul Haq Milon was surrounded by bookworms at Anannya Prokashani yesterday where elated fans were taking his autographs. "I eagerly await the book fair to spend time with my readers," said Milon, whose eight new novels arrived this year. When asked about the popularity of novels, he said, "Readers buy various genres of literature but eighty percent is novels." He said the same picture prevails everywhere as people like to hear stories. Milon's novels on the Liberation War titled "Noydash" and "Sare Tin Haat Bhumii" were generat-



ing much enthusiasm among readers, said Monirul Islam, publisher of Anannya. His "Rojonigandhapur" and "Raar Dupure" were also in good demand, he said. Forty-two books, mostly novels, written by Milon were available at the fair. There was also a joyous commotion at the Suhrawardy Udyan premises of the fair as cheery booklovers were seen gathering in front of a stall. They had a valid reason though. Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal was not only signing autographs but also fulfilling fans' demands by taking pictures with them. His novels "Rasha" and "Ritin" from Tamrolipi were among the most sought after. Not only novels remain a favourite among the readers of all ages, but also when it comes to buy a book as a gift -- it's the first choice. Md Riajul Karim, student of Sarkari Bangla College, was going through novels of Humayun Ahmed, Imdadul Haq Milon and Anisul Huque at a stall. "I'm thinking of presenting a novel to my sister," he said. "So many good ones, so many to choose from," he

smiled. Readers were also seen buying novels "Ei Prithibi Chere" by Anisul Huque, "Rangasala" by Harisanker and "Osamaptir Galpa" by Prof Asif Nazrul, all published by Prothoma Prokashani. While, many were swarming the stall of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro to enrich their collections by buying novels of Syed Mujtaba Ali, Rabindranath Tagore, and Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay. Many publishers kept novels for children and teenagers too. Saad Ali, an eighth grader, was all smiles after buying a collection of Humayun Ahmed's children novels. Demands for thrillers, historical and political novels were also satisfactory, said the publishers. But youths' still preferred romantic novels. "I mostly sell novels as people are buying those," said Sharifa Bulbul, publisher of Balaka Publication. Translated versions of English classics were also in high demand. Many bookworms were seen turning the pages of Isaac Asimov's "Foundation" and Jostein Gaarder's "Sophie's World", among others, at the stall of Sandesh Publication. On the 16th day of the fair, 102 new books arrived. Of which, 16 were novels.

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