

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 26.4 L 20.0	H 28.0 L 23.7	H 27.6 L 20.6	H 30.5 L 16.0	H 25.0 L 19.7	H 28.0 L 20.2	H 29.3 L 15.0	H 30.0 L 23.5

Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:59pm and rises tomorrow at 6:24am. Country's highest temperature 31.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Madaripur and lowest 13.0 in Rajshahi and Dinajpur.

IGP asks officials to ensure UP polls environment
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday directed officers on the ground to facilitate the upcoming union parishad polls by gathering intelligence, analysing and minimising risks, and preventing candidate and supporter intimidation and takeovers of polling stations. Addressing top officers at a trimester crime conference in the capital's Police Headquarters, he also sought measures to prevent a recurrence of the February 21 killing of a Hindu temple's priest in Panchagar's Debiganj upazila. The Election Commission is scheduled to meet law enforcement and intelligence agencies on March 3 over the election, to be in six phases. Monirul Islam, additional commissioner, Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crimes, presented an article, "Recent Trend of Terrorism and Role of Bangladesh Police".



The first storm of the season hit the Amar Ekushey Granthamela 2016 hard yesterday forcing the authorities to shut down the fair temporarily as a precaution since heavy rain caused waterlogging in the fair compounds and a huge loss to publishers as a large number of books were damaged. The photo was taken at the fair's Suhrawardy Uddyan portion.

Unexpected storm wreaks havoc on book fair
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Surrounded by water, some stalls at the Suhrawardy Uddyan seemed like an alienated island. Ceilings became damp and water kept trickling down from top and light holders. Fire service staffs were trying to pump out the logged water while workers of the stalls remained busy sorting out the wet books. Yesterday's storm battered the stalls of the Amar Ekushey Granthamela 2016 so badly that the authority could open the fair only for one hour. The season's first storm also toppled some parts of the tin-shade fencing of the Suhrawardy Uddyan. Usually the fair begins at 3:00pm; yesterday it opened at 5:30. Jalal Ahmed, member secretary of the book fair committee, said they had to clear water logging and reinstall border fence for security purposes. "It's my bad luck," said a frustrated Shorna, who came from Badda with her friends. They waited for an hour then left. Many book lovers waited until 5:30pm. The queue stretched from TSC to Dhaka Gate. But purchasing of books were poor as only a few people brought books. Publishers were rather busy to revamp their stalls and separate soaked books. Staffs of Pearl Publications were extremely busy sorting out wet books. Talking to the Daily Star, Hasan Zaidi, proprietor of the publication, said they have incurred a loss of at least Tk 1 lakh. "There was a tarpaulin on the roof but it could not hold the water pressure," he said.



Hobby makes Musa entrepreneur

Employs youths but stumbles due to family problems; seeks loan on easy terms

RASHAD AHAMAD, Savar

While the term hobby means an activity one does for enjoyment, especially during leisure, many would love to generate a little income from their hobbies. It may take an extra effort to move something from a hobby to a business or profession, but with a measure of entrepreneurial spirit one can turn fun into profit. Abu Md Musa Karim, a 45-year-old man from Munshiganj, is an example. Musa turned his hobby, tapestry making, into an income-generating machine, not only supplementing his earnings, also creating employment for many others.

forced to leave study at an early age. Nevertheless, he did not let his love for arts and designs diminish. Musa, coming in contact with one Hasan of the locality, who studied fine arts at Dhaka University, was fortunate to have found a rare tapestry catalogue of noted painter and sculptor Prof Rashid Chowdhury.



