

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 25.4 L 14.2

CHITTAGONG
H 24.8 L 14.4

SYLHET
H 24.4 L 13.0

RAJSHAHI
H 25.8 L 10.5

KHULNA
H 25.5 L 12.5

BARISAL
H 24.8 L 12.0

RANGPUR
H 24.0 L 11.0

COX'S BAZAR
H 25.2 L 14.0

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere. Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:32pm and rises tomorrow at 06:43am.

The Daily Star turns 26

Good wishes pour in for future success
STAR REPORT

The Daily Star has begun celebrating its 25th founding anniversary with much enthusiasm and the commitment to continue upholding the standard of journalism.

In the run-up to the main celebrations, the country's leading English newspaper yesterday organised Daily Star Staff Day at The Daily Star Centre in the capital, where every employee was welcomed with a goody bag.

The main celebratory events will take place in the capital on February 5.

Different organisations congratulated the newspaper by handing bouquets over to the Editor and Publisher, Mahfuz Anam, at yesterday's programme.

Meanwhile, processions were brought out in different parts of the country to mark the silver anniversary.

In Dhaka, a two-hour show was hosted by Elita Karim, editor of The Star Weekend, and Selim SH Chowdhury, general manager of productions and events, where the employees performed.

The editor shared anecdotes of his 25-year journey with the newspaper, while Rokia Afzal Rahman, the chairperson of Mediaworld Ltd, the owner company of The Daily Star, praised its journalists for their dedication and hard work.

An award ceremony was also held, where the best journalists and officials of the newspaper received

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Above, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Chairperson of Mediaworld Ltd Rokia Afzal Rahman, and Directors of Mediaworld Shahnaz Rahman and Shamsur Rahman cut a cake at The Daily Star Centre yesterday, marking the 25th anniversary of the newspaper's founding. Below, the daily awards its employees on the occasion for their outstanding performance in respective areas. PHOTO: STAR

GRAFT CASE
Khaleda again skips trial proceedings

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday again skipped trial proceedings in Zia Charitable Trust corruption case due to her physical illness.

Meantime, advocate Abdur Rezak Khan started cross-examining Harunur Rashid, deputy director of the Anti-Corruption Commission and also the investigation officer of the case.

The lawyer asked the witness questions on different matters about the case for over three hours.

Judge Abu Ahmed Jomadar of the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka recorded statement of the witness and, later, fixed January 21 for the hearing. On that day, Khaleda's lawyer will cross-examine the witness.

Earlier on January 7, the IO gave his deposition before the same court. On that day, Khaleda was absent due to her personal affairs.

The other accused are Harris Chowdhury; Ziaul Islam Munna, former assistant private secretary of Harris Chowdhury; and Monirul Islam Khan, who was APS of former Dhaka city mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

Of them, Khaleda, Munna and Monirul are on bail while Harris is on the run. She could not appear before the court due to illness, said Sanaullah Mia, one of her counsels.

The ACC on August 8, 2011 filed the case, accusing the four of abusing power to raise fund in the name of Zia Charitable Trust. Harun pressed charge against Khaleda and three others on January 16, 2012.

NEWS IN brief

58 DU students get Dean's Award

DU CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-eight students of Biological Sciences Faculty of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday received Dean's Award for outstanding results in honours examination of 2013-14 academic sessions.

Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique handed over the crests and certificates at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of the university.

3 food shops, pharmacy fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong mobile court yesterday fined four shops a total of Tk 2.10 lakh for preparing food in unhygienic condition, with substandard ingredients and selling expired items.

The court fined Dayamoyee Mistayna Bhandar in Nandankanan area Tk 1 lakh, Sadhu Mistayna Bhandar in Kotwali Moor Tk 50,000 and Hotel Nizam in New Market area Tk 50,000.

In Sirazuddoula area, the court fined Panjab Pharmacy Tk 10,000 for selling expired medicines.

NSU club wins Save the Nature award

CITY DESK

North South University (NSU) Earth Club has won the "Save the Nature" award for their contribution to raising environmental awareness in the institutional category, said a press release.

The award giving ceremony, organised by Prokriti O Jibon Foundation, was held on January 9 on the Channel-i premises.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Annisul Huq and Muqit Majumder Babu, chairman of the foundation and also director of Channel-i, were present among others.

IUB spring orientation held

CITY DESK

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organised an orientation programme for the Spring-2016 yesterday for newly admitted students on the Bashundhara campus in the capital.

Prof M Omar Rahman, vice chancellor of IUB, delivered the welcome speech.

Stop setting up SEZ

FROM PAGE 4

Advocate Shahidul Islam Sahin, former president of the Sylhet District Bar association, said "We expect that the civil administration will work to ensure people's rights. The government should take care of those people whose lives are in danger."

Earlier, the government took a decision to establish a special economic zone on 511 acres of lands in tea estates in Chandpur of Habiganj.

