

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 27.2 L 15.9	MYMENSINGH H 27.2 L 14.5	CHITTAGONG H 27.2 L 15.5	SYLHET H 27.2 L 14.8	RAJSHAHI H 27.5 L 14.9	RANGPUR H 27.0 L 14.0	KHULNA H 27.0 L 15.2	BARISAL H 27.5 L 14.0
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Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy to cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Light fog may occur at places over the river basins during late night till this morning, Met Office said. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:29am.**

Quader rules out snap polls possibility

UNB, Dhaka

Ruling out the possibility of snap polls, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the next parliamentary election will be held within the scheduled time.

Quader made the remark while talking to journalists at the secretariat.

"The Election Commission (EC) will fix the date for the polls. We hope that the next election will be held in December 2018," he said.

When asked about the by-polls of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), Quader said Awami League is looking for a qualified candidate to contest the by-election.

"We are thinking about some potential candidates from inside and outside the party. We will nominate such a candidate who can complete the unfinished tasks of former Mayor Annisul Huq," said Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister.

Dismissing the allegation of BNP that the



The river Buriganga is country's one of the most polluted rivers. And it is unlikely that things will turn around soon for the river with only signs, inset, posted by BIWTA (Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority) on pillars of the river's first bridge. Its banks and water continue to get polluted with people and garbage collectors from far and near dumping all sorts of garbage there every day. Moreover, sand traders have been building makeshift piers encroaching on portions of the bank. The photo was taken on the Keraniganj side of the river yesterday.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Abed, Brac get Laudato Si' award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed and Brac have received this year's prestigious Laudato Si' award for creating opportunities for millions of people living in poverty.

The award, given at a ceremony on Tuesday night in the Vatican City, recognises Brac's significant impact in eradicating poverty in Bangladesh and 10 other countries, says a press release.

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote Laudato Si' (on care for our common home), in which he calls for an international dialogue on how to approach and act upon an ecological crisis.

Scott MacMillan, Brac senior adviser, USA, received the award on behalf of Abed, founder and chairperson of Brac.

The Laudato Si' awards are a set of three prizes honouring those who are committed to answering Pope Francis' clarion call. Other award winners are Huda Abuarquob in the individual



SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

UCSU POLLS

DU student falls sick

Got admitted to DMCH, but returned to venue to continue hunger strike

DU CORRESPONDENT

Walid Ashraf, a DU student who has been on a hunger strike demanding Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) polls, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday evening as his health condition had deteriorated.

Walid was injected with saline at DMCH. He, however, returned to Memory Eternal premises immediately afterwards where he has been living in a tent since November 25.

He has not taken any food except for water since the first day. He declared that he would continue the strike until the DU authorities meet his demand.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Every district to get high-tech park: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government will set up a high-tech park in every district to flourish the ICT sector.

"Necessary incentives will also be given if the investors invest in this sector in the proposed 100 economic zones across the country," she said.

The premier said this while inaugurating a four-day Digital World, an ICT exposition, at Bangabandhu International Conference Center, with the slogan "Ready for Tomorrow".

The ICT Division in collaboration with Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) organised it.

Hasina called upon all to work together for turning Bangladesh into a welfare oriented, peaceful, knowledge and science-based digital country. She said the dream of making Digital Bangladesh is now a reality.

In 2009, only 13 lakh people used internet, and now it crossed 8 crores. The premier said people are now availing 200 types of government services through mobile applications.

The government has taken steps to take

its services to the doorsteps of people through reducing prices of internet bandwidth and digital equipment, and development of infrastructure.

Information services were made accessible to all through introduction of the biggest web portal with 25,000 government websites, she added.

She said the government is also trying to make the youth self-reliant by engaging them in freelancing. She hoped that about 20 lakh of the country's youth will be involved in ICT-based professions by 2021.

She said her government has made the ICT education compulsory at the secondary level from 2011, and is supplying computers and other necessary materials free of cost alongside setting up digital classrooms.

Hasina said about 50,000 youths are being given skill development training on ICT while about 10,000 ICT graduates are coming out every year from universities.

Referring to the export of Bangladesh software and IT services to over 50 countries, she hoped that the software export will exceed one billion dollars this year while five billion dollars in 2021.

