

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.1L 23.2

CHITTAGONG H 32.0L 23.2

SYLHET H 25.7L 23.3

RAJSHAHI H 35.7L 25.4

KHULNA H 34.2L 26.0

BARISAL H 33.5L 24.2

RANGPUR H 26.0L 23.0

COX'S BAZAR H 30.5L 23.6

Day and night temperatures may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over Rangpur and Sylhet divisions and it may fall slightly elsewhere over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:47pm and rises tomorrow at 05:11am. Country's highest temperature 36.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Jessore and lowest 21.4 in Tangail.

TANGENTS

BY IHTISHAM KABIR



At the PSD Primary School, Maghbazar.

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR.

Agami for the Future

Bangladeshis living abroad often want to help the development of their native land. In 2003, non-resident Bangladeshis in the San Francisco Bay Area - led by Sabir Majumdar, Babu Rahman and Abu Hassan - founded Agami, a non-profit dedicated to education for underprivileged children in Bangladesh. Since then, Agami has grown to 200 volunteers and, in 2014, it supported twenty-one schools with about 6,000 students. The support included teacher and staff salaries, computer laboratories, school uniforms and video tutorials.

Born in Silicon Valley, Agami is keen to bring innovative education technology to Bangladeshi children. In 2010, it set its sights on the Khan Academy videos. These tutorial videos, created by Salman Khan, are used worldwide by students to learn mathematics and other subjects. Why not bring them to our underprivileged school children? So Agami made a deal with the Khan Academy to translate their video tutorials to Bangla. An expanded agreement signed in April, 2015 also includes translation of the Academy's website. Last year Agami distributed mathematics videos to around 2,000 students from eleven mostly rural schools across the country. The translation of the Khan Academy website to Bangla will complete in 2016.

But Agami does not sit still after video distribution. It actively monitors and supports their use. Director of Programs Dilruba Chowdhury, based in California, spends much time in Dhaka working with the local Agami team to increase its capacity and efficacy. For example, after the videos were distributed, the team visited the schools bi-weekly for monitoring and support. They also surveyed students after the school year and found the videos significantly enhanced their learning and encouraged computer use.

Agami school, called Program for Sustainable Development Primary School, in Maghbazar, Dhaka.

There I met Shibnath Sarker, headmaster, who related the school's history. It started in 2001 when he and others started going to the slums to teach children. The school was first set up in the house of PSD President Shireen Rahman. Today it has 165 children, mostly from busteers near Maghbazar. Their parents range from domestic workers to rickshaw pullers to day labourers. After graduating students are admitted to nearby high schools. Funding for the school comes from Agami and local parents who sponsor the children. It costs Tk 8,000 to sponsor a child for one year.

Upstairs, classes were proceeding in full swing. When I walked into Class II to take pictures, kids were taken aback but recovered swiftly. After the pictures I asked them several questions from the textbooks which they answered correctly and confidently. The teacher for Class II was running late, so two "senior" girls from Class V had taken over and started the lessons. As sunlight filtered in through the windows, the children's dreams shone in their eyes.

I asked Sarker about memorable moments in his fourteen years with the school. "Most are about the dreams they want to pursue," he said, "for example, I was struck one day when Mithu Akhter, a student, confided that she wanted to become a doctor so she could care for the headmaster when he grows old."

Then I went downstairs where the kindergarten children had just finished their classes. They sat on the matted floor in a circle and tiffin (bread and butter) was served. When it was finished, their school shift was over. As they exited the school, a new batch of children entered for the second shift, ready to take on the future.

Intrigued, I decided to visit an
www.facebook.com/tangents.ikabir

Rain triggers flash flood in north

Embankment collapse maroons some 20,000 villagers in Bogra

STAR REPORT

Low-lying areas of the northern Bogra, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari districts have been inundated by the rising waters of the Jamuna, Teesta and Dharla rivers triggered by heavy rains in Bangladesh and neighbouring India since Thursday night with the local administrations estimating some 75,000 people to have been affected.

