

WEATHER
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA H 25.1 L 14.1	CHITTAGONG H 24.8 L 16.6	SYLHET H 27.8 L 12.3	RAJSHAHI H 25.5 L 10.2	KHULNA H 25.4 L 11.6	BARISAL H 26.8 L 14.2	RANGPUR H 24.8 L 12.0	COX'S BAZAR H 26.6 L 18.0
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Night temperature may fall slightly, and day temperature may rise slightly over the country. Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Pabna, Jessore, Kushtia and Sreemangal and it may continue. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:49pm and rises tomorrow at 6:36am.



A participant prepares her dishes in the 30-minute cook-off in the Chittagong round of the Rupchanda-Daily Star Super Chef 2015 held at Anika Community Centre in the port city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Ctg taken by storm

Seven get "yes" cards for final round

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hazi Md Rafiq Uddin, a man in his sixties, travelled to Chittagong all the way from Sylhet to participate in the Chittagong round of the Rupchanda-Daily Star Super Chef 2015 yesterday.

A retired chef, Rafiq, had been working in different restaurants in the UK and the US for around 25 years before coming back to Bangladesh three years ago.

"I saw the advertisement for the cooking competition on TV and decided to participate," said Rafiq, who arrived in the port city two days back braving blockade and hartal violence.

Rafiq was one of 162 people who participated in the Chittagong round of the competition held at Anika Community Centre.

The event saw participation of people from many different backgrounds with a common interest in preparing food.

Mashiur Rahman, an HSC examinee, auditioned because of his love of cooking. He always plays chef when his friends have a picnic or a party.

Mashiur said he prefers cooking chicken polao dishes.

A student studying hotel management, Syeda Farzana, said she participated because of encouragement from her husband.

"My husband was very enthusiastic about the whole thing," she gushed, adding that he was the one who registered her to compete in the show.

"As a student of hotel management, I want to test myself and see how far I can go," she added.

The first stage of the competition was a written examination on culinary arts. When participants were waiting for the result of the written test, their children captivated the audience with dance performances.

A total of 20 people managed to move forward to the next stage which was a 30-minute cook-off to display their cooking skills.

Judges Jinat Azam and Rawshan Ara Begum tasted each of the dishes prepared and judged the candidates on their innovation, food presentation, taste and Super Chef quality.

They then discussed the merits and demerits of each participant ensuring that only the best would make it to the final round to be held in Dhaka.

Finally, seven people got the "Yes" card to participate in the final rounds. The seven are: Sharmila Sen Gupta, Umme Kulsum, Anup Kumar, Tanjila Kaniz, Nelima Das, Fatema Tuz Zohra and Latifa Aktar.

They will compete with winners from the Dhaka, Mymensingh, Jessore and Bogra rounds to clinch the title of "Super Chef".

Subrin Maruf, brand executive of Rupchanda, said they have organised the competition to promote people who can not only cook well but can also innovate balanced dishes.

With Bogra and Rajshahi rounds of Rupchanda-Daily Star Super Chef 2015 already held, Super Chef, the biggest culinary competition in Bangladesh, will now head to Dhaka and Mymensingh for auditions.



Barisal, Rajshahi residents denounce blockade, hartal

They claim govt failed to give security to people

CITY DESK

Demanding withdrawal of the ongoing blockade and hartals, enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance, a group of Barisal city dwellers and Rajshahi University cultural activists demonstrated in their respective areas yesterday.

In Barisal, carrying white flags, Sammito Barisalbasi, a citizens' forum, brought out a procession in the city and formed a human chain before Ashwini Kumar Hall, reports our correspondent.

They demanded that the safety and security of the people be ensured. The government failed to provide security to the people, they said. In this situation, all should unite to restore peace across the country, they added.

Meanwhile, Rajshahi University Kendrio Sangskritik Jote, the biggest platform of the cultural activists at RU, formed a human chain in front of the central library, reports our RU correspondent.

They expressed their deep concerns over the countrywide arson attacks killing innocent people. They said if such situation continued undemocratic forces could emerge in the country. They sought congenial atmosphere in all educational institutions.

Road crashes kill 5, injure 21

CITY DESK

Five people were killed and 21 others injured in road accidents in four districts yesterday.

In Sylhet, two people were killed and 10 others injured as a CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided head-on with a bus and fell into a roadside ditch on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Burunga village.

The deceased were Azir Uddin, 50, of Nij Burunga village and Shayesta Mia, 38, of Ishagaon village.

In Kushtia, two people were killed and two others injured when a truck hit a rickshaw-van at Ranakhoria in Mirpur upazila.

The deceased were Shajhan Pramanik, 55, and Farida Khatun, 45, of Milpara area of Kushtia town.

In Jessore, Abdul Kader, 37, of Jessore Sadar died when a truck hit his motorcycle in Churomonkathi area of Sadar upazila.

In Tangail, nine people, including eight SSC examinees, were hurt when a battery-run auto-rickshaw carrying them hit a roadside tree at Shimla Bazar in Gopalpur upazila.

ROK opens dev chances for Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

South Korea has introduced a new sort of Official Development Assistance (ODA) programme opening a scope for Bangladesh to avail opportunities in the areas of technology and finance, according to officials at the Economic Relations Division and foreign ministry.

The country has already invited project proposals from partner countries, including Bangladesh, under the new programme titled "Industrial Technology ODA".

Counsellor and Chargé D'affaires of the Bangladesh Embassy in Seoul, Khandker Masudul Alam, has written to the foreign ministry over the matter to disseminate the information among the relevant ministries and stakeholders, including business bodies.

