

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.4 L 27.7

CHITTAGONG H 31.2 L 26.0

SYLHET H 30.8 L 25.0

RAJSHAHI H 33.5 L 27.2

KHULNA H 33.4 L 26.8

BARISAL H 32.1 L 25.7

RANGPUR H 33.0 L 25.4

COX'S BAZAR H 31.0 L 25.5

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions in the next 24 hours. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:15pm and rises tomorrow at 5:41am.

Brac recognised for client protection achievements
CITY DESK

Brac has been recognised with "Smart Certification" for its demonstrated commitment to client protection through its microfinance activities, said a Brac press release yesterday.

By successfully completing the Smart Campaign's certification programme, it has become the first organisation in Bangladesh to achieve such a certification.

"Client Protection Certification" is an independent, third party evaluation to publicly recognise financial institutions that meet adequate standards of care in how they treat clients.

Financial institutions awarded with the Smart Certification must meet rigorous and international standards on client protection.

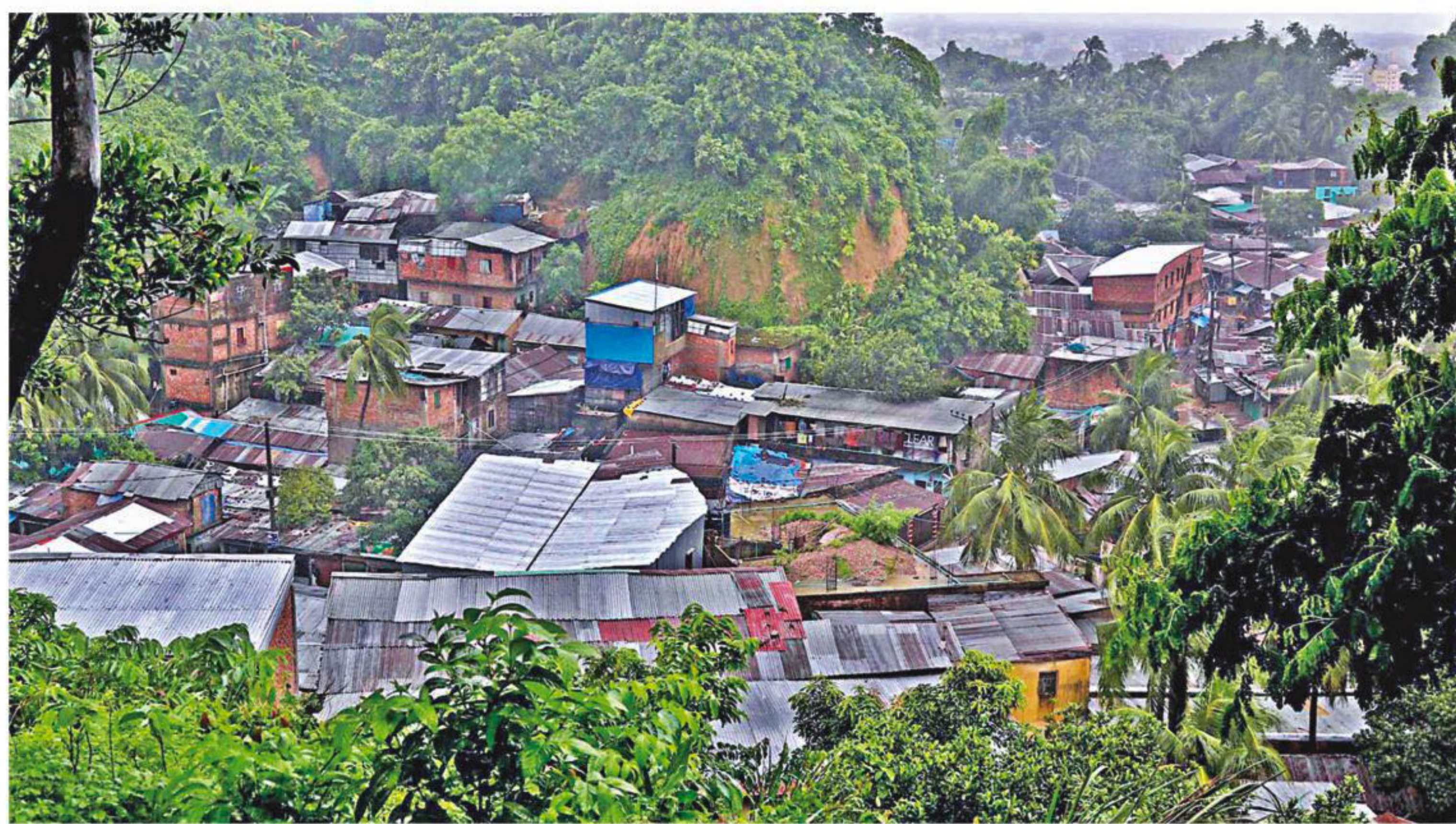
However, to secure the certification, Brac underwent an extensive audit of their policies and practices for adherence to the Smart Campaign's Client Protection principles, which cover issues including transparency, fair and respectful treatment, responsible pricing, and prevention of over-indebtedness.

