

## RAIN LIKELY



Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today. Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Day and night temperatures may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country. **The sun sets in the capital today at 6:16pm and rises tomorrow at 5:45am.** Country's highest temperature 36.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Jessore and lowest 17.2 degree Celsius in Sreemangal. The highest and lowest temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage			Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening		Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.0	21.5	55	52	Khulna	35.5	22.4	74	57
Chittagong	31.4	22.3	82	--	Barisal	34.7	20.6	76	69
Rajshahi	33.5	20.7	85	36	Sylhet	33.5	18.9	63	45
Rangpur	29.8	19.3	72	58	Cox's Bazar	33.2	26.0	76	76



This is not a drain, but a section of the Bakkhali river, once known as the lifeline of Cox's Bazar's economy, now narrowed down to this sorry state by encroachers, who filled it up from both sides by dumping earth into it, and built various structures on the grabbed portions, while the authorities concerned seem to be completely nonchalant about the situation.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

## NEWSINbrief

### Man held with gold bars at Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs Intelligence officials detained a man with five gold bars, weighing around 1.2 kilogrammes, worth Tk 60 lakh at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital last night. Masum Sheikh of Munshiganj carried the gold bars in his shoes, Moinul Khan, director general of Customs Intelligence, told The Daily Star. Masum confessed that he brought the gold from Malaysia for business purpose, he added.

### DU 48th convocation tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities have taken all preparation to hold the 48th convocation tomorrow at 12:00 noon at the university's central playground. Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, at a pres briefing held in his office, said entry would start at 9:30am. For the event, they decorated a large stage and made arrangements to confer degrees to over 8,312 graduates of whom 4,015 are male and 4,297 are female. The university will reward 38 graduates with PhD and 25 graduates with MPhil degrees this year.

### 3 Rohingyas held with Yabas in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested three Rohingyas with 1,500 Yaba tablets in Chaktai area of Chittagong city yesterday. Md Ismail, 22, Delara Begum, 23, and Liyla Begum, 34, are hailing from a Rohingya refugee camp in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar. Kotwali police Sub-inspector Arif Hossain said the trio were held while they along with two children, aged about seven and eight, were going to Cornel Haat area from Chaktai by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw around 9:00am.

### Couple hurt as train hits them in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A couple were critically injured as a train hit them while they were crossing the railway tracks near Malibagh rail gate in the capital last night. With head injuries, Abul Hossain, 55, a security guard; and his wife Firoza Begum, of Malibagh Chowdhuripara, were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, DMCH sources said. Witnesses said the accident occurred while they were returning home after shopping around 9:00pm.

### NAT'L ANTHEM EVENT Expenditure details should be made public

Iftekharuzzaman tells BBC Sanglap STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman yesterday said a detailed account of the expenditures for the event "Lakho Konthe Shonar Bangla" should be published.

People should be given the details of how the funds were taken from different organisations for the event and were spent, he told the "BBC Bangladesh Sanglap", a debate on contemporary affairs, in the capital's Biam auditorium.

The response came when an audience member raised the question of whether there was a conflict of interest in Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor awarding contracts for managing the March 26 event to three companies with which he was involved.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

### Judges independent Says chief justice; Bar Council distributes certificates among 1,000 new lawyers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the government gives logistic support to the judiciary, all the judges of the country are independent in discharging their duties, Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain said yesterday.

"Judges of all courts, both upper and lower, are independent within the purview of law and the constitution," he told a certificate award ceremony for new lawyers at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

The chief justice said it was matter of delight that the judiciary had been separated from the executive branch but stressed that judges were not beyond law.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

### Sunamganj stands to lose 54 fish species: Study

UNB, Sunamganj

Fifty-four of the 154 species of fish in the water-bodies of Sunamganj are facing extinction due to the adverse impacts of climate change and different human activities, according to a study report published recently.

Climate change and different obstructions caused by humans have narrowed down and filled rivers and canals, causing a sharp fall in fish production in the region, which is known for its sweet water sources and endogenous fish species.

