

**WEATHER FORECAST**

**YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES**

<b>DHAKA</b> H 31.8   L 26.2	<b>CHITTAGONG</b> H 34.5   L 26.7	<b>SYLHET</b> H 30.0   L 26.5	<b>RAJSHAHI</b> H 35.0   L 25.5	<b>KHULNA</b> H 34.0   L 26.2	<b>BARISAL</b> H 32.3   L 25.5	<b>RANGPUR</b> H 34.5   L 26.5	<b>COX'S BAZAR</b> H 33.0   L 26.0
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Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Sylhet, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal divisions with moderately heavy falls in the next 24 hours. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:39pm and rises tomorrow at 5:53am.



**Devotees offer prayers to Goddess Durga at the Gulshan Sarbojanin Puja Udjapan Mandap set up on the field near Banani Bazar in the capital yesterday marking the start of a five-day religious festival, the biggest for the Hindu community. The festival will come to an end with the immersion of the goddess' idols in water bodies on October 11.**

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

**SNAPS & snippets**



**Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury at an art competition for children in the capital yesterday, marking birth anniversary of Sheikh Russel, youngest son of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.**

**Newlywed woman found dead**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaajpur  
The body of a newlywed woman was found in a pond in Pirganj upazila of Rangpur yesterday. Nasima Begum, 20, of Joypur village married Md Swadin, of Khedmathpur village two months ago. Family members said Nasima came to visit her parents 10 days ago. She was traceless after she went to meet her friends next to her house around 10:00pm on Thursday. The next morning, locals spotted her body in the pond. Police sent the body to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.



**People under the banner of Samajtantrik Mahila Forum form a human in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding exemplary punishment for Badrul Alam who hacked Khadiza Begum Nargis in broad daylight on Monday.**

**Man's body found in Benapole**

OUR CORRESPONDENT Benapole  
Police recovered the body of a man from Putkhali village in Benapole yesterday. Family members said Ajahar Ali, 55, of Satkhira was traceless since he went outside home on Thursday morning. The next morning locals spotted his body beside Kharidanga Primary School and informed police. Police sent the body to Jessore Medical College Hospital for an autopsy. A case was filed.

**129KM DOHAZARI-COX'S BAZAR-GUNDUM ROUTE Rail project gets momentum**

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, Ctg  
The Dohazari-Cox's Bazar-Gundum rail project finally got momentum and Bangladesh Railway (BR) is now optimistic to begin the work from April next year. BR is also aiming at constructing about 100.83km railway line from Dohazari in Chittagong to Cox's Bazar within the next three years as per the direction of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at an Ecneec meeting on April 19, said railway sources. Additional Project Director (APD) Md Mofizur Rahman said they have invited tender for the project on September 26 this year. "It may take upto March next year to complete the procedures," he added.

The land acquisition process has already begun, he said. "...construction work will start from April 2017," he hoped. Although the deadline for the project's implementation was extended till June 2022, directive has been given to make the Dohazari-Cox's Bazar rail track ready by 2018, the APD said. According to railway sources, Ecneec approved the "construction of single line dual gauge railway track from Dohazari to Cox's Bazar via Ramu (100.831km) and Ramu to Gundum (28.382 km) near Myanmar (1st revised)" project in April, with an estimated cost of Tk 18,034.48 crore. About Tk 4,919 crore will come from the government while about Tk 13,115 crore as project assistance

from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), they said. The ADB recently has approved \$1.5 billion fund for the project, said APD Rahman, adding, the loan agreement between the government and ADB is expected to be signed in December. Earlier in 2010, Ecneec approved the project for constructing a single-line meter-gauge track from Dohazari in Chittagong to Cox's Bazar via Ramu and Ramu to Gundum in Bandarban, involving Tk 1,852.35 crore, whose implementation period was from July 1, 2010 to December 31, 2013. The premier laid the foundation stone on April 3, 2011. But the project remained stalled as no donor was found, railway sources added.

Later, changes were brought to its design for establishing a link with Trans-Asian Railway corridor and bringing tourist city Cox's Bazar under the rail network, they said, adding, the single line project was turned to a dual gauge one through which both meter and broad gauge trains can ply. New stations would be constructed in Dohazari, Satkania, Lohagara, Harbang, Chakaria, Dulahazara, Islamabad, Ramu, Cox's Bazar, Ukhia and Gundum under the project, said APD Rahman. Alongside other infrastructures, 52 major bridges, 190 minor bridges/culverts and two underpasses would be constructed and 1,741 acres of land would be acquired to implement the project, he said.

**No Durga Puja at Patuakhali temple protesting killing its secy**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali  
Durga Puja is not being celebrated at the 45-year-old Monoranjon Sikderbari Puja Temple at Korpurkathi of Baufal upazila in Patuakhali, in protest of killing of its secretary. Swapan Sikder, president of the temple, said Ashotoma Mostree alias Ashok went missing on July 23 and police recovered his body from Haser char area on July 29, about 1.5km away from his house. "We are feeling scared and agitated, he added. Azom Khan Faruqee, OC of Baufal police, said, "We are trying to identify the killers."



An artiste performing at "Summit Bangladesh Evening" at The Nehru Centre in London on Thursday.

