

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 34.0 L 25.8	CHITTAGONG H 34.0 L 26.0	SYLHET H 33.6 L 26.6	RAJSHAHI H 35.3 L 27.0	KHULNA H 34.8 L 27.2	BARISAL H 34.0 L 26.2	RANGPUR H 35.3 L 26.4	COX'S BAZAR H 32.8 L 26.40
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Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Sylhet and Mymensingh divisions in the next 24 hours. **The sun sets in the capital today at 5:45pm and rises tomorrow at 5:51am.**

Keep diplomatic ties with Pakistan to minimum

Ex-diplomats, FFs urge govt over reactions to war crimes verdicts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The reactions Pakistan and Turkey gave after the execution of war criminals in Bangladesh are "unacceptable" and "go against the established diplomatic norms", former diplomats and freedom fighters said yesterday.

They also recommended that the government bring down the diplomatic relations with Pakistan at a lowest level and take necessary step to dispel "misunderstanding" with Turkish government about the ongoing war crimes trial.

The speakers said these at a discussion organised by the Sector Commanders Forum (SCF)-Muktijuddho '71, an organisation of freedom fighters, at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Two war crimes tribunals have so far delivered 26 judgments, convicting 50 people and sentencing 28 of them to death for the crimes during the Liberation War. Six convicts have already been executed.

After the execution of war criminals, Pakistan issued almost similar statements expressing deep sadness over the issue and created a huge public outrage in Bangladesh.

Haroon Habib, SCF secretary general, said Pakistan's reaction over Bangladesh's internal affairs was a clear violation of international norms, and it went beyond the diplomatic norms.

Mohiuddin Ahmed, a former principal of Foreign Service

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Members of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote observe a minute of silence in front of the capital's Central Shaheed Minar yesterday before starting a mourning rally commemorating poet Syed Shamsul Haq, who passed away September 27.

Car plunges into Dhaleswari, youth missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A youth went missing as a private car plunged into the Dhaleswari river breaking the railing of a bridge in Munshiganj in the wee hours of yesterday.

Jalaluddin Bhuiyan Rumi, 22, son of Abdur Rauf of Narayanganj town, was driving the car when the accident occurred around 12:30am, said police and witnesses.

Meanwhile, fire service divers with the help of local people pulled out the car, which was traced 60 feet deep in the river, around 3:00pm yesterday.

Police suspects the incident happened when Rumi tried to take a u-turn on the bridge.

Rubel, the car's driver, said he and Rumi went to Mukhtarpur area for "sightseeing"; when they reached near the bridge, Rumi decided to drive the car alone.

Mosharraf Hossain, SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Child protection a far cry

1,860 die from violent incidents in 2015, shows MJF report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 1,860 children died from violent incidents like road accident, rape, abduction, drowning, torture, and suicide across the country last year, according to a report.

The figure was achieved by analysing reports of six national dailies -- Prothom Alo, Ittefaq, Jugantar, Samakal, New Age, and The Daily Star -- between January and December 2015.

However, the death toll dropped by 245 from 2014's figure, showed the report titled "Situation of Bangladesh Children: Newspaper Analysis and Experts' Opinions".

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) unveiled it at Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday.

Last year, road accidents took the largest chunk of the victims, accounting for 325 deaths.

Careless driving, over-speed, violation of traffic rules and haphazard movement of pedestrians were the key reasons of the accidents.

Drowning came in second, claiming 296 lives. At least 41 children were killed after abduction following feuds over family issues, land, politics, and love affairs.

"People are heading towards a capitalistic society where

CAUSE	DEATH TOLL
Road accidents	325
Drowning	296
Suicide	115
Rape	41
Abduction	41
Political violence	15

enmities are prevalent among family members over money and properties. So children are being abducted and used as a means of getting ransom," the report said.

Use of children in political violence has become another concern -- 15 children were killed in political violence last year. Another major cause of deaths is suicide -- it claimed 156 lives. The children killed themselves because of love-affairs, family feud, sexual exploitation, dowry, and failing in examinations.

The report said, "Decaying social values, perverted mentality, aggression of drug, and culture of impunity contribute to intensifying the trend of crimes against children."

Meanwhile, watching pornography has become widespread because of misuse of technology and lack of monitoring of guardians. In Dhaka city, 77 percent of school-goers watch pornography.

While presenting the paper, MJF programme coordinator Abdullah Al Mamun cited a list of recommendations to ensure child protection.

