

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 34.2 L 25.5	H 31.5 L 21.3	H 32.6 L 20.2	H 35.7 L 18.4	H 35.7 L 25.0	H 34.5 L 23.5	H 31.8 L 17.4	H 32.0 L 21.5

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:11pm and rises tomorrow at 5:59am. Country's highest temperature 36.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Faridpur and lowest 17.4 in Rangpur.

WAR CRIMES
Prosecution asked to submit charges against five Moulvibazar men on May 4
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday asked the prosecution to submit the formal charges, if any, on May 4 against five Moulvibazar men for allegedly committing crimes against humanity and genocide during the 1971 Liberation War.

Yesterday was fixed for submitting the charges but prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon sought one month more time. The tribunal fixed the date allowing his prayer.

The accused are Samsul Hossain Tarafder, 65, an alleged local Al-Badr commander; Nesar Ali, 75, Yunus Ahmed, 71, Ujer Ahmed Chowdhury, 63, and Mobarak Mia, 66, alleged Razakars, according to the tribunal's investigation agency.

All of them are from Rajnagar upazila in Moulvibazar.

Of the five, Yunus and Ujer have been in jail since October 13 last year while the rest are on the run.

The agency on January 20 said to have found evidence of the "involvement" of them in six incidents of crimes committed in the district. The following day, the agency handed over the probe report and other documents to the prosecution.

The charges are killing of Danu Mia, looting and torching of three houses and confinement of three people; abduction, confinement and torture of three people and looting and torching of the houses of one Harendra Bhattacharya; killing of one Jamini Mohan Dev and abduction, confinement and torture of three people; abduction of four people including one Rasraj Bhattacharya; abduction and torture of four people and killing of two; and killing of 14 people including one Shushital Dhar.



Village children play in what looks like a small pool of stagnant water but is actually a channel of the Jamuna river. The country's rivers are fast drying as water flows keep on dwindling from upstream, particularly during the dry season. The photo was taken in Gaibandha's Fulchhari upazila on Monday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

SCBA polls start today
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-day annual election to Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) for its 14 executive posts, including president and secretary, begins today.

The polling will start at 10:00am and continue till 5:00pm with a one-hour lunch break at the bar building. Nimesh Chandra Das, superintendent of SCBA, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Some 5,028 lawyers are enlisted as voters, he added.

The main contest would take place between the panels of ruling Awami League backed Sammilita Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad (SASP) and BNP-Jamaat backed Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Parishad (JAOP), SCBA sources said.

Awami League presidium member Yusuf Hossain Humayun and Azher Ullah Bhuyan are contesting as candidates for the post of president and secretary from the SASP panel, while former SCBA president Zainul Abedin and incumbent Secretary AM Mahub Uddin Khokon are the candidates from JAOP for the president and secretary posts.

Water management must be planned
 Experts tell seminar marking World Water Day

Speakers yesterday called for adopting a planned water management system for all seasons to overcome drought, flood and river erosion across the country.

They also urged the government to take necessary action to prevent water pollution, while addressing a seminar organised by Bangladesh National Committee of ICID at Buet's Academic Council Building, marking World Water Day-2016.

This year's theme of the day is "Water and Jobs".

Water Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud said, "Apart from initiating a well-designed water management system, we need to ensure optimum use of water during a crisis."

Criticising building of houses at the low laying lands which get submerged during the monsoon, the minister said, "It is time to take action against those illegally occupying these lands, and we need to create public opinion in this regard."

Anisul said they were adopting projects to reclaim about 15,000 square kilometres of land now under rivers.

Dr Abdul Matin, a professor of the department of water resources engineering at Buet, in his keynote presentation, said, "Safe water management and conservation strategy is inevitable to deal with water crisis during the dry season."

River stabilisation, management and land development projects should be implemented in a planned and coordinated way in order to create more employment opportunities, added Matin.

He suggested lessening dependency on foreign experts as they have "little knowledge" of the country's topography.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

Dhaka slum dwellers deprived of safe water
 Rally told UNB, Dhaka

Representatives of community-based organisations yesterday voiced their deep concern over inadequate safe water supply to more than 4.5 million slum dwellers in the capital.

While addressing a rally at Bauaniabad in Mirpur, they said Dhaka Wasa with some development partners is now providing water rations to slum areas, which is not equitable to ensure basic human rights to safe water.

NGO Forum for Public Health and Water and Sanitation for Urban Poor (WSUP) organised the rally.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Thirsty Sylhet city keeps suffering
 As new water plant yet to go into operation

The ongoing scarcity of water has almost crippled Sylhet city, which demands 8 crore litres of water on a daily basis, whilst the city corporation is being able to supply 3 crore litres.

To meet the demand, a new Tk 130 crore surface water treatment plant is being constructed in Kushighat area under the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), which will use water from the Surma river to add 2.8 crore litres of water to the daily supply.

But the plant has not been functioning even after the construction was completed a couple of months ago, alleged DPHE officials.

Ali Akbar, executive engineer of SCC, said, "As there is no Water and Sewerage Authority in Sylhet, DPHE is officially responsible for the production of water and SCC for ensuring the supply. The plant has not been handed over yet. Moreover, SCC was not even involved in the planning or construction."

"Hopefully, it will be done by the end of June," he said. "But it may not successfully operate, especially during the dry season, as the source of water is Surma, and the river is drying due to the declining flow from upstream."

Eheteshamul Russel Khan, executive engineer of DPHE, Sylhet, said, "The plant may not be perfectly functional right now, as the water level of Surma is below expectation. But we have sorted out the problem and will use an alternative way of pumping water from the river in the dry season."

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

SYLHET WETLANDS
Move to set up stone crushers protested
 MINTU DESHWARA, Sylhet

Environmentalists and citizen groups yesterday formed a human chain at Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar, protesting setting up of stone crushing machines in haors and wetlands in the district's Jaintapur upazila.

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela) and Water Keepers Bangladesh formed the human chain participated by rights activists, environmentalists and locals.

The government has recently planned to set up stone crushing machines in four wetlands—Dibi Haor, Kendri Beel, Harafkata Beel and Yambeel in the upazila.

Expressing grave concern over the move, protesters said a huge pile of stones and debris would shortly fill the lands, posing threats to ecology and biodiversity.

Youth held with fake drugs at Dhaka airport
 BSS, Dhaka

Customs officials yesterday seized 14 kilogrammes of counterfeit medicines and cosmetics worth about Tk 1 crore at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital.

Being informed, the customs officials recovered 600 bottles of alleged skin care medicines and 100 tubes of facial creams from a suitcase of Tazim Ahmed, who arrived from Kolkata by a flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, said Director General of Customs Intelligence Dr Mainul Khan.

The seized items were brought from India violating import policies, added the official.



Guests at the publication ceremony of "Bangabandhu Jiboner Shoroniyo Ghotona" (Memorable incidents in Bangabandhu's Life) and "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman: Jibon o Sangram" (Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman: Life and Struggle), two books written by Dehabrata Dev Roy of Tripura, at Sukanto Academy in Agartala of India on March 17. Bangladesh's Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq and Chief Minister of Tripura Manik Sarkar, among others, were present at the event.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Marking World Water Day, Water Keepers Bangladesh, Surma Waterkeeper and Bangladesh Poribesh Ainbid Samity form a human chain in front of Central Shaheed Minar in Sylhet yesterday in protest against the government move to fill up four water bodies in the district to establish a stone crushing zone.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

2 students die in Jessore road crash
 Two other people killed in two dists

Two college students were killed when a Jessore-bound bus rammed their motorcycle on Jessore-Magura Road in Pachbaria Amtoli area of Jessore Sadar upazila yesterday afternoon.

Miraj Hossain, 22, of Bahadurpur village and Santa Khatun, 20, of Baro Bazar area in the upazila died on the spot.

Miraj was a student of Muslim Aid College while Santa was a first-year student of Jessore City College, said police.

Police recovered the bodies and send those to Jessore Medical College Hospital for autopsies. A case was filed.

In Chittagong city, a youth was killed when a three-wheeler carrying him collided head-on with a microbus near Ruby Cement Factory in Airport Road yesterday.

The dead is Md Mohiuddin, 18, of Julda area under Karnaphuli Police Station of the city, said Assistant Sub-Inspector of EPZ Police Station Sarder Nur Islam.

In Thakurgaon, a rickshaw-van puller was killed when a Baliadangi-bound truck hit his vehicle from behind on Baliadangi-Ranishankoil road in Ampathari village of Baliadangi upazila on Monday night.

The dead is Abdur Rahim, 40, of the upazila. He died on the spot. On information, police recovered his body and sent it to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Passport brokers jailed
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court assisted by Rapid Action Battalion yesterday convicted 24 illegal passport brokers near the passport office in the capital's Agargaon.

The court led by Executive Magistrate Helal Uddin jailed one for six months, eight for two months, five for one month and fined 10 from Tk 1,500 to Tk 10,000, said Rab-2 operations officer Yeasir Arafat. After taking money from passport seekers, they used to deceive them, Arafat, also an assistant superintendent of police, told The Daily Star.

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টিআর প্রকল্পে জনঅংশগ্রহণ নিশ্চিত করবে গ্রামীণ উন্নয়ন

তথ্য জানতে বা অভিযোগ জানাতে যোগাযোগ করুন ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ বা ইউএনও অফিসে