

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA H 35.4 L 27.4	CHITTAGONG H 30.6 L 26.3	SYLHET H 33.8 L 26.8	RAJSHAHI H 36.5 L 26.6	KHULNA H 35.7 L 27.0	BARISAL H 34.8 L 27.3	RANGPUR H 36.5 L 26.8	COX'S BAZAR H 32.0 L 27.0
---------------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Mymensingh and Khulna with moderately heavy falls at places in the next 24 hours. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:21pm and rises tomorrow at 5:39am.

Tamim, aides were asked to surrender

Says IGP Shahidul

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The joint force launched an offensive against the terrorists' hideout in Narayanganj yesterday because they had not responded to the law enforcers' request to surrender, Inspector General of Police (IGP) AKM Shahidul Hoque said yesterday.

They were given half an hour to surrender, he said, speaking as chief guest at a rally of Ulema-Mashayeks at Rajbari ground in Gazipur.

The police chief said Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury, the alleged mastermind of the Gulshan cafe attack, and his two aides did not study in madrasas but were raised in ultra-modern culture. Those who carried out attacks in Gulshan and Sholakia grew up in ultra-modern culture, he added.

Shahidul Hoque said the militants were members of a suicide squad and were armed. Because they did not surrender, the law enforcers were at death risk, he added.

The IGP said the campaign against militancy would continue for people's safety.

Craft training centre opens at Gazipur jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A craft training centre was opened at Gazipur jail for its prisoners yesterday.

Brig Gen Soyed Eftekar Uddin inaugurated the centre where initially 20 prisoners will be trained in making handicrafts which will be sold outside.

SM Alam, deputy commissioner of Gazipur, and Shamol Dutt, editor of Daily Bhorer Kagoj were present among others.



Lighters, flat-bottomed barges used to transfer goods and passengers to and from ships, remain anchored at Sadarghat Banglabazar area in Chittagong yesterday, hours before an indefinite strike called by water transport workers on August 23 demanding, among others, Tk 10,000 as the minimum monthly wage was called off last night following assurance of a pay hike from the authorities concerned.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Waterways workers end strike

STAR REPORT

Waterways workers last night called off their work abstention following assurance of the authorities concerned to hike their wages.

The decision came following a tripartite meeting among the government officials, vessel owners and workers at the Department of Labour's conference room in the capital.

"I declare an end to our work abstention... and request all workers to resume their work," announced Bulbul Ahmed, convener of the Nour-Sramik Sangram Parishad, which enforced the work abstention, at around 11:30pm after the meeting.

A deadlock situation in the country's water transport sector was prevailing as waterways transport workers went on an indefinite work abstention since Tuesday to press home their 15-point demand including a minimum monthly wage of Tk 10,000.

Currently, the minimum wage of a waterways worker is Tk 3,900. From now on, the minimum wage has been fixed at Tk 7,750, Bulbul told The Daily

Star last night.

In the last five consecutive days, cargo handling at Chittagong and Mongla ports remained halted due to the work abstention, though some passenger vessels were operating in different terminals yesterday.

Around 38 launches left the capital's Sadarghat terminal yesterday, where around 65 to 70 launches usually ply daily, said officials of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.

In Chittagong, 32 mother vessels and 95 lighter vessels remained stranded at the port as unloading and transportation of goods remained halted.

The mother vessels were carrying around 7.9 tonnes of goods including wheat, sugar, soybin, salt and raw materials like cement clinker, stone and gypsum, according to the sources at Chittagong port and Water Transport Cell (WTC).

Because of the halt in cargo handling, businessmen were incurring a loss of around Tk 10 crore daily, said WTC's executive director Mahbub Rashid Khan.

Transport and unloading of another 8.52 tonnes of goods from 706 lighter vessels at different ghats including Karnaphuli river, Narayanganj, Baghabari, Nagarbari and others also came to a halt, WTC sources said.