The certification process consisted of a thorough document review followed by an onsite visit and interviews with Brac's staff and clients.

The process was conducted by Microfinanza Rating, a specialized microfinance rating agency and licensed "Smart" certifier.

Including Brac, 64 institutions globally were certified since the programme's launch.

Commenting on the achievement, Shameran Abed, director of Brac's microfinance programme, said, "We are absolutely thrilled to be Smart certified... this achievement confirms the success of our mission to provide financial services to the poor..."



People continue to live in illegally developed slums on the hill slopes in Chittagong city, amid risk of landslides during monsoon as authorities concerned are yet to come up with any permanent solution regarding their relocation. The photo was taken at Matijharna in Lalkhan Bazar recently.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Life as it is on hill slopes

Despite eviction drives, snapping of utility connections, residents keep on moving back; authorities yet to take with any permanent solution to relocate them

MINHAJ UDDIN, Chittagong

Thousands of people continue to live on the hill slopes in Chittagong city risking lives as the authorities concerned are yet to come up with any permanent solution to relocate them.

Like every year, the district administration as part of their effort to temporarily shift the dwellers disconnected utility connections of around hundred families in Mathijharna area on July 25 so that they would move out of their houses.

But while visiting the area recently, this correspondent found that the families are still living there.

"It's almost impossible to find a place at such a cheaper price," said a resident, seeking anonymity. The rickshaw-puller said his rent was Tk 1,000, and also ruled out the risk of landslides although a nearly 60 feet steep hill stood beside his house.

Within a week of snapping of their utilities, the residents managed connections from adjacent houses, locals informed.

Visiting Tigerpass, Mathijharna, Lalkhabazar, Akbershah, Bayezid Shantinagar, Amin Colony, Majhir Ghona and Roufabad, this correspondent found thousands of low income people continue to live in their shanties built on the foot of the hills.

"The government only gets busy during the rainy seasons, which is not a permanent solution," said Prof Edris Ali of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon Chittagong unit. After 2007, when 127 people were killed in landslides in Chittagong, the government formed a hill management committee. But no permanent actions were taken to relocate the dwellers and save the hills from their clutches as they built houses cutting part of the hills, said experts.

Last year, eight people including six children were killed in a hill slide; the death toll was 11 in 2008, 17 in 2011, 28 in 2012, and two in 2013 in the risky hill areas, according to reports published in newspapers. "So far there have been no initiatives to relocate us," said Mohammed Jewel, 20, who grew up in Shantinagar slum in Baizid and

showed the spot where a woman was killed and her father-in-law injured in February 2014, while cutting hills to extend their house, next to his.

Abul Bashar, 60, whose house is adjacent to a half-cut hill, said they were living there for 40 years and landslides never occurred.

Saiful Islam, at Amin Colony in Bayezid, said they were safe and lived quite far from the hills. At the same time, he said that his house was adjacent to the one where three children were killed last year.

Chittagong District Administration last year evicted 641 families in drives from June 14 to July 22, but most of the families returned afterwards, according to a CDA report.

While speaking to The Daily Star recently, Chittagong Deputy Commissioner Mesbah Uddin also admitted that most of the evicted families returned to their houses due to cheaper rents. "We are planning to permanently rehabilitate them and also talked to the mayor for their relocation," he said.

NEWS IN brief

CU admission process begins

CU CORRESPONDENT

The admission process at Chittagong University (CU) for the 2016-17 academic session began yesterday.

Admission seekers can apply till September 25 by sending Short Message Service (SMS) through any pre-paid numbers of mobile phone operator Teletalk. Detailed information is available on the university website www.cu.ac.bd. The admission tests will begin on October 23 and end on October 31.

Bangladesh Boi Mela opens in Kolkata

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kolkata

A 10-day Bangladesh Boi Mela began yesterday at Rabindra Sadan in Kolkata.

Poet Shankha Ghosh, Prof Anisuzzaman, Bangla Academy Director General Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan and a host of litterateurs, poets and publishers from both Bangladesh and West Bengal were present at the inaugural function. The book fair will remain open from 2:00pm to 9:00pm everyday till September 10.

Two 'Ansarullah' men arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Detective Branch of police yesterday claimed to have arrested two suspected activists of militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team in Chittagong city's Bakalia.

The two -- Nezam Uddin, 25, a law graduate of Chittagong University; and Md Rokon Uddin, 24, a garment worker -- were held with 13 jihadi books at a mosque on Tuesday, Deputy Commissioner Paritosh Ghosh of DB, Chittagong Metropolitan Police, told a press conference at CMP headquarters.

Free eye camp in capital tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People will get the opportunity to avail eye care free of cost tomorrow in Azimpur State Janakallyan Samity's conference room at the capital.

