

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 25.2 | L 20.6

MYMENSINGH
H 25.6 | L 21.6

CHITTAGONG
H 29.0 | L 23.5

SYLHET
H 26.5 | L 21.3

RAJSHAHI
H 25.5 | L 21.0

RANGPUR
H 28.6 | L 17.5

KHULNA
H 24.8 | L 21.0

BARISAL
H 25.5 | L 20.7

COX'S BAZAR
H 31.4 | L 24.5

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at most places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Mymensingh, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:12pm and rises tomorrow at 6:15am.



Bangla Academy Director General Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan, right, Syrian poet Ali Ahmad Said Esber, also known as Adonis, 3rd from right, Bangabandhu's grandson and Centre for Research and Information trustee Radwan Mujib Siddiq, 3rd from left, along with Dhaka Lit Fest Directors Sadaf Saaz, Ahsan Akbar and Kazi Anis Ahmed during the launching of first English iteration of graphic novel series "Mujib". The launching was held on the Bangla Academy premises during the inaugural day of The three-day Dhaka Literary Festival (DLF).

PHOTO: STAR

Graphic novel Mujib comes out in English

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After the successful publication of the graphic novel on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Bangla, the English version of the first part of the novel series "Mujib" was unveiled at Dhaka Lit Fest yesterday.

The first three parts of the 12-volume series have already been published in Bangla. The Centre for Research and Information (CRI) published the graphic novel in an effort to present the life of father of the nation to people, especially children, in an interesting way.

The English version was launched for the readers of other languages at home and abroad.

Addressing a discussion at Bangla Academy where the three-day literary festival opened yesterday, Bangabandhu's grandson Radwan Mujib Siddiq said the aim of the graphic novel was to attract the younger generation who might not have knowledge about Bangabandhu.

"We wanted the younger generation to be interested in the memoirs [of Bangabandhu] and what better way to whet the appetite than a graphic novel," he told the discussion titled "Mujib".

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CURBING CORRUPTION IN LAND OFFICE

ACC makes six recommendations

The land office is one of the most devious, mischievous and sinister places in the country, particularly for gullible people who barely understand the intricacies of relevant rules and easily fall prey to manipulation by sly people. Recently, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has received an allegation and investigated the case. What it found in the process triggered the agency to make six recommendations to the land ministry and the land record and survey department last week. ACC thinks the six steps would bring relief to parties and make the dreadful place people-friendly. Staff correspondent Mahbubur Rahman Khan presents a summary of the recommendations here.

1. Replace temporary staff with a trained, permanent workforce.
2. Conduct massive campaign ahead of any land survey so that the rightful owners could prepare themselves with their documents and be physically present at the time of record of land ownership.
3. Introduce a digital survey and record-keeping system and fill the shortage of trained staff to stave off errors during survey. It will eliminate the necessity of further survey and spare people of hassles and legal battle and save money and energy.
4. Initiate departmental and criminal proceedings against dishonest officers and employees who take bribe. Also form committees to monitor the entire survey procedure.
5. Amend relevant laws and rules like the Survey Act 1875, SS Manual-1935, and State Acquisition and Tenancy Act-1950. The changes would help stop the dishonest officers/people from capitalising on the loopholes of law.
6. Launch inquiries into cases wherein some people have government khas land, vested or abandoned property recorded in their name through unscrupulous means. In this case, a comparative analysis of the latest and previous land records may help.

STALLED STUDENT UNION ELECTION Nahid blames public universities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday told parliament that the authorities of public universities were not interested in holding election to student unions.

The government insists on holding the elections, but it cannot force the university authorities because these institutions are totally autonomous and operate independently, he said.

Nahid came up with the remarks when several opposition bench lawmakers criticised the government for not taking measures to hold the student union elections of public universities for decades.

They also wanted to know why election to student unions like Dhaka University Central Student Union has been stalled after 1990.

Jatiya Party MP Pir Fazlur Rahman said the country was not getting meritorious and competent leaders at national level due to this.

Another JP lawmaker, Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, said congenial atmosphere would prevail at public universities if the elections were held on a regular basis.

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6 'Neo JMB' men held

Police claim one of them was bodyguard of Dhaka café attack bomb supplier

STAR REPORT

Police claimed to have arrested six suspected members of banned militant outfit "Neo JMB" with firearms, bullets and explosives in separate raids from Naogaon and Chapainawabganj early yesterday.

Among the arrestees, Shamim Prokash alias Abdullah alias Abdur Rahim, 27, was held from Gomostapur upazila in Chapainawabganj around 3:30am.

He was one of the aides and a bodyguard of Sohel Mahfuz, a supplier of arms and grenades in last year's Gulshan café attack, claimed police.

Police recovered one pistol, two magazines and eight rounds of bullets from his possession, claimed Mahbub Alam Khan, additional superintendent of police in Chapainawabganj, adding that two others fled the area during the raid.

But when police brought him in front of journalists at the office of police superintendent in Chapainawabganj, Shamim shouted that he was held from Cox's Bazar

about two months ago, and he had no weapons on him, reports our Chapainawabganj correspondent.

Police said Shamim was an accused in five cases including the JMB leader Salman murder one. Shamim was staying in Chapainawabganj to reorganise the organisation.

Meanwhile in Naogaon, police raided a house at Nawduli village in Atrai upazila around 3:00am and arrested five suspected "Neo JMB" members, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

They are Abdullah Aichan Kabiraj alias Rafique, 41; Lulu Sarder alias Shahid, 30; Masud Rana alias Hossain alias Atik, 25; Abdur Razzak alias Masum alias Babul, 25; and Moazzem Hossain Bullet, 30.

Police also seized two foreign-made pistols, 13 rounds of bullets, electronic devices, explosives and grenade making materials from their possessions.

"Abdullah Aichan's house was being used as a secret den to regroup the members for last two to three years," claimed a press

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No 'anti-independence people' in Victory Day events

Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People "who were against the independence" of the country cannot be invited as guests in any programme marking Victory Day, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said yesterday.

The decision was taken at an inter-ministerial meeting on overall security arrangement regarding the celebrations on December 16.

On that day, outdoor programmes after dusk and use of loudspeakers around the National Memorial in Savar will not be allowed, the minister said.

"Outdoor programmes after dusk can be held following permission."

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The seized materials that include bullets, electronic devices and explosives. Police arrested six suspected members of banned militant outfit "Neo JMB" from Naogaon and Chapainawabganj early yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

TRADE LICENCE FEE, HOLDING TAX DSCC launches online payment system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To reduce sufferings of people, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) yesterday introduced a new system of paying the trade licence fee and holding tax through online.

DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon inaugurated the digital programme at Nagar Bhaban after handing over an e-trade licence to an owner of a travel agency.

Using login ID and password, a person can get the licence via online. He or she will be able to pay the fee using any kind of pay channels.

For holding tax, a person will also have to visit a DSCC web link and pay the money by providing necessary information, said a DSCC official.

There are 1.82 lakh trade licences and 1.65 lakh holdings in DSCC areas.

Responding to a question about increasing the holding tax, the mayor said they did not increase the tax, which was 12 percent earlier and is still the same.

Also, there is a scope of reducing 40 percent of the tax after a new assessment if anyone applies for it, he said.

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*These figures are indicative and may vary depending on market dynamics.

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