

**WEATHER**  
FORECAST



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.4 L 23.8	H 31.0 L 22.2	H 32.0 L 22.0	H 29.4 L 21.6	H 34.3 L 19.0	H 29.0 L 18.6	H 34.5 L 23.5	H 34.0 L 20.3	H 31.0 L 21.5

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Comilla and Noakhali with hills at isolated places in the next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, said the Met Office. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:04pm and rises tomorrow at 06:16am.** Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

**ROAD ACCIDENT**  
24 SSC examinees killed, 61 others hurt in last 6 months: Report  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 24 examinees of this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination were killed and 61 others injured in road accidents in last six months, Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity, a passengers' welfare platform said yesterday.

Moreover, one SSC candidate was killed after a train ran him over and another drowned, the organisation said in its recent report.

The organisation prepared the report on the basis of media reports, Mozammel Haque Chowdhury, secretary general of Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity said.

He said multiple incidents of death of SSC examinees in road accidents prompted them to

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

## HAIJ UNDER PVT MANAGEMENT Lowest package at Tk 3.33 lakh

*Tk 14,000 more than the previous year's*  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A pilgrim will have to spend a minimum of Tk 3,32,868 to perform hajj under private management this year -- around Tk 14,000 higher than that in the previous year.

The Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh, a platform of private hajj tour operators, yesterday announced its lowest package under private hajj agencies at a press conference at a hotel in the capital. Last year, the minimum cost was Tk 3,19,000. This time, the increase in airfare contributes to the increase in the total.

Besides, every haji under the private management will have to pay an additional Tk 11,175 for Qurbani (sacrificing animals) coupon of Islamic Development Bank in Saudi Arabia.

Earlier, on February 26, the cabinet approved the draft of Hajj Package-2018, fixing the maximum cost for a pilgrim under the government arrangement at Tk 3,97,929, which was Tk 3,81,508 last year.

The minimum expense under the government arrangement has been fixed at Tk 3,31,359, which was Tk 3,19,355 in 2017.

The civil aviation ministry on February 22 fixed this year's airfare for a pilgrim at Tk 1, 38,191, which was Tk 1, 24,723 in the previous year.

Speaking at the conference, Haab Secretary General M Shahadat Hossain Taslim demanded that the government decrease the airfare.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



President Abdul Hamid with his Vietnamese counterpart Tran Dai Quang after a meeting at Bangabhaban yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was present on the occasion.

PHOTO: PID

## Enforce 50-kg limit for potato bag handlers

*High Court asks govt; issues 6 directives to uphold cold storage workers' rights, safety*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to strictly enforce relevant laws and rules prohibiting workers from carrying a potato bag weighing over 50 kilograms in cold storages across the country.

The bench of Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Md Salim delivered the verdict following a writ petition seeking its directive on the government for appropriate enforcement of Section 74 of Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 or section 63 of Bangladesh Labour Rules 2015.

Poba Upazila Load Unload Kuli Sramik Union, an organisation of labourers at the upazila in Rajshahi, filed the petition with the HC in February last year after several workers were injured and a worker died after they were compelled to carry potato bags beyond permissible weight limits in cold storages, petitioner's lawyer Barrister Suhan Khan told The Daily Star.

In order to ensure enforcement of the weight limit on potato bags in cold storages, the HC also issued six directives to the government and asked it to submit a report to the HC in four months after complying with the directives.

The directives include conducting necessary investigations or examinations for

ascertaining any violation of the relevant laws or rules that prohibit carrying a potato bag exceeding 50kg by an adult male or 30kg by an adult female in cold storages across the country, Barrister Suhan added.

Upon receipt of any complaint regarding violation of the law or the rule, it asked the government to carry out an investigation within 10 (ten) working days and to direct the parties concerned to take action as per law.

The HC ordered the authorities concerned of the government to submit complaints to the labour court against any unfair labour practices violating the weight limit of potato bags.

The court asked them to prepare information materials -- containing laws, rules, rights of workers and procedures of filing a complaint -- for distribution and publication and organise workshops to create mass awareness among all stakeholders as well as the general public.

The HC also asked them to ensure taking necessary actions and submission of reports to the respondents when grave consequences arise due to "dangerous operations" through lifting, carrying and moving of potato bags heavier than the permissible weight limit by workers in cold storages, Barrister Suhan said.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

## ACC approves charges against Ekushey TV ex-chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has approved a charge sheet against three persons, including former Ekushey Television chairman Abdus Salam, in a case filed for laundering around Tk 26.7 lakh.

Two other accused are Ashraf Alam, current director and former managing director of Ekushey TV; and Fazlur Rahman Shikdar, former senior manager (finance) of the television channel.

ACC's deputy director Shamsul Alam will submit the charge sheet soon, said ACC Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya.

The ACC filed the case on January 26, 2015.

Tk 26.7 lakh was withdrawn from the Karwan Bazar branch of Premier Bank with a cheque signed by Ashraf Alam.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

## Markets in Dhaka South to stay shut for March 7 rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shopowners of 73 markets in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) area will keep their shops closed to allow their staff join the Awami League's March 7 rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan.

Leaders of the markets took the decision after a number of meetings with DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon in the last couple of days, sources said.

