

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 31.3 | L 17.3

CHITTAGONG
H 32.0 | L 17.0

SYLHET
H 32.3 | L 16.6

RAJSHAHI
H 32.5 | L 14.8

KHULNA
H 32.6 | L 16.8

BARISAL
H 32.5 | L 15.0

RANGPUR
H 29.8 | L 16.4

COX'S BAZAR
H 33.0 | L 18.5

Day temperature may rise slightly and night temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:07pm and rises tomorrow at 6:08am. Country's highest temperature 34.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rangamati and lowest 11.3 degrees in Srimangal.

EFFLUENT KILLS KOROTOA FISH EN MASSE



Clockwise from bottom, crowds of villagers collecting dead fish from Boalmari sanctuary of Korotoa yesterday, after effluent from the nearby Panchagarh Sugar Mills killed the aquatic animals en masse. The point of entry of the waste, 150-200 yards from the factory that has recently washed out its heavy machines. A dead fish floating in Sarogara, one of the five sanctuaries in the 25km stretch of the river from the factory, where fishing is banned. A teenager holds his catch of a boal (a catfish) at Boalmari. A local fisherman said 500-600kg of dead fish was caught, which, according to a fishery official, has a price of Tk 1 crore.

PHOTO: STAR

NEWS IN brief

Primary scholarship holders' names to be published tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The list of the students obtaining scholarship from primary schools this year will be published tomorrow. Primary and Mass Education Minister Mostafizur Rahman will release the list at a press briefing in his office at 12:30pm on that day, said ministry sources. This year some 55,000 students will be given scholarship based on the results of the Primary Terminal Examination, they said.

Jubo Dal man held for bomb attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Police yesterday arrested a Jubo Dal activist in Chittagong city's Notun Bridge area in a case filed for a crude bomb attack on the village home of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader on January 20. The arrestee is Taju Ahmed Rubel, 26, of Sarwatoli area in Boalkhali upazila, said Mohammad Mohsin, officer-in-charge of Bakalia Police Station. The house of Moinuddin Khan Badal MP was attacked at Sarwatoli area of the upazila, he added.

Student dies as train hits him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

A private university student died after being hit by a train in Kumira area of Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong yesterday. Sajedul Islam, 25, of Abu Torab area in Mirsarai, was a fifth semester student of the economics and banking department of International Islamic University, Chittagong. The accident occurred as he was crossing the railway tracks, said Miranjan Paul, assistant sub-inspector of Faujdarhat Government Railway Police Outpost.

C'nawabganj Zila Samity AGM held

CITY DESK

The 14th annual general meeting (AGM) of Chapai Nawabganj Zila Samity, Dhaka was held in the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital yesterday. A souvenir for 2015 was also unveiled at the event with Samity President Mahtab Uddin in the chair, says a press release. Samity General Secretary Md Nurul Islam, Muhammad Mohsin Ali, Joint Secretary poet Aminul Islam, journalist Anowar Haque and Md Zohirul Islam, among others, spoke at the programme.

4 firms fined for food adulteration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

A mobile court penalised four business establishments in Chittagong city for having unhygienic manufacturing environment. The court on Thursday sealed off Desh Food Products and Beverage at Chandgaon and Aamanat Packaging and Marketing at Baizid for also selling drinking water and edible oil using fake Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution's logos. Md Shahin, Shahid Store's owner, and Md Siraz Uddin, Index Soap and Chemical Industries' owner, were jailed for three months and fined Tk 1.5 lakh altogether for not mentioning prices on their products.

Suspended SI 'missing'

Family fears he fled
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal police continues to maintain that a sub-inspector went "missing" after recently being suspended centring a case involving the torture and confinement of "his child bride". Abdul Wares, 40, went on the run, fears the mother of Habiba Aktar Marufa, questioning how this could not be foreseen and prevented through his arrest. Habiba, as per the principal of Sher-e-Bangla Girls School at Barisal city's College Road, studies in class VIII of the institution and is aged around 14 years. Police, alerted by Habiba's mother Mahmuda Begum and Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association's Barisal unit members, broke into Wares' residence in front of Kawnia Police Station on March 5 and brought out Habiba. Mahmuda filed the case on March 10 while Wares was suspended. An inspector of the reserved force at Barisal Police Lines said Wares went "missing" after leaving the lines in the afternoon of March 11 saying he was going for prayers at a mosque. That day Habiba's statement was recorded by Metropolitan Magistrate Rafikul Islam who directed that she stay with her mother instead of a "shelter home". He also asked her to undergo examinations at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital to record evidence of torture, if any. But Habiba gave a written statement refusing to undergo the examination, said investigation officer of the case Muhammad Selim Reza. Barisal Metropolitan Police Commissioner Shoibal Kanti Chowdhury said police was trying to "arrest the missing" man.

