

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 26.4 L 18.3	H 28.3 L 19.5	H 28.6 L 16.8	H 27.8 L 16.1	H 28.3 L 19.4	H 28.2 L 19.7	H 27.0 L 15.5	H 28.5 L 19.2

Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:30am. Country's highest temperature 29.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 13.2 in Sreemangal.

RMG workers go berserk in capital over road death of colleague

Traffic collapses in Motijheel, Arambagh, Kamalapur for more than 5 hours, driver was racing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several thousand garment workers resorted to vandalism and blocked roads around the capital's Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday over rumours that several fellows had been killed in a road accident on Monday night and their bodies concealed.

One Aklima Akter of Olio Apparels Ltd in Uttar Kamalapur was killed and at least three others were injured, which The Daily Star learned from co-workers and police.

A bus of Balaka Paribahan hit them while they were crossing a road near the station around 8:30pm on their way home from work.

Rehana Begum, Hazera Begum and Jashim are

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A blockade by garment workers on one of the roads around the capital's Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday morning over rumours that several fellows had been killed in a road accident on Monday night and their bodies concealed. Inset left, a bus being vandalised during the agitation. Inset right, passengers of long distance buses stuck on the road due to the demonstration.



Rokeya Day today

Bibi Russell, late Taibun Nahar Rashid selected for Begum Rokeya Padak 2015

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 135th birth anniversary and 83rd death anniversary of Begum Rokeya Sakhawat. The birth and death anniversaries of the noted feminist, philosopher, writer and social reformer of Bangladesh are being officially observed as Rokeya Day since 1994.

Different socio-cultural organisations, and political parties and leaders, including opposition leader in parliament Rowshan Ershad and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, issued statements marking the day.

Meanwhile, fashion designer Bibi Russell and

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Star-Dhaka Foodies Award for eateries launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star and online restaurant review portal www.thedhakafoodies.com launched an award for eateries in Bangladesh yesterday.

Based on user ratings, top-rated restaurants, three from each of 15 categories, will be presented "Foodiez Choice Awards 2015" comprising crests and certificates.

Addressing the launching ceremony in the capital's The Daily Star Centre, the portal's founder Ashiqur Rahman requested food lovers to vote and rate their favourite restaurants while writing reviews at the portal till January 15 next year.

The website, boasting 35,000 registered users, will also award the 15 most avid foodies with Microsoft smartphones, he added.

The award categories include best Bangladeshi, Thai, Chinese, Italian and Indian cuisines. There are also categories for the most influential restaurant owner, best chef of 2015,

and most popular restaurant manager.

Ashiqur added that each of the top 500 users of the website will get 12 doughnuts from one of the world's leading doughnut and coffee company, Krispy Kreme.

Citing www.thedhakafoodies.com estimations, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said sales in Dhaka restaurants amount to around Tk 300 crore every month while about five new restaurants were opened every week.

Termining competition the soul of any growing industry, he said the entire industry would improve because of the competition triggered by the award.

"Good restaurants can also attract tourists. Bangkok restaurants are a prime example of that. If not on an international level, Dhaka restaurants can at least get tourists from across the country if they have reputation," he said.

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President hopes all Indo-Bangla unsettled issues will be resolved

Outgoing envoy Pankaj Saran makes farewell call on him

UNB, Dhaka

Noting that the implementation of land boundary agreement has consolidated the relations between Bangladesh and India, President Abdul Hamid yesterday hoped that all the unsettled issues between the two countries will be resolved soon.

Hamid voiced the hope when Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pankaj Saran made his farewell call on him at Bangabhaban.

President's press secretary Joynal Abedin briefed reporters after the meeting.

Both the president and the envoy observed that road connectivity between the two countries has increased the bilateral trade and hoped it will expand further.

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Bangladesh for recasting Saarc role

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday stressed on efficiently recasting the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's (Saarc) role in context to changing realities to make it more effective and result-oriented so that it could significantly contribute to the region's development.

"Today Bangladesh reiterates its firm commitment and political will to take the Saarc agenda forward," said State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam, urging members state to rise above differences and reaffirm adequate political will to make it a "people-centric" organisation.

He was addressing a seminar, "Saarc at 30: Achievements, Potentials and Challenges", organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) with its chairman, Munshi Faiz Ahmed, in the chair.

Shahriar also called for translating Saarc's 30 years' of acquired knowledge, expertise and institutional mechanism into something meaningful and beneficial.

He said the Asia-Pacific region would be global economy and trade's centre of gravity and its lucrative production and supply chains were increasingly gaining importance.

"In South Asia, we cannot afford to

be left outside the integrated Asian production and supply chain," he said, adding that in the global context of unprecedented changes, particularly within business and trade dynamics, all need to work relentlessly to enhance regional connectivity.

Shahriar also stressed the importance of collectively overcoming emerging challenges, ensuring sustainable supply of food, fuel and finance and social safety net programmes for the marginalised and increasing trade, investment and employment to fuel economic growth.

Despite the global economic slowdown in the last couple of years, he said

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Officials of The Daily Star and The Dhaka Foodies at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday following the launching of "Foodiez Choice Awards 2015" which will be presented to top rated restaurants in Bangladesh.

PHOTO: STAR

Shawkat Mahmud gets bail in four arson cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the High Court orders that granted bail to BNP chairperson's adviser Shawkat Mahmud in four arson cases.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SSC Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed "no orders" on four petitions filed by the government seeking stay on the HC orders.

The HC had granted interim bail to Shawkat Mahmud, former president of the Jatiya Press Club, on November 9 and 10 in the cases filed earlier this year during the BNP-led 20-party alliance's anti-government agitation.

Yesterday, the HC granted permanent bail to

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It will be mistake to forget other nations in Bangladesh

Says Prof Serajul Islam Chy in Khan Sarwar Murshid memorial speech

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Failure to solve the nationality issues in Pakistan and India would cause those countries to disintegrate, said Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury yesterday at the capital's Bangla Academy.

Analysing the weakness in the idea of the nation state of Pakistan and how it led to the Liberation War of 1971, the eminent educationalist also warned that Bangladesh like Pakistan also belonged to people of different national backgrounds.

"There are other nationalities, no matter how small in number. It would be a mistake to forget that we are not a one-nation state, we are a democratic state. In this era the idea of one nation one state is no longer possible," Prof Choudhury said in his memorial speech marking the third death anniversary of educationalist and Liberation War organiser Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid.

Choudhury's speech focused on how the notion of forming a nation state based on religion was doomed to fail from the very beginning of its creation. He referred to memoirs and autobiographies by Pakistani generals to present

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Citizens can learn from history for better future

Says Sultana Kamal at memorial lecture on MAG Osmani

DU CORRESPONDENT

A concerned citizen can learn from history and play an effective role in building an independent and sovereign country, said Executive Director of Ain o Salish Kendra Sultana Kamal yesterday.

Sultana Kamal was speaking at a programme, Present Reflection of History and Heritage: Citizen's Conscience at MAG Osmani Memorial Lecture 2015, held at Dhaka University. General Osmani Scholarship Fund and DU's history department organised the memorial lecture. Sultana Kamal said those

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