2nd Edition

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

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Rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong division and at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions in 24 hours till 6:00pm today, says the Met office. **The sun sets in the capital today at** 6:13pm and rises tomorrow at 5:55am. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded in some

HC clears way for continuing Moudud's trial STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for the lower court to continue the trial proceedings of a corruption case against former BNP law minister Moudud Ahmed.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on September 16, 2007 filed the case against Moudud with Gulshan Police Station on the charge of amassing wealth beyond his known sources of income and withholding information about his assets.

Yesterday, the HC rejected a writ petition, filed by Barrister Moudud, challenging the legality of the ACC's interpretation about his incomes. In the petition filed on March 22, Moudud prayed to the HC to stay the trial proceedings.

The bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice Krishna Debnath rejected the petition considering SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



There are no words to console her... A relative of a burn victim cries in front of the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. Five people, including a three-year old, sustained burn injuries after an underground water reservoir exploded at a building in the capital's Pallabi in the morning during maintenance work. The injured are being treated at the hospital. All of them are in a critical condition. The reason behind the explosion could not be known immediately.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

What if my baby is still alive?

Says a father at ACC hearing on CMCH; allegations run rife against some doctors, nurses, staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

In September 2017, an anxious Harun-ur-Rashid admitted his expecting wife to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

She underwent a caesarean section (c-section) at the hospital's gynaecology ward.

After the operation, the officials at the ward informed him that his wife had given birth to a stillborn baby.

Though the body of the newborn girl was handed over to him, in the discharge certificate it was mentioned that the baby was alive. And, it has been more than five months, Harun,

a rickshaw-puller by profession, is yet to know exactly what had happened to his child. Harun was narrating his experience at a hearing

organised by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and Corruption Resistance Committee, Chittagong yesterday in Shah Alam Bir Uttam Auditorium at CMCH.

"I was handed over the body of a newborn, but I don't know for sure whether it's my baby or not. I also noticed some suspicious activities among the staff on that day," he said.

"Later, some doctors outside the hospital, after

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We have to solve water issues our own way

Sheikh Hasina tells World Water Day programme

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked experts and authorities concerned to ensure optimum use of available water to offset the lean period crisis as part of an internal solution to the issue.

"There is no alternative to the naturebased solution for facing the mounting challenges of water resources management," she told a World Water Day programme at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

The premier particularly stressed on finding ways to maximise rainwater harvesting for lean season alongside maintenance of navigability of rivers.

The government is trying to ensure an equitable water sharing of all trans-boundary rivers with India as it was done in the case of the Padma River, she said.

Sheikh Hasina said a lack of availability of Teesta water from upstream India turned the Teesta Barrage dysfunctional, adding that as a downstream country Bangladesh should have considered the consequences before constructing the huge structure.

"Now, we are in trouble with the barrage. So, the more we harvest rainwater, the more we will be benefitted," she said.

The prime minister said the country must: terday sought cooperation offset the crisis immediately "of our own; from neighbouring counaccords" through dredging of rivers and pre- · tries, especially from India serving rainwater.

the water resources ministry should be protecting the rivers, enhancing their navigability and . billion of the world's seven water reserving capacity to turn them into : billion people suffer from blessings instead of curse," she said. The prime minister said construction of

embankments was not the lone solution to : river erosion and floods; maintenance of : ise their plight. their banks need to be done in such a way . so the river courses remain unchanged. She said apart from dredging, the rivers

should have adequate flood zones and green belts to reduce flood damage. "Otherwise, · the rivers might be devastating during the : time of deluge". The prime minister said the natural

reservoirs of water should be protected while .

maintained. "We must not waste water as groundwater . Day, observed on March 22, is limited. So the use of groundwater should be · said a press release.

reduced for sustainable development." The prime minister said the UN adopted "Nature for Water" as the theme for World

: Manju seeks India, China's cooperation on : water sharing

· STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Water Resources Minister Anwar Hossain Manju yes-· and China, to solve water "The prime and foremost responsibility of : problems in this region.

> He said around one · the crisis of drinkable water, but the industrialised countries do not real-

He also said Bangladesh is surrounded by India, · Nepal, Bhutan and China; so these countries need to cooperate with each other to solve the crisis.

The minister made the · remarks at a seminar organised by his ministry at Bangabandhu International the flow of canals linking the rivers should be . Conference Center in the : capital, marking World Water

The minister also hoped that Bangladesh and India would soon sign the Teesta SEE PAGE 4 COL 4: water sharing agreement.

NEWSIN brief

Bangladesh concerned over missile attacks at Riyadh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has conveyed its deep concern at the recent multiple ballistic missile attacks by the Houthi rebels aimed at Riyadh and other bordering cities of South Western parts of Saudi Arabia. The missile attacks were however successfully inter-

cepted by the Saudi Air Defence forces. Bangladesh staunchly opposes such unilateral acts by

the Houthi rebels. These are provocative acts and have an adverse impact on regional peace and stability.

These acts also threaten international peace and security in the long run, said a press statement issued by the foreign ministry yesterday.

9th Wage Board: 45pc DA for journos, newspaper employees announced

BSS, Dhaka

The ninth Wage Board has announced 45 percent dearness allowance (DA) for journalists, employees and workers of newspapers and news agencies, said an information ministry communiqué yesterday.

It said the Wage Board reached the decision at its third meeting on March 21 to award the DA with effect from March 1, 2018. Its Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Haq presided over the meeting.

In a letter, the Wage Board asked the information ministry to take necessary steps to implement the decision of awarding the DA against basic salaries of the recipients.

Apollo physician Muzibur Rahman dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Dr Md Muzibur Rahman Bhuiyan, a senior gastroenterology consultant of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, died on Monday at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore. He was 56.

He breathed his last while undergoing a surgery.

Dr Buiyan left behind his wife and three daughters. He was born on March 13, 1962. He graduated from Dhaka Medical College in 1985. In his career of 29 years, Dr Bhuiyan worked at many government medical colleges and hospitals including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University. He joined Apollo in

Apollo Hospitals expressed grave shock at his demise and sympathy towards the bereaved family.

Naripokkho condemns 'assault' on Eden college students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Naripokkho yesterday condemned the alleged assault on female students of Eden Mohila College at Chadni Chawk market in the capital on Friday.

In a statement, the organisation termed the incident "heinous" and demanded punishment for the culprits.

On March 23, salespersons of a shop verbally and physically assaulted some Eden students after they had an altercation over blocking the entrance of the shop.



The winners of a book reading competition along with dignitaries at Green University of Bangladesh. The Green University Language Center organised the award ceremony of the British Council's reading competition on March 21. Kirsty Crawford, programme director of Library Unlimited at British Council Bangladesh, attended the event as the chief guest. It was chaired by Prof Dr Md Golam Samdani Fakir, vice-chancellor of the university.

ACC sues 8 RHD

FROM PAGE 4 accused Mohammad Rasel, former subassistant engineer; Tanvir Hossain, former sub-divisional engineer; Sheikh Manirul Islam, former executive engineer; Chandan Kumar Basak, supervising engineer; Iftekharul Kabir, former additional chief engineer; and contractor Lutfur Rahman, proprietor of Jonmobhumi Construction; over embezzling Tk 62.61 lakh.

In the second case, ACC accused Mashuk Ahmed, sub-assistant engineer; Anwar Hossain, former sub-assistant engineer; Abul Barkat Md Khurshid Alam, former subdivisional engineer; Tanvir Hossain, former sub-divisional engineer; Sheikh Manirul Islam, former executive engineer; Chandan Kumar Basak, supervising engineer; Iftekharul Kabir, former additional chief engineer; and contractor Lutfur Rahman, proprietor of Jonmobhumi Construction;

over embezzling more than Tk 1.13 crore. Gousul Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said both the cases have been filed under anti-corruption laws.

Terrorism on BIMSTEC meeting

FROM PAGE 3 Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval arrived yesterday to attend the second meeting of the National Security Chiefs of the Bay of Bengal Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

Prime Minister's Security Affairs adviser Maj Gen (retd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique will lead Bangladesh delegation at the meeting, and he will be assisted by senior officials from the defence, home and foreign affairs ministries.

Apart from attending the BIMSTEC meeting, the security chiefs will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Gono Bhaban at 7:00pm today.

Officials said the meeting would be able to prepare an effective mechanism to strengthen cooperation to tackle terrorism and the rise of violent extremism for peace, stability and economic development in

the region.

They said the officials will discuss measures to counter and prevent the spread of terrorism, violent extremism and radicalisation, and they are expected to take concrete measures to enhance cooperation and coordination among their law enforcement, intelligence and security organisations and enhance capacity building.

Foreign ministry officials said security heads will deliberate on common security challenges and underline the necessity of addressing traditional and non-traditional threats in order to harness economic prosperity and human security in the BIMSTEC region.

Strengthening cooperation in ensuring maritime security including Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief will receive special attention in the meeting. professor.

'DISTORTING HISTORY'

BCL stages demo against DU prof

DU CORRESPONDENT

Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday demonstrated on Dhaka University campus, demanding punishment for a teacher for allegedly distorting history of the Liberation War.

They also claimed that Prof Morshed Hasan Khan of marketing department made derogatory remarks about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and distorted the history in his article titled "Jyotirmoy Zia", published in a national daily on Sunday.

"We believe that the university authorities would take proper steps against him...," said BCL central unit general secretary SM Jakir Hossain. He also demanded the

professor's resignation. BCL would submit a memorandum to the vice-chancellor today if the university did not take any action against him, he added. Meanwhile, Prof Morshed

in a Facebook post yesterday sought an apology if anyone was hurt by his writing. In his article, published

marking Genocide Day, Prof Morshed termed Ziaur Rahman the "declarer of independence" and claimed that most of the Awami League leaders including Bangabandhu left the country during the war. Meanwhile, Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) in a statement demanded that the administration take legal actions against the

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