

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 33.6°C L 19.2

CHITTAGONG
H 33.0°C L 19.6

SYLHET
H 33.5°C L 18.0

RAJSHAHI
H 35.4°C L 17.0

KHULNA
H 34.2°C L 19.0

BARISAL
H 34.0°C L 17.8

RANGPUR
H 32.0°C L 16.5

COX'S BAZAR
H 34.2°C L 18.0

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:07pm and rises tomorrow at 6:07am. Country's highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and lowest 14.4 in Sreemangal.

Amu sees business opportunities in India's north-eastern states

UNB, Dhaka

There is an enormous scope for expanding Bangladeshi businesses in the north-eastern states of India, said Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu yesterday.

"The Bangladeshi business community has the capability to invest in and run businesses outside the country," he said.

The minister was addressing the inaugural session of the 10th north-east business summit "Development through Partnership with Asean and Bimstec Countries" held in New Delhi.

Indian Civil Aviation Minister P Ashok Gajapathi Raju, and Bhutanese Health Minister Lyonpo Tandin Wangchuk, among others, were present at the seminar.

Amu said they want to ensure seamless connectivity between the regions for collective prosperity.

"We want to facilitate and promote businesses in the Indian region through mutual cooperation and support," he said.

He also talked about facilitating trade through a combined effort of the private and the public sectors.

The minister said as a neighbour of India, Bangladesh presents a large opportunity to improve business in the north-eastern states of India which would benefit both the countries economically.

Economic development due to smooth business environment would be possible once the barriers are addressed, he said.

Amu hoped the summit would be able to come up with firm recommendations for mutual cooperation and commitment for promotion of investment, trade facilitation and governance of natural resources and promotion of industrialisation.

"Together as a group, Asean and Bimstec countries will be able to forge strong partnership for the benefit of the two regions," he added.

The minister said as a regional organisation, Bimstec forms a bridge between South and South East Asia and reinforces the relationships among the countries of the regions.

Bangladesh and India share a border 4,096 kilometres long, out of which 2,217 kilometres is with West Bengal and the remaining with north-western states of India -- Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.



Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, Rotaract Club, and environmental organisation Bhumi Santan jointly launched a drive to clean the Surma River and its banks on the occasion of International Day of Action for Rivers yesterday. The photo was taken in Keane Bridge area of Sylhet. The Daily Star on March 5 published a photo of the river filled with garbage. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Poor diets cause 1.1 crore annual deaths globally

Consumers International report reveals on eve of World Consumer Rights Day

BSS, Dhaka

Poor diets contribute to over 1.1 crore (11 million) deaths annually around the world and it has now become the number one global risk factor for death, a Consumers International (CI) report stated.

The CI report, launched on the eve of the World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) 2015, added that unhealthy diets are linked to four of the world's top 10 leading risk factors for death.

The four risk factors are: high blood pressure, high blood glucose, overweight and obesity, and high cholesterol.

"Consumers Rights to Healthy Food" is the theme for this year's World Consumers Rights Day, which will be observed today across the globe, including Bangladesh.

According to the report, premature illness and disability from diet-related diseases impoverishes families, hurts productivity and bankrupts health systems. The global economic impact of obesity alone is roughly \$2.0 trillion, or 2.8 percent of global GDP, roughly equivalent

to the global impact of smoking or armed violence, war, and terrorism.

Inadequate consumption of fruits and vegetables increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases and some cancers and cause some 1.7 million deaths a year, the report said.

Dietary salt intake is an important determinant of blood pressure level and of overall cardiovascular risk. High blood pressure is the number one risk factor for deaths around the world. High consumption of saturated fat and trans-fats is linked to heart diseases, the primary reason causing death globally.

Apart from rich countries, diet related diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes are rising faster in developing economies and have killed over eight million people before they turned 60 in low and middle-income countries in 2013.

"We need a global transformation in food habit. All consumers should have the right, not only to food but also to healthy food", the CI report said.

It recommended promoting fruit

and vegetable intake and formulating trade and agricultural policies which will make fruits and vegetables affordable.

It suggested using cooking methods like baking, grilling, broiling, boiling, steaming and frying with little oil to minimise the use of fat and salt.

Breastfeeding and good weaning practice also have been advised for ensuring healthy diets.

The report highly recommended institutional changes towards healthier oil and fat (moving from saturated and trans-fats to unsaturated oil/fats) and reduction of salt content in food.

Campaigns should be launched and relevant changes should be brought in policies to limit marketing and sale of foods high in saturated and trans-fats, salt and sugar and sugary beverages, particularly to children.

The CI has called upon its members to participate in the campaign to highlight the difficulties faced by consumers in choosing healthy diets.

Mohiuddin wants to be Ctg mayor again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League Chittagong city unit President Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday said, with green signal from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and backing from Nagorik Committee, he would again contest for the post of Chittagong City Corporation mayor.

He urged his followers, some of whom on several hundred different vehicles arrived to receive him at Shah Amanat International Airport on his return from Saudi Arabia, to campaign for him. Mohiuddin had earlier been elected three times, in 1994, 2000 and 2005. In 2010, he was defeated by M Majur Alam.

50 lakh

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morbidity and mortality from these diseases.

Prof Habibur said approximately 10 percent of the world's people suffer from chronic kidney diseases, and a half of the population aged 75 and above is affected by chronic kidney ailments. Health experts said common symptoms of kidney failure among children are swelling of hands and feet, and puffiness around the eyes.

Dr Sohely Ahmed Sweet said, "In Bangladesh, nearly two crore people are suffering from kidney diseases, which is a sharp rise."

Kidney ailment was a silent killer as the symptoms become visible when 50 percent of the kidney was already destroyed, she added.

Warehouse roof collapse in Mongla Rescue ends with death toll at seven

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Rescue operation was called off on Friday, 23 hours after the roof of cement factory warehouse collapsed at Mongla, with the death toll standing at seven.

Fifty workers were rescued alive who were admitted to several hospitals in Khulna and Bagerhat.

The 42-foot high under-construction building of Sena Kalyan Sangstha in Bagerhat caved in when the workers were pouring concrete for the roof. Sena Kalyan Sangstha Mongla Cement Factory's Deputy Director General Captain Syed Helal declared that each of the deceased's family would get Tk 1 lakh.

A seven-member probe committee led by Additional Divisional Commissioner of Khulna Faruk Hossain has been asked to submit its report to Khulna Divisional Commissioner Abdus Samad within seven working days.

Accord gallantry

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at the programme.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq said though many years already passed, the awarding issue should be taken up so that "the discrimination can be removed".

Denying any dialogue possibility with the BNP-led 20-party alliance to overcome the ongoing political crisis, he said, "These so-called civil society members talk for dialogue...they are indirectly supporting militancy of Khaleda Zia and the political party of war criminals."

Prime Minister's Economic Adviser Mashiur Rahman said any attack on the country's democracy and sovereignty would be resisted.

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque said police were providing the democratically elected government all kinds of support.

On BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed, missing since March 10, he said no law enforcing agency arrested him.

On the warrant issued for BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's arrest, he said once it reaches their hands, police were obligated to execute the court order.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia said, "We brought the diplomatic zone under CCTV and the TSC, Shahbagh and Shaheed Minar areas will be brought under CCTV by this month."

Journey Adviser Khondoker Bazlul Haque chaired the function while valiant freedom fighter Mahub Uddin (Bir Bikram), National Human Rights Commission Honorary Member Prof Mahfuza Khanom and several academicians and rights activists spoke. They emphasised modernising the police force to make it people-friendly.

City corporations

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He also added that future mayors should address the housing problem of slum dwellers.

Earlier, the prime minister endorsed that her party the ruling-Awami League will back Anisul Huq as the mayoral candidate for the north city corporation and Sayeed Khokan as the candidate for the south.

Anisul Huq said he has taken the candidacy as a challenge.



Students of Narchi Government Primary School pass days in fear as any moment the school building could be swallowed by the Dhaleshwari River in Ghior upazila of Manikganj. Locals and students are looking to the government to save the school. The photo was taken on Wednesday. PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, and BSAFE Foundation will hold a discussion on consumers right to healthy food; Venue: the council conference room; Time: 10:30am.

Hunger strike

Bangladesh Specialised Textile Mills, and Powerloom Industries Association will arrange a hunger strike protesting the ongoing political violence; Venue: Jatiya Press Club premises; Time: 10:00am.

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