Workers from four tea gardens in Chunarughat have been continuing their protests for about one month demanding cancellation of the plan.

CU students face acute transport crisis, risk

MD ABBAS

Several thousand students of Chittagong University, who travel by the shuttle train between the university and Chittagong city every day, are facing an acute transport crisis, thanks to indifference of authorities.

The usual hour-long journey by shuttle trains that often carry passengers double or triple their capacity has turned into a nightmare, said students.

The situation has worsened with the number of the cars of the trains reducing.

CU is located in Hathazari

CU TRANSPORT

- Total students **24,000**
- 16,000** live off campus
- Each of three shuttle trains carries **1,080**
- but **2,500** travel in rush hour
- 20** buses for teachers, staff

run eight times every day between the university and the city.

Each train, with six to seven compartments, sometimes fewer, seats 1,080 students but most of the time,

fourth-year student of accounting and information system.

Sometimes getting a space inside the train does not mean it is the end of sufferings, especially for female students.

"I often feel sick due to the jostling, heat and body odour during summer. Sometimes it becomes difficult to breathe freely as every corner of the train is full," said Moumita Nandy, a second-year political science student.

Many other female students echoed her.

To avoid the hassle in the shuttle train, many students take buses to the city. But the only bus service



A packed shuttle train of Chittagong University recently. With the number of students exceeding the capacity of the three shuttle trains that run between Chittagong city and the university every day, this has been a regular sight, and it shows the risk the travellers take due to a transport crisis. The shuttle trains are the only transport CU provides for its students. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

upazila, 22km off the city. As a result, most of the 16,000 students, out of the total 24,000, who live outside the campus, have to solely depend on the shuttle trains. In addition, the resident students also need to take the train to the city.

However, there are 20 buses for carrying teachers and staff.

The shuttle train service was launched in 1980 in cooperation with Bangladesh Railway, and each student has to pay Tk 820 during admission and Tk 579 annually from the second year to the end of the master's programme as the transport fee.

At present, CU has three shuttle trains, including a Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (Demu) train. They

more than 2,500 travel in one train during the rush hour.

As a result, many students travel standing in the cars, sitting on the spaces around the locomotive or the stairs, and some sitting on the rooftop, risking their lives.

Sabikunnahar, a student of Bangla, was killed while getting on a moving train at the university station in 2006. After two years, another student Mahmudul Hasan Mamun lost his life after he jumped off the roof of a shuttle train at Sholoshohor station in the city.

"Most of the time we miss the train because it is packed. During the rush hours, even the roof is full of passengers," said Mehedi Hasan, a

"Tori" that runs on the route takes much time and money, said students.

Prof Abul Manjur, president of CU Teachers' Association, said the trains were inadequate compared with the number of students. He emphasised the expansion and modernisation of the train service to mitigate their sufferings.

Vice Chancellor Iftakhar Uddin Chowdhury said, "We are well aware of the problem. It cannot be solved immediately because it needs a long-term planning."

He sought the government's cooperation to arrange funds to introduce an alternative transport service, apart from the trains, for students.

Cotton mill fined for assaulting workers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A mobile court yesterday fined the authorities of a cotton mill Tk 15,000 on the charge of assaulting its workers, hurling explosives and misbehaving with them in Gazipur.

Workers of Aman Cotton Mills Ltd of Aman Group in Shreepur said they had been applying for resignation for 15 days over "low salaries".

The authorities, however, forced them to work instead of accepting their resignation, leading the workers to abstain from work yesterday. At one stage, some people loyal to the mill Director Shafiullah attacked the protesters with sticks, injuring at least 10 workers. Of them, Chandni, 18, and Kantna, 18, took treatment at a local hospital.

The workers made a complaint to the upazila nirbahi office and the mobile court which summoned Shafiullah and fined him under the labour act, said Executive Magistrate of the court Masum Reza.

Shah Kamal, senior administrative manager of Amantex Ltd of Aman Group, said the workers were injured while walking down the stairs. He declined to comment on other issues.

Earn more public

FROM PAGE 3

Listing various successes and achievements of her government in various fields over the last seven years, Hasina urged all to work together so that Bangladesh could move further by keeping its head high.

The prime minister also hoped that Bangladesh will become a middle-income country by 2021 and a developed one by 2041.

She said her government is pledge-bound to build Bangladesh Army as a modern and all-round force in light of the Forces Goal-2030.

SC allows ACC

FROM PAGE 3

special judge's court convicted Morshed and sentenced him to 13 years' imprisonment for amassing wealth worth Tk 1.7 crore illegally and concealing information about wealth worth Tk 91.34 lakh in his wealth statement submitted to ACC.

The ACC filed the case against the BNP leader and his wife with Gulshan Police Station on December 10, 2007.

PRAN Premium Butter

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