

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 32.6 L 26.1	H 32.6 L 25.4	H 33.1 L 26.0	H 34.4 L 26.6	H 32.5 L 27.0	H 31.2 L 26.3	H 32.2 L 25.4	H 30.2 L 25.5

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions in the next 24 hours. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:14pm and rises tomorrow at 5:41am.

Media reports on Farakka water 'misleading': India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India has termed the media reports regarding release of water from Farakka barrage contributing to floods in Bangladesh "erroneous and misleading".

The Ministry of Water Resources of India has clarified that the gates of Farakka barrage are operated to smoothly pass the flows of the Ganga (Ganges) river, said a spokesperson for the Indian Ministry of external affairs on Friday in response to a question.

The gates remain open during the monsoon for smooth passage of flows of Ganga river, which is "a routine and unavoidable activity", he said.

He said that a Bangladesh media report on Wednesday has quoted the minister of water resources of Bangladesh saying that "India did not open the gates of Farakka barrage suddenly, and there is no possibility of fresh floods in the country. All the gates of Farakka barrage remain open during the monsoon to release water through the Farakka barrage -- it is nothing new".

Further, in accordance with the standing arrangement between India and Bangladesh, flood alerts during monsoon are communicated for Farakka and Sahibganj sites by field offices of the Central Water Commission (India) to their Bangladesh counterparts, he remarked.

"Being a routine procedure, no special intimation or alert regarding opening of gates is issued. The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (Bangladesh) has been quoted in the media stating that the latest water rise was natural and not unusual or abnormal in August," according to the spokesperson.



Participants at a boat race, popularly known as Nouka Baich, on the Buriganga river yesterday afternoon. The colourful regatta was organised by Bangladesh Rowing Federation near the Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge at Postagola where thousands of people converged on the river banks and the bridge to enjoy the traditional sport of riverine Bangladesh.

PHOTO: ATHIR RAHMAN

Train challenged people for employment

ECMY career expo urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People with disabilities should be provided with necessary training to enhance their skills and capacities so that they can get jobs, said discussants at a function yesterday.

Physically-challenged people have sufficient talent to perform different tasks accurately. So, proper cooperation from both government and non-government sectors should be extended to help flourish their merits, they viewed.

They were speaking at the ECMY Career Expo organised by the Physically-Challenged Development Foundation (PDF) at The Daily Star

Centre in the capital.

Under the Enhancing Capacity and Mainstreaming Youths (ECMY) with Disabilities project, the PDF in last one year trained up around 100 people with disabilities to develop their skills in different professions.

The aim of this expo is to build a bridge among officials of different business institutions, entrepreneurs, rights activists and people with disabilities, said Mamunur Rashid, PDF vice president.

Imitaz Ahmed Siddiqui, vice-president of NRB Global Bank, said there are many private companies, which give priority to recruit physically-challenged people.

In a company, there are many tasks that can be easily done by physically challenged people if they are properly trained. So, they should be given necessary opportunities, said Ahasanul Kabir Shumon, a young entrepreneur.

Retired bureaucrat Dr Sheikh Mahmood Ali said physically challenged people in many cases are not treated as human being and deprived of different rights. It should end as they need adequate care.

Kelly Mitchell-Clark, public diplomacy officer of The American Center, and Mariam Akhter, a senior Brac official, among others, also spoke at the event.

Sylhet Temple Attack Probe body to submit report in 7 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet District Administration and police jointly formed a probe committee to investigate the Friday's attack on a temple in Sylhet city.

The committee will submit a report in seven days, said the deputy commissioner's office of Sylhet.

Following the incident, police arrested 29 persons who were later released, said Rahmat Ullah, additional deputy commissioner (north) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police.

The temple yesterday sued 35 named and 2,000 unnamed persons, he said.

NEWS IN brief

Fakhrul off to S'pore for treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday flew to Singapore for treatment, said sources at BNP.

Fakhrul will receive treatment for various health complications including nerve blocks in his neck and is expected to return home before Eid-ul-Azha scheduled to be held on September 13, said BNP chairperson's Media Wing Member Sayrul Kabir Khan.

Fakhrul and his wife Rahat Ara Begum left Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in a Biman Bangladesh flight around 8:30am.

Bernicat visits NCC

A CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Stephens Bloom Bernicat paid a courtesy visit to the Narayanganj City Corporation yesterday.

