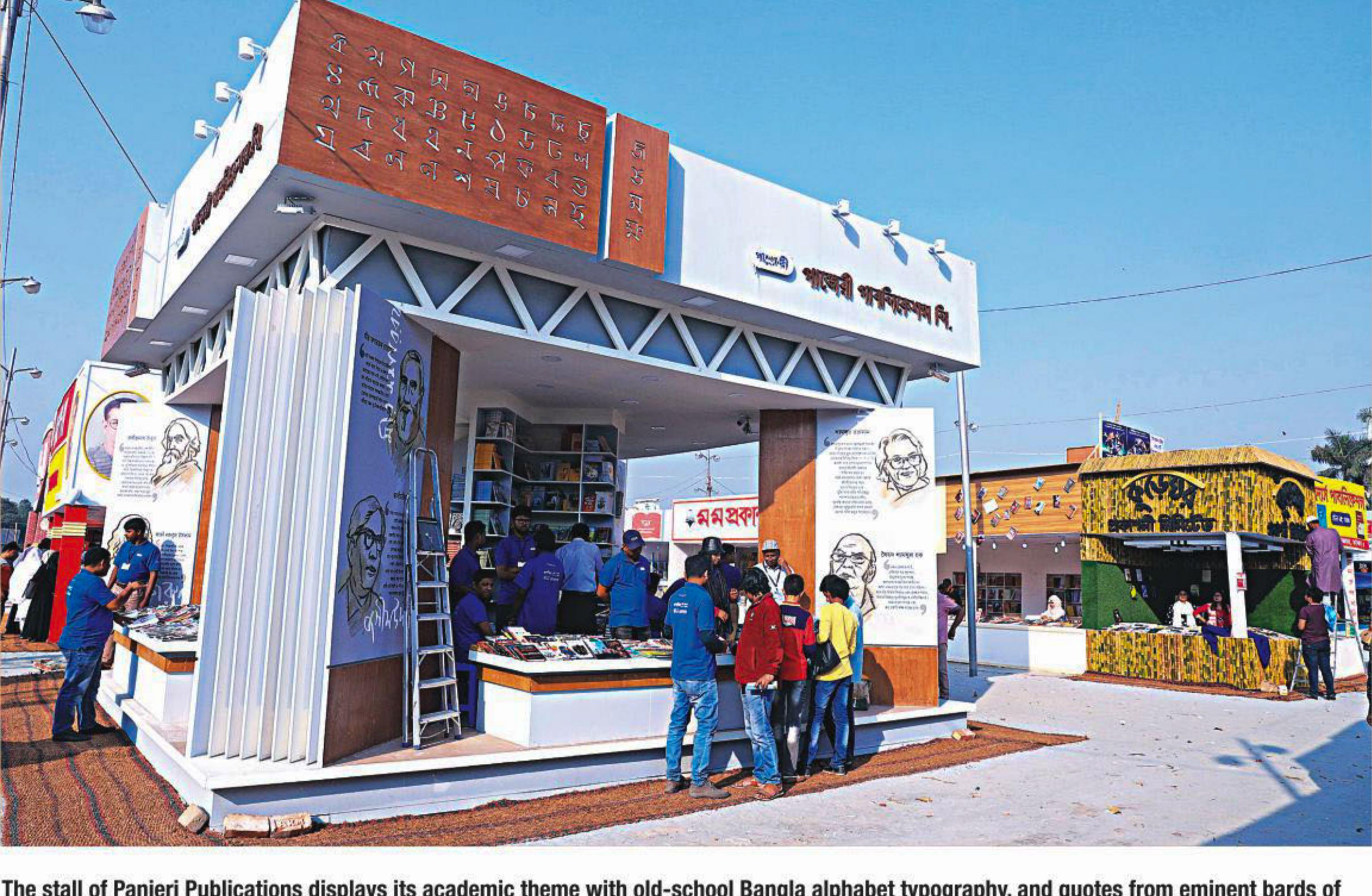


WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHATGRAM	SYLHET	RAJSHAH	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISHAL	COX'S BAZAR
H 28.0 L 14.8	H 27.0 L 12.7	H 29.0 L 15.4	H 28.8 L 13.6	H 27.0 L 10.0	H 26.5 L 11.3	H 28.5 L 13.0	H 28.8 L 10.0	H 29.0 L 17.5



The stall of Panjeri Publications displays its academic theme with old-school Bangla alphabet typography, and quotes from eminent bards of Bangla literature and culture. Publishers Kureghar lives up to its names with a rural motif in its stall design.

PHOTO: STAR

Themed pavilions, stalls add to book fair's charm

SAYYED MOHMUD ULLAH

Colourful pavilions and stalls, showcasing the country's traditional themes of the respective publication houses, have made the month-long Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela easy on the eyes.

