

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.6 L 20.5	H 30.1 L 20.1	H 32.0 L 18.2	H 31.8 L 18.5	H 32.3 L 20.5	H 29.0 L 18.0	H 34.2 L 21.0	H 33.4 L 19.5	H 34.3 L 19.0

Rain/thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at multiple places in the next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, said the Met office. Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:59pm and rises tomorrow at 06:24am. Highest and lowest temperature recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

'Thieves' in guise of doctors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

When you walk around a hospital, you surely come across doctors, with stethoscopes and dressed in white aprons, moving around the floors and corridors.

Do you ever think of anything suspicious once you encounter them? Do you become suspicious about their identity if they are real or fake? No? That's right. Nobody does either.

Taking advantage of the very human psychology, two people impersonating doctors entered the gynaecology ward of Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) yesterday evening -- perhaps with a dubious plan.

Everything went well as nobody questioned their identity -- until some staff of the ward challenged the duo.

The two, including a female, entered the ward around 5:30pm during the hospital's visiting hours wearing physicians' aprons, said Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Alauddin Talukdar of CMCH police outpost.

When the staff challenged them, they introduced themselves as doctors. But the staff informed the matter to the CMCH police outpost as their behaviour seemed suspicious, said the ASI.

On information, police detained the two -- Md Raj, 19, of Barisal's Bakerganj, and Farzana Aktar Moni, 26, of Mirsarai upazila -- and handed them over to Panchlaish Police Station, said ASI Alauddin.

He said that the detainees might be the members of a gang that steals newborn babies from hospitals.

However, Sub-Inspector (SI) Nurul Islam of the police station said the two detainees are mobile thieves and entered the ward to steal mobile phone sets of patients and their attendants.

A case will be lodged in this connection, he added.



Progotishil Chhatra Jote activists try to remove barriers set up by police near the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday. They attempted in vain to besiege the education ministry, demanding arrest and trial of those involved in question leaks, corruption and bribery in the education sector, and resignation of the education minister for his failure to stop the question leak spree.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

ASK concerned over cop action on BNP event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday expressed deep concern over the police action to foil a pre-scheduled "black flag" procession of BNP on Saturday demanding immediate release of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

In a press statement, ASK strongly condemned the reported arrest of some 50 leaders and activists of the party. Citing media reports, ASK said around 100 BNP activists were hurt in the police action.

Police on Saturday charged batons, sprayed hot water on the agitating BNP activists in front of the party office in the capital's Nayapaltan.

ASK has observed that holding meetings, rallies, and processions are democratic rights of a political party. The rights organisation said the actions of law enforcers were unexpected.

Shining through ages



Established in 1963, "Seba Prokashoni" never ceases to enthrall the audience. Book enthusiasts leafing through books at its stall in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

MATHEWS CHIRAN

There is a special bond between the readers and writers. A reader embarks on a journey through a literary ocean with the trust that a writer would guide them home amid the turbulence.

And, in order to nurture that bond, publishing houses have been working relentlessly as a mediator. They are the bridge that connects the creative works with the readers.

Many a times, a publisher is also known to have improved the quality of the writer's work by making it more engaging.

A publisher is the one who establishes a channel of free flow of creative ideas from one end to the other.

And what could be the perfect place for all the publication houses to gather together and offer the readers an array of their collections than the Amar Ekushey Granthamela.

In this part of our report on the book fair, we highlight a few of these stalwarts.

MUKTADHARA

Muktadhara Prokashoni is probably the very first reason for the readers to take part in and celebrate the Ekushey book fair.

On February 21, 1972, Chittaranjan Saha, an avid booklover and a graduate

from Chaumohani College, laid a mat under a mango tree on the Bangla Academy premises and displayed 33 publications of his publishing house to pay homage to the 1952 Language Movement martyrs.

And, the rest is history -- this remarkable initiative is considered as the first stepping stone of the Ekushey book fair.

Gradually, Muktadhara was joined by other publishers too, and in 1978, Bangla Academy formalised the collection of sellers as the Ekushey book fair.

Now the publication is run by Jawhar Lal Saha.

This year, they have brought out 11 books.

"I've been coming to the book fair for a long time. Muktadhara was here since the start," said Shazzad Hossain, an engineer, who was buying books at their stall yesterday. "They always have a good collection of books," he said while buying science fiction books for his children.

BANGLA ACADEMY

The country's language authority was established in 1955. It hosts the book fair annually.

In 1978, the academy officially took the responsibility of organising the book fair every year and in 1984 it

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WAR CRIMES

Dhaka civil surgeon asked to submit health report on ex-Pak army man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday directed the civil surgeon of Dhaka to submit a report on the mental condition of a war crimes accused hailing from Comilla.