Salinity on rise in coastal groundwater: Expert

UNB, Dhaka

Although salinity, which poses a threat to human health, is on the rise in coastal aquifer due to the sea level rise, a new study reveals that 84 percent of coastal people are not aware of the presence of salinity in groundwater in the country's coastal region. Salinity has been affecting health of coastal inhabitants, including spread of diarrhoea, dysentery, itching, sores and other skin troubles. The Department of Public Health Engineering and the Institute of Water Modelling conducted the study titled "Joint Action Research on Salt Water Intrusion in Groundwater in the Coastal Area". Starting from September 2010, the study was completed in December 2014. But the final report of the study is yet to be prepared. Under the climate change condition in the year of 2050, area of fresh water zone (salinity less than 1,000 ppm) will decrease compared to the present situation. Within the saline zone, areas under severe salinity

will increase by 14 percent by 2050, predicted the study. The study was carried out in parts of three districts of Khulna, Jessore and Satkhira with about 1,534 square kilometres, aiming to assess salinity extent and intrusion, and aquifer vulnerability in the area. The study project leader M Rezaul Hasan said salinity has been increasing in the coastal aquifer due to sea level rise caused by global climate change, but the people of the coastal region are not aware of the presence of salinity in groundwater as they are habituated with salinity. The use of saline water for shrimp culture by the coastal people has been identified as a major reason for increasing salinity in the shallow aquifer. At the present condition, the study identifies that the low-salinity zone (less than 1000 ppm -parts per milligram) lies along the western part of the study area while the high salinity zone (more than 1000 ppm) along the southern and eastern sides.

Glaucoma 3rd biggest cause of blindness Says study

BSS, Dhaka

Globally 60 million people in both developed and developing countries are affected by a group of eye diseases called glaucoma. According to a study by non-government organisation Sightsavers, glaucoma is the third biggest cause of blindness worldwide and if it could be diagnosed earlier blindness can be prevented. In Asia, where eye tests are not as common, checking for glaucoma is more difficult, and is not likely to get picked up until it reaches a stage where it is much harder to treat, the study added. "According to a survey conducted during 1997 to 1998 in Dhaka, at least 2.8 percent people are affected by glaucoma, while 90 percent of people do not know about the disease," Secretary General of Bangladesh Glaucoma Society (BGS) Dr Nazneen Khan told the news agency. Highlighting the necessity of early detection, eye expert Dr Sharfuddin Ahmad said, "Medications, treatments, technology and research can help the patients afflicted with glaucoma but early detection is the first and most important step to protect the eyes". With the slogan "Beat Invisible Glaucoma", Bangladesh is also observing The World Glaucoma Week countrywide like other countries from March 8 to March 14.



Remnants of houses which were gutted in a fire at Nitira village of Munshiganj yesterday that left a woman dead and 12 others injured.

PHOTO: STAR

DHAKA TODAY

Rally
Peshajibi Samannaya Parishad will hold a rally against the ongoing political violence; Venue: Krishibid Institution; Time: 11:00am.

Seminar
Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, and Sundar Jibon will arrange a seminar on solution to the adverse impact of climate change on the mineral resources and ecosystem of Bangladesh; Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity; Time: 10:30am.

Human chain
DND Project Unnayan Sangram Parishad will form a human chain demanding development of Matuail Mridha Bari-Shyampur link road; Venue: Shanir Akhra Bridge; Time: 10:00am.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROJECTS Bureaucrats for coordination

UNB, Dhaka

Some top bureaucrats have suggested that effective co-ordination should be developed among the government's poverty alleviation projects under different ministries for better outcomes. "Ektee Bari Ektee Khamar (One House One Farm) project is a successful one. There is still a scope to have better outcomes from the project. There are many more projects under several ministries for alleviating poverty in the country," said Cabinet Secretary M Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan at a seminar on the project held in the capital's Cirdap auditorium, organised by Rural Development and Co-operatives Division on Thursday. Co-ordination among the existing 145 government projects under social safety net is needed to utilise the resources in a better way, he added. Addressing the event, PMO Principal Secretary Md Abul Kalam Azad said a national working committee can be formed for developing co-ordination among the projects. Social Welfare Secretary Nasima Begum said at upazila level a UNO has to hold some 12 meetings on government's poverty alleviation projects. But one single meeting will be enough if there is co-ordination, she added. Public Administration Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury said a co-ordinated approach can play a vital role in alleviating poverty. Secretary-in-Charge of Statistics and Informatics Division Kaniz Fatema, and Planning Division Secretary Md Shafiqul Azam, among others, spoke at the programme held with RDCD Secretary MA Quader Sarker in the chair.