The service will start at 10:00am and continue till 5:00pm, said a press release yesterday.

Azimpur Boys Club and American Eye Hospital will jointly provide the service. Service seekers can contact at 01674 569868 or 01707 062168.

US embassy closed on Sunday

CITY DESK

The US Embassy will be closed on Sunday on the occasion of US Labor Day, an American national holiday.

The closure includes the Consular Section and the American Center with the Archer K Blood American Center Library and the EducationUSA Student Advising Center, said a press release. Emergency services for American citizens will be available. Please call 5566-2000 and ask for the duty officer.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with guests at the inaugural ceremony of "Shimanto Bank" in Border Guard Bangladesh headquarters in the capital yesterday. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: BSS

B Chy calls for nat'l 'strategy' to eliminate militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikolpodhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday stressed a national "strategy" to get rid of militancy.

"Amid the crisis, we must be above the political blame game," he told a press conference on militancy at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

He criticised the government as it did not use the power of opposition parties to overcome the crisis. He said the opposition is yet to reach the masses on the issue. Asked whether he was invited by BNP chief Khaleda Zia to join the process of forging an anti-militancy national unity, Badruddoza said, "Not yet", but said his party is ready to respond to any call.

Qawmi madrasas

FROM PAGE 4

corruption and militancy". The organisers claimed that they held the rally from Gazipur to Saidabad.

Addressing a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club, Nur Hossain Kashemi, vice president of Qawmi Madrasa Education Board, said there is no connection between Islam and terrorism.

He also said some people are carrying out terrorist activities in the name of Islam.

Govt launches call centre

FROM PAGE 3

able to contact the centre at +88 09654333333 for assistance from 9:00am to 6:00pm (Bangladesh Standard Time) everyday or via Facebook, Skype or eprobashbondhu. wewb@gmail.com.

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ASSET DEVELOPMENTS

Khulna BCL man murdered

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Unidentified criminals killed a Bangladesh Chhatra League activist by cutting his tendons of hands and legs at Khulna city's PTI intersection on Wednesday night.

Saikat Hossain Rohan, 25, was an executive member of the dissolved committee of the city BCL, said the unit general secretary Asaduzzaman Russel.

He was an accused in different cases, including murder and extortion, said Khulna Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (Investigation) Khandakar Faridul Haque.

An official of Khulna Metropolitan Police, seeking anonymity, said Saikat might have been killed by his rivals.

The family filed a murder case accusing 10 to 12 unnamed persons, said the OC.

'Village rationing' for poor people soon

FROM PAGE 3

for the BGB personnel and their family members...it will also play a role in the country's economic progress."

Hasina also hoped that the bank's staff will discharge their duties with utmost patriotism, honesty and integrity.

In the programme, the premier also urged all, including guardians, to remain alert so that children do not go to the wrong path of terrorism and militancy.

Hasina said the guardians have the responsibility to know properly about the whereabouts of their children.

"...you'll have to get closer to your children, hear about their problems, and sincerely continue efforts so that your children

could become good human beings completing their studies," she added.

She also hoped that the wrongdoers would come to the right path while others will perform their duties properly from their respective positions to curb these menaces.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Senior Secretary of the Home Ministry Dr Mozammel Haque Khan and Bank and Financial Institution Division Secretary Mohammad Yunusur Rahman, also spoke.

Shimanto Bank Chairman and BGB Director General Maj Gen Aziz Ahmed delivered the welcome address and its Managing Director and CEO Mokhesur Rahman made an audio-visual presentation on the bank.

'Rise High Bangladesh' reaches

FROM PAGE 3

Tamim Iqbal was also present at the event, among others.

"This Rise High Bangladesh is a very good initiative to motivate youths to generate and provide export ideas, which could contribute to the economy of our country," said the cricketer.

"I am happy to attend the event with the youths as they are full of exuberance..." he added.

The contest started on August 10 and will continue till September 10. Students can

register online and submit their export ideas.

Commending the initiative, Ivan Shafaat Bari, director of Office of Student Affairs at Brac University, said, "These ideas are important for a country's development."

Next rounds of the campaign will be held at North South University and East West University on September 5 and 6 respectively.

Bangladesh's leading English newspaper The Daily Star in association with Crown Cement launched the campaign aiming to encourage innovative export ideas of the country's youths.

South-East

FROM PAGE 4

meeting, the WHO office in Dhaka and the Health Economics Unit of the health ministry jointly held a day-long consultation seminar on Sustainable Development Goals and the role of Universal Health Coverage at Radisson hotel Wednesday.

The seminar discussed, among other things, how Universal Health Coverage is critical for achieving SDGs by member nations.

Speaking at the seminar, Health Minister Mohammed Nasim highlighted Bangladesh's many successes, including the drastic decline in maternal and child mortality rate.

The WHO Regional Committee meets annually. The 11 member states and Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

CONGRATULATIONS

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