

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 27.8 L 18.8	H 25.5 L 18.0	H 30.4 L 19.8	H 27.3 L 17.1	H 28.4 L 17.5	H 25.8 L 18.2	H 29.0 L 18.4	H 29.0 L 17.8	H 30.0 L 20.0

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm, reports UNB. Night temperature may rise slightly over the country, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:06pm and rises tomorrow at 6:11am.

Dhaka elected executive council chairperson of OPCW

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



Bangladesh has been elected chairperson of the executive council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for one year from May 12, 2017 to May 11, 2018. Bangladesh Ambassador to the Netherlands and Permanent Representative to the OPCW Sheikh Mohammed Belal was yesterday elected chairperson of OPCW's executive council during its 84th session being held in The Hague on March 7-10, says a press release. On March 6, the 53-member States Parties belonging to the Asian group nominated Ambassador Belal as the consensus candidate of the group for the position through a straw poll, in which Belal easily nullified his contender ambassador of Pakistan to the Netherlands.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presents an award winner with a crest during a programme at the capital's Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh, marking National Jute Day (March 6), yesterday. Individuals and organisations were awarded under 10 categories for their contributions to the sector.

NEWS IN brief

JSD-Inu to hold anti-militancy rally tomorrow in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) will hold a rally in the capital tomorrow calling on people to uproot militancy. The rally will be held at Suhrawardi Udyan at 3:00pm. The party urged people to come to Dhaka to make the event a success, said a press release. The rally, presided over by Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, will be held with a slogan to end corruption, discrimination and establish good governance in the country.

Ctg prisoner dies from 'cardiac arrest'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A prisoner of Chittagong Central Jail died at Chittagong Medical College Hospital yesterday morning. Mamtaz Ali, of Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong was rushed to the hospital immediately after he "suffered a cardiac arrest". He was declared dead about 8:00am, said Nayek Rasik Chakma of CMCH police outpost. Mamtaz, a furniture businessman, was in jail since January after being arrested in a cheque dishonoring case, said Senior Jail Super Iqbal Kabir Chowdhury.

BM College Eng dept reunion Mar 24

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

The English department of BM College in Barisal will organise a reunion for its former students on March 24. Former students are requested to get registered by today. For more information they can contact Assistant Registrar of Barisal University Bahauddin Golap, also the convener of the Reunion Celebration Committee, at 01712070133 or Shanjoy Halder, lecturer of the department, at 01725097506.

DU Surja Sen Hall to celebrate golden jubilee today

BSS, Dhaka

Master Da Surja Sen Hall Alumni Association of Dhaka University (DU) will celebrate its golden jubilee today at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of the university. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader will inaugurate the function as the chief guest while DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique will be present as a special guest. The programme will start at 8:00am and continue till 10:00pm. A colourful rally will be brought out from the TSC premises at 11:00am which will end at the hall.

PSTC programme launched

CITY DESK

Population Service and Training Center (PSTC) with support from the Population Council and the Embassy of the Netherlands yesterday launched a two-year programme to create awareness about sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS among vulnerable youths. Secretary to the Health Ministry Mohammad Sirazul Islam inaugurated the programme "Sangjog" at a city hotel where Dutch Ambassador Leoni Cuelenaere was present, said a press release. PSTC Chairman Moslehuddin Ahmed and Executive Director Dr Noor Mohammad also spoke.

EWG finds discrepancies

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watchdog also conducted an audit on 3,000 registered voters from 100 electoral areas under two city corporations, 20 municipalities and 38 unions and found 90 of them appeared to be dead. Of the 3,000 registered voters, 55 individuals remained unrecognised while 283 migrated. Of the unrecognised voters, 31 were from urban and 24 from rural areas. According to the audit, some 3.4 percent voters had their names spelt wrong and 7.9 and 7.1 percent voters had flaws in the spelling of their husband or father's name and their mother's name respectively. The audit team used data of updated voter lists used during different city corporation, municipality and union parishad polls in 2015 and 2016, said EWG Director Abdul Alim. The EWG collected city corporations and municipality lists published by the EC on January 31, 2015 and union parishad lists published on January 31, 2016. The audit is an effort to ensure good governance, enhance the country's democratic process and bring transparency to the electoral system, said EWG member Numan Ahmed Khan. The EWG also came up with some recommendations such as the EC should conduct special update for correction of voter information; ensure 100 percent presence of field level data collectors, and engage civil society or independent organisations to conduct audit of the electoral roll.

