

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 30.7 L 23.2	MYMENSINGH H 29.5 L 23.2	CHITTAGONG H 29.8 L 22.2	SYLHET H 30.0 L 20.2	RAJSHAHI H 33.2 L 13.0	RANGPUR H 31.0 L 20.4	KHULNA H 31.5 L 22.8	BARISAL H 31.0 L 22.6	COX'S BAZAR H 29.7 L 21.8
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Rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Dhaka, Comilla and Noakhali till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged and day temperature may fall by (1-2) degree Celsius over the country, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:58pm and rises tomorrow at 6:25am.



Dance troupe Dhriti Nartanalaya performs on the opening day of the Bengal Sangskriti Utsab Sylhet 2017, held at the city's Abul Maal Abdul Muhith Sports Complex yesterday. The 10-day festival features arts, music, theatre, films, crafts, architecture and traditional food of Bangladesh. PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

RAMNA CARNAGE CASE
HC to resume hearing death reference, appeals March 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday fixed March 14 for resuming hearing on the death reference and appeals in the sensational Ramna Batamul carnage case.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Shahidul Karim was set to hear concluding arguments from Attorney General Mahububey Alam on the death reference and appeals in the case, as placing arguments by both the state and defence counsels had already been finished earlier.

But the judges fixed March 14 for hearing arguments from the attorney general as time has been sought on behalf of him in this regard, Deputy Attorney General Forhad Ahmed told The Daily Star.

He also said the HC might conclude the hearing on that day.

On January 8, the HC started hearing on the death reference and appeals in the case. A Dhaka court on June 23, 2014 handed down death penalty to eight militants of Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji), including its top leader Mufti Abdul Hannan Munshi, for killing 10 people in the attack on the Chhayanaut function during Pabela Baishakh celebrations at Ramna Batamul in 2001.

Six other militants of the banned Islamist outfit were sentenced to life imprisonment for involvement in the blasts. Eight of the condemned accused filed nine separate appeals with the HC challenging the trial court verdict.

Public sector needs to be modernised: Gowher Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi yesterday said the public service sector needed reform and modernisation to achieve the targets of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Vision 2041.

"The most critical people in achieving SDGs and Vision 2041 are the public servants," he told a seminar on "Human Resource Development: Need for Education and Administrative Sector Reform for Realisation of Vision 2041".

National Defence College (NDC) organised the seminar on its campus in the capital's Mirpur.

Rizvi said public servants were supplemented by the private sector and civil society but they would have to "carry the brand".

The draft Public Service Act-2015 has been "floating" because there are people objecting certain parts of it, he added.

He said there was no alternative to democracy and inclusiveness for earning sustainable and equitable development.

Presenting a keynote paper, noted educationist and academic Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam said "sweeping" reforms were required in the education sector to achieve the targets of Vision 2041.

These reforms should include a substantial increase in education budget and an emphasis on several areas like early childhood education, technical and science education, and adult literacy, he said.

"In its current state, our education sector cannot ensure the level of human resource development that we require in order to graduate from a lower middle income country to a developed country by 2041," he said.

Former education secretary Nazrul Islam Khan and NDC Commandant Lt Gen Chowdhury Hasan Sarwardy, among others, spoke at the seminar, which was moderated by NDC senior faculty member Air Vice Marshal M Sanaul Huq.

Jaago gets int'l award for use of ICT in education

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jaago Foundation has received "The 2016 Unesco King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize" in recognition of its "Online School" project for innovative use of information and communications technology (ICT) in the field of education.

Korvi Rakshand, founder of Jaago Foundation, received the award on February 21 at the Unesco headquarters in Paris, says a press release.

The foundation and one other organisation were selected for the award by Irina Bokova, director general of Unesco, on the basis of recommendations made by an international jury of five independent and recognised experts in the area of ICT in Education from each region.

Unesco has been recognising innovations in teaching and learning that leverage technology to improve educational outcomes since 2005.

The award was handed over to Korvi in the presence of Shaikh Muhammad Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, deputy prime minister, and Dr Majed Bin Ali Al-Noaimi, minister of education, of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The agenda of the award is to recognise how ICT can be harnessed to assist historically underserved groups and assure inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all by 2030.

Korvi said the award will not only boost the confidence but will also help spread the word and create more partnership in Bangladesh and beyond to take quality education to the most remote parts of the world.

Politicians should work for country: PM

BSS, Dhaka

What politicians deliver to the country and people is more important than what they get in return, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday.

"What we got, what we didn't are not a big thing for a politician. Rather what we deliver to the country and the people should be a big thing for a politician ... we have been able to advance the country as we are running the country with that thought," she said.

The premier was addressing a discussion in the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh auditorium at Farmgate in the capital. Bangladesh Awami League organised the discussion on the occasion of Amar Ekushey and the International Mother Language Day.

The Awami League president urged the party leaders and workers to uphold the ideology with which the country was liberated.

She also asked them to devote themselves to build Bangladesh as a hunger and poverty-free "Sonar Bangla" as dreamt by Bangabandhu.

She said the conspiracy regarding the Padma bridge project was raised to tarnish her and her family members' image. "My family and I were targeted in this regard. But we have been able to face it successfully as we had power of honesty and it has been proved," she said.

Criticising Begum Khaleda Zia and her party men for stepping onto the main platform at the Central Shaheed Minar during paying respect to language martyrs, the premier said they (BNP) destroyed the dignity of the language martyrs' day through this misdeed.

"They have no respect for the language and they distorted the history of independence ... they also dishonoured the Shaheed Minar..." she said.

Earlier, a one minute's silence was observed as a mark of profound respect to the memory of language heroes who laid down their lives for establishing Bangla as the state language on February 21, 1952.

Meanwhile, second edition of Sheikh Hasina's new book "Nirbachita Probandha" (selected essays) has hit this year's Amar Ekushey Book Fair.

The book comprises Hasina's 13 articles published at different times on contemporary politics in Bangladesh. Agamee Prokashani is the publisher of the book.



Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a discussion, organised by AL, in the capital's Krishibid Institution Bangladesh yesterday, marking Language Martyrs' Day and International Mother Language Day. PHOTO: PTI



Korvi Rakshand, founder of Jaago Foundation, receives "The 2016 Unesco King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa Prize" in recognition of his organisation's "Online School" project for innovative use of ICT in education, at the Unesco headquarters in Paris on Tuesday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

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