

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHATTOGRAM	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISHAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.2 L 21.5	H 32.3 L 20.8	H 33.0 L 23.8	H 34.0 L 21.6	H 32.0 L 19.0	H 31.0 L 20.6	H 32.0 L 19.0	H 32.0 L 18.4	H 32.0 L 20.0

Rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind may occur at a few places over Chattogram & Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Barishal, Dhaka & Mymensingh divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm tomorrow, UNB said quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:22pm and rises tomorrow at 6:03am.

GYANTAPAS ABDUR RAZZAQ DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

Hasan Azizul Haque speaks on social responsibilities of an intellectual

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Who is an intellectual? What are the elements one needs to possess in order to be referred to as an intellectual in a society? These are some of the questions that were answered during a public lecture delivered by Professor Hasan Azizul Haque, an eminent writer-novelist, at the Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad Auditorium in Bangla Academy yesterday.

This was the seventh and last instalment of the Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Distinguished Lecture Series and Professor Haque spoke on "The Social Responsibilities of the Intellectual". Despite being slightly under the weather, the 79-year-old professor spoke for an hour and managed to cover the first few chapters of his lecture.

"While attempting to speak on intellectuals and their responsibilities, I have realised that I have been labelled as an intellectual. Whether this is an advantage or not, I won't go into that argument... however, I feel that if society has to progress and follow the right path, then everyone has to be an intellectual in their respective field. A person may be a

teacher or a politician, or even a nine-to-five working officer..." said Professor Haque.

Dividing his lecture into different phases, Prof Haque initially touched upon the intellectuals of various societies and the kind of responsibility that they have. For instance, he spoke about writers and the power they have.

"Whether a writer can be an intellectual is a topic that can have plenty of arguments. However, in my opinion, if one wants to be a writer, one has to be an intellectual at first," he said. The lecture also included the responsibilities of cultural activists and those involved in the education sector.

Towards the end of his lecture, Professor Haque asked everyone from different fields to be responsible individuals no matter what obstacle they face. "The ghosts of irresponsibility should not get you," he concluded.

Professor Haque was introduced by Abul Hasnat, editor of Kali o Kolom. National Professor Anisuzzaman provided closing remarks to the programme.

While this was the last lecture of the cycle, Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation plans to arrange another cycle next year.



Writer-novelist Hasan Azizul Haque delivers a lecture on "The Social Responsibilities of the Intellectual" at Bangla Academy yesterday. It was the seventh instalment of Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Distinguished Lecture Series hosted by Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation. On his right are Prof Anisuzzaman and Abul Hasnat and on his left is Ahrar Ahmad.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Old airport to stay: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday ruled out the possibility of closing down the old airport in Tejgaon, saying that it belongs to Bangladesh Air Force and must remain in their possession.

The prime minister was speaking at the inauguration of a newly constructed VVIP complex at Tejgaon Airport.

She, however, asked the air force to remain vigilant so that the airport cannot be grabbed by others.

"I want to warn you. Many people have their greedy eyes on it, Air Force should use it... it must not be grabbed by others."

The premier put emphasis on the use of the airport, saying flights should be operated from there as well.

The PM visited different sections of the newly constructed VVIP complex of the airport.

GOVT'S MASTER PLAN TO DEVELOP SOUTHERN REGION

The prime minister yesterday also said the government has a master plan to develop the southern region of the country.

"This region has been neglected... We aim to create jobs here. We have a master plan for this region," she said.

The premier was addressing a rally at Kalapara Power Plant after opening a rehabilitation centre, "Swapner Thikana", and newly constructed houses for people affected in the project area. She also gave away keys and registration papers among the 130 rehabilitated families.

She said a naval base and a cantonment are

being constructed in this area, and there will be an air base in the southern part of the country.

The PM mentioned a site has been selected in the region for setting up ship-building and recycling yards to accelerate employment and economic activities.

The premier added that the government is looking for another island in the area to construct a second nuclear power plant.

"We're conducting a feasibility study. The people of the Atomic Energy Commission are looking into that. We'll construct the second nuclear power plant in the southern part of the country," she said.

The prime minister also inaugurated 16 development projects in different areas of Patuakhali district.

Pranto wanted to be a BCS cadre

JU CORRESPONDENT

Pranto was playing cricket with his friends on a road in the capital's Dhanmondi.

All of a sudden, happiness turned into tragedy. An iron bar fell on the 21-year-old from an unfinished building.

Mahmud Bin Ashraf Pranto, a student of Jahangirnagar University (JU), was declared dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

One of his friends, Ifteder Evan, 21, a private university student, was also injured in the incident that happened near Medinova Medical Services on Friday evening, said Mehedi Hasan, another friend of Pranto.

The iron bar also hit a transformer,

causing a power cut, he said.

A student of the philosophy department, Pranto resided in Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall of JU. He was visiting his relatives in Dhanmondi area, said his family.

Pranto aimed to be a BCS cadre, said Mehedi.

Prof Mostofa Nazmul Mansur Tamal, chairperson of JU's philosophy department, said, "After checking his class attendance, I found him to be highly committed and capable of achieving his goal. He was very energetic..."

"He was an asset for his family as well as our university," he said, adding that they called an emergency meeting.

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Internationally acclaimed rock musician James performs on the concluding day of the 40th anniversary celebration of Aarong at Army Stadium in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

I'm not a free man: Ershad

STAR CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said "confusion" over holding of the next general election is over and JP is absolutely ready for the polls.

"There was a time when I was not a free man. I don't consider myself a free man at present either. But there is no doubt about the election," Ershad said while inaugurating the party's digital campaign programme for the 11th parliamentary polls at his Banani office.

"Jatiya Party is fully prepared for the election. We will contest in all 300

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Heartiest Congratulations!

Mr. Faruque Hassan
Member, Board of Trustees, BUFT



On being appointed the **Honorary Consul General of Greece to Bangladesh**,

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We wish him further success in life.

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Lifetime Achievement Award for Shahidul Alam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Internationally acclaimed Bangladeshi photographer Shahidul Alam has been conferred the "Prof. Satish Bahadur Lifetime Achievement Award" by National Institute of Design (NID), India.

Alam, who is currently in jail in a case filed under the section 57 of ICT Act, was honoured for his outstanding contribution to media education in South Asia, according to a press release.

Indian curator Ina Puri, also a friend of Alam, received the award on his behalf on Friday at the awards ceremony of the fourth edition of Alpavirama Asian Short and Documentary Film Festival, organised by the NID in Ahmedabad.

The five-day film festival, which showcased 76 films from 18 countries, also exhibited some of Alam's selected photographs.

In her speech, Puri said Alam is a voice of resistance and hope, of deep intellectual engagement and brave practical commitment.

"For the past many weeks, we have all been wracked with worry for him. This award and the overwhelming support of intellectuals around the world are strong votes for freedom of speech and expression," she added.

Alam, who identifies himself as a social activist, has been an unrelenting torchbearer of the underprivileged and oppressed in Bangladesh in their slow march towards a genuine awareness of their rights, and improvement of their social, cultural, and economic conditions, said Rishi Singhal, a faculty member of Photography Design at NID Gandhinagar.

His book "My Journey as a Witness" has been described as "the most important book ever written by a photogra-

pher" by the former picture editor of Life Magazine, John Morris, Rishi added.

The 63-year-old photographer and journalist, was picked up by law enforcers from his Dhanmondi flat on August 5.

Police charged him with "spreading propaganda against the government", following a Facebook live video and an interview to international news channel Al-Jazeera where he criticised the government during the protests for road safety.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

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