12 eminent citizens worried over question paper leak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve eminent citizens yesterday expressed grave concern over the recurrence of question leaks in the public examinations and called upon the government to ensure exemplary punishment for those responsible, irrespective of their status. If the culprits are not given exemplary punishment, it will bring a catastrophe in the education sector, they said in a statement sent by Shikha o Shishu Rokkha Andalan. Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayed, Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan, Prof Hashem Khan, Prof MM Akash, Prof Abul Barkat, singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya, actor Mamunur Rashid, filmmaker Morshedul Islam, and daily Samakal Editor Golam Sarwar are among the signatories to the statement. Cultural personality Nasiruddin Yusuf also expressed concern via an e-mail since he was outside the country.

Govt working to restore golden fibre's glory

Hasina tells National Jute Day programme

UNB, Dhaka

Expressing hope that the lost glory of jute will return through the present government's initiatives, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the conspiracies to destroy the jute sector would not work anymore. She said this while addressing a programme marking National Jute Day at Krishibid Institution in the capital. The prime minister said, "The fate of country's people, including farmers and workers, is interwoven with it. So, we're giving due importance to it. The golden days of jute will make a comeback." Hasina said like the export potentials of RMG and ICT sectors, there was also a bright prospect for boosting jute production and its exports through diversified jute products. Research is necessary for diversification of the use of jute, Hasina said, adding that Bangladesh had also invented "polythene from jute", which would not pollute the environment as it was bio-degradable. The prime minister said research was now going on to boost the production of jute, increase its diversified use and enhance various area-wise productions. Hasina regretted that the jute sector had witnessed massive disasters after the assassination of the Father of the Nation in 1975 as most of the jute mills were then sold out at nominal prices. She said the BNP-Jamaat alliance fulfilled the last episode of the attempt of destroying the jute sector by closing down the biggest Adamjee Jute Mills in 2002. The government has taken various steps to give the sector a new life and reopen the closed jute mills, she said. Earlier, the prime minister handed over awards to different organisations and individuals in 10 categories for their contributions in advancing the jute sector.

IN JAIL FOR OVER DECADE

Why under-trial prisoner should not get bail

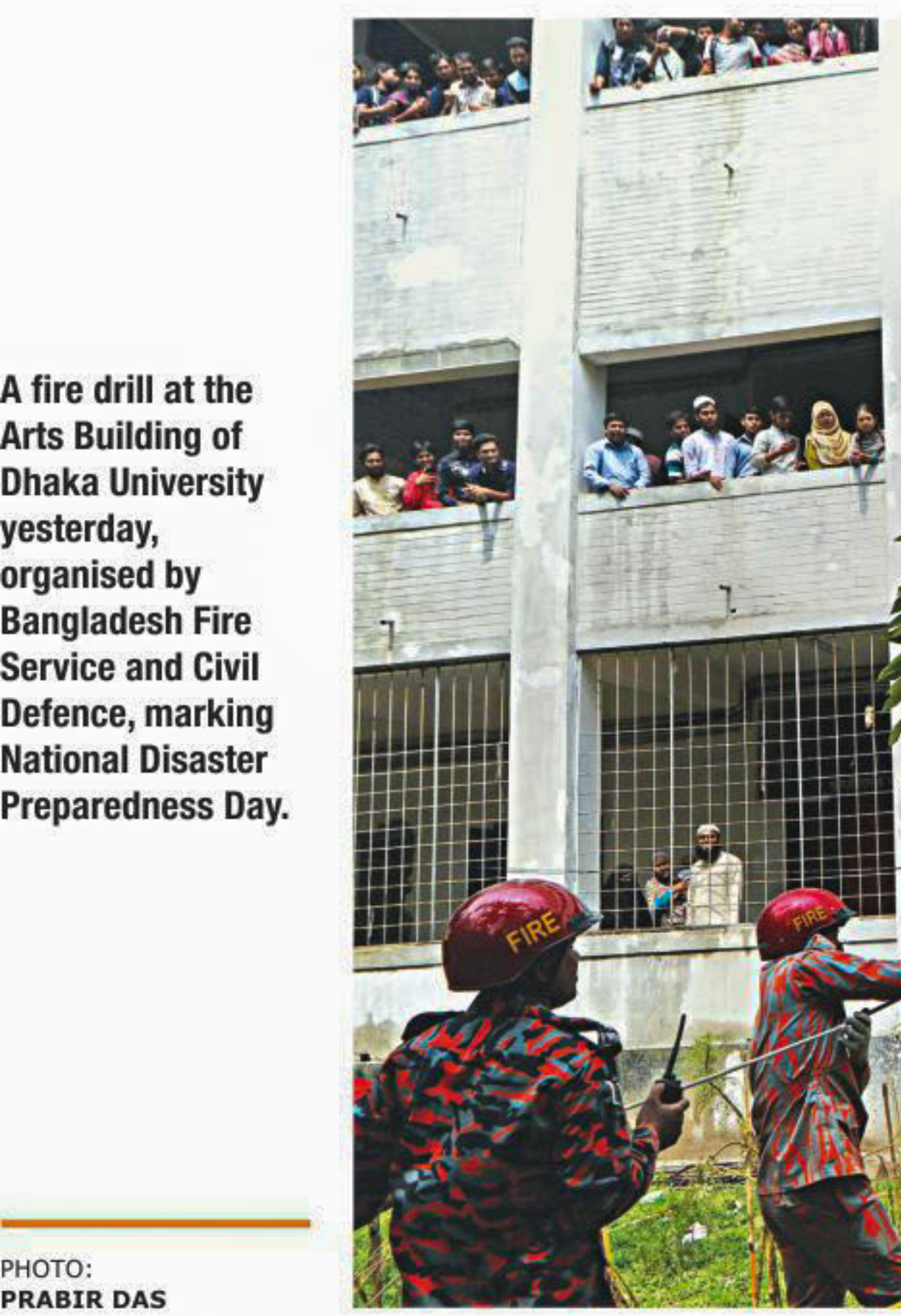
HC asks authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the authorities concerned to explain in 10 days as to why Kamol, who has been in jail for 12 years with his case pending, should not be granted bail. The court also directed the assistant attorney general of the court to seek report from the public prosecutor of the trial court as to why Kamol was shown fugitive although he was in jail.

The HC bench of Justice Md Rezaul Haque and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar passed the order after a panel lawyer of Supreme Court Legal Aid Office (SCLAO) drew the court's attention to the matter. Bahesti Marjan, the penal lawyer of SCLAO, also drew attention to a report of The Daily Star on Kamol, an accused of a double case.

According to the report, although Kamol alias Kamol Khan has been languishing in jail for 12 years, according to the jail authorities, his case documents show he has been absconding since 2011. Meanwhile, the HC yesterday directed a trial court concerned to complete trial proceeding of Saiful Islam Khokon within four months, said Marjan. Saiful, 29, is in Comilla jail for the last 10 years with the case against him pending. On February 14, Marjan drew the court's attention over the current case status of eight prisoners, including Kamol and Saiful, who have been in jail for more than 10 years.



A fire drill at the Arts Building of Dhaka University yesterday, organised by Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence, marking National Disaster Preparedness Day.



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JSC standing committee meetings should be open to public

Inu tells seminar on RTI act, in-depth reporting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday said the meetings and proceedings of the parliamentary standing committees should be open to public and the wealth accounts of the public representatives should be published to make the right to information (RTI) more effective. "Not only that; the Election Commission should print the wealth accounts of the public representatives and distribute those among the people," he told a seminar on RTI act and in-depth reporting at Dhaka University's Social Sciences Faculty auditorium. DU Mass Communication and Journalism Alumni Association organised the event with DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique in the chair.

Lauding the use of RTI, Inu requested the Information Commission to bring amendments to the law to expand its scope and jurisdiction. He said militants, fundamen-

Pry govt headteachers demand grade 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Head teachers of government primary schools yesterday submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina through deputy commissioners of all districts to press home their five-point demand including elevating their entry level salary scale to 10th grade in the national pay scale. They demanded that the enhanced pay should be given to both the trained and non-trained head teachers with a retrospective effect from March 9, 2014. They submitted the memorandum under the banner of Bangladesh Government Primary School Head Teachers' Association, said SM Sayed Ulla, the association's senior joint secretary. The trained headmasters are getting their pay in the 11th grade while the non-trained ones in the 12th grade, he said. The head teachers of the state-run primary schools have been staging demonstrations for the last several years over the elevation of their status and pay enhancement. The teachers said the premier had announced the promotion of government primary school head teachers to second-class gazetted officials on March 9, 2014. But the order is not implemented as the primary and mass education ministry has not published a gazette notification yet. In Dhaka, the teachers led by Riaz Parvez, president of the association, submitted the memorandum to Mojibor Rahman, assistant deputy commissioner.



Prof Dr John Wood, secretary general of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, addresses the fourth graduation ceremony of the World University of Bangladesh at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in the capital yesterday, as the convocation speaker. The event was chaired by Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid who represented President Abdul Hamid, also chancellor of the university. Prof Abdul Mannan, chairman, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh; Prof Abdul Mannan Choudhury, vice chancellor, WUB; Prof M Nurul Islam, pro-vice chancellor; Prof Musfiq Mannan Choudhury, chairman (acting), Board of Trustees, and Morsheida Choudhury, treasurer, were present. A total of 3,179 graduates were awarded degrees in this convocation.