

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

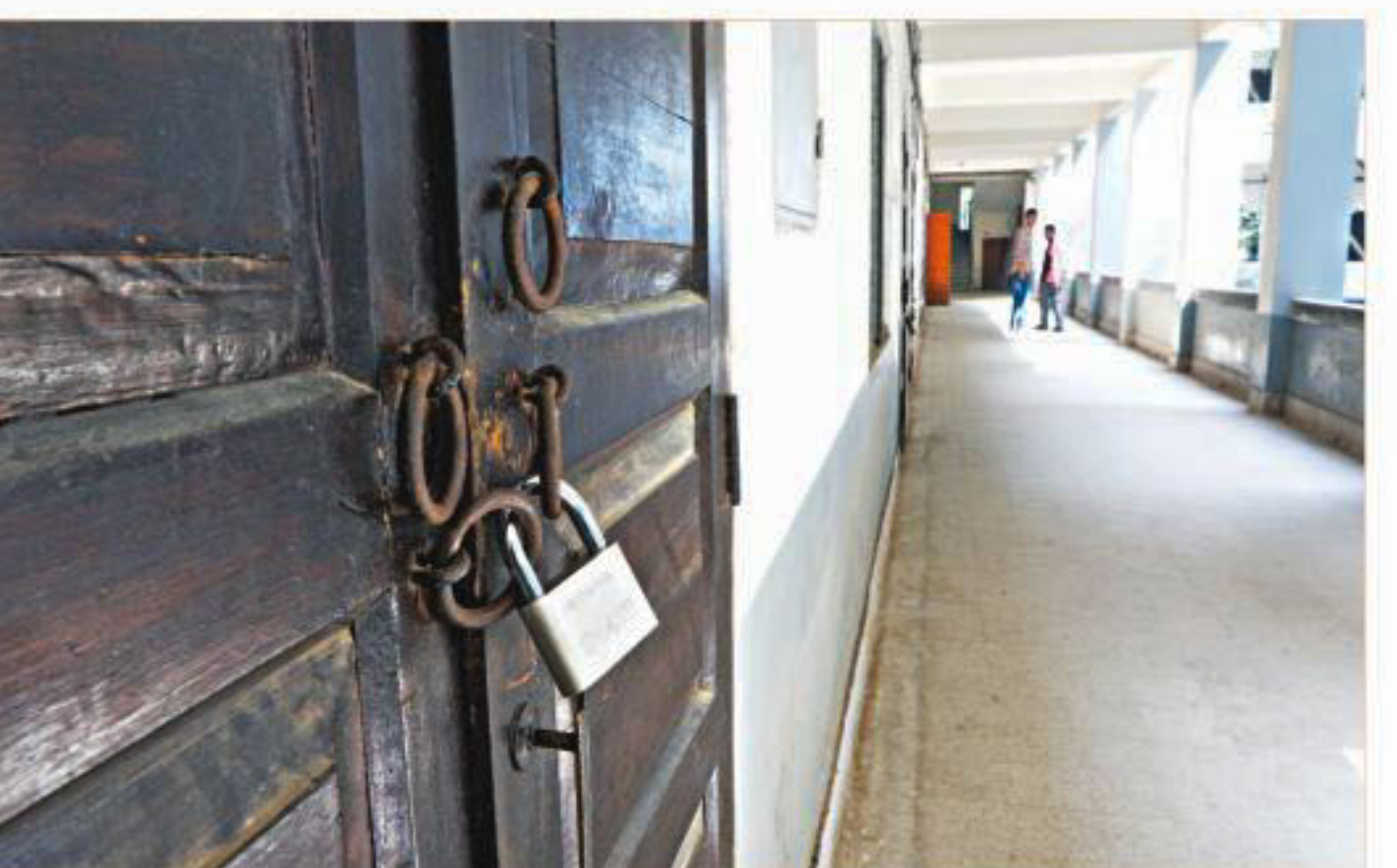
<b>DHAKA</b> H 23.5   L 23.2	<b>MYMENSINGH</b> H 31.6   L 20.1	<b>CHATTOGRAM</b> H 30.3   L 22.2	<b>SYLHET</b> H 30.4   L 19.2	<b>RAJSHAHI</b> H 33.6   L 17.4	<b>RANGPUR</b> H 31.5   L 16.5	<b>KHULNA</b> H 33.0   L 24.0	<b>BARISHAL</b> H 34.0   L 23.7	<b>COX'S BAZAR</b> H 30.7   L 21.95
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Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country, having chances of rain at one or two places over Sylhet division in the next 24 hours till 6pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:07pm and rises tomorrow at 6:09am.**



