



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 30.7 L 25.2

CHITTAGONG H 31.6 L 24.6

SYLHET H 32.1 L 23.7

RAJSHAHI H 33.7 L 26.2

KHULNA H 29.6 L 24.8

BARISAL H 30.2 L 24.5

RANGPUR H 31.0 L 25.0

COX'S BAZAR H 31.0 L 24.5

Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:44pm and rises tomorrow at 5:24am. Country's highest temperature 33.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Rajshahi and the lowest 23.5 degree Celsius in Rangamati.

Twelve DU journalism students get Sitara Parvin Award

DU CORRESPONDENT

Twelve students of the mass communication and journalism department at Dhaka University yesterday got "Professor Sitara Parvin Award" for their outstanding results in BSS (Hons) examinations in 2015.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique distributed the scholarships among the awardees as the chief guest at a function in RC Majumder Auditorium at DU.

The awardees are Monira Begum, Nuzaira Tarannum, Maliha Tabassum, Tanjina Tanin, Ali Ahsan, Emran Hossain, Md Ashraf Goni, Mehedi Hasan, Mahmudul Hasan, Md Jahid-E-Hasan, Bappi Kumar Paul and Shamima Sultana.

Prof Sitara Parvin, daughter of former president Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad and wife of Prof Ahaduzzaman Mohammad Ali, died in a road accident in the USA on June 23, 2005.

Paying tribute to the memory of Prof Sitara, Prof Arefin called upon the awardees to follow her ideals.



A group of pedestrians cross the busy Airport Road at Kuril intersection in the capital yesterday. Even though a foot-over bridge is nearby, they choose to cross the road this way, risking their lives.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PPP programme to fight violent extremism launched

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A public-private partnership programme was launched in the capital yesterday to support local, grassroots efforts to counter violent extremism.

To this effect, a signing ceremony for grant agreements of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) for the three-year project was held at the state guesthouse Padma.

GCERF Executive Director Dr Khalid Koser signed the agreements with two local NGOs -- Young Power in Social Action and Rupantar-- as primary recipients of GCERF projects for the year 2016-2018.

Bangladesh is one of the founding members of GCERF and has volunteered as a pilot beneficiary country for the projects of GCERF.

Under the agreements, various projects will be implemented initially in three districts -- Chapainawabganj, Satkhira and Cox's Bazar -- targeting youths, women and other vulnerable groups.

Under the GCERF, local organisations will receive grants of around \$10-\$30,000 to small-scale counter-radicalisation programmes in Mali, Pakistan, Nigeria, Morocco and Bangladesh.

Two arrested over N'ganj child murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Members of law enforcement agencies arrested two persons accused in a case filed for the murder of a 10-year-old boy, at Zobeda Textile and Spinning Mills Ltd in Rupganj of Narayanganj yesterday.

They are the factory's senior production officer Syed Azhar Imam alias Sohel and lineman Sohag Hossain alias Hridoy.

Sagar Barman died on Sunday after some workers of the factory allegedly pumped air into his body through the rectum at the factory in Jatamura area of the district's Rupganj.

The autopsy, too, confirmed that he was killed by pumping air into his body through his rectum.

Indefinite bus strike begins in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Hundreds of people are suffering immensely as road communications of Rajshahi with other parts of the country has been snapped following a wildcat indefinite strike enforced by local bus workers and owners yesterday morning.

This strike is a sequel to the conflict between the transport workers and owners of Rajshahi and Natore, reports our local correspondent quoting transport leaders.

The feud began early this month when Natore transport workers and owners shut down two counters of Dhaka coaches of National Travels and Desh Travels and asked Rajshahi bus owners to not to let their busses enter Natore before noon, so that local coaches from Natore can ply in the morning, they said.

"We have been compelled to begin the strike as Natore bus owners and workers are not allowing our buses to ply through their area," said Mahtab Ali, general secretary of Rajshahi Bus Workers' Union.

Aminul Islam, an NGO worker, who went to Rajshahi on an office trip, was due to catch a Dhaka-bound bus in the morning, said, "I came to know of the strike after coming to the bus terminal. I tried to catch a train afterwards but failed."

I had to return to my hotel, said an annoyed Aminul.

Novera's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 10th death anniversary of Novera Deepita, a brilliant



journalist of The Daily Star and a gold medallist student of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University.

She left behind her husband, mother, brothers, and a sister to mourn her death.

To mark the day, "Novera Deepita Memorial Trust" will give "Novera Deepita Memorial Scholarship" to the student achieving the highest marks in honours examinations under the journalism department at DU. The award winner will receive Tk 25,000 and a certificate.

The trust will also hold prayers at her grave in Azimpur graveyard at dawn and donate money among orphans. A doa mahfil will be held at her residence.

A book in her memory titled "Nover Nirupoma Deepita Deepannita", edited by her mother Adila Bakul, was published in December 2015.

Delhi seeks

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"...India can only prosper if Bangladesh prospers," he said, adding, "Our foreign policy goals are common: it is to meet our development requirements...India and Bangladesh are partners in progress and development."

He said India has outlined a comprehensive vision for the Indian Ocean region focusing on security and growth for all the littoral states, and promised to address shared threats like piracy, smuggling, environmental degradation and natural disasters.

He said, "Our relationship with Bangladesh is often regarded as a paradigm for cooperation between neighbouring countries."

Shringla said Modi's visit to Bangladesh in June 2015 was one of his most successful visits. As many as 77 decisions were listed in a joint declaration, which laid down the roadmap for future cooperation, and 22 bilateral agreements were signed in areas as diverse as energy, connectivity, infrastructure and transportation and people-to-people contacts, he said.

Commandant of National Defence College Lt Gen Chowdhury Hasan Sarwardy, senior directing staff and senior army officials were present on the occasion.

Give special attention to teenage girls

UNFPA-The Daily Star roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teenage girls need special attention from the families and state as they face various challenges including child marriage, sexual violence and deprivation of education, adolescents and population experts said.

They go through physical and mental changes at this age, but are often seen as burdens and married off early instead of providing them adequate education or awareness to face the challenges, they said.

Besides, they go through various health risks as they become pregnant at an early age and often give births to children who face malnourishment and do not make up a healthy and skilled workforce in latter life.

The observations came yesterday at a roundtable titled "Investing in Teenage Girls" jointly organised by the UNFPA and The Daily Star at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

"We are often married off forcibly and early. We cannot adjust to the new families," said Noor Konna Keya Moni, a teenage volunteer of the Bangladesh Association for Prevention of Septic Abortion (Bapsa).

Adolescents aged 10-19 years account for 36 million in Bangladesh and 59pc of girls get married before 18.

And, 31pc aged 15-19 get pregnant with their first child, according to the Bangladesh Demographic Health Survey 2014. Significant number of child and maternal deaths is caused due to child marriage, experts said.

Nurn Nahar, another Bapsa volunteer, said, "Our voices are needed to be heard."

Aminul Haque, associate professor of population sciences department of Dhaka University, said "Adolescents need respectful, empathetic and

sympathetic attention."

He said many parents have no adequate knowledge of guiding their teenage children and there is not a counsel for them in the schools.

Prof AKM Nurun Nabi, vice chancellor of Begum Rokeya University, said there is an ongoing discussion that the youths are getting derailed; but those who are guiding them are derailed.

CHALLENGES

- Sexual harassment
- School dropouts for child marriage
- Malnutrition for early pregnancy, childbirth
- Low level of awareness on sexual, reproductive health
- Poor health-seeking behavior
- Bullying, psychological abuse

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Be respectful, sympathetic to their needs
- Introduce student counselors in secondary schools
- Promote life skills, vocational education
- Engage in sports
- Enable them to be financially independent
- Zero tolerance policy for sexual harassment
- Stop child marriage

Ubaidur Rob, country director of Population Council, said the ratio of boys and girls is quite similar up to SSC, but drops significantly at HSC level as the girls are mostly married off. Rob said lack of security in pursuing higher education is also a major reason.

He suggested that the authorities emphasise on technical and vocational education so girls can become finan-

cially independent.

M Shahidul Islam of UNFPA said more teenage girls are coming to the cities for education and job purposes, so the authorities need to pay attention to their health and security.

Lawmaker Nahim Razzaq suggested segment-wise programmes for the teenage girls -- rural and urban, educated and uneducated, and married and unmarried. He emphasised on reducing communication gap between the parents and the adolescents.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam advised the adolescents to raise their voices constantly, assuring that the newspaper would highlight their concerns.

"You have to be strong in what you say of your rights and responsibility," he said.

Dr Abul Hussain of the women ministry; Dr Maleka Banu of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad; Eshani Ruwanpura and Asma Akter of UNFPA; Jamil Hassan of Unicef; Shahnoor Wahid of The Daily Star; Saeda Khanam, Prajna Paramita Saha and Indrani Haque of Bangladesh Bank; M Imdadul Haque of Meghna Bank; Lipika Biswas and Shabnam Shahnaz of Plan International Bangladesh; Dr Jebun Nessa Rahman of Save the Children; Arpita Das of Manusher Jonno Foundation; Nur Quantum Naher of Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd; Ismat Jahan Mourry of Jamuna TV; Salma Jahan Rojoni and Putal Akter of Bapsa; also spoke.

Safian Morshed Chowdhury, Rowshon Akhter Urmeed and Tasnim Jara of United Nations Youth Advisory Panel, Bangladesh, made a presentation, while public health expert Shamim Ahmed moderated the discussion.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presiding over a meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party in the ruling party's conference room at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan yesterday.

PHOTO: PTID

2 Destiny top bosses move writ pleas with HC against ACC notices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two separate writ petitions were moved before the High Court yesterday challenging the legality of Anti-Corruption Commission's notices that sought wealth statements from two detained Destiny Group top officials including its chief Rafiqul Amin.

Destiny Group Managing Director Rafiqul and Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd Chairman Mohammad Hossain submitted the writ petitions on July 19 saying that the ACC arbitrarily issued the notices to them.

PM issues 19-point

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timely steps according to the Disaster Management Law, 2012 and directives relating to it meaning the Standing Orders on Disaster, 2010 in mitigating natural disaster; making effective the village courts; taking steps to ensure peace in industrial belts, making uninterrupted the transportation of goods and export-import as well as eliminating extortion, tender manipulation, muscle power and terrorism.

They will have to give the consumer rights an institutional shape and curb any ill efforts to create artificial crises in the market; follow and execute the Women Development Policy, 2011 strictly and ensure proper legal action to stop violence, repression and disparity against women as well as woman and child trafficking; ensure a scope for education, sports, entertainment and creative cultural activities for the children and juveniles for flourishing their physical and mental growth, and have to work on encouraging children and juveniles in learning history, knowledge and science.

Stopping drug trade and trafficking as well as their misuse; preserving the geo-natural characteristics, forests, rivers and water-bodies, animal resources and hills of the Chittagong Hill Districts side by side with accelerating the development of the region; extending all out cooperation for promoting the tourism industry, small and medium-size industries as well as traditional cottage industries are also among the directives.



Participants at a roundtable discussion on "Investing in Teenage Girls" at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday, jointly organised by the UNFPA and The Daily Star.

PHOTO: STAR