

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 33.41 L 27.4

CHITTAGONG
H 31.51 L 26.0

SYLHET
H 35.01 L 25.9

RAJSHAHI
H 34.91 L 27.2

KHULNA
H 32.61 L 26.2

BARISAL
H 32.81 L 26.8

RANGPUR
H 32.51 L 26.0

COX'S BAZAR
H 27.01 L 25.0

Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:49pm and rises tomorrow at 5:19am. Country's highest temperature 35.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sylhet and the lowest 25.0 degree Celsius in Sandwip & Cox's Bazar.

Oil tanker fined for polluting Karnaphuli river

BSS, Ctg

A mobile court of Chittagong Port Authority yesterday fined an oil tanker TK 1 lakh for spilling oil and polluting the Karnaphuli river.

CPA Executive Magistrate Rokeya Parvin conducted the mobile court and fined the owner of the oil tanker "MT Arju".

Earlier, diesel-laden "MT Arju" collided with another oil tanker "Mercantile-19" in Dangar Char area near Meghna Oil Jetty on the river on Saturday night.

After the collision, "MT Arju" started to spill oil in the Karnaphuli river as its mo-4 oil tank got leaked.

On information, a coast guard patrol team detained the two oil tankers and shifted 60,000 liters of oil from the tanker to another tanker.

The tanker "MT Arju" was fined as it was spilling oil despite shifting its oil to another tanker, according to CPA sources.

Passengers get down, following a dangerous and illegal journey on the roof of a train, in Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital yesterday when the rush of the capital-bound people following the Eid-ul-Fitr holiday was yet to subside.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Girl 'raped', CU student arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested a student of Chittagong University (CU) for allegedly raping a schoolgirl in Chittagong city's Bayezid Bostami area on Sunday night.

The arrestee was Mizanur Rahman Mishu, 22, a student of psychology, said police.

The girl, a sixth grader, went to Mizanur's house in Mohammadnagar area in the afternoon to take tuition from his mother - a local school teacher, said Mohammad Mohsin, officer-in-charge of Bayezid Bostami Police Station, quoting the victim's mother.

Mizanur then took her to an adjacent school building and raped her, he said.

"As the school remained closed due to vacation, there was no one at that time," he said, adding, as the girl disclosed the matter to her mother after returning home, she lodged a case. The victim was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for a medical test, he added.

Fire breaks out at 16-storey building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire broke out at a 16-storey building in the capital's Hatirpool area last night.

Fire originated on the 10th floor of the Rose View Plaza building around 11:00pm, a fire service official told The Daily Star.

Eight units of fire service doused the blaze around 11:45pm, the official said.

The reason behind the fire and loss caused by it could not be known immediately.

Dhaka city going green

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka south and north city corporations have taken a number of projects to bring their open spaces under greenery coverage through massive plantations as the capital is gradually getting denuded of its greeneries due to unplanned development works.

The Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) and the North City Corporation (DNCC) will rejuvenate their existing parks and beautify footbridges and main thoroughfares with trees and flowering plants.

Besides, they are focusing on bringing most houses under rooftop gardening by encouraging people with holding tax rebate and providing logistic supports like soil, pots and fertilisers. The two corporations will also launch

drives to motivate people to plant trees at their open spaces.

Though a livable city should have 25 percent greeneries of its total area, the capital has barely five percent greeneries for lack of regular plantation and maintenance of the existing ones, and unplanned urbanisation, said Dr Mohhamed Shafiqul Alam, a teacher of Chittagong University's Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences.

Green activist Mokarram Hossain, also organising secretary of Taru Pallab, a nature study organisation, said when the greeneries are gradually disappearing from DSCC, the situation in DNCC looks appalling as most parts of its extended areas, including Mirpur and Uttara, are almost barren.

Contacted, DNCC Mayor

Annisul Huq said they are aware of the situation and working out various short- and long-term plans to boost greeneries in the capital.

DNCC chief waste management officer Capt Dipon Kumar Shaha said, "We've been trying to plant trees in open spaces." Besides, the DNCC has floated a tender for beautification of around 46 roads by planting trees, he said.

DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon said they have also taken steps to improve 21 parks under the city corporation and beautify main roads with various local flowering plants.

DSCC Superintendent Engineer Asaduzzaman said the city corporation is now giving a clearance letter for high-rises from the 11th floor to upward with a condition of making rooftop gardening.

CITY CORPORATIONS' INITIATIVES	
DNCC	DSCC
Planting trees at households, alongside roads, footpath	10pc holding tax rebate
Decorating 56 footbridges with flowering plants	Rooftop gardening
Beautifying 46 roads	Awareness programmes
Free sapling distribution	Developing existing parks
Planting 40 lakh saplings in 3yr	Planting saplings on dividers, footpaths on VIP Road
Eco-buses with seedlings, pesticides, fertiliser, pots	Planting trees

4.5 tonnes of polythene bags seized in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Department of Environment (DoE) seized 4.5 tonnes of banned polythene bags from two factories in Chittagong city yesterday.

A team of DoE Chittagong in a drive in Nasirabad area found Poly Packaging manufacturing thin polythene bags although it has approval for producing packaging bags over 55-micron thick. The team seized around four tonnes of banned polythene there.

The other factory Syed Polythene Store was producing polythene in Pahartali area without any approval. DoE seized 500kg of polythene from it.



A performer shows off his skills on a "Well of Death", a carnival sideshow featuring stunts on a vehicle using friction and centrifugal force to travel along a vertical wall of a large wooden barrel-shaped cylinder. The photo was taken on the Patenga sea beach on Sunday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

MD Mustafa, 38, a street vendor from Comilla, is suffering from rheumatic heart disease for the last two years, says a press release.

