

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 32.5 L 27.0	H 31.2 L 25.2	H 33.8 L 25.6	H 35.2 L 26.5	H 32.0 L 27.0	H 30.2 L 26.2	H 33.4 L 27.4	H 27.0 L 25.0

Day and night temperatures may fall slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 05:16am. Country's highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and Syedpur and lowest 23.5 in Sitakunda.

LOWER MIDDLE INCOME STATUS US envoy praises Bangladesh for extraordinary progress

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



US Ambassador in Dhaka Marcia Bernicat has praised Bangladesh's elevation to a lower middle income nation from low income status. While speaking to journalists after a meeting with Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali at his ministry, the US diplomat termed it an extraordinary progress. Bangladesh on Wednesday graduated from low income status after meeting the World Bank's requirements comfortably. The US envoy lauded Bangladesh's progress in various areas.



Garbage and weed block off Begunbari Khal, a canal lying between Keraniganj Model Police Station and south Keraniganj, rendering it ineffective in draining out rainwater from the locality. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

NEW ESKATON SHOOTING Rony denied bail again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday for the third time denied bail to ruling party lawmaker Pinu Khan's son Bakhtiar Alam Rony and sent him back to jail in a case over killing two people in New Eskaton of the capital on April 14. Metropolitan Magistrate Aminul Haque passed the order in presence of the accused. Investigation Officer Dipak Kumar Das, a sub-inspector of Detective Branch of police, produced Rony before the court on completion of his two-day remand in the third phase. Police had pleaded the court not to let Rony out on bail fearing that he would intervene and influence the investigation. So Rony should be held in jail until the investigation is completed, the IO said. Earlier, Rony was placed on an eight-day remand in two phases. A drunk Rony, who was "frustrated with the post-midnight traffic" at New Eskaton on April 14, fired gunshots from his car that led to the death of a rickshaw-puller and an auto-rickshaw driver. Police said with the testimonies and evidences collected they are confident that they can prove in court that it was Rony who had fired the shots and killed the two. Rony's friends, who were with him on the night, have already testified before a magistrate that Rony fired the shots in a drunken rage.



Main Eid congregation in Nat'l Eidgah at 8:30am

UNB, Dhaka

The main congregation of Eid-ul-Fitr, the largest religious festival of the Muslims, will be held at the National Eidgah on the High Court premises at 8:30am on Eid day. However, the venue of the main jamaat will be shifted to the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in case of inclement weather, Religious Affairs Minister Principal Motiur Rahman said yesterday. Besides, five more congregations will be held at the national mosque, he told an inter-ministerial meeting at his office. The law enforcement agencies will remain alert during the Eid congregations to fend off any untoward incident, the minister added.

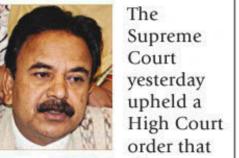
CARBON EMISSIONS Get compensations from rich nations: Experts

BSS, Dhaka

Developing countries like Bangladesh are suffering the brunt of excessive carbon emissions by industrialised nations, the main cause of global warming, experts told a workshop yesterday. Despite contributing little to global carbon emissions, Bangladesh is one of the countries most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and the countries responsible must provide financial and technical supports to the sufferers, they said. The workshop on "climate financing" was held at Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). PKSF Chairman Dr Qazi Kholiqzaman Ahmad said, "Many people across the country have become refugees due to various reasons like flood, river bank erosion, and cyclone. Basically they all are climate change victims." Bangladesh alone cannot fight the impacts of climate change, as it is a global phenomenon, he said, adding it should work bilaterally as well as multilaterally along with strong bargaining capacity to pile up pressure on rich nations for their financial and technical supports. Kholiqzaman stressed the need for a strong political will of the countries to get better results from climate change issues to fight against the largely human-induced environmental crisis. Secretary of Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCCT) Rashadul Islam and climate expert of PKSF Dr Fazle Rabbi Sadeque made presentations at the workshop separately. In his presentation, Rashadul said various milestone initiatives had been taken in the country including Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP)-2009, Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF), Climate Change Trust Fund (CCTF), and Climate Change Trust Act-2010 aiming to enhance capacity on climate change issues. The government has so far allocated Tk 3,000 crore for CCTF in seven fiscal years, he said.

SC upholds bail for BNP's Goyeshwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that granted BNP leader Goyeshwar Chandra Roy bail in a case filed for plotting subversive activities, paving the way for his release from jail. The SC dismissed a government petition challenging the HC order that granted the bail on May 6. The apex court also vacated its chamber judge's order that stayed the HC order of bail to the BNP leader. Goyeshwar's lawyer Naitai Roy Chowdhury said now there was no legal bar for his client's release.