"Interested organisations should start discussing their envisioned projects with KIAT (Korean Institute for Industrial Advancement) as soon as possible to maximise our gain from the ODA scheme," Alam mentioned in the letter, dated January 12.

Bangalees need to know more about own history

Scholars, researchers tell inauguration of 11th Congress on Bengal Art

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangalees need to study their cultural history more and more to know their glorious identity, noted scholars and researchers told the inauguration of a four-day biennial international conference in the capital yesterday.

People out of a natural propensity dig out their cultural history and heritage to relate their identity to the ancestors, said University Grants Commission Chairman Prof AK Azad Chowdhury.

It is however unfortunate that there is no scope for studying ancient and medieval Bengal art in the country's 75 public and private universities, said noted historian and museum expert Prof Enamul Haque, founder chairman and founder director general of ICSBA and Bangladesh National Museum respectively.

The International Centre for Study of Bengal Art (ICSBA) organised the 11th "Congress on Bengal Art" at Brac Centre Inn.

Monarchs and monks built mosques and monasteries in Bengal but many of its historical relics are being ruined despite government's conservation efforts, said Cultural Affairs Secretary Dr Ranjit Kumar Biswas.

Bengal's history dates back to the Indo-Gangetic civilisation, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith as chief guest.

The ICSBA awarded Muhith, Prof Nazma Khan Majlis of Dhaka University and Dr Sudipa Ray Bandyopadhyay of Calcutta University honorary fellowships for outstanding interest and contribution to the study of Bengal's history, art and archaeology.

Around 28 of the conference's 55 participants are foreign scholars from

India, Germany and Austria, said the organisers. The conference will have research paper presentations and be hosted on two days onboard a water vessel in the Shitalakkhya river.

Founded in 1995, the ICSBA is dedicated to studying archaeology, architecture, sculpture, painting, epigraphy, numismatics, religion, ethnography and the spectrum of folk and decorative arts.

It has brought out 20 books and annually publishes "Journal of Bengal Art" containing research works on Bengal's art and cultural history.

Prof Enamul and late Prof Zulekha Haque, former chairperson of Eden Girls College's history department, donated their personal collection of 20,000 books and 60,000 photographs to the ICSBA.



Finance Minister AMA Muhith addresses as chief guest the inauguration of a four-day biennial international conference, the 11th "Congress on Bengal Art", at Brac Centre Inn in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Laxmipur Jubo League man shot dead by unknown men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Unknown miscreants shot a Jubo League activist dead in Laxmipur sadar upazila last night, said police.

The deceased, Mohammad Babar, 32, lived in Durgapur village, Officer-in-Charge of Chandraganj Police Station Humayun Kabir told The Daily Star last night.

Some unidentified men called Babar while his was chit-chatting with friends at Dighali Bazar and shot him dead at Durgapur village around 8:45pm, he said. The OC could not tell the reason behind the murder immediately.

Digital land management

FROM PAGE 3

mutation certificates, and other papers, yet they are losing land out to the grabbers who are forging their land documents with assistance from government officials, said Anil Marandi, presidium member of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad.

The land survey and digitisation of the records are scheduled to start in June.

Speaking as chief guest, Shyam Kishore Roy, the divisional commissioner of land reform in Rajshahi, assured that the government would watch that the minority communities could update their land records without being overcharged.

He, however, called upon the NGOs to create awareness among Adivasis about preserving updated land records for safety of their land.

According to ASUS Executive Director Rajkumar Shaw, 1.5 lakh indigenous people of 20 communities live in Rajshahi district, and most of them suffer due to land-related problems.

Referring to the incidents of eviction, grabbing of graveyards, property, murder, and rape, he said the indigenous people barely got support from the administration in these incidents.

The speakers reiterated a nine-point demand including establishing a separate land commission for plain land Adivasis and a national commission for indigenous affairs, and keeping representatives of the communities in the land survey.

New books

FROM PAGE 4

Pathak Samabesh, said a couple of visitors from outside Dhaka had come to his stall looking for books. "They said that they risked their lives but could not stay away from the fair."

However, sales on the first Friday of this year's fair were lower than the previous years' but higher than the first five days.

"On average we sell books worth Tk 1,000 but yesterday we sold books worth around Tk 5,000-7,000," said a salesperson of a small publication wishing anonymity.

Publishers are looking forward to next weekend for sales figures to climb again.

Impunity reflects

FROM PAGE 3

organised by Bangladesh Adivasi Forum and Indigenous People Development Services.

Demanding punishment for the culprits, the speakers said the attacks were mainly aimed at taking over the land and property of the Adivasis.

Oikya NAP President Pankaj Bhattacharya likened the oppression of indigenous people by Bangalees to that of Palestinians by Israelis.

Theatre artist Mamunur Rashid said often the so-called progressive people were behind the atrocities. He stressed preservation of the indigenous tongues of Bangladesh.

Turning to the wrangling between the two major political parties, Pankaj said while one was simply attacking the general people, the other had practically made the country a "police state".

"Politicians are now talking like law enforcers, and the law enforcers like politicians," he added.

Indigenous rights leaders including Sanjeeb Drong, Hiron Chakma, Chanchana Chakma and Dipayan Khisa spoke at the event.

Govt to start

FROM PAGE 3

Jamaat, and said she is enforcing hartals to kill common people politically.

Brig PC Thimmaya, defence adviser of the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh, was honoured at the event for his country's contribution to the Liberation War.

Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury and Kabir Ahmad Khan, former chairmen of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, and artist Manoranjan Ghoshal, among others, spoke at the event which was chaired by Dr SM Jahangir Alam, chairman of National Freedom Fighters Foundation.

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