

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHATTOGRAM	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISHAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.6 L 20.4	H 29.1 L 16.0	H 30.2 L 21.5	H 30.4 L 20.2	H 29.0 L 13.0	H 27.5 L 14.5	H 31.5 L 20.0	H 31.4 L 20.0	H 30.0 L 21.4

Rain/thunder showers with gusty wind may occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barishal, Chattogram & Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur & Mymensingh divisions with hail at isolated places in the next 24 hours till 6pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:58pm and rises tomorrow at 6:25am.**



## CHAWKBAZAR FIRE Writ petition seeks compensation, punishment

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Four separate writ petitions were filed with the High Court yesterday in connection with the Chawkbazar fire, with different prayers including compensation for the victim families and punishment for those responsible for the incident.

Advocate Eunus Ali Akond, a Supreme Court lawyer, filed one of the writ petitions seeking HC directive on the government to compensate each of the victim families with Tk 30 lakh.

He submitted the petition also seeking HC order on the government to form a judicial inquiry commission to find out the cause behind the fire at Chawkbazar in Old Dhaka, to identify those responsible for the blaze and take punitive action against them.

In the petition, he urged the HC to direct the government to relocate the chemical warehouses outside Dhaka and to demolish the unauthorised buildings in the area.

In the petition, Akond prayed to the HC to issue a rule asking the government to explain why its inaction to relocate the chemical warehouses from Dhaka after 2010 Nimtoli fire should not be declared illegal.

Citing the petition, he told The Daily Star that the

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## NO BED OF ROSES

Tuni, an eight-year-old flower seller, dozes off from exhaustion. She was awake till 3am, February 21 and was busy throughout the day, trying to sell flowers to as many people as possible. The flowers are collected from Shahbagh by her parents. Once up from her nap, Tuni realises she still has to sell the rest of her stock and gets going. The photos were taken on February 22 morning at Shaheed Minar premises.

PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS

# Recurrence of devastating fire in Old Dhaka a man-made disaster

## Says Bangladesh Institute of Planners

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Recurrence of devastating fire in Old Dhaka is a man-made disaster and could be averted had the government ensured appropriate urban planning and development control, said Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) at a press conference in the capital yesterday.

"The Chawkbazar tragedy would not have happened had the government implemented the 17-point recommendation after the 2010 Nimtoli fire," said the organisation's secretary general Prof Adil Mohammed Khan, while reading out a statement on BIP premises.

The recommendations made by industries, public works and local government ministries included immediate relocation of chemical warehouses and factories from residential

- areas in Old Dhaka and ensuring construction in compliance with building code and fire safety law, he said.
- Another important recommendation is a collective failure of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha, Dhaka South City Corporation, department of explosives, fire service and civil defence, department of factory inspection, Dhaka district administration and industries ministry, he said.
- Traders' opposition, building owners' greed and locals' reluctance to comply with the law contributed to the deadly consequence, BIP said at the press conference.
- Hazi Wahed Mansion, one of the most damaged buildings in the fire, was constructed without building approval and fire safety clearance.
- "Most of the buildings in old town have been built this way," Khan said.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Relocating hazardous chemical storages from residential areas in Old Dhaka
- Enforcing building occupancy certificate as per law
- Cancelling trade license if housed in residential building
- Conserving Old Dhaka's heritage while approving building plan
- Drawing up detailed land use plan for Old Dhaka
- Applying redevelopment method for wide roads, open spaces, water reservoir and playgrounds

## DUCSU POLLS Petition filed with HC seeking stay order

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A Dhaka University (DU) student yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) seeking a stay on the process for holding Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) election slated for March 11.

Fahmida Mazid, a postgraduate student of international relations department and female student affairs secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) central executive committee, submitted the petition.

The petitioner also prayed to the court to issue a rule on the government and DU authorities to explain why excluding her name from the voter list of Ducusu election should not be declared illegal.

In the petition, she challenged the legality of the election saying that there are "anomalies" in the voter list, as her and several others' names have not

been included.

Fahmida also said that due to the anomaly in the voters' list, she cannot contest the election.

Petitioner's lawyer Barrister Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal told The Daily Star that the HC may hold hearing on the petition today.

Since the dissolution of Ducusu in 1998, several attempts were made to arrange the election but all in vain. The last polls to Ducusu and hall unions took place in 1990.

On February 11, 2019, DU authorities announced the schedule of elections to Ducusu and hall unions saying the polls will be held on March 11 with polling centres set up at the dormitories.

The final list of candidates will be published on March 3, while the supplementary voter list will be published on March 5.

## Officers who delay inquiry are dishonest

**ACC Chief Iqbal Mahmood says**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Iqbal Mahmood yesterday said officers who delay inquiry are dishonest.

"Officers delaying inquiry are not different from those taking bribe," he said during a training programme for ACC officials held at its Segunbagicha headquarters in Dhaka.

The commission has power to issue legal notice to any person and seek information for inquiry, he said.

There is a provision of taking legal action against the person, if s/he fails to comply with the notice within the stipulated time, he added.

During the training, Iqbal Mahmood asked why investigations are being delayed and said that officials concerned must take responsibility of completing probe in time.

"Why are some officials failing to collect information on time?" he questioned.

For systematic reasons it is easy to take bribe in our country, he said, adding that those who take bribe do not have any self-esteem.

## PM releases postage stamps

### Golden jubilee of 'Bangabandhu' title

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday released two commemorative postage stamps, a first-day cover and a data card, marking the golden jubilee of conferring the "Bangabandhu" title on Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She released two Tk 10 stamps, Tk 10 first-day cover and Tk 5 data card at her official residence Gono Bhaban in Dhaka.

Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister Mustafa Jabbar, Principal Secretary Md Nojibur Rahman, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim, Posts and Telecommunications acting Secretary Ashoke Kumar Biswas and General of Bangladesh Post Office Sushanta Kumar Mondal were, among others,

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# Instilling the spirit of Liberation War

**MATHEWS CHIRAN**

Lying on a bed, they stared at each other. One could count bones on their ribcages.

The photograph of the two brothers, both children, was published in a newspaper during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971. The brothers' passed away moments after the photo was taken.

The headline over the picture read: "It's too late for sympathy, they're dead".

This photograph, along with books and other memorabilia, is on display at the Liberation War Museum stall at Bangla Academy in this year's Amar Ekushey Granthamela.

With posters depicting heroism and sacrifices, the plight of people and various newspaper clippings on the war pasted on the walls, the stall is not only selling books, it is also inspiring the young.

"These will help the youth know more about history," said Fakhru, an attendant at the museum's stall.

Yesterday, this correspondent saw people of all ages visiting the stall to buy posters, books and CDs.

"The stall is a must-visit for everyone,

especially youths," said Nuzaira Akhter, a master's student of Independent University Bangladesh. She bought a poster of "Concert for Bangladesh".

Not just her, many were stepping inside the stall and immersing themselves in the glorious chapter of the country's history.

Right next to it, Bangladesh Post Office (BPO) has set up a stall, selling commemorative postal stamps as a tribute to martyrs.

Stalls at both the venues -- Bangla Academy and Suhrawardy Udyan -- are offering an array of books and memorabilia on the Liberation War.

Even the fair venue, Suhrawardy Udyan, is etched in history. It is where Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered the historic March 7 speech in 1971 and called on the freedom-loving Bengalis to wage a decisive struggle against the Pakistani rulers.

Many publishers also brought out books on the Liberation War this year.

Some of the new releases are: "71 Muktiyoddhar Ma" by Marzia Lipi from Abosar, "Bangladesh-er Muktiyuddho"

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Visitors look at war memorabilia at the stall of Liberation War Museum in Bangla Academy yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Climate-adaptive livelihood for farmers

### "Where the Rain Falls" project reaches 6,500 households

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Being an inhabitant of a remote, flood-prone area of Kurigram, Sushma Rani had to struggle for years to secure food for her five-member family, as crops would often get damaged in the flood.

However, her situation has been improving for the last two years, after she received firsthand lessons on the technique of cultivating flood resilient

rice varieties and growing vegetable on elevated land during floods.

"It helped us secure sufficient amount of food, and we can even sell some extra grains," she said.

Sushma, who is from Pachgachhi of Kurigram Sadar, shared this at a workshop at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

Care Bangladesh and Eco-Social Development Organisation (ESDO)

arranged the knowledge-sharing workshop on a project titled "Where the Rain Falls". Care implemented the third phase of the project in three unions -- Pachgachhi, Holo Khana, and Jatrapur of Kurigram Sadar from January, 2017 to February, 2019.

Sushma said farmers like her would be benefited more if such initiatives continued in her area.

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With DNCC Mayoral By-election just days away, posters seeking vote for candidate Atiqul Islam are prominent in Dhaka North City Corporation areas. The photo was taken in Tejgaon yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Writers, activists concerned over 'blocking somewhereinblog'

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A group of 33 writers, university teachers, and online and political activists on Saturday expressed their concern about blocking popular blogging site somewhereinblog.net in a statement.

They said, from the very beginning, somewhereinblog has been trying to uphold the values

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"Made in Bangladesh with Pride"

### বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন ২০১৯-২০২১

বিজিএমইএ কমপ্লেক্স, ২৩/১, পাছপথ লিংক রোড, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

## নির্বাচন সংক্রান্ত সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা বিজিএমইএ'র সকল সদস্যের জ্ঞাতার্থে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আসন্ন বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন ২০১৯-২০২১ এর তফসিল নিম্নরূপ ভাবে পরিবর্তন করা হয়েছে :-

মনোনয়ন পত্র দাখিলের সর্বশেষ তারিখ : ০২ মার্চ ২০১৯ (বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে)

তফসিলের অন্যান্য সময়সূচী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

সচিব, নির্বাচন বোর্ড