

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 29.5 L 18.6

MYMENSINGH H 29.0 L 16.8

CHATTOGRAM H 28.6 L 19.6

SYLHET H 29.5 L 18.9

RAJSHAHI H 29.2 L 14.5

RANGPUR H 28.5 L 18.2

KHULNA H 30.0 L 18.0

BARISHAL H 30.2 L 18.2

COX'S BAZAR H 29.3 L 19.5

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB quoting Met office. Night temperature may fall slightly over Southern part and if may nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:14pm and rises tomorrow at 6:11am.



Eminent personalities from different sectors attend the 20th anniversary celebration of the daily Prothom Alo at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel last evening. Editor of the newspaper Matur Rahman, inset, speaks to the guests.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

NAT'L POLLS Boycotters will meet Bhashani's fate: Tofail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday warned that those who will not participate in the upcoming parliamentary election will have to embrace the fate similar to Maulana Bhashani's.

Maulana Bhashani did not take part in the general election of 1970 as he wanted to liberate the country by "kicking out the ballot box", he said. On the other hand, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman won the people's mandate through contesting the election, earned the right to declare independence of the country, and created history, he said.

"So, the parties which will stay away from the polls will one day become non-existent like Maulana Bhashani's political party," Tofail told a discussion at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in Dhaka. Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee arranged the discussion marking "Constitution Day".

An independent Bangladesh adopted its first constitution on November 4, 1972.

A senior leader of the Awami League, Tofail hoped that the newly formed political

alliance Jatiya Oikyafront under the leadership of Dr Kamal Hossain will participate in the upcoming parliamentary election due on December 23.

He also urged all other political parties to join.

The veteran politician also said if his party can form the government next time, they will take an initiative to observe November 4 as "Constitution Day" nationally.

On the recent spree of arrests of opposition leaders and activists, he said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave her word that no one will be arrested without specific accusation. So, police do not arrest those who are not accused in a case, he added.

At the discussion, speakers demanded trial and punishment of those who were instrumental behind "tearing apart" the country's constitution after the 1975 blood-bath.

Nirmul Committee President Shahriar Kabir criticised Dr Kamal Hossain for forming the new alliance Oikyafront, and said he has joined those guilty of committing crimes.

Bangladesh takes full control of Bangabandhu-1

UNB, Dhaka

Thales Alenia Space which developed Bangladesh's first geostationary communications satellite, Bangabandhu-1, yesterday handed over its transmission and operation management to Bangladesh.

A delegation of the Franco-Italian aerospace company handed over relevant documents to acting Chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Md Jahurul Haque at a function at the Bangladesh Communication Satellite Company Limited (BCSCL) office in Banglamotor, Dhaka in the evening.

Later, the acting chairman of BTRC transferred the documents to BCSCL Chairman Dr Shahjahan Mahmood.

Shaheed Noor Hossain Day today

BSS, Dhaka

Shaheed Noor Hossain Day, a red-letter day in restoration of democracy in Bangladesh, is being observed today with due solemnity.

On this day in 1987, Noor Hossain, who imprinted his bare chest and back with the slogan "Swairachar nipat jak, gonotrantra mukti pak" (down with autocracy, let democracy be freed), was gunned down when police opened fire on an anti-autocracy demonstration in Dhaka's Zero Point. This place was renamed "Noor Hossain Chatter (square)".

The martyrdom of Noor Hossain and others during the mass upsurge of late 1990s expedited the

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DHAKA LIT FEST 2018

Proshanta Mridha wins Gemcon Sahitya Puroshkar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fiction writer Proshanta Mridha won the Gemcon Sahitya Puroshkar 2018 for his book "Dugdugir Ashor."

Young writer Hamim Kamal and poet Hasan Nayeem won the Tarun Kathashahitya Puroshkar and Gemcon Kobita Puroshkar respectively for this year.

The awards for literature in Bangla were conferred at Bangla Academy's Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad auditorium on the second day of the Dhaka Literary Festival 2018 yesterday.

Proshanta Mridha was awarded a crest and a cheque worth Tk 8 lakh. Hamim, who received the award for his story book "Shonailer Golpo", and Nayeem, who was given award for his poetry book "Dil Nilamer Haat", received cheques worth Tk 1 lakh each along with crests.

A board of jury selected the books after evaluating a large number of submissions in



New Shonar Bangla Circus, a recently emerged rock band, performs at Dhaka Lit Fest last evening.

fiction published in 2017.

Mridha, who also won the first young literary award back in 2000, said that the award will inspire him to continue his

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8 Ansar Al Islam members placed on 6-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed eight members of the banned militant group Ansar Al Islam on a six-day remand. They were arrested on the charge of spreading terror propoganda among Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar in the guise of an NGO.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ashek Imam passed the order after the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit produced them before the court with a 10-day remand prayer.

The arrestees - aged between 24 and 38 - are: Saf Wanur Rahman, Sultan Mahmud, Nazrul Islam, Abu Taher, Ilias Mridha, Ashraful Alam, Hasnain, and Md Kamrul.

A team of CTTC unit arrested the eight after conducting a drive at the office of the NGO, Small Kindness Bangladesh (SKB), on Road 9 at DOHS, Pallabi in Dhaka early Thursday.

CTTC officials said the NGO, which was spreading terror propoganda in the name of humanitarian activities in the Rohingya camps, was banned by the NGO Affairs Bureau for its alleged involvement in militancy financing as well as conducting anti-state activities in August.

Despite the ban, the NGO was operating its activities. Pakistan-based Al-Khidmat Foundation, an organisation that has connections with terror outfits al-Qaeda and Lashkar-e-Taiba, was operating militant activities in Rohingya camps through the NGO, the officials claimed.

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CULLEN DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR
Dept. of Mechanical Engineering
University of Houston

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Team 'The Goal Diggers'
University of Dhaka

Team 'Misfits'
Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP)

Team 'Fishes with Benefits'
Army Institute of Business Administration, Savar Cantonment

Team 'The Wildlings'
Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka

Team 'Con Artists'
North South University

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