**Dhaka hosts cultural soiree in London**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT  
The Bangladesh High Commission in London hosted the "Summit Bangladesh Evening" on Thursday at The Nehru Centre in the city. It was dedicated to the freedom fighters and martyrs of the 1971 Liberation War, says a high commission press release yesterday. Minister (press) Nadeem Qadir anchored the programme, while British-Bangladeshi artists Shammam Azad, Srity Azad, Gouri Chowdhury, Hashi Rani and Sobira Sultana Sonia presented their numbers. Acting High Commissioner Khandaker M Talha and Nehru Centre Assistant Director Vibhaji were also present.

**Ctg port gets new gate, shed**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg  
Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan inaugurated newly built gate and shed at Newmooring Container Terminal (NCT) of the Chittagong port yesterday. Rear Admiral M Khaled Iqbal, chairman of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), presided over the inauguration where Lawmaker MA Latif was also present. Shajahan claimed that the present government played a vital role in the development of the port. The minister also attended another programme organised by Lloyd's List, a shipping journal, in the Shaheed Md Fazlur Rahman Munshi auditorium of CPA to hand over a certificate to the port for ranking 76th among top 100 ports that handle containers. Lloyd's List Representative Captain Zillur Rahman handed over the certificate to the port's chairman Iqbal, who informed that in the last nine months, the Chittagong port handled over 17.5 lakh TEUs (20-foot equivalent units) of containers. The figure will reach around 22 lakh TEUs this year, he hoped. CPA secured 98th position in 2009.



Students come out of an exam centre inside the Arts Building in Dhaka University yesterday following tests for admission to medical colleges. A total of 90,426 admission seekers vied in the test against 3,212 seats in public medical colleges and 6,205 seats in private medical colleges.

**Bangladeshi women most advanced in South Asia**

Rokia Afzal tells Inner Wheel Clubs event  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Bangladeshi women are most advanced in South Asia, as they made a significant improvement in education, business, job and social participation, said Rokia Afzal Rahman, president of Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs, yesterday. "Women of our country once had to struggle to take education or job. Now their participation in education has increased and they are doing various types of businesses and jobs," she told a programme of Inner Wheel Clubs (IWC).



Guests with new executives of four wings of Inner Wheel Clubs at their installation ceremony at Sonargaon Hotel in the capital yesterday.

IWC, a voluntary organisation working for women, organised it in the capital to introduce new committees of its four wings including IWC Dilkusha, IWC Baily Garden, IWC Dhaka Paradise and IWC of Dhaka Spondon. As the chief guest, Rokia said the women will have to come forward to protest all kinds of violence against them and then men will come forward to support them. Hosne Ara Chowdhury, national representative of IWC; Lovely Bayzid, chairman of District-345 of IWC; Kalpona Rahman, president of IWC Dilkusha; Azmatun Nessa Huque, president of IWC Baily Garden; and Shahin Akhter Putul, president of IWC Dhaka Paradise, were also present.

**Schoolchildren as disaster preparedness ambassador**

UNB, Dhaka  
The dream of 10-year-old Tasfia Sultana to sit for the primary school examination from a non-formal school in Cox's Bazar was about to be shattered after a nor'wester blew over her area in March this year. Mohseniipara Shikhon School was built in a disaster-prone area of PM Khali Union in Cox's Bazar Sadar in 2013. It was completely destroyed by a mild storm on March 22, putting the future of Tasfia and 33 other disadvantaged children into trouble. However, the local community rebuilt the school and brought the dreams of these underprivileged children back on track. This time the schoolchildren applied some techniques they were taught under the "Learning resilience: institutionalising school disaster management (SDM) in the education sector in Bangladesh DIPECHO-VIII." "The community people, guardians, students were all stunned by the incident. I tried to continue their studying in my own yard, but scorching summer heat under the open sky did not allow them to continue," school teacher Monowara Begum told the news agency.

Facing such a situation, she said members of the school management committee collected donation from the community and rebuilt the school at a cost of Tk 10,000, making it a disaster-resilient one. The schoolchildren have applied the knowledge they gained from the disaster preparedness programme of DIPECHO - a programme supported by the EU's humanitarian aid and civil protection operations - to cope with cyclones and storms. Save the Children has been working with the government to implement the programme. These schoolchildren are now working as ambassador of disaster preparedness in their localities. They disseminate the knowledge they gained from the school among their family members and community people as well. "We have learned a lot about what should be done before and after a cyclone. And we all disseminate the lesson of disaster preparedness we learned," said Tasfia Sultana. Explaining the meaning of red flags shown before a cyclone, she said when a red

**Obituary**

BSS, Dhaka  
 Zahid Jasim died of a cardiac arrest in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in the US on October 1. He was 40. Zahid was the eldest son of Maj (retd) Jasim Uddin, president of Bangladesh Cold Storage Association and owner of Meghna Multipurpose Himagar and Meghna Packaging. He left behind his wife, parents, two siblings and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death. His first namaz-e-janaza was held at Jamaica Muslim Centre in the US. His body will arrive in Dhaka today, family sources said. His second namaz-e-janaza will be held after Zohr prayers at Allahu Mosque at Dhaka Cantonment. He will be buried in Banani army graveyard.