The report urged the Election Commission and political

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Tanvir, his wife taken off exam duties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi



The former husband of a Rajshahi University (RU) teacher, who apparently committed suicide on September 9, and his wife have been barred from taking part in exam duties for the next five years.

The RU Academic Council, headed by the vice-chancellor (VC), took the decision at a meeting yesterday after an allegation of Tanvir Ahmad getting examination answer sheets evaluated by Soma Dev proved true, Pro-VC Prof Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan told The Daily Star.

"A teacher does not possess the authority to get answer sheets evaluated by any of their family members...it is a breach of students' privacy," he added.

Some eight students of the mass

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Dhaka students protest rise in creative questions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"We know we are supposed to be in reading room instead of protesting on the street. What else can we do as a government decision about question patterns of examinations brought us here?" said a student of Dhaka Imperial College.

He made this remark when several hundred students of different schools and colleges yesterday were demonstrating in the capital, protesting the decision to raise the number of creative questions in SSC and HSC examinations.

Under the banner of Dhaka Shadharan Chhatra Samaj, they staged a two-hour sit-in before Jatiya Press Club from 1:00pm halting vehicular movement in the area and kept the Shahbagh intersection blocked for half an hour from 3:00pm.

The students demanded that the government repeal the decision and reinstate the previous system of answering six creative questions

instead of seven, reasoning that it will be difficult for them to answer all the seven questions unless the time is increased. "The government should change their decision thinking about our excessive study load. If they don't do so, we will go on a tougher movement soon," said a student of Government Science College.

A student of Jatiya Janak Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Govt College said, "The government took the sudden decision just one month before our test examinations, which is completely unacceptable. We will not be able to take proper preparations within this little time." Earlier at 11:00am, they also held a human chain in Shahbagh.

During their protests, they condemned the Thursday's baton charges by police on students in Chittagong when they were protesting the decision. Today, they will hold a press conference in Dhaka University Modhur Canteen.



Dr Tofail Ahmed, director of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), speaks at a report unveiling programme at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday organised by the foundation. On his right are Parveen Mahmud, MJF governing body member, Shaheen Anam, its executive director, and Abdulla Al Mamun, programme coordinator.

PHOTO: STAR

Sylhet state-run poultry farm in shabby state

17 dilapidated buildings may collapse anytime, fear officials

MINTU DESHWARA, Sylhet

Nasir Uddin recently went to the government's livestock department's poultry farm office in Tilagarh of Sylhet city to purchase some ducklings.

As soon as the poultry farmer of Chandpur village, near Hakaluki haor, entered the compound through the worn-out gate, he was nearly consumed by an eerie feeling by looking at the almost bleak surrounding.

Eeriness soon turned to anxiety once he stepped inside the duck-shed. The one-story building was not only missing almost half of its corrugated tin-roof, but also the remaining ones were rusty and crumpled.



One of the many derelict buildings of the government's poultry farm office in Tilagarh of Sylhet city.

There were also several cracks on the walls. "When I entered the building, I got scared, it felt like the building might collapse," said Nasir.

Not only Nasir, but most of the farmers also feel the same, since the 17 buildings inside the compound are in dilapidated conditions.

Though the buildings have been declared risky and unfit in a recent inspection, offices are still being held there.

The buildings might collapse anytime, feared the officials concerned, adding that they have no other options as alternatives have not been arranged.

They said the number of purchasers have dropped significantly due to safety concern.

The buildings are: one office building, one rest house, seven quarters, five

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Save mother hilsa for sustainable harvests

Prothom Alo, ECOFISHBD project roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pointing out that hilsa fishing ban periods varied from year to year, discussants at a roundtable yesterday stressed more scientific efforts for preserving the mothers to ensure a sustainable rate of harvest.

They also suggested the government continue monitoring whether there was a continuation of present bumper harvests in the next two to three years before allowing exports.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo, in co-operation with the Enhanced Coastal Fisheries (ECOFISHBD) project of WorldFish Bangladesh, organised the roundtable at its office in the capital's Kawran Bazar on steps to continue good harvests.

action plan while its director, MI Golder, said this has already occurred due to a hilsa management action plan.

The livelihoods of fishermen also need to be improved, said Hossain Zillur Rahman, former adviser to a caretaker government. Improving livelihoods of all involved required more investment and modern equipment, added a hilsa wholesaler from Patuakhali, Ansar Ali Mollah.

Department of Fisheries Director General Syed Arif Azad credited government measures for increased harvests, which were low till 2010.

Prothom Alo Associate Editor Abdul Quayum moderated the roundtable while Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute Director General Yahya Mahmud and Nathan Sage of USAID were present.



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