Highlighting the contribution of Chowdhury to this field, he said, "Formerly, tapestry was a mere art, but Rashid Chowdhury linked it to our everyday accessories." Musa, the only bread earner of a six-member family, had worked at

different tapestry factories for over 11 years before starting his own enterprise, and acquired the know-how of artistic works of this sort that are typically not taught at schools in a conventional setting. In 2003, he, accompanied by his younger sister, set up a small atelier at his home with six handlooms,

and started manufacturing tapestry items, including floor mats, wall mats, bags and gift pieces, under the name "Aparupa Handicraft." Within a short time, he added five more handlooms to the existing ones, and changed the atelier's name to "Tero Rong." And

in early 2010, the unit had more than 50 handlooms, employing over 50 youths. However, in late 2010, misfortune befell Musa, and since then, harsh realities of life have been gnawing away at his venture with his parents falling sick, wife expecting a child and sister getting married.

"The year 2010 was a dark period for me when three of my family members fell sick, and my father passed away after a long time of treatment," he said. "For an emergency need, I had to sell equipment of Tk 1 lakh only at Tk 18,000," he added. Now some 20 artists are working at his atelier, and he cannot expand the trade due to a lack of investment, albeit the market demand for his goods is no less than other products. He applied for bank loans, but to no avail, as he has nothing as such to put up as collateral.

"The production of tapestry takes a huge time, and its price is also good. One square feet is priced between Tk 150 and Tk 180, depending upon the designs," the artist said, adding that he could run the factory in full swing if he got a loan on easy terms.

He said his childhood passion for exclusiveness and artistic works inspired him to be a tapestry artist and establish a tapestry manufacturing plant at Genda in Savar, on the outskirts of the capital, where he has been living in a rented house for years. "From my early childhood, I like keeping my dresses and daily accessories unique by putting different artistic designs on them," the artist said. Stricken by poverty, he was



Tapestry artist Abu Md Musa Karim, 45, of Munshiganj, works in his atelier "Tero Rong" in Genda of Savar, which he established from a hobby to a business. His efforts created a scope of employment for many.



PHOTO: RASHAD AHAMAD

PADMA MULTIPURPOSE BRIDGE PROJECT
Bridge authority inks deal with four consultants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bridge Authority yesterday inked a Tk 169 crore deal with four international and local consultancy firms for Management Support Consultancy (MSC) service for the Padma Multipurpose Bridge project. Md Shafiqul Islam, project director of the Padma bridge project and Vardaman Jones, director of High Point Rendel, UK, on behalf of the four companies signed the deal in the capital's Setu Bhaban in presence of Obaidul Quader, road transport and bridges minister. The deal has been signed for a four year period. During this time, the firms will supervise construction works of the main bridge, river training, both the Janjira and Mawa approach roads, service area-2, rehabilitation centres and the environmental impact. A total of 30 companies showed interest for the MSC. Technical Evaluation

Committee headed by Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury short listed five; among them two became technically responsive. BBA also signed a Tk 16.22 crore deal with a four-joint venture consultancy firms for conducting feasibility study to construct a 35km Dhaka-Ashulia and a 80km East-West elevated expressway, signed by Kabir Ahmed, BBA's chief engineer and Mohiuddin Mahmud, regional manager for South Asia-2 of SMEC International Pty Ltd, Australia. Dhaka-Ashulia elevated expressway will start from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to EPZ via Nabinagar while East-West will start from Hemayetput on Dhaka-Aricha highway to Madanpur on Dhaka-Chittagong highway via Keraniganj and Fatullah.

Japan renews subsidy promise for environ friendly industries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japan will continue to subsidise new industrial projects built with energy efficient and environment friendly technologies provided by the country, representatives of Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES), Japan, said yesterday. IGES and Department of environment (DoE) jointly organised the daylong event titled "Capacity Building Workshop on Joint Crediting Mechanism" held in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. "The factories will be subsidised up to 50 percent of the total cost for emitting less carbon," said Kazuhisa Koakutsu, a representative of IGES, a research organisation, which promotes Japan's strategies in environment issues. The subsidisation will take place under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed by the two governments back in February 2013. The current subsidised projects, which are under process, are installation of energy efficient air jet looms at textile industries of Mahim Group, energy efficient solar-diesel hybrid system at YKK Bangladesh, 50 Megawatt solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant at IFDC Solar Power Bangladesh

