

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 29.8 L 18.5	H 29.4 L 18.9	H 30.0 L 17.5	H 29.5 L 16.2	H 29.5 L 18.4	H 29.5 L 17.2	H 27.8 L 16.8	H 29.7 L 18.6

Night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:10pm and rises tomorrow at 6:25am. Country's highest temperature 30.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 13.2 in Sreemangal.

Prevent schools from charging SSC candidates extra exam fees
 HC urges govt, also asks for compliance report by Jan 6
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the government to take action against the managing committees of schools charging extra fees from Secondary School Certificate candidates. During hearing a suo moto rule, it also asked the government to submit a report after complying with the order before it by January 6, Deputy Attorney General Tapas Kumar Biswas told The Daily Star. An HC bench fixed January 6 for passing further order on this issue, he said.

Following a newspaper report, the same bench on November 11 last year issued the suo moto rule upon the authorities concerned of the government to explain why charging SSC candidates extra examination fees should not be declared illegal.

During a hearing on the rule, the court on January 6 this year ordered the government to make the schools in Dhaka refund extra fees charged from SSC candidates by January 20. It also said the existing management committees of those schools would otherwise be cancelled and the members be barred from holding any position in such committees for three years.

Yesterday, Supreme Court lawyer Mozammel Hossain placed another report published in The Daily Sun on November 17 this year headlined "SSC students forced to pay extra exam fees" before the HC bench.

The report said the
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More than half of this wide road in Tejgaon used to be occupied by trucks until yesterday. The day before Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Annisul Huq led an eviction drive, triggering a clash between police and truck owners and workers. People in the area expect that the road will remain free like this, while the mayor will stay determined on the issue.
 PHOTO: STAR

4-nation road connectivity faces setback

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The introduction of seamless movements of passenger and cargo vehicles under a four-nation road connectivity deal may get delayed due to the ongoing "border" crisis between Nepal and India.

A motor rally, which was organised to assess road connectivity in the countries before finalising the agreement in January next year, has already excluded Nepal. The setback may delay signing of the final deal.

Representatives of the countries expressed their apprehension over opening of roads under the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement, which was signed in June.

At least 30 transport corridors have been identified, which will be transformed into economic corridors.

Although the motor rally was supposed to tour around all four countries, Nepal was excluded on the ground of "border insecurity", said an Indian official addressing a seminar on "Enhancing Regional Connectivity: Status of Infrastructure in Bangladesh," held in Dhaka yesterday.

Dashrath Risal, team leader and president of the Nepal Automobile Sports Association, however, called it unfortunate.

"Mutual understanding and communication gaps
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INVESTING IN FEMALE WORKERS' HEALTHCARE RMG factory owners unaware of business benefits

The Daily Star-SNV Netherlands Development Organisation roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Owners of readymade garment factories have not yet fully realised the economic benefits of investing in health needs of their female workers, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

Citing a study conducted by market research firm Kaizen CRS, the discussants pointed out that 20 percent of female RMG workers remain absent from work due to illnesses related to menstrual hygiene.

While the RMG sector incurs loss of about USD 22.5 million per annum
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due to this absenteeism, the workers suffer a vicious cycle of illness leading to absenteeism, which in turn leads to lower wages. The situation ultimately leads to restricting workers' access to sexual and reproductive health services due to low wages.

The roundtable on "Ensuring Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for Garment Workers through Health Insurance" was organised by The Daily Star and SNV Netherlands Development Organisation at the daily's office in the capital.

Farhtheeba Rahat Khan, team
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leader of Working with Women Project at SNV, said health insurance paid jointly by factory owners can largely mitigate Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) issues faced by women workers.

She added that around 85 percent of the country's 4.2 million RMG workers are women, most of who fall in the 18-35 age group.

She said SNV, with funding support from the Dutch embassy, is implementing health insurance inclusive business models in eight garment
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Ambiguity dogs proposed Child Marriage Restraint Act

Shaptahik-MJF-UKAID-Matra rountable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite much debate and strong protests from different rights and civil society organisations, the ambiguity about the legal minimum marriageable age for females continues to prevail.