Publishers are satisfied with the overall arrangements of Bangla Academy, and are hoping for a boom in sales.

A total of 24 pavilions have been allotted to prominent publishing houses, where visitors can browse books standing inside.

Two pavilions of Bangla Academy -- one at its premises and the other at Suhrawardy Udayan, have been made replicating the historic Burdwan House.

"At a first glance, I was astonished thinking how the Burdwan House was shifted to Suhrawardy Udayan from Bangla Academy? Bangla Academy deserves kudos for its creative decoration," said Rokeya Jahan Kotha, a student of Dhaka University.

Anya Prakash has built their pavilion modeled after a two-storey building, with a cutout of seminal wordsmith Humayun Ahmed looking over from the first floor balcony.

Mazharul Islam, owner of the publication house, told The Daily Star that Anya

Prakash has done it in memory of the writer, as it published over 100 books of him during his lifetime.

Panjeri Publications, popular for their academic books, has decorated its stall with photos and quotes of the prominent poets and writers, including Rabindranath Tagore, Lal Shah, and Hason Raja.

Stall of Kureghor and Bengal Publications have been built with bamboo sticks maintaining the theme of rural Bangladesh, while the Aninda Prakash stall is built resembling a tin-shed house.

Jagriti Prokashoni built its stall with a poster of late blogger and science writer Avijit Roy, who had published a number of books from the publisher. Avijit was murdered at the entrance of the Suhrawardy Udayan near TSC on February 26, 2015, while leaving the book fair.

A colourful stage has been built with characters of popular TV show and publication Sisimpur including Haloom, Ikrui and Tuktuki, at the entrance of the children's corner. The gate is decorated with photos of Gopal Bhar, the jester of Raja Krishnachandra's court in the 18th century.

Stalls of 104 government offices, autonomous and other social organisations on

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'All allegations based on assumptions'

Says Moudud Ahmed at Niko graft case hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed February 12 for hearing on charge-framing against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and 10 others in the Niko graft case.

Judge Sheikh Hafizur Rahman of Special Judge Court-9 of Dhaka passed the order, after hearing arguments from both defence and prosecution lawyers.

The BNP chief was brought into the court in a wheelchair around 12:35pm. She did not say anything throughout the hearing.

On the other hand, BNP standing committee member Barrister Moudud Ahmed, an accused in the case, appeared at the hearing and

challenged the legality of charge-framing.

"There are many contradictions in the Niko case. All allegations here are made based on assumptions," said Barrister Moudud.

"Those who have committed crimes are not facing the trial in the Niko case. But we are facing the trial, although we only maintained the continuity of the agreement," he added.

The BNP leader also filed a time petition which the court accepted and set the next date. Khaleda was taken back to jail around 2pm after the hearing.

During the hearing yesterday, Khaleda's lawyer, Advocate

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BB CYBER HEIST

JP's Chunnu demands finance minister's statement in House

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mujibul Haque Chunnu, a lawmaker from the main opposition Jatiya Party, yesterday demanded that Finance Minister AHM Mostafa Kamal give a statement in parliament on the the Bangladesh Bank cyber heist.

Lambasting the government, the opposition MP speaking on a point of order at yesterday's parliament session said three years have passed, but the government is yet to bring back the major chunk of the \$81 million wired to the Philippines from BB's account through the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

"I want the finance minister to give a statement in parliament under section 300 on the government's measures to

bring back the heist money," Chunnu said

On February 4, 2016, hackers broke into the BB's systems and generated 70 fake payment orders for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to draw about \$1.94 billion.

While the NY Fed's security system flagged the payment orders, five of them fell through, and \$101 million against those was released. Of the amount, \$81 million was wired to the Philippines (RCBC branch in Manila) and \$20 million to Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka sent back the entire sum immediately after the heist was exposed, while Philippines sent back \$14.54 million in November 2016, meaning that

\$66.46 million are yet to be retrieved from the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Awami League senior leader Mohammad Nasim and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu, speaking on points of order, demanded that the government take immediate measures to bring educational institutions under monthly pay order to fulfill the ruling alliance's election pledge.

FIVE STANDING COMMITTEES FORMED

Meanwhile, the parliament last night formed five parliamentary standing committees on different ministries, all of them headed by Awami League lawmakers. MPs from the main

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BNP postpones Feb 8 rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday postponed its scheduled public rally at Suhrawardy Udayan on February 8, due to the ongoing Ekushey book fair.

Instead of the public rally, the party will now hold a protest rally at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh on the same day, marking the first anniversary of jailing of its Chairperson Khaleda Zia in a graft case.

"Earlier, we announced a rally at Suhrawardy Udayan for February 8, but we have postponed it due to the book fair. We have decided to stage a protest rally on the same day at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh," Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, senior joint secretary general of the party, said at a press briefing at party's Nayapaltan central office.

Different units of BNP will hold programmes across the country the next day.

On February 8, 2018, Khaleda was sent to Old Dhaka Central Jail after her conviction in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

Appoint doctors in jail hospitals

Legal notice served on govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday served a legal notice on the government, asking it to appoint 120 doctors at 68 jail hospitals across the country within seven days, to provide treatment to inmates.

Advocate Md JR Khan Rabin served the notice on secretaries to the ministries of law, home affairs, health and social welfare, and public administration; director general of Directorate of Health Services and inspector general of prisons -- asking them to take steps for appointment of doctors in the vacant posts.

In the legal notice, the lawyer said only nine doctors are providing treatment to around 89,000 inmates in 68 jail hospitals across the country --- while 120 posts are vacant.

"Treatment to inmates is being hampered due to shortage of doctors in jails," the lawyer also said in the notice.

Advocate Rabin said that he will move a writ petition before the HC next, seeking necessary orders on the respondents if they do not appoint doctors within seven days.

8 div cities to get cancer treatment facilities

Says state minister for health

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Murad Hasan yesterday said his ministry would work to establish cancer treatment facilities around the country.

While speaking at a discussion marking World Cancer Day, which was observed globally yesterday, the state minister said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has placed emphasis on curbing kidney and heart diseases and cancer.

In the election manifesto, the PM has pledged to build 100-bed cancer hospitals in eight divisional cities, he said, adding that he has plans to establish cancer treatment units in those areas.

Bangladesh Cancer Society (BCS), in association with

United Forum against Tobacco and Dr Obayedullah-Ferdousi Foundation Cancer Hospital and Research Institute, organised the discussion at its office in the capital.

State Minister Murad said as requested by BCS, he would discuss with health minister so the health ministry provides support to BCS in setting up of a "cobalt-60 therapy machine", named after scientist Dr Wazed Miah.

Urging the government to declare a national day for cancer awareness, speakers at the programme also stressed the importance of raising mass awareness on cancer and its prevention.

Among others, BCS President Prof Dr Mollah Obayedullah Baki and Rotarian FM Alamgir also spoke.



A cleaner gathers fallen leaves at Ramna Park yesterday. The trees have started to shed dried leaves overlaid with dust of winter. Soon, new shoots will come out and trees will be covered with lush green leaves.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

SPACESHIP LANDING? A group of artists are painting a defunct water reservoir near the capital's Gulshan-2 intersection to look like a space shuttle, much to the amusement of passers-by. The artists, who wish to remain under the radar for now, say they have plans to transform more such water tanks into pieces of street art.

DOCTORS' PRIVATE PRACTICE HC petition seeks govt intervention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday, seeking its directive on the government to take necessary steps to completely stop private practice of government-appointed doctors.

Five Supreme Court lawyers collectively lodged the petition, challenging the legality of inaction of the authorities' part to stop private practice of government-appointed doctors during their work hours.

They prayed to the HC to direct the authorities to form a commission for introducing a guideline on private practice of the government-appointed doctors, and to conduct mobile courts to stop irregularities at government and private hospitals.

The petitioners also requested the court to issue a rule asking respondents to explain their inaction to stop private practice of government-appointed doctors during their office time should not be declared illegal and why they should not be directed to stop such practice.

This kind of malpractice is not just professional misconduct but also a legal offence, the petition said.

MONEY LAUNDERING CIID seeks remand of Crescent chairman

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) yesterday sought a five-day remand to quiz MA Kader, chairman of Crescent Leather Products and Crescent Tanneries, in connection with one of the three cases filed over laundering Tk 919 crore in foreign currencies.

The investigator of the case, CIID Inspector Shakera Khatun, submitted a petition with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka to interrogate Kader.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Aminul Haque fixed February 11 for hearing on the remand prayer in presence of MA Kader. The court also directed jail authorities to produce MA Kader before it on the scheduled date.

The remand prayer said Kader knows the whereabouts of other

fugitive accused and the laundered money.

CIID on January 30 arrested Kader. The following day, he was sent to jail after being produced before another Dhaka court. Shekera Khatun said she found evidence of charges brought against the accused, and that he should be in prison until the probe is completed.

The move came after CIID found that Crescent Group colluded with officials of Janata Bank's Imamganj branch in Dhaka to launder a total of Tk 1,297.65 crore abroad against 657 fake export bills.

Apart from that against Kader, CIID filed cases under the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2012 against 16 others -- including Managing Director of Crescent Leather and Crescent Tanneries Sultan Begum, Rimex Footwear Chairman

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