Our Bogra correspondent reports that some 20,000 residents of at least 15 villages of Shariakandi upazila have been marooned after an under-construction eight-kilometre embankment collapsed in Haorakhali village yesterday afternoon giving way to the Jamuna.

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) sources say water has been flowing well above the danger mark, seeping into neighbouring upazilas and threatening another 20,000 villagers.

The Tk 20-crore embankment project, from

Dhalirkandi of Shariakandi union and Daripara of Kamalpur union, was initiated after a flood control dam collapsed flooding six upazilas last year.

The agriculture office is yet to estimate damage to crops while the upazila nirbahi officer hopes the situation would be normalised since the embankment's repairs were ongoing.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent reports that some 50,000 people of 80 villages in five upazilas have been affected with most moving to higher grounds for the rise in the waters of the Teesta and Dharla rivers both upstream and downstream.

Water was flowing close to the danger level at the Teesta barrage point of Hatibandha upazila and at the Kulaghat point of sadar upazila, say BWDB sources.

People have been resorting to dry food while apprehending a shortage of fodder.

Our Nilphamari correspondent reports that at least 5,000 people of 14 villages in Dimla and Jaldhaka upazilas have become marooned since the Teesta started swelling with the water passing

close to the danger mark at Dalia point near the Teesta barrage.

Most houses have gone under two to three feet of water while people are suffering from a lack of dry food and drinking water.

The heavy rains are also threatening parts of an embankment at Bhaban Chur and Gopal Jhar points in Jaldhaka upazila.

The affected villages are Uttor Kharibari, Kisamoter Char, Baish Pukur, Vendabari, Tapur Char, Kisamat Chhatnai, Chhatunama, Bhabon Chur, Sati Ghat, Jharsinghwar, Gopal Jhar, Holdibari, Chhotokhata and Banpara.

India opened the Gojaldoba barrage while waters in other major rivers like Charal Kata, Deonai, Buri Teesta, Buri Khora, Jamuneswari, Nautara and Panga have also swelled, inundating maize and vegetable fields on an estimated 200 hectares of land.

The upazila nirbahi officer said they were monitoring the situation.



(Clockwise from top) This part of an eight-kilometre under-construction embankment in Haorakhali village of Bogra collapsed yesterday marooning 20,000 people of Shariakandi. People in Boalmari of Lalmonirhat shift to higher grounds. Moreover, the Teesta continues to hover around the danger level in Nilphamari's Dimla.

PHOTO: STAR, BANGLAR CHOKH

Ctg DoE limping with staff shortage

MINHAJ UDDIN, Ctg

The Department of Environment (DoE), Chittagong division is struggling to tackle environment pollution due to acute manpower shortage.

Now the office has only 37 staff against 81 posts, which is less than half the approved manpower.

Azadur Rahman Mollick, director of DoE (metropolitan), said in the city alone, there are about 1,000 industries that need to be monitored.

However, the department has only one inspector and one assistant director for monitoring the industries. Moreover, the DoE has only one inspector and one assistant director to monitor 408 brick kilns in 14 upazilas of the district.

Lions Edit contest generates ideas for women's leadership

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Youths came up with innovative campaign ideas to inspire men in supporting women achieve leadership positions in their career at the Lions Edit Competition Bangladesh-2015 yesterday.

Sixteen competitors in eight groups participated in the competition. Strategic Planner Shuvashish Roy and Graphic Designer Iftakhar Hossain of The Daily Star won the competition, while the team of Nazia Zebin and Mashfique Khalid of Analyzen was the runner-up.

Asif Ahmed, head of marketing of Bkash; Sania Mahmood, head of marketing of Perfetti Van Melle Bangladesh; and Shamarukh Fakhruddin, marketing director of Lafarge Surma Bangladesh, were the judges.

The two groups will take part in the Spikes Asia competition in September 2015 in Singapore and the expense of the tour will be borne by the organisers.

Spikes Asia is a collaboration between Lions Festivals and Haymarket. The Lion Edit Competition is an annual hunt for the most creative and competitive young professional of the country. Bangladesh Brand Forum and The Daily Star jointly organised the competition at The Daily Star Centre.

