

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 29.8 L 15.5	H 27.5 L 13.8	H 29.8 L 17.0	H 28.6 L 14.7	H 28.5 L 11.8	H 27.4 L 12.6	H 30.0 L 14.8	H 30.3 L 13.8	H 31.5 L 18.0

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Light fog may occur at places over the river basins of the country during early morning. Met Office said, reports UNB. Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 06:00pm and rises tomorrow at 06:22am.

**BISWAJIT MURDER**

**HC includes death reference, appeals in cause list**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The High Court yesterday included the death reference and appeals of Biswajit Das murder case in its cause list, as the chief justice has assigned the bench for their hearing and disposal.

The bench of Justice Md Rihul Qudus and Justice Bhishmadev Chakraborty will fix a date later for hearing the death reference and appeals, Deputy Attorney General Nazibur Rahman said.

On December 18, 2013, a Dhaka court sentenced eight BCL activists to death and 13 others to life imprisonment for killing tailor Biswajit. BCL activists of Jagannath University unit hacked Biswajit, 24, to death at Shakhribazar in the capital.



**In their frenzied competition for passengers, a bus tries to graze past the other almost hitting commuters yesterday around 9:55am in the capital's Mugdapara area. Buses often stop abruptly, violating traffic rules, in the middle of the streets to pick up and drop off passengers. For ensuring safety for commuters, strict punishment for reckless driving and plying of run-down and unfit vehicles needs to be imposed further.**

**NEWS IN brief**

**Brick kiln worker's body found**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur**

The body of a missing brick kiln worker was found buried under sand in his workplace in Koddha Bazar area of Gazipur city yesterday.

The deceased Abdul Hamid, 50 of Fulpur in Mymensingh was traceless since Saturday noon, said Assistant Sub Inspector of Konabari Police camp Rafiqul Islam.

Others workers of the Ahsanullah Brick kiln found his body when they removed sand from a sand heap during work, said the ASI. The body was sent to Gazipur Shaheed Taj Uddin Medical College Hospital.

**Obituary**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Noor-Al-Ahad, father of Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata Zokey Ahad, died yesterday. He was 86.

He breathed his last around 4:30pm at Apollo Hospitals in Kolkata, said Mofakkharul Iqbal, first secretary, Bangladesh Deputy High Commission Kolkata.

A deputy commissioner of greater Barisal in 1974, Noor-Al-Ahad left behind three sons.

One of his sons Captain Zaki Ahad is the commandant and executive director of Bangladesh Maritime Training Institute and International Maritime Academy.



**AGM of PEN Bangladesh held**

**CITY DESK**

The annual general meeting of PEN International, Bangladesh was held at Gulshan Ladies Community Club in the capital on Friday.

PEN Bangladesh Chairman Farida Hossain, also a novelist and winner of Ekushey Padak, chaired the event. Executive members Anjuman Ara Shilpi and Mahmuda Akhter, among others, spoke while writer Lovely Bashar, joint secretary of the organisation, moderated it, said a press release.

Working plan for the year 2017-18 -- including young writers' project, writers' welfare project, children's movies, a seminar -- was approved at the AGM.

**Readers draw inspiration from Liberation War books**

**MATHEWS CHIRAN**

It is important to know the true historical accounts of the Liberation War -- not only for the present generation but also for the future one.

It will inspire the youths to be patriotic and instil a sense of pride in them for the country.

This year's Ekushey book fair, like previous years, offers youths an opportunity to learn, revere and get motivated by the heroism and sacrifices of the countless who fought for safeguarding the country's independence and sovereignty.

The Suhrawardy Udyan premises of the fair is etched in history as it is the place where Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman made the historic March 7 speech in 1971 and called on the freedom-loving Bangladeshis to wage a decisive struggle against the Pakistani rulers.

"I still feel the same thrill and emotion while visiting the place," said Mahbuba Ferdous, a media official. She also brought her daughter, Fariyal Ferdous, an SSC candidate. Fariyal bought "Ekattorer Dinguli" by Jahanara Imam.

Almost all the publishers brought out books on the Liberation War, including novels, research-based books and memorabilia. "Muktijuddho Ponji" by Muntassir Mamoon and Hasina Ahmed from Kotha publication; "Roktey Jege Othe", a regional history of Sirajganj by Intiaz Shamim; "Ekattorer Kanagoli" by Asif Siddiqi Deepto from Rodela publication; and "Ekattor o Muktijuddha Paribar" by Aolia Khanam from Sahityakotha publication, were in high demand.

Dr Nuzhat Chowdhury, daughter of martyred intellectual Dr Abdul Alim



Chowdhury, also published a book titled "E Lorai Anibarja Chilo" from Maola Brothers publication.

Also, novels and stories based on the war including "Jochna O Jononir Golpo" by Humayun Ahmed, "Amar Bondhu Rashed" by Prof Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, "Nishiddho Loban" by Syed Shamsul Haque, "Maa" by Anisul Hoque and "Rifle, Roti, Aurat" by Prof Anwar Pasha, were still inspiring booklovers.

Parents were also buying books on the Liberation War for their children so that they can grow up with its spirit.

Many were seen buying "Mukijudder Kishor Galpo" by Selina Hossain, "Smritir Patay Saat Bir Shrestha" by Md Julfiqar Ali and "Rudra Kishorer Judha" by Sarif Mahbubul Alam for their children.

