

RAIN OR THUNDERSHOWERS LIKELY

WEATHER TODAY

Unib, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions in the next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.	Night and day temperatures may fall slightly over the country.		Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 11.0 degrees in Srimangal.		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage		Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage			
	The sun sets in the capital today at 5:54pm and rises tomorrow at 6:30am. Country's highest temperature 30.5 degree		Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:		Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening		
					Dhaka	24.2	17.5	80	70	Khulna	27.0	16.0	73	53
					Chittagong	28.5	15.5	63	57	Barisal	27.2	14.6	72	59
					Rajshahi	20.5	14.5	98	97	Sylhet	17.4	15.3	91	92
					Rangpur	16.8	13.1	92	97	Cox's Bazar	28.8	16.0	55	67

Sand traders carry out their trade unabated encroaching upon this shore of the Shitalakkhya river, way past the demarcation pillar, circled in red, in Kanchpur near the capital while nearby three government bodies, completely blasé about the illegal activities, carry out an "eviction drive" and dredge the river with excavators, inset, piling the earth on the shore where it can be easily washed back into the river during rains. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH



NEWSINbrief

Birth anniversary of Jibanananda to be observed in Barisal tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The 115th birth anniversary of Jibanananda Das, a renowned Bangalee poet, novelist and essayist, will be observed tomorrow at his ancestral home in Barisal and Brojo Mohun (BM) College where he taught English as a lecturer.

On this occasion, Jatiya Kabita Parishad Barisal branch will place wreaths at his portrait at Poet Jibanananda Memorial Hall on Barisal city's Kobi Jibanananda Das Sarak.

Meanwhile, the college authorities will organise a day-long "Jibanananda Festival" on the campus which includes a discussion and a cultural function.

Boy burnt to death in Gazipur fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A six-year-old boy was burnt to death in a fire that broke out in a colony at Kathaliarchala in Kaliakair upazila of Gazipur on Friday night.

Mehedi Hasan, son of Moyna Begum, was sleeping alone in their one-roomed house which was locked from outside like other days when the fire started from an electric short circuit at the adjacent house.

Getting the news, Moyna rushed there from the garment factory where she works and found the body about an hour later.

Woman 'commits suicide' in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A woman allegedly committed suicide by jumping off a five-storey building in Chittagong city's Char Chakhtai early yesterday where she lived.

Sania Akter, 28, was already dead when her husband's brother, Md Emdad, and some other people brought her to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), said CMCH police camp officials. The body was sent for an autopsy.

Sania jumped off the roof after quarrelling with her husband Md Sagar, said the officials, quoting Emdad.

Sania's brother-in-law said Sagar has been absconding since then.

Humayun Masud new CUJA president, Tasnim Hasan general secretary

CU CORRESPONDENT

Humayun Masud of the daily Suprobhat Bangladesh and Tasnim Hasan of the daily Prothom Alo have been elected uncontested as the president and general secretary respectively of Chittagong University Journalist Association (CUJA).

The CUJA polls were held yesterday, said CU Proctor Md Sirajuddoulah, also the chief election commissioner for the polls.

A total of 29 journalists cast their votes for three out of the total seven executive posts in the CUJA committee.

Two Agrani Bank officials sued for misappropriating Tk 40 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Records of a case filed against two employees of Boaljur branch of Agrani Bank in Balaganj of Sylhet for misappropriating over Tk 40 lakh were sent to the Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday.

Md Abul Mansur, manager of the branch, filed the case with Balaganj Police Station on Thursday against the two for misappropriating money from customers' accounts.

The two are Babul Ranjan Purkayostha, bank officer (cash), and Akanda Md Al-Amin, a junior officer.

Meanwhile, Babul was transferred to the bank's Balaganj branch two weeks back and Akanda to Jessore branch.

CU students lock up teachers' room for early exams

Journalist covering event assaulted by BCL imposter

CU CORRESPONDENT

Some computer science and engineering students of 2009-10 session yesterday kept a room of some Chittagong University (CU) teachers locked for around half an hour demanding holding of their final year's exam on an earlier date.

Meanwhile, a student masquerading as a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist assaulted a journalist covering the event.

Assistant Proctor Ziaur Rahman Sohel said they removed the locks around 2:30pm.

Initially declining to comment, the department chairman Md Khairul Islam told The Daily Star, "It

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Fires gut 17 businesses in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Sixteen tin-roofed bamboo-made business establishments were gutted by a fire at Mariamnagar Bazar in Rangunia upazila of Chittagong yesterday.

The fire originated from an electric short circuit at one of the businesses -- 11 fish warehouses, three tea stalls and two shops, said fire service officials. They estimated the damage at around Tk 12 lakh.

Fire fighters doused the fire around two hours later at 3:15am.

Meanwhile in the port city, a fire broke out at a Taiwanese shoe-making factory, Sheng Tseng Enterprise Co Ltd, and its warehouse in Karnaphuli

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Rampal plant

FROM PAGE 3

The world's largest mangrove forest is the habitat of many endangered species of plants and animals, he said.

