

**WEATHER  
FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S  
TEMPERATURES**

**DHAKA**  
H 28.3 L 16.1

**MYMENSINGH**  
H 28.0 L 15.8

**CHITTAGONG**  
H 29.0 L 16.5

**SYLHET**  
H 29.2 L 15.3

**RAJSHAHI**  
H 28.6 L 13.2

**RANGPUR**  
H 27.3 L 14.5

**KHULNA**  
H 29.0 L 14.5

**BARISAL**  
H 29.2 L 15.6

**COX'S BAZAR**  
H 30.5 L 17.5

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today, says the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:55pm and rises tomorrow at 06:29am. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:



Guests at the 21st convocation of North South University (NSU) on its campus in Bashundhara in the capital yesterday. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid presided over the ceremony, while American Nobel Laureate Martin Chalfie was the convocation speaker. Mohammad Shahjahan, chairman of the board of trustees of NSU, and Prof Atiqul Islam, the university's vice-chancellor, were present among others.

PHOTO:  
COLLECTED

# 2,800 conferred degrees at NSU

CITY DESK

The 21st convocation of the North South University (NSU) was held on its Bashundhara campus in Dhaka yesterday. A total of 2,800 students were conferred degrees. Ten of them received gold medals for their outstanding academic achievements, said a press release. The graduating class of 2018 with a total 2,800 graduates and postgraduates is the largest group to have graduated from the university so far, the press release added. Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid presided over the ceremony. American Noble Laureate Martin Chalfie of the Department of Biological Sciences at Columbia University delivered the convocation speech. NSU trustee board Chairperson Md Shahjahan and Vice Chancellor Prof Atiqul Islam also spoke. The valedictorian, Pinku Deb Nath, and nine others from the undergraduate and graduate programmes were awarded with the Chancellor's and Vice Chancellor's Gold Medals. The ceremony was followed by a cultural programme and a dinner in the evening for the graduates, parents, guests and dignitaries.

# Science students future nation builders

*Says Prof M Kaykobad at closing ceremony of Mastermind IT fair*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More science students should be given opportunity to participate in national and global competitions so that they can showcase their talents and emerge as future nation builders, said noted scientist Prof M Kaykobad yesterday. "Look at applications like WhatsApp and Angry Birds. They are earning billions of dollars. We expect that you [Bangladeshi students] will develop such globally popular apps and software," said the Buet professor. He was addressing a group of budding scientists at Mastermind English Medium School in the capital on the occasion of a daylong "Mastermind Inter-School IT Fest 2018," on its Dhanmondi campus yesterday.

With over 200 participants from all over the capital, the fest aimed to help students connect better with the ever-changing IT sector. The Mastermind Science Society arranged the event. Addressing the closing ceremony, Prof Kaykobad said once students from South Korea used to enrol in Dhaka University for higher studies, but the tide has turned. They are the best in "global internet density" now, he said. Also, "Japan has no natural resources and it's highly vulnerable to calamities. Yet, they are wealthy as they are highly skilled in technology. They import technological raw materials from different countries and assemble those into laptops, computers and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A teacher of Chhayanaut enlightens children on the history of the 1952 Language Movement at Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday. The youngsters also took an oath to protect the honour of Bangla language and the martyrs of the movement.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Little mag, big heart

FROM PAGE 4

including Hostakkar, Chinha and Dristi. Not just getting a chance to publish their works, many of the writers see these magazines as a way to express their thoughts freely. While writing in these magazines, they said writers do not have to follow the traditional style of writing such as emphasising on expressing ideas and relaying information, usually with a flair that is enjoyable for the readers. "Little mags are a platform to question the conventional ideas... It's a space where anyone can express themselves... Writers can choose to write anyway they prefer... they can experiment with their works....," said Meer Robi, an aspiring writer. His poem "Aquarium er Mohiruhro Pran" has been published in Dristi magazine. While talking to many little magazine publishers, they said the magazines help promote free thinking and new writers. "...We always welcome new ideas and thoughts....," said Raghu Obhijit Roy of Khonon magazine. Abong Manus publisher Anwar Kamal said, "We assess the creative works of new writers and publish those free of cost." Publisher of Drostobbo, Kamrul Huda Pathik, said, "Although we have a specific group