Rashed Ullah, a private job holder, brought his daughter Samia Aktar Maria to the fair yesterday. "I wanted to familiarise her with our history," he said, adding, "Even I need to know about the war in details." He bought "Bangaleer Muktijuddho o Andalan" by Samsul Alam Sayed.

"As demand for the books on the Liberation War is increasing, we are trying to publish quality books for the readers," said Rohib Ahsan of Srabon publication.

He said university students and researchers mostly buy books on the history of the war, whereas others prefer novels or short stories on the subject.

Meanwhile, Sahida Parvin Shikha's "Bangladesher Sramik Prasanga" from Bangla Dhoritri publication was unveiled on the Suhrawardy Udyan premises of the book fair yesterday. Young writer Shiblee Noman's short story collection "Kolikar" (Dark Age) is selling at the stall of Platform.

**Shaon sues vlogger under ICT act**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Actress Meher Afroza Shaon yesterday filed a case against Bunty Mir, the vlogger (video blogger), who allegedly made abusive comments on her through Facebook.

She filed the case with Dhanmondi Police Station under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act around 3:15pm, said OC Abdul Latif of the police station.

In the case, she said Bunty tarnished her reputation by saying ugly, false and baseless words and spreading rumours about her through social media sites including Facebook and YouTube, the OC said.

She filed a general diary against Bunty on February 24. Later, Bunty apologised to her by a Facebook post.

On his Facebook wall, Bunty, who is now in New York, yesterday posted: "All of you please forgive me, I was highly rebuked, please do not rebuke me more. May Allah forgive me."

Bunty's remarks in the video following Shaon's concern about "Doob", directed by Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, which according to her is made based on some incidents on Humayun Ahmed's life, drew huge criticism.

Shaon, wife of late Humayun Ahmed, alleged the film could portray the writer in a bad light and requested the censor board to review it for such instances and take action.

She issued an official letter to the Bangladesh Film Censor Board (BFCC) explaining her concerns about the film on February 13. BFCC suspended the film's no-objection certificate on February 16 upon request from the information ministry to temporarily halt the movie's release.

**Husband among 3 jailed till death for acid attack on wife**

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a husband along with two of his accomplices to jail until death in a case filed for throwing acid on his wife in April 2014.

The convicts are Suruj Alam Khan, husband of the victim; Shafiqul Islam Ripon and Salim Howlader alias Selim Howlader.

The court fined Suruj Tk 50 lakh, which will be given to the victim. If Suruj fails to pay the fine, the money will be paid by selling his property, the court said.

According to the prosecution, Suruj used to forbid his third wife Mahfuza Akhter Suborna to continue working at a garment factory. As Suborna refused to comply with that, Suruj along with the two accomplices on April 7, 2014, threw acid on his sleeping wife at their Rupnagar residence in the capital's Mirpur area. Suborna was admitted to DMCH for treatment.

After the incident, a case under the Acid Control Act was filed against Suruj and two others with Rupnagar Police Station. Advocate Salma Ali of Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers' Association stood on behalf of the victim.



**Firefighters try to douse the flames that raged through a shop near Chasara rail station of Narayanganj yesterday morning.**



**Dignitaries at the launching of "Human Rights Report 2016" prepared by Kapaeng Foundation at the capital's Daily Star Centre yesterday. Rights activist Khushi Kabir and former chairman of National Human Rights Commission Prof Mizanur Rahman were present, among others.**

**Six female Jamaat members detained**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Police yesterday claimed to have detained six female activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and seized some of their organisational books in the capital's Kadamtali area.

The detainees are Jannatul Kobra Jakia, Masuma Akhter, Nasrin Aktar Nusrat Sharmin, Rawshan Jahan and Fatematuzzohura.

Tipped-off, police raided a house on the third floor of a building and detained the "six female leaders", Arshaidul Haque, officer-in-charge of Kadamtali Police Station, told The Daily Star.

They were holding a secret meeting there, he added.

**Women's participation in construction sector low**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Women's participation in construction sector is much lower in comparison with their participation in other sectors due to the unwillingness of employers, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

The employers are reluctant to hire female engineers or architects as they doubt the women's capability, they said. But women have the same qualification like men, they added.

They made the remarks at the roundtable organised by Prothom Alo in association with Seven Rings Cement Ltd at the newspaper's office in the capital.

Male colleagues cannot accept lead position of female counterparts, which also contributed to the lower percentage of woman participation in the sector, the speakers observed.

They stressed that employers and male colleagues change their mindset towards women counterparts.

Zebun Nasreen Ahmed, professor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), said every year many female students graduate from civil engineering and architecture departments across the country, but few of them land jobs at construction firms. If the women are given opportunity to work in the construction sector, they will succeed and at the same time the industry will thrive, she said.

Speaking as the chief guest, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki said people's mindset towards women has been changing day by day. She also urged the employers to ensure safe working environment for women, and sought cooperation from men.

Rahat Muslimin, an executive engineer of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha; Naim Ahmed Khan, former additional secretary at the Ministry of Railways; Abdul Quayum, associate editor of Prothom Alo; Ekram Ahmed, former chairman of Bangladesh Public Service Commission; and Tahmina Ahmed, director of Seven Rings Cement Ltd, also spoke.