

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.2 L 27.5	H 34.0 L 26.5	H 34.0 L 24.6	H 33.4 L 26.6	H 31.5 L 25.2	H 32.0 L 26.0	H 33.1 L 27.0	H 32.2 L 26.2

Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dhaka divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today. Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, said Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:02pm and rises tomorrow at 5:45am.



CMP awards samaritan cop

Chittagong Metropolitan Police yesterday awarded an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Tk 10,000 for showing human compassion for a mother and her newborn. On September 4, a mentally challenged woman delivered a baby on the road before Janata Bank in the port city's Agrabad about 10:00am. Curious people crowded in the area but no one came forward to help them. Later, ASI Paltu Barua of CMP, who was on duty on the road, took them to Agrabad Ma O Shishu Hospital by a rickshaw.

The ASI also took the guardianship of the mother and the baby when the hospital authorities were refusing to admit them without any guardian. After the awarding programme in the CMP conference room, CMP Commissioner Abdul Jalil Mandol at a conference said security will be beefed up ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. CCC cameras will be installed in two big cattle markets -- Sagarika and Bibirhat -- and police camps would also be set up in all 10 cattle markets in the city. Additional 1,000 police members will be deployed at important intersections on Friday.



People bathing en masse evokes the image of some religious ritual, but in Chittagong city it was a different case yesterday. Low-income people, mostly from slums, take a dip in the dirty tidal water of the Karnaphuli river as a severe water crisis has been plaguing the port city. The photo was taken in Chamragudam area.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Most of 'rescued' children identified by families

None have any complaint about 'captors'; NGO accused of human trafficking denies charge

The majority of the nine street children who were kept at the juvenile correction centre in Tongi following their "rescue" from a flat in Dhaka on Saturday have been identified by their families, an official of the centre said yesterday. Their relatives wanted to take them home but the centre authorities requested them to follow the legal procedure through court, he added. The official, who wished anonymity because he is not authorised to make such comments, added that the children were sheltered at the correction centre, not kept like accused or convicted children. Police raided a flat in the capital's Rampura and claimed to have rescued 10 children, aged between nine and 14, on Saturday. Four staffers of a non-government organisation (NGO), which had kept the children, were arrested on the charge that they were involved in human trafficking. Nine children were sent to the centre the next day while the other, Mobarak, was handed over to his family. A couple of children said they fled home following torture by their step mothers. Some said they were beaten by their parents, while some others came to Dhaka just to visit the city and did not return home.

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'Democratic' parties blasé about democracy day

The main political parties of the country, who claim to be democratic, did not observe any programmes on International Day of Democracy yesterday. None of the three parties -- the ruling Awami League, main opposition Jatiya Party, and BNP -- did hold any programme or issue any statement while many of their leaders were unaware of the day. In 2007, the United Nations adopted September 15 as International Day of Democracy to promote democracy. In 1997, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) adopted a Universal Declaration on Democracy, affirming the principles of

democracy and elements and exercise of democratic government. In 2014, AL leader Saber Hossain Chowdhury was elected president of IPU but his party did not formally celebrate the day. An AL presidium member said the party never observed the day. BNP leader Asaduzzaman Ripon said they could hold any programme because the government barred them from holding any. Sources in BNP, however, said they were not aware of the day. When asked, Jatiya Party presidium member Sunil Shuvo Roy said they did not schedule any programmes marking International Democracy day. "We have no further programmes until Eid-ul-Azha," he added.

Missions of UK, US, DI interact with young leaders

The British High Commission, US Embassy, and Democracy International yesterday held workshops in Dhaka with a diverse group of young leaders from across the political spectrum on the importance of democracy, and a rules based international system to celebrate International Day of Democracy. Over 30 participants from Democracy International's Young Leaders Fellowship programme attended the workshop, said a press release of the British High Commission in Dhaka. Speaking at the event, British High Commissioner Robert Gibson said, "As today's event demonstrates, with our partners from the US and Democracy

WIDENING JOYDEVPUR-CHANDRA-TANGAIL RD 3 contracts worth Tk 2,008cr signed

The government yesterday signed three separate contracts with three joint venture companies to upgrade the 60-kilometre Joydevpur-Chandra-Tangail road into a four-lane one and add a separate lane for slow-moving vehicles at a cost of Tk 2,008 crore. A contract will be signed soon with another company for the expansion of the remaining 10 kilometres (km) from Tangail to Elenga, said Roads and Highways Department (RHD) officials. RHD Chief Engineer Feroz Iqbal and representatives of the joint ventures signed the contracts at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in presence of Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and Bridges Division Secretary MAN Siddique. Kyeryong (Korean)-Spectra's (Bangladesh) Tk 704.31 crore contract is for the 18km from Vogra to Kaliakoir bypass, Abdul Monem Ltd (Bangladesh)-HCM's (Malaysian) Tk 645.17 crore contract is for the 19km from Kaliakoir bypass to Dullamari while SAMWHAN (Korean)-Mir Akhter's (Bangladesh) Tk 658.25 crore contract was for the 22km from Dullamari to Tangail. In addition, Kyeryong-Spectra will get Tk 11 crore, Abdul Monem-HCM Tk 10 crore and SAMWHAN-Mir Akhter Tk 19 crore for maintenance for four years, says the documents. Earlier, the government took up plans to spend Tk 3,066.80 crore to upgrade the road, construct RHD headquarters and purchase some equipment. The government is providing around Tk 1,200 crore while taking the rest from Asian Development Bank, OPEC Fund for International Development and Abu Dhabi Fund as loans.

Chandra bypass inauguration tomorrow

It will ease traffic jam in the area during Eid rush, claims Obaidul Quader. A bypass at Gazipur's Chandra intersection on the Dhaka-Tangail highway will be inaugurated tomorrow to reduce traffic congestion centring the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha, said Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday. A traffic divider has already been set up at Jamuna bridge's west end to curb traffic accidents, he said while announcing plans over the festival at a press conference at the ministry's conference room. Four vigilance teams will be working to prevent overcharging and harassment of passengers at Gabtoli, Mohakhali, Sayadabad and Phulbaria bus terminals. CNG-filling stations will remain open round the

Lack of political will main obstacle to accepting CEDAW

Journalists tell Mahila Parishad roundtable

Lack of political will is the main reason for not withdrawing the reservations about the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), journalists opined at a discussion of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) yesterday. At the discussion at BMP's office in the capital, its President Ayesha Khanam introduced and elaborated on CEDAW, a bill of rights for women adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979, which came into force on September 3, 1981. Explaining Article 2 of CEDAW,

which requires states to condemn all forms of discrimination against women, and enact and implement policies for eliminating such discriminations, Khanam said there is no reason why Bangladesh should not withdraw its reservation on the article. "At the periodic review report in 2011, the government said it was strongly considering withdrawing the reservation," she said, adding, "But in the report this year, they said the society is not yet ready for such change!" "The whole issue is political. Religion is only being used here as an excuse," said Anwar Rosen, a reporter of the daily Janakantha. "Why does religion only come into

play when we talk about distribution of property and wealth but not in the other aspects?" he questioned. "The steps [to withdraw reservations] are not taken due to political reasons, because those who are in power are afraid to face extremists with rational arguments," said Md Enamul Haque, a sub-editor at The Financial Express. Journalists of print media, present in the meeting, pointed out that the message of CEDAW and its importance need to reach the grass root levels of the society. Dil Monowora Monu, media and communication secretary of BMP, among others, was present.

CU student assaulted by classmate

For declining unwanted advances. A female student of sociology at Chittagong University was slapped by a male classmate yesterday for turning down his romantic advances, according to a complaint. The assaulted indigenous woman submitted the written complaint to the proctor and to the head of the sociology department seeking justice and security. She said ABM Shihab Uddin had long been stalking her, made romantic advances, and even threatened her after she turned him down. "On Monday, during a freshers' reception, he slapped me," the complaint read. "I am suffering from insecurity, and I got depressed, too." Shihab admitted that he slapped her but said the two had maintained an affair for one year before she broke up after getting

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