of readers like students and young people, the number of readers is increasing." Yesterday, around 221 new books hit the fair. GRAPHIC NOVEL 'MUJIB-4' UNVEILED The fourth part of a graphic novel series on Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was launched yesterday at the Ekushey book fair. The Centre for Research and Information (CRI) published the graphic novel, "Mujib-4", and organised the launching ceremony on the Bangla Academy premises in the morning. Radwan Mujib Siddiq, CRI trustee and publisher of the book, unveiled it. Nasrul Hamid Bipu, state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, Tarana Halim, state minister for information, and Junaid Ahmed Palak, state minister for ICT, were also present. 4 POETRY BOOKS BY AUGUSTINE CRUZE Four poetry books by Augustine Cruze, principal of Saint Jude's International School in Dhaka, were launched yesterday on the occasion of the Ekushey book fair. Noted singer Khilkhil Kazi, granddaughter of Kazi Nazrul Islam, unveiled the books at a ceremony at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro office. The books are "Emon Jodi Hoto", "Tobe Tai Hok", "Bidhatar Ichchhe" and "Amar Janmo Hoyeche Bolei", published by Gyankosh Publishers.

# Science is fun now

FROM PAGE 4

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in Sylhet, inaugurated the games at the Amar Ekushey Granthamela yesterday. By creating digital contents, students can be helped understand their tasks easily, said Dr Iqbal. "Students are also wasting a huge amount of time in Facebook, and driving them towards such [digital] contents can be helpful for them." Earlier, Dream71 conducted a survey and found that 94 percent of students of these grades [VI, VII and VIII] in the country were facing difficulties in science. In addition, more than 90 percent students were found visiting coaching centres or private tutors to learn science alongside their academic classes, said Rashad Kabir, managing director of Dream71 Bangladesh Ltd. "We wanted to create a platform so that the students can find a comfortable and interactive way to learn the difficult chapters and scientific terminologies," said Kabir. The games have been developed keeping in mind that the gamification, with the use of various objects and audio-visual effects, can help students internalise science from different perspectives. Students can play these games on both iOS and android platforms, according to the game developer. In the event, two other projects on augmented reality based education and animated contents, both developed by a2i, were inaugurated. Anir Chowdhury, policy adviser to the a2i, and senior officials of different government agencies were present in the inaugural session.

# And the sufferings continue

DU CORRESPONDENT

Ehsan Rafiq, a Dhaka University (DU) student who was mercilessly beaten up by some Bangladesh Chhatra League men on February 6 over a calculator, would be taken to India for better treatment.

Not being satisfied after consulting several eye specialists at Birdem and National Eye Hospital, his family has decided to take him to Shankar Netralaya in Chennai of India.

Ehsan cannot see anything with his right eye, said his father Rafiqul Islam. He faces difficulty in eating and could not have a proper sleep over the last few days, said the father.

"As the condition of his right eye has not improved, we will take him to India very soon for better treatment," Rafiqul told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

"My father became blind due to wrong treatment; I do not want my son to face the same fate," said Rafiq breaking down in tears.

Mentioning Ehsan's academic performance, Rafiqul said, "Ehsan got 100 percent attendance marks in the last two semesters. But he cannot take part in any academic activities due to the eye condition. I do not want to see him out of class anymore."

Surprisingly, the university authorities did not respond to the application submitted by Ehsan's father to the dean of earth and environmental science faculty seeking financial support for Ehsan's treatment, said his father.

Contacted, DU Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman admitted that he had received the letter through the dean of earth and environmental science faculty.

He said they would give it a thought after a discussion.

Meanwhile, the probe body formed over the incident submitted its report to the VC on Friday, confirmed Prof Shabbir Ahmed, head of the committee.

Asked, the DU VC said, "I got the report and would take action after discussing the issue in a syndicate meeting; prior to that, the report will be placed before the Disciplinary Board (DB) meeting."

On February 6 night, a group of BCL activists of Salimullah Muslim Hall unit of DU beat up Ehsan Rafiq, a second year student of disaster management and science department, leaving his right eye seriously injured.



# AL wants to 'grab state power again'

Says Oli Ahmed  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League wants to "grab state power" again by ousting its main political opponent from the electoral battle, alleged Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed, chief of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) yesterday.

"Awami League wants to grab the state power again by confining BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in connection with a politically motivated case," he said while addressing a programme in the capital's Segunbagicha area.

Citing the BNP Chairperson as a popular leader, he said Khaleda Zia or her son Tarique Rahman did not misappropriate the Zia Orphanage Trust funds. "The entire money is in a bank now and the amount rose to Tk 6 crore," said the chief of LDP, a component of the BNP-led 20-party alliance. He alleged that Khaleda and Tarique have become "victims of politics of vengeance".

The country is passing through a critical time due to the "misdeeds and mismanagement of the government", he alleged.

He also criticised the government for not taking actions to stop the question paper leaks in public examinations.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Custom House, Benapole, Jessore				
Invitation for Tender				
Tender No. 03/2017-2018				
1.	Ministry/division		Internal Resources Division, Ministry of Finance.	
2.	Agency		Custom House, Benapole, Jessore.	
3.	Procuring entity name		Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Benapole, Jessore.	
4.	Procuring entity district		Jessore	
5.	Invitation for		Supply of 02 (Two) Unit Handheld Chemical Identifier as per Specifications/Tender Schedule.	
6.	Invitation Ref No.		File No. 1(5)GL& Purto/Lab/Jontro/Identifier/Bena/2017	
7.	Date		15/02/2018	
8.	Procurement method		Open Tendering Method (OTM).	
9.	Budget and source of fund		Revenue Budget of GOB.	
10.	Tender package name		Supply of 02 (Two) Unit Handheld Chemical Identifier.	
11.	Tender publication date		17/02/2018	
12.	Schedule selling last date		07/03/2018 (during office hour).	
13.	Tender closing date and time		08/03/2018 at 12.00 noon.	
14.	Tender opening date and time		08/03/2018 at 12:30pm.	
15.	Name & address of the office		Custom House, Benapole, Jessore.	
	Selling tender document		Custom House, Benapole, Jessore.	
	Receiving tender document		Custom House, Benapole, Jessore.	
	-Opening tender document		Custom House, Benapole, Jessore.	
16.	Eligibility of tenderer		Tenderer must have legal, financial, professional and technical capacity to meet the requirements of this tender and must fulfill the obligations of all tax requirements. Other requirements are stated in the tender document.	
17.	Brief description of goods		Tenderer will supply of 02 (Two) Unit Handheld Chemical Identifier to Custom House, Benapole, Jessore as per specifications and terms & conditions of tender document/schedule.	
18.	Brief description of related services		As mentioned in the tender document/schedule.	
19.	Price of tender document (Tk)		Tk. 2,000/- (two thousand) in Treasury Chalan with an official letter addressing Commissioner, Custom House, Benapole, Jessore (non-refundable).	
20.	Identification of goods	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in days
	Supply of 02 (Two) Unit Handheld Chemical Identifier for Custom House, Benapole, Jessore	Custom House, Benapole, Jessore	Tk. 2,00,000.00 (two lac only)	40 days from the date of issuing purchase order.
21.	Name, designation and address of official inviting tender		Commissioner of Customs, Custom House, Benapole, Jessore.	
22.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Ph: 0422875333	Fax: 0422875118	E-mail: benapolecustoms@gmail.com
23.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.			
GD-451				
Mohammad Marufur Rahman Deputy Commissioner of Customs For Commissioner of Customs				