Meanwhile, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, yesterday at a meeting asked DSCC councillors and the party's Dhaka city leaders to bring more people as the party has a target of gathering around 10 lakh people at the rally, said AL sources.

Commuters in Dhaka city are likely to face a scarcity of public transport tomorrow as several thousand transport workers will join the rally to be organised by AL marking the historic March 7 speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

People often face difficulties due to rallies in the capital as roads leading to the venues get choked with traffic. On the other hand, in many cases, there is also a lack of public transport as transport owners and workers associations, having political affiliation, force their workers to join rallies.

This year, March 7 will be observed with much more fanfare as the speech has been included in the Memory of the World

International Register, a list of the world's important documentary heritage maintained by Unesco. AL already held a series of meetings in last several days with different front and like-minded organisations to ensure a record gathering. At yesterday's meeting with Quader at Nagar Bhaban, a shop owner at a DSCC market said they will keep all markets under DSCC closed for its staff and businessmen to join the rally.

At yesterday's preparatory meeting with Mayor Khokon in the chair, GM Atikur Rahman of Gulistan Trade Centre said they will join the rally to ensure participation of a huge number of people from all markets. "We will attend the programme closing all our markets," he said. Sources said around 6,000 to 7,000 people work in the 73 markets in the DSCC area.

Quader, however, said there is no need to shut down the city markets as the rally will start from 3:00pm. He also urged party leaders to remain careful so that city commuters do not suffer due to the rally.

Meanwhile, garbage management workers will also join the rally. President of Scavenger Union of DSCC Abdul Latif at the meeting said a huge number of workers will join the programme. Emerging from the meeting, Councillor of Ward-25 of DSCC Md Delwar Hossain told The Daily Star that they were asked to bring as many people as possible. "I will try to bring around 5,000 people from my ward to the rally."

## Govt on right path to root out militancy

Says Muhith

BSS, Dhaka

The government is walking on the right path to root out terrorism and militancy as a vested quarter has been trying to hamper the country's progress and prosperity by carrying out militant attacks, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday.

Actions will be taken against the militants immediately after they are identified, he told journalists after a meeting with newly-elected executive committee of the Bangladesh Civil Service Economic Association (BCSEA) at his ministry.

Referring to the comments of BNP-Jamaat alliance on the attack on Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, Muhith said, "Jamaat is the enemy of the country and this party has no right to stay in Bangladesh." When the BCSEA team sought his support for accelerating the merging process between the Civil Administration Service and Civil Economic Service, Muhith assured of his cooperation.



Carrying of garbage in the daytime in open trucks is prohibited in the capital, but these two trucks are doing just that on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital. The photo was taken on Sunday around 2:00pm. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## ICT indicts four Satkhira men

*Asks for charges against two Mymensingh accused*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday framed seven charges against four Satkhira men including the district ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami over their alleged involvement in crimes committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Md Shahinur Islam also fixed April 15 to begin the trial with recording of testimony of the prosecution witnesses.

According to the charges submitted in March last year, the four were allegedly involved in killing of six persons, torturing of 14 people and raping of two women in Sadar and Ashashuni

upazilas in the district.

The accused are Abdul Khaleq Mandol, 72, Satkhira Jamaat's chief and a former lawmaker; M Abdullah Al Baki alias Abdullah Hel Baki, 103; Khan Rokonzaman, 64, and Jahirul Islam alias Jahirul Haque alias Tikka Khan. All are from Sadar upazila.

Khaleq Mandol is in jail while Baki was released on bail. The other two are yet to be arrested.

Tribunal's investigation agency on February 8 last year said to have found evidence against the four persons.

According to the agency, Khaleq was involved with Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat, since 1967 and during the war, he acted as the

organiser of Razakar Bahini in Satkhira.

Baki was involved with Muslim League and he was the Razakar Commander of the then Satkhira Sub-division while Rokonzaman and Jahirul were involved with Islami Chhatra Sangha and later joined Razakar Bahini, it said.

Meanwhile, the tribunal directed the prosecution to submit formal charges, if have any, on May 6 in a case filed against two Mymensingh men for their alleged wartime crimes.

Yesterday was fixed for submitting the report by Prosecutor Tureen Afroz said they received the investigation report of the case on December 31 last year.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

জয় বাংলা

আল্লাহ সর্বশক্তিমান

জয় বঙ্গবন্ধু

ইউনেস্কো স্বীকৃত বিশ্ব ঐতিহ্যের অমূল্য দলিল

ঐতিহাসিক

# ৭ই মার্চ

উপলক্ষে

বিশাল জনসভা

৭ মার্চ ২০১৮ বুধবার দুপুর ২.০০ টায়

ঐতিহাসিক সোহরাওয়ার্দী উদ্যান

প্রধানমন্ত্রী দেশরত্ন জননেত্রী

সভাপতি: **শেখ হাসিনা** এমপি

দলে দলে যোগদিন

## বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ

বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগের প্রেস ও প্রকাশনা সম্পাদক ড. হাছান মাহমুদ এমপি এবং উপ-প্রেস ও প্রকাশনা সম্পাদক আমিনুল ইসলাম কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত (০২-০৩-২০১৮)