Yesterday morning saw demos and counter-demos at Dhaka University, a day after the long-awaited and much-debated Ducusu polls. **Clockwise from top left, demanding reelection and vice chancellor's resignation, students bring out a procession. A student holds a placard reading "mystery of the [ballot] box". A locked classroom during students' strike. Rejecting election result, BCL activists stage a sit-in near the VC's residence. A man and a child on a bike move past a burning tyre, after agitators set it on fire.**

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, PALASH KHAN



### Stop felling trees for dev projects

HC issues 6-month injunction on govt  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court on Monday issued an injunction restraining the government from felling trees while implementing development projects in the forests and forest lands across the country for the next six months.

In response to a writ petition, the court also directed government authorities concerned to make a time-bound action plan for protecting the forests and forest lands, and submit the plan within six months.

The HC also issued a rule asking the respondents to explain in four weeks why their failure to protect forests and forest lands while implementing projects should not be declared illegal, and why they should not be directed to protect them.

Twenty government officials concerned, including secretaries to the ministries of cabinet division, Jatiya Sangsad, law, forest and environment, LGRD, roads, transport and bridges, youth and sports and energy and mineral resources, chief forest conservator, director general of department of environment, deputy commissioners of

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## Introduce specialised outdoor service at all public hospitals

PM directs authorities at Ecneec meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities concerned to introduce the facility of outdoor services for specialised doctors at all public hospitals across the country.

She came up with the directive while approving a project on 500-bed extension of Sarkari Karmachari Hospital at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec), held at the planning ministry in Dhaka.

Among other directives, the PM asked the authorities to launch intensive care unit (ICU) at all government hospitals so that underprivileged people can easily avail the service, said Planning Minister MA Mannan at a briefing for journalists, following the meeting.

The PM also instructed management of the hospitals to run separate blocks for patients of cancer, paralysis, kidney and heart diseases.

Currently, Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in the capital provides the specialised outdoor service at an affordable cost -- benefiting both patients and doctors.

At the Ecneec meeting, the PM approved a total of six projects.

Of them, the Tk 380 crore Sarkari Karmachari Hospital project aims to provide modern and quality health services to all public service holders, said Mannan.

Under the project, the current

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### CHAWKBAZAR FIRE

## 3 families yet to find loved ones

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three weeks after the devastating Chawkbazar blaze, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday claimed that 66 bodies were retrieved and carried in 68 body bags from the spot.

Meanwhile, two recovered bodies have remained unidentified, as no one has claimed those, while three families are yet to find any trace of their loved ones.

CID chief Sheikh Himayet Hossain made the disclosure after CID identified five more bodies from DNA test.

In two bags out of 68, there were three parts of a body and in another bag there was a hand belonging to another, he said. "We have come to know from DNA test that the severed body parts matched with already recovered dead bodies."

So, the total count of dead bodies from the spot was 66, said the CID chief while addressing the media at CID headquarters.

With the 66 and four victims who died in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) later, the total death toll of the Chawkbazar blaze is now 70.

Earlier on February 21, the deputy commissioner and the Fire Service and Civil Defense officials declared that they had recovered 67 bodies from the spot.

Of them, 48 were handed over to family members from the Dhaka Medical College morgue and DNA samples were taken from 23 families for 18 unidentified bodies, including the severed parts kept in two separate bags, said the CID chief.

On March 6, CID identified 11 victims and handed over the bodies to their family members. The body parts also matched with

the 11 victims' bodies later.

"We were able to complete DNA profiles of the rest of the bodies, but managed to identify five," said the CID chief. The victims are: Haji Ismail, Foyzal Sarwar, Md Mostofa, Rehnuma Tabassum Dola and Mohammad Jafor.

Now, there are two bodies which have been DNA profiled but have no claimants, the official said, adding that there are still three families who are looking for their missing relatives.

Mosammat Fatema gave DNA sample for her missing son Raju; Anwara Begum for her son Md Helal; and Altaf Miah for his son Md Rafiq, but those did not match any of the bodies, the official said.

Meanwhile, four bodies were handed over to family members yesterday.

Victim Dola's father Dalilur Rahman Dulal

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### GRAFT CASE

## Former police sergeant gets 7 years in jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a former police official to seven years' rigorous imprisonment in connection with a graft case filed in February 2014.

Judge Syed Kamal Hossain handed down the sentence to Mohammad Azahar Ali, 56, a former police sergeant, for amassing wealth worth Tk 1.12 crore and concealing information in this regard.

During the hearing, the court cancelled his bail petition and sent him to jail. In addition, Azahar was also fined Tk 1 lakh, in default of which he will have to suffer six more

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Vendors get on the roof of a speeding pickup truck loaded with vegetables on the capital's Hazaribagh Beribandh, putting themselves at risk of accident. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

### ROHINGYA RELOCATION TO BHASAN CHAR

## US envoy welcomes govt assurance of voluntary resettlement

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller has welcomed assurances that relocation of Rohingya refugees to Bhasan Char island will be completely voluntary.

He received assurance from government officials during his three-day visit to Cox's Bazar (March 8-10). He visited both local communities and Rohingya camps, and met with officials of the government, UIN and NGOs operating in the area.

Ambassador Miller also met with local government officials -- including the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner and Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner -- to learn more about the government plan of relocating up to 1,00,000 Rohingyas to Bhasan Char, starting as early as mid-April.

He was assured that any movement to the island will be fully voluntary, based on informed consent, and those who choose to go will have free movement to and from

the island to maintain connections with the rest of the Rohingya community in Cox's Bazar, according to a press release from the US Embassy yesterday.

Bhasan Char is part of a chain of islands in the Bay of Bengal.

The UN, international organisations, NGOs and rights bodies including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, voiced their concerns about the relocation and the situation on the island, and have warned that the move could be risky. They have insisted that any relocation should be voluntary.

During his visit, the US Ambassador met with the American Red Cross, IFRC, IOM, UNDP, UNHCR, WFP, and others to discuss their outstanding efforts, working with the local community to prepare for the annual cyclone and monsoon season, and how the United States can further assist these efforts.

After his March 3 announcement of an

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### LEG LOST TO ACCIDENT

## HC asks Green Line to pay Tk 50 lakh to Russel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed Green Line Paribahan to pay Tk 50 lakh to Russel Sarker, who lost his left leg after a bus of the company ran him over in April last year.

The money will have to be paid to Russel in two weeks as compensation and for his treatment purposes, the court said.

The bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader passed the order while hearing a writ petition filed by a Supreme Court lawyer seeking adequate compensation for Russel.

The bench also fixed March 31 for further hearing on this issue, and asked Green Line Paribahan to submit a report on the progress of complying with the directive before it by this time.

Russel, 26, a car driver of a power company, lost his leg from below the knee after he was knocked down by the bus near Mayor Hanif Flyover at the capital's Dholaipar on April 4 last year. The bus driver had an altercation with him and ran Russel over as he chased down the bus for rear-ending his car.

Russel was first taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with a severed leg, and transferred to Square Hospitals and later to Apollo Hospitals.

Following the same writ petition, the HC on May 14 last year issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of Green Line Paribahan and the government to explain why they would not be ordered to pay Tk 1 crore compensation to Russel.

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### MOSQUITO MENACE AT DHAKA AIRPORT

## High Court questions inaction of authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday asked authorities concerned to explain why their inaction to stop the mosquito menace at Dhaka airport and its surrounding areas should not be declared illegal.

Secretary to the civil aviation and tourism ministry, chairman of Bangladesh civil aviation authority, mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation and councilor of the ward concerned of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport have been made respondents to the rule.

The bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader issued the rule following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Tanvir Ahmed, seeking a directive.

The bench also asked the respondents to show causes why they should not be directed to take urgent steps and tackle the mosquito menace at the airport and surrounding areas.

During the hearing, petitioner Advocate Tanvir argued that domestic and foreign passengers are being affected by mosquitoes at Dhaka airport, which is damaging the image of the country. The respondents are not taking effective steps to curb the nuisance in the area, he also said.



US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller with Rohingya children during a visit to a refugee camp in Cox's Bazar.

PHOTO: COLLECTED