NEWS IN brief

3 fake dentists convicted in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday convicted three fake dentists and sealed off their clinics in the capital's Karwan Bazar and Farmgate.

Akhter Hossain of Al Medina Dental Care was jailed for two years and Abdul Awal of Shamim Drug House for one year while GM Wahid of Dhaka Dental Care was fined Tk 1 lakh.

The court led by Executive Magistrate Anisur Rahman also fined Akter and Awal Tk 1 lakh each, in default to serve three more months in jail.

34 Gazipur Jamaat, Shibir men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police arrested 34 Jamaat-Shibir activists, including Jamaat-e-Islami Gazipur city unit's Secretary General Khairul Islam, while they were planning subversive activities, centring the June 16 war crimes verdict, in a restaurant at Shibbari intersection of Gazipur town on Thursday night.

Police claimed that they recovered 20 petrol bombs and a huge amount of anti government leaflets from them.

Acting ameer of the unit SM Sanaullah denied the allegation.

Another gas explosion victim dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman, who was injured in the Kalabagan gas pipeline explosion on May 30, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital early yesterday.

Rosy Begum died just a week after her mother, Mamataj Begum, succumbed to her own burn injuries.

Four other victims are still undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Seven members of Rosy's family, including her two children, were injured in the explosion that blew up their two tin-roofed rooms and belongings.

Ziauddin meets US congressman Mike

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government's present struggle is against extremists, perpetrators of the crimes against humanity and anti-liberation forces in Bangladesh, said Bangladesh's Ambassador to the US Mohammad Ziauddin Thursday.

He said this at a meeting with Democrat Congressman Mike Honda at the Capitol Hill where they discussed the current political situation in Bangladesh.

Ziauddin said the government vowed "zero tolerance" against all forms of extremism and terrorism and is working closely with the USA, neighbours and other friendly countries in this regard.

Political Counselor Nayem Uddin Ahmed accompanied the ambassador.



Winners and runners-up of Lions Edit Competition Bangladesh-2015 with judges at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. Bangladesh Brand Forum and The Daily Star organised the contest.

PHOTO: STAR

Halda sees drastic fall in

FROM PAGE 3

So, this year Halda has apparently produced 50kg of fry, while it was 275kg in 2014, 625kg in 2013, and a whopping 1,559kg in 2012.

Kamal Uddin, fisherman from Garduara, said he collected only three buckets of spawns, taking seven boats each rented for Tk 5,000.

"For collecting spawns, I also hired two men for each boat based on the agreement that we would share the catch," he said, adding that many fishermen were going to

face losses.

Manzoorul Kibria said one kilogramme of fry sold at Tk 65,000 in April.

For the drastic drop in spawn production, the expert blamed disposal of tannery and chemical waste into the river, illegal netting of mother fish, and the cross-rubber dam built at Bhujpur in 2011 for irrigation, obstructing the natural flow of water.

These are destroying the spawning grounds, he said.

Around 250 boats were in the river yesterday, some since 3:00am, to collect spawns.

Repression against women to go on if perps not punished

Says protest meeting marking 19th anniversary of Kalpana's abduction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women will continue to be oppressed in Bangladesh unless the government takes stern action against perpetrators like the kidnapers of indigenous leader Kalpana Chakma, said speakers at a meeting yesterday.

The meeting was organised demanding the government make public the probe report of the kidnapping of Kalpana Chakma, the then leader of Hill Women's Federation. Kalpana was abducted on June 12, 1996 -- allegedly by members of security forces.

Different organisations, including Hill Women's Federation, Nari Progati, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network, organised the programme on the Central Shaheed Minar premises in the capital on the 19th anniversary of Kalpana's kidnapping.

The speakers mentioned that the government has failed to make visible progress in the case even 19 years into the abduction.

The speakers also demanded implementation of the CHT peace accord.

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Pankaj Bhattacharya, convener of Nagorik Oikya; Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples' Forum; Rokeya Kabir, executive director of Nari Progati; Maleka Banu, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad; and indigenous leaders Daipayan Chakma, Chaitali Tripura and Chanchana Chakma spoke at the programme.

SEE PHOTO ONLINE