He is being treated at the capital's National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease. According to the doctors, he needs to undergo a heart surgery in three months as his condition is worsening further.

The surgery and his treatment will cost around Tk 3 lakh, which is not possible for Mustafa, father of three children, to afford alone. The family is seeking financial assistance.

Aid can be sent to account no: 0042-0310071508, Mutual Trust Bank Limited, Dharkara Bazar branch, Chaudhagram, Comilla; contact number: 01869241094.



20 lakh tonnes of Boro rice produced in Rangpur region

BSS, Rangpur

The farmers produced over 20.64 lakh tonnes of Boro rice during the last Rabi season in all five districts under Rangpur agriculture zone that plays a vital role in ensuring the country's food security, official sources said.

However, the fixed production target of 20.97 lakh tonnes of Boro rice could not be achieved following a little shortfall against the fixed cultivation target as the farmers cultivated less irrigation water consuming wheat and maize crops on more lands.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources, Boro crop was cultivated on 5.01 lakh hectares of land, which was 99.8 percent against the fixed target of 5.02 lakh hectares, to produce 20.97 lakh tonnes clean Boro rice last season.

The fixed target included production of 7.57 lakh tonnes of hybrid variety Boro rice from 1.51 lakh hectares land, 13.35 lakh tonnes of high yielding variety rice from 3.49 lakh hectares and 4,255 tonnes of local variety Boro rice from 2,127 hectares land.

The achieved average yield rate stood at 4.74 tonnes clean rice per hectare of land for hybrid variety, 3.88 tonnes for high yielding variety and 2.14 tonnes per hectare of land for local variety Boro rice during the last Rabi season in the region.

"The Boro output marked little shortfall following crop diversification, enhanced cultivation of wheat and maize and ongoing efforts for reducing more irrigation water consuming crop cultivation in the region," said horticulture specialist of the DAE Khondker Md Mesbahul Islam.

He said the farmers finally produced 6.68 lakh tonnes of hybrid Boro rice from 1.41 lakh hectares of land, over 13.89 lakh tonnes high yielding variety rice from 3.57 lakh hectares and 6,606 tonnes local variety Boro rice from 3,090 hectares of land last season.

Adviser-Agriculture of Brac International (South Asia and Africa) Dr MA Mazid said expanded adoption of the latest conservation agriculture technologies by the farmers contributed to higher Boro rice yield rate per hectare during the last Rabi season.

Rangpur Regional Additional Director of DAE Md Shah Alam said the farmers got excellent yield rate of Boro rice as a result of smooth cultivation of the crop, timely supply of electricity, diesel, other inputs and facilities by the government.

Special train services to continue till July 14

BSS, Dhaka

The special train services of Bangladesh Railway (BR) will continue till July 14 on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

The special trains started operations July 8 on Dhaka-Dewanganj-Dhaka, Khulna-Dhaka-Khulna, Parbatipur-Dhaka-Parbatipur, and Chandpur-Chittagong-Chandpur routes.

The regular train services will also continue on their respective routes.

The BR authorities also introduced a pair of new train named "Sonar Bangla" on Dhaka-Chittagong-Dhaka route before the Eid.

Family interactions

FROM PAGE 4

Advocate Abdus Samad, BLAST local unit coordinator, views adolescent time is very important. So, every one should feel about giving the adolescents right directions or lessons for their proper development.

Ensuring adolescent-friendly reproductive health services has become an urgent need for making the youths free from various problems. Rural adolescent girls are not well equipped with the reproductive health education, which is in fact a crucial issue to impart them. Providing youth with safe spaces to ask questions and receive accurate information is extremely important.

Rab's mobile app to

FROM PAGE 3

that they may face harassment while providing information to the Rab official.

The app can be downloaded from Google play store and www.rab.gov.bd.

Answering to a query, Benazir said they found information about some missing persons who appeared to be involved in militant activities.

Rab is working to know the financial sources of recent militant attacks, he said, adding that the Sholakia attack suspect Shafiqul was an accused in four murder cases.

NSU not sole element

FROM PAGE 3

"Here students spend the highest nine to 12 hours a week. The rest of the time, they spend at different places. There are electronic media and internet through which they have high chances of getting inspired to carry out such activities," he said.

Regarding a former faculty who was held hostage at Holey Artisan Bakery and later released, the VC said Hasnat Karim resigned in August 2012 mentioning that he wanted to increase his involvement with his family business. There was no allegation against him at that time and NSU is not supposed to know what he had done in the next four-five years and with whom he maintained contact, said Prof Atiqul.

On one of the Gulshan attackers, he said Nibras Islam was a BBA student of the 2011-12 academic session and completed three semesters. "Then he went to Malaysia and had no involvement with this university since then," he said.

Nibras might have either indulged in extremism in Malaysia or the seed of extremism might have been sown in Bangladesh and it expanded in Malaysia, apprehended Prof Atiqul, adding that NSU had no involvement in this regard.

The VC said one name which surfaced in the Sholakia attack was a student of NSU. "We are trying to know how he took the path of extremism. We are also trying to know internally whether there was any motivation from this university," he said.

Asked whether any student was missing, Prof Atiqul said there were some students who became irregular for family businesses, illnesses or financial crisis.

"The university has just opened (after Eid). Different departments have been asked to give information about it and collective information would soon be available," he said. He, however, said analysing the last six months' information, it was found primarily that the number of irregular students did not increase.

NSU has decided that gaps would not be allowed between semesters without prior permission, the VC said.

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ASSET DEVELOPMENTS