In Mongla port, around 11 mother vessels and 210 small vessels remained stranded for five days as workers were not unloading the goods, reports our correspondent.

Some of the mother vessels were carrying materials of the Padma bridge construction works, the correspondent said referring to the port officials.

In Barisal, operation of passenger vessels remained almost suspended, reports our correspondent.

Usually, around 50 launches ply from Barisal headquarters to its other upazilas and to different districts including Bhola, Barguna and Patuakhali.

Taking a chance, many small boats were plying the big rivers posing risk to passengers. Around two or three launches were plying the Dhaka-Barisal route, where some five to six launches used to ply daily.

50 injured in KMC BCL infighting

UNB, Khulna

At least 50 people were injured in a series of clashes between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Khulna Medical College yesterday.

Police and witnesses said some supporters of a leader of the BCL college unit swooped on those of another and beat them up when they went to the college canteen, leaving 20 to 25 leaders and activists injured.

Hearing the news of the attack, others of the group first coming under attack, equipped with homemade weapons, chased the activists of their rival group around 1:00pm.

At one stage, the groups chased each other which left 15 to 20 students injured.

The BCL men also vandalised two motorcycles and the windows of different rooms of the college and hospital during the clash.

On information, police and Rapid Action Battalion members rushed in and brought the situation under control.

Of the injured, 20 students were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) from where four critically injured ones were shifted to Dhaka as their condition deteriorated.

The clash took place while the prime minister's personal secretary, Dr Namita Halder, was visiting the burn and plastic surgery unit of KMCH.

Dr Namita managed to leave the hospital under police protection.

Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the 10th death anniversary of prominent journalist, writer and valiant freedom fighter Sunil Banerjee.



He worked at the Daily Janakantha and the Dainik Bangla during his career from 1973 to 1997. The book "Sangbadikotay Birombona" is one of his famous writings.

Sunil, father of Shuvashi Banerjee Shuvo, joint news editor at the Voice of Bangladesh, was rewarded with Posthumous Honorable Memorial by Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association and Dhaka Reporters Unity and with Posthumous Acknowledgment Memorial by Transparency International Bangladesh for his contribution to the Liberation War.

All are requested to pray for his departed soul.

Kazi Abu Nasar

CITY DESK

Today is the 51st death anniversary of Kazi Abu Nasar, a close associate of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



A doa mahfil will be held in residence of his son Kazi Shamsuddin at 6-B Periwinkle, CES(E) 12, road 12/6, Gulshan. Phone: 9889744.

Friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to remember him in their prayers.

Abdus Sabur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Today is the 22nd death anniversary of Abdus Sabur Shaodagor, a freedom fighter and former president of Bogra District Transport Workers' Union.

On the occasion, a discussion will be held at the union office and a milad mahfil in his Sutrapur residence in the town after the Zuhr prayers. Sabur, deputy commander of the district Muktiyoddha Sangsad, was platoon commander under sector no-7 during the Liberation War.



Nazrul Sangeet exponent Sadya Afreen Mallick, standing second from right, and Prof Abu Hena Abdul Awal, standing third from right, with the prestigious Nazrul Award 2015 presented by Nazrul Institute in the capital's Bangladesh National Museum yesterday marking the Rebel Poet's 40th death anniversary. Sitting from left are the poet's granddaughter Khilkhil Kazi, Prof Emeritus Rafiqul Islam, Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Ministry of Cultural Affairs Secretary Begum Akhtari Momtaz and Nazrul researchers Prof Md Abdul Qayyum and Sajed Kamal.

Bangladesh shocked at deaths in Italy quake

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has expressed deep shock at the tragic death of so many people and trapping of scores under debris following an earthquake that struck across the mountainous stretch of central Italy Wednesday.

"I'm deeply shocked and saddened at the tragic death of so many innocent people and trapping of scores under debris," said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a message sent on Thursday to her Italian counterpart Matteo Renzi. Hasina said Bangladesh stands in solidarity with the government and people of Italy at these difficult hours.