To meet the electricity demand, Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah, convener of the committee, urged the government to look for sustainable methods of producing power "rather than depending on the rental power plants that are costlier than the conventional methods."

The committee will hold protest rallies in Dhaka and other divisional cities on February 26, demanding cancellation of the Rampal plant.

India committed on land boundary, Teesta deals

Claims Shirin Sharmin Chy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Bangladesh need not get worried about India's commitment to resolving the pending issues of the land boundary agreement and sharing of the Teesta river water, Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said yesterday.

Wrapping up her four-day official visit to New Delhi, Chaudhury told representatives of Bangladesh newspapers, "I am going back with the view that there is no dearth of commitment on the part of India to implement the LBA and sharing of Teesta waters."

"It is just a question of time for these to happen" and Indian government is working on forging a domestic consensus on the two issues, said the Speaker who met Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and leader of the opposition Arun Jaitley of BJP.

Referring to LBA under which both countries will exchange 161 adversely-positioned enclaves with a population of around half a lakh, she said India's commitment was

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Cancer can deceive patients posing as simple illness

Experts tell workshop in observance of International Child Cancer Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The symptoms of cancer can be very easily confused with minor illnesses, meaning people often overlook them, experts told a workshop in the capital yesterday in observance of International Child Cancer Day.

"Such symptoms include headaches, pale skin, pain in the bones, sweating at night, swollen tummies. Sometimes certain parts of the body swell up but cause no discomfort, so no one pays heed to it," said Sonia Khanam, medical officer of Ashic Foundation, a shelter for child cancer victims.

Eye cancer can be identified because the eyes begin to flash and glow like the cat's eyes, said the speakers. However, parents choose to ignore it or get scared, they added.

"Less than 20 percent of eye cancers in children are treated because they are not detected early," said Zohra Jamil Khan, oncologist at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The workshop was arranged by Ashic Foundation at the WINGS centre.

"Cancers in children can be caused by a prolonged exposure to pesticides, as well eating foods laced with carbides," said Zohra in response to the children's questions.

Also, working kids who deal with chemicals can develop cancer, added the doctor.

Four-year-old cancer victim Habib's mother Baby Akhter told this correspondent how she stopped chemotherapy and started herbal treatment because of lack of ignorance. Her son's cancer which had improved returned in full swing, she added.

Two-year-old Rakib's mother broke

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US Ambassador Dan W Mozena addressing the 12th founding anniversary programme of Daffodil International University on its campus in Ashulia, outside the capital, yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

CORRECTION CENTRE TORTURE Director-general of social welfare dept visits spot

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Director-General of the Department of Social Welfare Ayub Hossain yesterday visited the juvenile correction centre in Tongi where 20 teenage boys demonstrated recently by inflicting severe wounds on themselves.

He made the visit to probe into the incident in compliance with the suo moto rule issued by the High Court on Thursday.

The HC formed a three-member committee to find out the reason behind the demonstration.

On February 11, the boys gashed their foreheads, arms and wrists to protest the torture on them by supervisor-in-charge Anwarul Kabir at the Gazipur Juvenile Development Centre.

RAMAMALA LIBRARY Bangla Academy DG fears smuggling of historic manuscripts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangla Academy director general (DG) yesterday expressed fears that the approximately 8,000 palm-leaf and paper manuscripts of Ramamala Library might be smuggled out by the same team which is working to preserve those.

"...the government is not involved in the (preservation) project and foreigners are involved instead," Shamsuzzaman Khan told a press briefing on the academy premises in the capital.

Referring to an article, "Ramamala Library Manuscript Project --- the need" by Benjamin Fleming published on The Daily Star's literature page yesterday, he clarified that Bangla Academy was not involved in the project.

On Bangla Academy Deputy Director Saymon Zakaria's involvement in the project, he said, "Since he, as an employee of the academy, has not informed us what he is doing is completely illegal. We will issue him a show cause notice."

Ramamala Library (or Ramamala Granthagar), one of

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Three dead newborns found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three dead and almost decomposed newborns were found in Mohammadpur of the capital yesterday.

Sub-Inspector Jahangir recovered the body of one of the newborns from Aziz Mawla sewerage in the area around 11:00am. The body was in a polythene bag.

About half-an-hour later, two more newborns were found dead on a road in Nabaday housing area.

Locals informed the police and Sub-Inspector Noyon Miah recovered the bodies. The bodies were wrapped in rags.

Police suspect they were not aborted foetuses as all three bodies weighed around 2kg each.

The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsies.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Communist Party of Bangladesh will organise a discussion, "Ways to get just prices for produce and the institutional structure"; Venue: Mukti Bhaban, Purana Paltan; Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute will hold a seminar "Good governance in Bangladesh: An agenda for the future"; Venue: Brac Centre Inn; Time: 10:00am.

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