ICT wants probe report on Satkhira war crime suspect May 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday directed the prosecution to submit its probe report, if there is any, on May 8 against Abdul Khaleq Mandol of Satkhira, who was allegedly involved in crimes committed during the 1971 Liberation War. The tribunal fixed the date following a time petition of the prosecution. Prosecutor Zead Al Malum yesterday submitted a progress report on the investigation and sought three months more time. Khaleq, an alleged

PHOTO: RASHAD AHAMAD

Expat student murdered in Dhaka
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was stabbed to death by miscreants when he tried to calm a quarrel between them and his cousin in the capital's Donia yesterday. On vacation, Masud Rana, 23, of Barisal, who was studying BBA in a Malaysian university, had been at his aunt's Dhaka house for the last few days, said relatives. Masud's cousin Mehedi said some miscreants took his cellphone in the evening and to get it back they went to nearby Donia Koborshan Goli area. They had an altercation on the roof of a six-storey building with around five miscreants, said Masud's another cousin Jewel. Later, the miscreants stabbed him in the head and abdomen, said Mehedi. Jatrabari police Officer-in-Charge Anisur Rahman said the attackers went into hiding.

Physically challenged can also play role in media

Training camp by Institute of Communication Studies told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Physically challenged people in the country can play a vital role in different sectors including media if they get the government's assistance and the media houses' support; observed some physically challenged youths yesterday. The physical barriers will not be a big issue for them when people can see positive mindsets of the society's other sections, they added. They made these remarks at a programme styled "Promoting Persons with Disabilities through Participation in Media," organised by Institute of Communication Studies (ICS) in the capital's Brac Centre Inn to distribute certificates among 20 physically challenged youths who took part in a five-month training on media and journalism. Hailing from Chittagong, Sabrina Sultana, a participant of the programme, said she was uncertain whether she could get the opportunity to take journalism as a profession as she was physically challenged and less educated. She, however, was elated after getting selected for a two-month basic training and a

three-month internship programme at a national media house. "People in our society think that the physically challenged people can not do anything, but I could prove them wrong by engaging myself in journalism," said Sabrian. Suman Parvez, another trainee from Jhenidah, observed that disability was not with the people's physique, rather with their mindset. Addressing the programme as the chief guest, prime minister's economic adviser Dr Mashiur Rahman said the physically challenged people were usually deprived by both their family members and the society. Prof Golam Rahman, newly appointed chief information commissioner, said these people can do anything if they have strong commitment. "If the communication cannot be done properly, a good message may even be harmful to the physically challenged people," he said, adding, "it is urgent to change the society's attitude to them." While delivering her welcome speech, ICS Executive Director Shameem Ara Sheuli said her organisation would continue working for this section of people in days ahead.

STAR WEEKEND
in other news...

With a fresh new format, new writers and a new perspective, the Star Weekend has an array of interesting articles for you. This week our spotlight is on Rubayet Hossain's epic bicycle ride along the Chittagong Hill Tracts, which reveals if and how mother languages are practiced in the area. There is also an article on the first Bangladeshi to win the Green Talent Award. Don't forget your copy of Star Weekend tomorrow, Friday!

THE FORGOTTEN LANGUAGES OF BANGLADESH

Every year we celebrate International Mother Language Day with much pomp and ceremony. However, in the very heart of Bangladesh, the mother languages of the indigenous communities have become victims of politico-cultural authoritarianism. With the increasing cultural dominance and lack of preservation effort, many of these rich languages are on the edge of total obliteration. This week, the Star Weekend goes on a bicycle ride with Rubayet Hossain, a cyclist who rides in and through the districts of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the home of numerous indigenous communities, to reveal how these rich languages and cultures are being wiped out. To know more, check out this week's spotlight on pages 8 and 9.

PHOTO: MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN