

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 32.5 L 24.0

CHITTAGONG H 33.0 L 24.6

SYLHET H 33.8 L 21.3

RAJSHAHI H 32.0 L 22.0

KHULNA H 32.5 L 22.0

BARISAL H 32.0 L 21.5

RANGPUR H 31.8 L 22.2

COX'S BAZAR H 33.2 L 25.0

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged and night temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:24pm and rises tomorrow at 6:01am. Country's highest temperature 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sylhet and lowest 18.5 in Tentulia.



PHOTO: MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

As a 22-day government ban on catching hilsa has been going on since October 12, thousands of trawlers are anchored at different berthing points in different coastal areas of Cox's Bazar, leading the fishermen to be engaged in other jobs to make a living. The photo was taken from Majhir Ghat of the river Bakkhali in the district yesterday.

NEWS IN brief

Three drug addicts jailed in Rangpur

Our Correspondent, Dinajpur
A mobile court in Rangpur yesterday sentenced three drug addicts to seven days' imprisonment each. The mobile court caught Md Mannan, 40, of Dhapa area, Touhidul Islam, 23, of Lalbagh, and Sajib Kumar Day, 21, of Palpara, when they were having cannabis in different areas of Rangpur city. Joypurhat Sadar police sent them to Rangpur jail.

Broadcast journalism lab opens at IUB

City Desk
Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) has launched broadcast journalism (television) lab on its Bashundhara campus in Dhaka recently, says a press release. Rashed Chowdhury, chairman of the board of trustees, IUB; and Prof M Omar Rahman, vice chancellor, opened it at a ceremony where deans and heads of the departments were, among others, present.

FF Shahid Uddin passes away

City Desk
Veteran freedom fighter Khandaker Shahid Uddin died on October 18 at Delta Oncology Medical Hospital at the age of 68. He left behind his wife, two sons and two daughters. He was buried with "Guard of Honour" at their family graveyard at Balapur in Paikerchar union parishad (near Madhabdi, Baburhat) of Narsigndi. He retired from the food department a few years ago.

UNCONSCIOUS THREE Resentment towards husband prompted self sedation

Say police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Resentment towards her husband prompted a mother to sedate herself and her two children, one of whom was declared dead after being rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on Sunday, according to police. Sahana Begum, 28, is recovering while Agomoni, 4, was released under the care of her uncle Abdus Salam in the afternoon yesterday, said DMCH sources. Amzad Hossain arrived at their Badda flat in the capital early in the morning and, finding no response, broke in with neighbours' assistance to find his wife Sahana and daughters Agomoni and one-and-a-half-year-old Aria unconscious, neighbour Adil Mahmud Selim told The Daily Star. Badda Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdul Jalil said they got to know about the resentment issue from Sahana and further could be known once she fully recovers. However relatives claimed Amzad went missing after bringing his wife and daughters to DMCH. Abdus Salam said Amzad took his daughter's body to their ancestral home in Rowmari of Kurigram district.

Testimony thru' video conference necessary

Suggest experts if criminal case witness stays in distant place

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of legal experts has proposed that the government initiate measures for recording statements of witnesses of criminal cases through video conference if they stay in distant places. "Delaying in producing witnesses in court is one of the major problems in settling criminal cases... If the logistic support for video conference is made available at courts and relevant laws are amended, the problem will largely be solved," said Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif, a High Court judge. "We, including Justice Md Imman Ali (a judge of the Appellate Division), have placed some proposals to the government to this effect," he said while addressing a function yesterday. "We already have interactions with the A21 project under the Prime Minister's Office on bringing all courts under a common network and taking statements of witnesses through video conference," he said in the context of delay in disposal of criminal cases involving children. Jagrata Juba Shangha (JSS), with the assistance of Unicef, organised the "National Level Sharing Meeting on Diversion Under Children Act 2013: Experiences of Khulna and Jessore" at The Daily Star Centre in the capital. The Children Act 2013 covers a wide range of areas about special judicial mecha-