Make public bank scamsters' list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday issued a 72-hour ultimatum on the government to make public the list of "bank scamsters" in order to bring discipline in the financial sector. At a press briefing in BNP's Nayapaltn office in the capital, spokesperson Asaduzzaman Khan Ripon however did not mention of the party's plans following the ultimatum. He also asked Finance Minister AMA Muhith to be more vocal over the issue. Asaduzzaman claimed that people instead of the government should be credited with the country's elevation from the low to lower middle income status. "If the government did not loot public money, the country could have become a higher middle income nation," he said. He pointed at Muhith's recent speech in parliament when the latter said the government could not take punitive action against a top official of Sonali Bank for his involvement in the Hallmark loan scam due to interference from "our own men". Ripon, also the international affairs secretary, said, "During the current government's tenure, around Tk 55,000 crore has turned into default loans." "Three Padma bridges could have been built," he claimed.

Language hero Usuya no more

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali



Usuya Howlader, a Language Movement veteran and founder president of Kalapara Rakhine Samaj Kalyan Samity, died in his Kalapara residence of Patuakhali on Wednesday, aged 83. Usuya, who left behind his wife, a son and two daughters, was buried in Kalapara yesterday. He actively participated in the 1952 Language Movement when he was a class X student of Barisal's Baptist Mission School, the family said. Usuya was also involved with Chhatra Union. He contested the national election from National Awami Party from Kalapara-Amtali area in 1970.



With Eid-ul-Fitr about two weeks away, people have already started shopping for one of the biggest festivals of Muslims. Customers look at unstitched dresses at a shop in Mirpur of the capital yesterday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Nat'l strategy for quality healthcare launched

UNB, Dhaka

A national strategy, developed by the Health Economics Unit of the Health and Family Welfare Ministry, was launched yesterday to ensure quality healthcare service delivery in the country. Health Secretary Syed Monjurul Islam launched the strategy through an event arranged with assistance from Unicef, said a handout of the ministry. The strategy will provide strategic directions and a roadmap for the improvement of quality programmes of the ministry as well as guiding the UN agencies, development partners, other stakeholders in planning and, if necessary, reshaping the interventions on quality improvement. Addressing the function, Monjurul Islam said the strategy has addressed the issue of quality from both the technical and service-oriented perspective and this will be implemented in health, population and nutrition sectors in phases under both public and private management. Director General of Directorate General of Health Services Prof Dr Deen Mohammad Noorul Huq, Director General of the Health Economics Unit Md Ashadul Islam and Chief of Health of Unicef Bangladesh Dr Lianne Kuppens also spoke at the launching ceremony. Dr Deen Mohammad said quality is an integral part of healthcare in every country and quality improvement remains a major focus at all time in healthcare history. Ashadul Islam said the strategy has been developed through a collaborative and participatory process. "It suggests combined and continuous efforts of everyone in the health system to make the changes that will lead to better treatment outcomes, better system performance and better professional development," he said. Dr Lianne Kuppens said the quality improvement of health services is a priority for Unicef in Bangladesh. "The quality of healthcare services often falls short of the national norms and standards. It's an imperative now to improve the effective coverage of health services that ensures the coverage of services with quality," she said.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the first death anniversary of Sabbir Yousuf, former captain of the national hockey team and joint secretary of Dhaka Chambers of Commerce and Industry. He was the son of politician late Yousuf Ali Chowdhury Mohon Miyan and younger brother of former minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf. Sabbir was also the vice-president of Bangladesh Hokey Federation, president of Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association and managing director of Faridpur Jute Fibers Ltd. On this occasion, an iftar and doa mahfil will be held after Asar prayers at his Faridpur residence.

All FFs to get equal monthly allowance

Says Minister Mozammel Huq

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq yesterday said all freedom fighters of the country will get equal monthly allowance irrespective of their ages. He came up with the announcement while talking to reporters after inaugurating the expansion work of Gazipur Circuit House at noon. The government has proposed Tk 10,000 as monthly allowance for the freedom fighters aged above 65, which is double the current amount, in the budget for the 2015-16 fiscal.

Fight against begging needs joint

Welfare MM Sultan Mahmud said that to make the capital free from beggars, they sent them to the Beggars Rehabilitation Centre in Mymensingh, but the initiative failed because beggars fled the centre. Mayor Annisul Huq said DNCC would give assistance to solve the problem and invited the participants of the discussion to come up with specific plans. ASK Executive Director Sultana Kamal said her organisation would like to serve as the secretariat if a coordination committee was formed to eliminate begging.

EC to start updating electoral

Besides, special measures will be taken at different upazilas of Cox's Bazar, Bandarban and Rangamati so that Rohingyas and trespassers are not included.

UNDP cuts short election

The SEMB helped strengthen the Election Commission through training in electoral management and introducing modern election practices.

BANGLADESH IN WIKILEAKS

Rifat Munim

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