It asked the civil surgeon to form a medical board to ascertain mental condition of Muhamed Shahidullah, a former Bangalee army official who allegedly worked for Pakistan army during the Liberation War, and submit the report within March 29.

Yesterday was fixed for passing an order whether the tribunal would frame charges against Shahidullah for his alleged war-time offences. Shahidullah, who is now on bail on health grounds, appeared before the court on a stretcher.

SM Shahjahan, a defence counsel for Shahidullah, said his client has been suffering not only from physical ailment, but also from mental impairment.

Shahidullah is incapable of making his defence, if charge is framed, Shahjahan said.

Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Arief Tipoo said the accused must understand what charges he is going to face, if charges are framed.

But the accused is now mentally impaired as per the defence counsel; therefore, proceedings against him should not go on before his mental state is ascertained, Tipoo said.

Then the tribunal passed the order and asked Shahidullah's son to produce his father before the medical board on the fixed date at the fixed place and time.

On October 30 last year, prosecution pressed three charges against Shahidullah of Comilla's Daudkandi upazila saying that he had involvement in confinement, torture,

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No Rohingya to be sent back against will: Shahriar

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh will not repatriate any Rohingya "against her or his will" although the country is unjustifiably bearing the brunt of a crisis that originates in Myanmar, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said yesterday.

He however urged the international community to maintain pressure on Myanmar so it creates suitable conditions in Rakhine for a sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas, reports UNB.

"We need to recognise that the problem has its origin in Rakhine and its comprehensive solution has to be found there. Bangladesh is only unjustifiably bearing the brunt of it, till today, as the flow [of Rohingya refugees] did not stop," he said.

Continued deprivation, persecution, disenfranchisement and military atrocities against the whole community of Rohingyas are the root causes of the crisis, he added.

Shahriar made the remarks while addressing the launching of a report -- jointly prepared by Plan International Bangladesh, Save the Children International, and World Vision Bangladesh -- titled "Childhood Interrupted: Children's Voice from Rohingya Camps in Cox's Bazar" in the capital, our correspondent reports.

Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission Kazi Rezaul Hoque and Country Director of Save the Children Mark Pierce were also present.

At the camps in Cox's Bazar, about one lakh Rohingya refugees are in danger as they are living on hill slopes, Shahriar said, adding that "Twenty three thousand of them have built shelters in extremely dangerous places..." and the government is working on to provide them with safe shelters before the monsoon that starts in March or April.

According to the report, the Rohingya children are being deprived of proper development due to inadequate playgrounds and learning facilities at the refugee camps.

To address the concern, Shahriar said, "It's difficult to find plain lands in the area." The government will check to see if some sort of indoor games facilities can be provided to the refugee children, our correspondent reports.

Out of the over 655,500 Rohingyas who took shelter in Bangladesh to flee persecution in Myanmar last year, 58 percent of them are children below the age of 18, the report says citing the Unicef.

"It's deeply disturbing to note that

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Myanmar 'verifying' list of 8,032 Rohingyas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Myanmar has started checking the names of a list of 8,032 Rohingyas for their safe return to Rakhine after they fled to Bangladesh following a military crackdown six months ago.

The newly appointed Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh Lwin Oo confirmed the matter to the Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali yesterday.

The list was handed over to Myanmar on February 16.

During the meeting at the foreign ministry, Ali stressed the need for rebuilding houses and villages in Rakhine involving international partners to pave the way for voluntary repatriation.

In this regard, the Myanmar envoy appreciated Bangladesh's donation of three ambulances and contribution of around US \$5 million for building cyclone shelters in Rakhine.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presents a gold medal to a university student at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday. A total of 265 talented students from public and private universities got Prime Minister Gold Medal for 2015 and 2016 under the auspices of University Grants Commission for their outstanding achievements in their respective faculties.

PHOTO: BSS

মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক ৪টি বই
বইমেলায় পাওয়া যাচ্ছে।

স্টল নং ৩৫৮-৫৯
(সোহরাওয়ার্দী উদ্যান)

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তারশিল্প বন্দোপাধ্যায়

১৯৭১
মোহাম্মদ হোসেন

সংগ্রামী নারী
১৯৭১

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান

১৯৭১
মোহাম্মদ হোসেন

১৯৭১
মোহাম্মদ হোসেন

Use clean cooking technologies

Urges GACC, SREDA seminar

CITY DESK

To reduce air pollution inside homes, speakers at a seminar yesterday urged use of clean cooking technologies by replacing traditional clay cook stoves.

They talked about an array of solutions that include use of modern stoves and elements of healthy cooking, according to a press release.

They were addressing a seminar on "Clean cook stove and renewable energy", jointly organised by Global Alliance for Clean CookStoves (GACC), and Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA) in the capital's Four

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