During the visit she discussed about different issues, including anti militancy, with NCC Mayor Dr Selina Hayat Ivy.

NCC Panel Mayor Obayedullah, CEO Mahmudur Rahman Hobib, Chief Executive Abdul Aziz, and City Planner Mainul Islam were present there.

Autumn semester 2016 orientation of IUB held

CITY DESK

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organised an orientation programme for the newly admitted undergraduate students of autumn semester on its Bashundhara campus in Dhaka yesterday.

Prof Milan Pagon, pro vice-chancellor (designate) of IUB, welcomed the new students at the event where IUB Registrar Brig Gen (retd) Anwarul Islam discussed about the academic rules and regulations of the university, said a press release.

Barisal divisional debate fest ends

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A two-day debate festival, which was organised to promote citizens access to information, ended at Ashwani Kumar Hall in Barisal city yesterday.

Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation, Jagroto Nagorik Committee, Bangladesh Debate Federation (BDF) and Bangladesh Debate Society (BDS) organised the festival where 36 teams from 16 schools, 12 colleges and eight universities participated.

Chief Information Commissioner Prof Golam Rahaman and Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam attended the closing session.

Nazma's body arrives from NY today

UNB, Dhaka

The body of Nazma Khanam, a Bangladeshi-American who was stabbed to death by a miscreant in Jamaica Hills area in Queens, New York on Wednesday night, is expected to reach Dhaka today morning.

A flight carrying the body left the John F Kennedy International Airport on Friday night and is expected to arrive at 8:40am today, Bangladesh Consul General in New York Shameem Ahsan told the news agency yesterday.

Nazma's son Nazmul Alam Khan will receive her body at the airport, he said. Nazma's husband Shamsul Alam and their son Naimul Alam Khan also left New York the same day.

Meanwhile, New York police released a surveillance video of the "person of interest" in the killing of Nazma.

The authorities are offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person who stabbed the Bangladeshi woman.

Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the eighth death anniversary of Ahmed Yunus, former joint secretary of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation.

Founder president of Rajshahi Zila Samity, he was associated with different socio-cultural organisations. He was a resident of Uttara Model Town (house # 17, road # 14, sector # 3) in the capital.

His family members requested all to pray for his departed soul.



The newly constructed building of Gandhi Memorial Institute in Gandhi Ashram in Jayag of Noakhali, inaugurated yesterday. (Inset) Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader waves at a crowd with Indian High Commissioner Harsh Vardhan Shringla sitting on his right during the inauguration programme.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Gandhi Memorial Instt inaugurated in Noakhali

CITY DESK

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader and High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Harsh Vardhan Shringla yesterday visited the Gandhi Ashram and inaugurated the newly constructed "Gandhi Memorial Institute" on the Ashram premises in Jayag of Noakhali, an Indian high commission press release said.

The school building was constructed as a part of the Gandhi Ashram Trust (GAT) development project financed by Gandhi Heritage Sites Mission of India's Ministry of Culture.

While addressing an event, Shringla appreciated the development and charity work of the Trust. He also urged its authorities to spread Gandhi's message of non-violence, peace, tolerance and communal harmony.

The Trust's president Debapriya Bhattacharya also spoke.

Party reorganisation vital

FROM PAGE 4

He alleged that the government is trying to eliminate BNP through repression and harassment, adding, "They can weaken us for the time being but, will not be able to eliminate us. BNP will surely rebound and return to power."

BNP vice chairmen M Shahjahan, Barrister Aminul Haq, AZM Zahid, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Ahmed Azam Khan and chairperson's adviser and Dhaka University Prof Sukomal Barua also addressed the programme chaired by its vice chairman Harun-or-Rashid.

Hundreds join Jail Canal clean-up campaign

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A mass cleaning campaign to save Jail Canal started early yesterday in Barisal city.

Hundreds of people took part in the campaign, according to Barisal District Administration sources.

The BDA with the help of the city corporation, educational institutions, NGOs and cultural organisations initiated the campaign "Save Barisal Jail Canal", they added.

"It's our canal, we have to clean it ourselves," said Deputy Commissioner Dr Gazi Md Saifuzzaman.

State Minister for ICT Division Inauid Ahmed Palak inaugurated the campaign.

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