If the trend of decline continues, the district will soon face serious deficiency of fish protein, the report added.

The Fisheries Research Support Project

under the Community-based Resource Management Project of the Local Government Engineering Department, Sunamganj, conducted the study on seven wetlands in the district.

Of the 54 species, 28 are endangered, 12 greatly endangered while 14 are in risky conditions.

The endangered fish species include pabda, bothali, nanida, bamas and kajoli while the greatly endangered species are ghoramukh, sarputi, mohasoal, rita, ghaura, shilon, bancha, banshpata, ayer, gozar and kaikka. The fish varieties including agun, chokha, betangi, kanoch and hanrkata are now rarely found.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

### The Daily Star - grameenphone IGNITE Programme activated at another Ctg school

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The activation programme of The Daily Star-Grameenphone "IGNITE" programme, a science competition for school students, continued for the fourth day at Silver Bells Girls' High School in Chittagong city yesterday.

Bangladesh Navy School and College, BEPZA Public School and College, PH Ameen Academy, and BAF Shaheen School and College also participated in the programme titled "Introducing IGNITE".

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A moderator demonstrates how Newton's Universal Law of Gravitation works by using a business card for the participants at the activation programme of The Daily Star-Grameenphone "IGNITE" programme at Silver Bells Girls' High School in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

### Attack, intimidation

FROM PAGE 3

Paribagh in the capital, shortly after Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) denied its involvement in Thursday's attacks on the mancha activists.

Imran claimed that several organisations which were speaking against them had been organising several programmes bypassing the mancha at the same venue for a long time.

HM Badiuzzaman Shohag, president of BCL, an Awami League-backed student body, at a press briefing at Madhur Canteen of Dhaka University said, "We will apologise to the nation from in front of the National Press Club if Imran H Sarker can prove us guilty of the attack on them on Thursday night."

"Otherwise, Imran H Sarker will have to apologise to the nation for his allegation against us," he said.

Referring to the comments, Imran said, "We don't have conflict either with BCL or Jubo League. We have mentioned the names of the people belonging to BCL and Jubo League involved in the attack. Investigation needs to be conducted, and action should be taken against them."

On Thursday night, Imran claimed that the pro-AL activists and Muktiyoddha Sangsad Santan Command members assaulted the mancha workers, as they opposed the government's "decision to receive donation from Islami Bank" for arranging the March 26 national anthem programme.

Protesting the attack on Imran and others, the Gonojagoron Mancha activists went to hold a rally at Shahbagh intersection on Friday afternoon but were barred and beaten by police. At least six activists were injured.

Police also detained five of the mancha activists and two of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad Santan Command activists, who also tried to rally at Shahbagh at the same time. They all were released later.

### 642 jailed in anti-narcotics drives in 2 months: Police

UNB, Dhaka

A mobile court sentenced 642 people to various terms of imprisonment conducting anti-narcotics drives in the capital in the last two months.

Briefing reporters at Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) media centre, Joint Commissioner (DB) Monirul Islam said a mobile court of DMP conducted drives against drug traders and drug addicted people from February 1 to March 31 and detained 642 people from different places.

Among them, 153 people were sentenced to one year imprisonment, 412 to six months, and 76 others to less than six months, he added.

Besides, DMP in its regular drives arrested 1,185 people and recovered 1kg of heroin and 5,000 bottles of Phensedyl during the same period.

A total of 1,162 cases were filed with different police stations in this connection.

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DHAKA TODAY

Human chain

Jago Bangladesh Garments Sramik Federation, and Jatiya Garments Sramik Jote will form a human chain demanding that April 24 be declared as National Mourning Day in RMG factories; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Seminar

The Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust will arrange a seminar on agriculture and farmers friendly budget; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:30am.

Roundtable

Nagorik Oikya will hold a roundtable discussion on the proper way to hold a fair election; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion

Shilpita will hold a discussion marking the birthday of late Bangla actress Suchitra Sen; Venue: Poet Sufia Kamal auditorium; Time: 11:00am.

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