The law ministry recently vetted and returned to the women and children affairs ministry, the draft of the proposed Child Marriage Restraint Act-2014 which has a special provision stipulating that under special circumstances, marriage of 16-year-old girls to men above 21 years, with permission of parents or courts, would not be considered as "child marriage".

However, the same law defined minimum legal marriageable age of girls as 18 years.
 "Actually we are still discussing with the
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law ministry and talking with lawyers about what can be done about this provision," said State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroze Chumki, in reply to a reporter's question at a roundtable on "Violence against women and children in the context of Bangladesh" held at Channel-i office in the capital yesterday.

However, Chumki mentioned that the provision can help tackle elopement and unwanted pregnancies.

The programme was organised jointly by Shaptahik magazine, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), UKAID, and Matra.

The draft of the proposed act was approved at a cabinet meeting on September 15, 2014 and the law ministry
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Two of Feni get Yes Cards

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Two contestants got Yes cards in the Feni round of Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef 2016 competition yesterday.

The contenders are: Rokshan Shirin and Khalid Rabbani. The competition took place at a community centre in town.

Ten participants competed in the cooking part of the competition where they were given Tk 500 to buy ingredients for their dishes.

Jebunnisa Khan and Umme Kulsum, winner and runner-up of last year's competition, judged this round.

Selim Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, general manager (production and event) of The Daily Star, was present at the competition.



Two persons -- Khalid Rabbani and Rokshan Shirin -- get Yes cards in the Feni round of Rupchanda-The Daily Star Super Chef 2016 competition held yesterday.
 PHOTO: STAR

MUNICIPALITY POLLS WP urges EC not to allow Jamaat men to run

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Workers Party of Bangladesh yesterday urged the Election Commission not to allow any Jamaat-e-Islami man to contest in the upcoming municipality election.

Although Jamaat may be barred from participating in the polls as a party, many of its leaders and activists may contest in the polls under the banner of the BNP-led alliance, WPB leaders claimed.

"So we demand that no person of Jamaat is allowed to contest because it not a registered political party now. If someone wants to participate, he or she must quit the party first," Fazle Hossain Badsha, general secretary of the party, told reporters.

He was talking to reporters after a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner Rakibuddin Ahmad at the EC's office in the capital.
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Inter-ministerial disputes to be solved through arbitration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved a proposal to constitute committees to prevent government agencies from filing civil lawsuits against each other.

The inter-ministerial legal assistance committees and the cabinet committee will settle disputes through negotiations, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiqul Alam told reporters.

The legal assistance committee will be known as the secretary-level committee, and it will receive complaints from ministries. On the other hand, the cabinet committee will be known as the ministerial committee or appeal committee and will resolve dispute through negotiation if the secretary-level committee fails to do so, he said.

The secretary-level committee will comprise five members headed by the secretary (reforms and coordination) of the Cabinet Division. Secretaries or representatives of the ministries involved in the dispute, the law secretary, and a representative of the Prime Minister's Office will be members of the committee, Alam said.

It will primarily provide legal assistance to settle disputes among the ministries concerned, he added.

A senior minister will head the eight-member ministerial committee in which ministers or state ministers of the ministries concerned and the cabinet secretary, and the principal secretary, among others, will be its members, said the cabinet secretary. "The initiative has been taken at the directive of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to avoid confrontation among ministries," he said, adding that a circular would be issued soon to this effect.

The cabinet also approved the draft of "Bangladesh Bridges Authority Act-2015" empowering the Bridges
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We Mourn

Md. Abubakar Siddique
 03.03.1958 - 30.11.2015

We are deeply shocked at the sudden demise of **Md. Abubakar Siddique, Hon'ble Chairman MJL Bangladesh Limited and Hon'ble Secretary, Energy & Mineral Resources Division Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.**

We convey our heartfelt condolences to his family. May the Almighty rest his soul in peace.

In reverence & remembrance
 Management and all Officials of
MJL Bangladesh Limited Family

Omera | **Omera** | **Omera** | **Omera**
 Lubricants | FUELS | LPG | CYLINDERS

Congratulations

to

National Heart Foundation Hospital & Research Institute on Successful Completion of One Lac Cath Lab Procedures