N'GANJ ARMS RECOVERY Qatar departs suspect

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday arrested a deported man at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport early yesterday in connection with the Naryanganj arms and ammunition recovery case.

The arrestee, Ridoy, 23, had fled to Qatar amid raids after police recovered a huge cache of firearms and ammunition, including two rocket launchers and 61 Chinese submachine guns, from a canal in Narayanganj's Ruppang on June 2.

Knowing about his whereabouts, CID started communicating with Interpol, which later issued a "red notice" for him. Qatar police then sent him back to Dhaka. CID officials arrested when he arrived at the airport around 2:00am, said Sharmin Jahan, senior ASP (Legal and Media cell) of CID.

7 Jessore men sued over war crimes

UNB, Jessore

A case was filed against seven people of Bagharpara upazila under Jessore for their alleged involvement in war crimes during the liberation war in 1971.

Accepting the case, judge of Senior Judicial Magistrate Court Md Shahjahan Ali sent it to investigation agency of International Crimes Tribunal, said lawyer Barrister Kazi Rafat Rezwana Setu.

They are Foyez Ahmed, son of late Oliullah; Hafizur Rahman, son of late Elahi Baksh; Abdul Quader Babu, son of late Barkatullah of Hulihatto village; and Gazi Gohor Ali Biswas, son of late Alim Biswas of Narsinhapur village; Mir Abu Taher Mukut, son of late Mir Motoar Rahman of Padmabhila village; and two siblings Amjad Mollah and Sabur Mollah of Premchara village.

Abu Taher, son of late Abdul Hakim of Hulihatto village, filed the case yesterday.

According to the case statement, Amjad Mollah, along with the others, formed a peace committee in 1971. Some crimes against humanity, including murder, torture, enforced disappearance, looting and torching houses, had occurred in Bagharpara upazila in between June and December of 1971 under the leadership of the seven.

Razakar commander Majid and Ohab shot Fuljan Bibi, mother of freedom fighter Nowsher, son of Nur Hossain Dofader of Premchara village, to death, added the case statement.

Annisul Huq's qulkhwan held

BSS, Dhaka

Qulkhwan of late Mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation Annisul Huq was held yesterday at Gulshan Azad Mosque after the Asr prayers.

Special doa and milad mahfil were held seeking eternal peace of the departed soul.

Awami League General Secretary and Road, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Awami League leaders Col (retd) Faruk Khan, Shamsul Haque Tuku, AKM Rahmatullah, BNP leaders Moudud Ahmed



SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Four eminent artists of Bangladesh in Koh Samet of Thailand during their week-long visit organised by Galleri Kaya. From left, Prof Jamal Ahmed, Prof Afzal Hossain, Shamsuddoha, Ranjit Das and Goutom Chakraborty, director of Galleri Kaya.

Woman to die for killing husband

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a woman to death for killing her husband Md Mohsin, a former member of the army, over extra marital affairs in the city's Pallabi area.

Judge Abdur Rahman Sardar of the Dhaka Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 pronounced the verdict in absence of the convict Saleha Khatun Sheuly.

The judge said the punishment of the convict will be effective from the day of her arrest or surrender.

On October 26 of 2012, Saleha along with five to seven people killed her husband after he protested her "extramarital affairs".

Later, the deceased's brother Maznu Mia filed a murder case with Pallabi Police Station.

Saleha Khatun was arrested after the incident and later went into hiding after getting bail from the court.

During the investigation, Saleha Khatun gave a confessional statement before a magistrate where she said she killed her husband with the help of some miscreants after he found out about her affairs.

According to the prosecution, Mohsin used to live in the city's Pallabi area with his wife and two sons. The couple used to fight often over her relations with other men.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Technology future healthcare solution

Speakers tell seminar at Digital World exposition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information and Communication Technology Division and the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services organised the exposition at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

"Diabetes, kidney diseases and hypertension is rising everywhere. Besides, critical care for the elders is becoming more important now," said Dorian Liepmann, a professor of mechanical and bioengineering at the University of California, Berkeley.

Technological innovation is the key to improving healthcare management amid the rising number of patients suffering from chronic diseases including diabetes and hypertension, speakers from home and abroad said yesterday.

It is important that the government as well as the private sector invest in technological innovation research, they told a seminar organised at the Digital World 2017 exposition in the capital.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

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