Unite against Rampal

Urge some eminent citizens at Nagorik Oikya meeting, criticise alleged move to revoke Zia's Swadhinata Padak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criticising several government policies, some eminent citizens yesterday called for unity irrespective of political affiliations and mass protests against the Rampal power plant project and demanded immediate release of Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna.

The coal-based plant will be "very much harmful for the Sundarbans ecosystem" and if not cancelled, "the mass movement will topple the government", said one of them, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President ASM Abdur Rab. He was addressing a meeting of the oikya organised in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury said, "Manna is known as a politician with a clean image, but the government kept him detained for the last 18 months without bringing up any

legal proceedings."

"I want to question the conscience of the prime minister and the chief justice," he said, criticising the Awami League (AL)-led government over media reports that the Swadhinata Padak (Independence Award) given to BNP founder Ziaur Rahman posthumously would allegedly be revoked.

The government has become "stubborn" over different issues and it has taken a stance opposing public demands, said Gonoforum acting secretary Subrata Chowdhury.

A former AL MP, Golam Maula Rony, said the project would not be reach completion as mass people and political parties have united against it. He also alleged that the government was engaged in an "illegal business" increasing fuel prices.

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal General Secretary Khalequzzaman said other projects within 10 kilometres of the Sundarbans also need to be stopped.

Road crash kills one

CITY DESK

A cattle trader was killed in a road accident at Tempu Bazar in Rajarhat upazila of Kurigram yesterday, reports our correspondent.

Lutfar Rahman, 50, was a resident of Tabokpur village of the district's Ulipur upazila.

Police said seven cattle traders including Lutfar were carrying some cows on a four-wheeler small van to Rangpur. When they reached the Tempu Bazar area, the vehicle fell into a roadside ditch as its driver went out of control, leaving him dead and six others injured.

The body was recovered.

Our Mymensingh correspondent adds, a Mymensingh-bound car collided head-on with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Harua on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road in Ishwarganj upazila of the district yesterday, leaving eight persons injured who are now undergoing treatment.

Eid launch ticket sales begin Sept 1

UNB, Dhaka

The advance sale of launch tickets will start from September 1 ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, said Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) Information Officer Mobarak Hossain yesterday.

The home-goers will collect all kinds of launch advance tickets, including that of cabin, at Sadarghat Launch Terminal from September 1 and it will continue till the ticket stock runs out, the information officer told the news agency.

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority will sell their tickets for its five steamers this year while the private launch authorities for 70 vessels, Mobarak Hossain said.

He said the BIWTA and the private launch authorities must sell their tickets as per the capacity of their launch seats.

Shipping Secretary Ashok Madhab Roy said the ministry has taken all the necessary preparations to avert any accident on the waterways.

He said the law enforcers, including Bangladesh Coast Guard and Navy Police, will remain deployed at the launch terminals to ensure security measures.

The mobile courts will also conduct their drives to check overloading of passengers on the launches.

Poba seeks steps against cow fattening

UNB, Dhaka

Paribesh Banchao Anodal (Poba) yesterday demanded immediate steps to stop the practice of cow fattening with harmful drugs ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

Various harmful drugs are used for fattening cows to make quick buck during the Eid-ul-Azha. People are affected by various diseases eating the meat of such fattened cows as it harms kidney, liver, heart and other organs of people, said Poba leaders at a meeting. It is essential to take immediate tough and effective steps for curbing the practice of fattening sacrificial animals considering the public health, they added.

Poba chairman Abu Naser Khan presided over the meeting while its joint general secretary Dr Lenin Chowdhury presented the keynote paper.



Local varieties of cattle have started arriving in large numbers to markets of Sylhet marking the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha with prices ranging from around Tk 40,000 to Tk 1.25 lakh. The photo was taken at the Darbasta haat in Jaintapur upazila yesterday around 5:00pm.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR