

WEATHER FORECAST

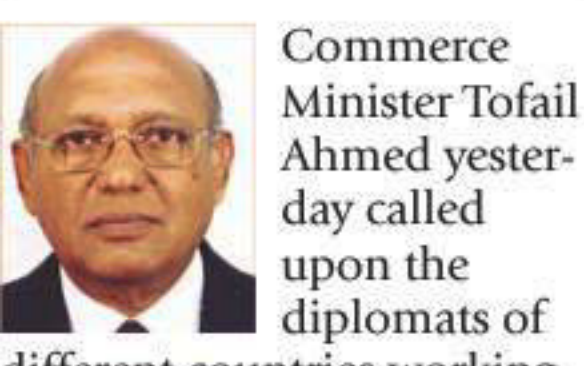
YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 32.0 L 21.0	H 33.1 L 23.8	H 33.2 L 20.4	H 31.4 L 19.8	H 32.5 L 21.0	H 31.5 L 20.8	H 29.6 L 21.3	H 33.3 L 23.7

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:23pm and rises tomorrow at 6:03am. Country's highest temperature 33.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Cox's Bazar and lowest 18.3 in Tangail.

Foreign diplomats shouldn't overreact

Says Tofail Ahmed; slams TIB terming it "BNP's political wing"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday called upon the diplomats of different countries working in Bangladesh "not to overreact" to matters related to the recent killing of two foreign nationals. "I asked the diplomats not to overreact because it encourages perpetrators," he told reporters after a meeting with newly appointed Sri Lankan Ambassador Yasoja Gunasekera at his secretariat office. "Islamic State (IS) does not exist in Bangladesh. The Jamaat-e-Islami and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir are behind



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits a stall during the inaugural ceremony of a two-day international conference, "Developing Sustainable and Inclusive Buddhist Heritage and Pilgrimage Circuits in South Asia's Buddhist Heartland", at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday. There is a souvenir corner outside the auditorium.

PROPOSED GANGES BARRAGE Dhaka wants Delhi's help

Says water resources minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has sought cooperation from India to construct the Ganges Barrage on the Padma river, said Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud yesterday. However, Dhaka is yet to receive any reply from India in this regard, the minister added, while speaking as the chief guest at a workshop on impact of climate exchange. The Ganges flows through both Bangladesh and India. So, the project would not be successful without India's cooperation, Anisul said, emphasising regional cooperation regarding the basin-wise management of international rivers. Speaking about the project's benefits, the minister said it would not only reduce the salinity level in the country's southwest region but also increase fish and agricultural and maintain ecological balance. Earlier, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with outgoing Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pankaj Saran also stressed developing the project under a joint venture of the two countries. The European Union delegation, Brac and Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research (C3ER) of Brac University organised the workshop titled "Growth and Climate Change: Opportunities and Challenges in Bangladesh" at a hotel in the capital with Dr Ainun Nishat in the chair. EU Ambassador Pierre Mayaudon said the Paris conference would be a historic conference to accelerate the shift to a low-carbon, climate-resilient global economy.

Muhith also criticises four foreign envoys

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday criticised four foreign ambassadors for expressing anxiety over the country's law and order. "There is no law and order problem in Bangladesh," said Muhith, adding, "It is the anxiety of ambassadors of a number of countries. Your anxiety is really rubbish." The minister made the comments after a meeting with a delegation of Russia's Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation at the secretariat in the capital.

PM seeks roadmap to boost tourism

She urges 13 Buddhist-populated countries at int'l confce on Buddhist heritage and pilgrimage circuits

UNB, Dhaka

Observing that Bangladesh has all the treasures to emerge as the world's new tourist destination, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the Buddhist-populated countries to work out a roadmap to boost tourism of this region with Buddhist culture. She said this while inaugurating a high-profile two-day international conference "Developing Sustainable and Inclusive Buddhist Heritage and Pilgrimage Circuits in South Asia's Buddhist Heartland" at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry in collaboration with United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) organised the conference. Ministers and high officials from 13 Buddhist populated countries -- China, Japan, Korea,

Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal, India and Sri Lanka and hosts Bangladesh -- are taking part in the event. "I do hope, the respected delegates would be able to draw a roadmap for the development and promotion of tourism industry in the region and they would come forward to help each other to implement the roadmap," she told her audience. Hasina said she firmly believes that they would portray Bangladesh tourism in different international fora as they will pursue a new path of mutual cooperation. "I find the entire country [Bangladesh] as a vast terrain full of tourist attractions. The bounties of six seasons, wide expanse of alluvial plains, waterscapes, hillocks and valleys, villages under the canopy of trees and shrubs of this eternal land can amaze anyone," she added.

Cocktail found at RU int'l hall

RU CORRESPONDENT

A crude bomb was recovered yesterday from an international residential hall of Rajshahi University where at least five foreign students and researchers reside. The Molotov cocktail was found around 9:30am on the roof of three-storey Shaheed Mir Abdul Kayyum International Dormitory. Warden of the dormitory, Prof Fazlul Karim, said three Nepali students and a Japanese and an Indian researchers lived in the hall. Police recovered the bomb on information. Humayun Kabir,

Cops helped perps flee scene

Ex-home minister Shahara testifies in court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

On-duty police and different law enforcement agencies helped the perpetrators flee the scene after a grenade attack was launched on an Awami League rally on August 21, 2004, former home minister Shahara Khatun told a Dhaka court yesterday. The AL leader said soon after the attack, on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital, police fired bullets, teargas shells, and charged batons on AL leaders and activists in the rally whereas they were supposed to pick up the attackers. A victim of the attack, she testified as a witness. The assault was aimed at assassinating AL chief and then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina. Although Hasina narrowly escaped death, 24 leaders and workers of her party were killed, including top leader Ivy Rahman, and 300 others injured. Shahara said, "I also came to know from different newspapers and AL leaders that the conspiracy and the plan to carry out the grenade attack on the rally was worked out at the 'Hawa Bhaban' in presence of BNP leader Tarique Rahman." Hawa Bhaban was the office of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, the then prime minister. Shahara said, "On the very day of the grenade attack, leaders of the



Marma artists perform a traditional dance during their religious festival of Maha Waygyawai Powe, the equivalent to Probarana Purnima, on Puratan Rajar Math in Bandarban town last evening. The indigenous communities, mostly holding Buddhist faith, across the Chittagong Hill Tracts will celebrate the occasion with three days of festivities.

Govt to set up 254 e-agri information centres

UNB, Dhaka

Aiming to expand e-Krishi (e-agriculture) in rural areas, the government has taken an initiative to set up 254 ICT-driven Agriculture Information and Communication Centers (AICCs) in 254 upazilas for disseminating agricultural information among farmers, officials said. National ICT Infra-Network for Government Phase II Project (InfoSarker) under ICT Division has chosen 254 farmers' clubs based on communications facilities,

availability of electricity and clubs' own houses from 14,000 farmers' associations to turn those as ICT-based AICCs. AICCs are expected to go into operation in December next. As part of initiative, InfoSarker Project is going to organise a workshop at the auditorium of Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) on Wednesday to build the capacity of farmers to use Information and Communication Technology (ICT). "ICTs can play very important role in

JS body for more power lines

BSS, Dhaka

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources suggested increasing electricity lines across the country by taking new projects at its 161th meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. The committee suggested installing power lines through government lands along the highways.

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