nism and introduction of alternative care and diversions for the protection of children, who are engaged with different types of criminal offence. Diversion means one kind of alternative social arbitration system instead of taking children to formal judicial proceedings for committing crimes. Under this system, children, who committed lighter crimes, are released through intervention of law enforcers, government officials, NGOs and guardians of children. The main purpose of diversion is to give children a chance so that they can rectify their mistakes under parental care and affection. JSS has been implementing a project for the last two years in Khulna and Jessore promoting diversion of children. A total of 173 children have been rehabilitated and sent back to their families from January 2015 to September 2016, said JSS officials. Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division Additional Secretary Nasreen Begum, Deputy Inspector General (DIG-Training and Sports) of Police Dr Kh Mahid Uddin, child rights activists and judicial officials spoke at the function. All of them emphasised coordinated efforts from both government and non-government sectors for protecting maximum rights of children, and in this regard they called for full implementation of the Children Act.



Participants at a meeting on "Diversion under Children Act 2013: Experiences of Khulna and Jessore", organised by Jagrata Juba Shangha, and Unicef, in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

CONTEMPT OF COURT 4 Boishakhi TV officials charged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday framed charge against four officials of Boishakhi TV in a case filed for contempt of court. They are Deputy Managing Director and Chief Executive Tipu Alam, Head of News Ashok Chowdhury, chief of human resource department Touhidul Alam Rani and Chittagong bureau chief Mohsin Chowdhury. The then Chittagong bureau chief of the TV channel Hasan Ferdous filed the case after he was sacked from it last October 17, challenging the termination order. The court stayed the termination order following the case. Although the channel authorities received the copy of the order, they did not reinstate him, said plaintiff's lawyer Ashish Kumar Dutta. On February 22, Hasan filed the contempt of court case.

Timir Dutta laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Freedom fighter and journalist Timir Dutta was cremated at Barisal Mahashamshan Ghat early yesterday. Timir Dutta, 62, former senior reporter of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha, died at his home in the capital on Sunday. After giving state honour at Jatiya Press Club, his body was taken to his ancestral home in Agorpur Road in Barisal city.

More public toilets sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday sought government support in increasing the number of public toilets at designated spots in the capital to keep the city clean. People usually have to suffer since there are not enough public loos and sometimes they are forced to relieve themselves on the streets, said eminent columnist Syed Abul Maksud. It is essential for all public places to have toilet facilities, said the former vice-president of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, adding that both the public and private sectors have to come forward. The Association for Realisation of Basic Needs (ARBAN) and WaterAid organised the meeting at The Daily Star Centre in the capital. Nirapad Development Foundation Chairman Ibnul Syed Rana said women suffer the most for the inadequate number of public toilets as they feel uncomfortable going like men, even if it is an emergency, causing them to develop diseases of the urinary system. He said many people in the country were interested on assisting the construction of public loos provided the government allocates some space. Shahid Ullah Mazumder, project coordinator of Promoting Environmental Health for the Urban Poor, ARBAN, said around 55 lakh people need to use the toilet while going about their tasks every day. However, the two city corporations have only 69 public toilets, which is insufficient, he said, adding that they launched mobile public toilet facilities in 2011 to meet some of the demand. "Now we are providing toilet facilities to the city people through 53 mobile toilets at 34 places," he said. Echoing Shahid, WaterAid Programme Officer Anindita Hridita said mobile public toilet facilities were very important as those help to alleviate the shortage of permanent public toilets and help to keep the environment clean and pollution free. "But sometimes we face difficulties from the authorities concerned to place the toilets," she said. Film director Noyeem Intiaz Neamul said, "To overcome such difficulties and getting financial support, we need to include the corporate houses, Dhaka Metropolitan Police and other government stakeholders in the initiative." Seeking cooperation of news providers, another film director, Ashraf Shishir, said the media has an important role to play to inspire financially solvent people so that they contribute to extending public toilet facilities.



A meeting on "Mobile Toilet Services" organised by the Association for Realisation of Basic Needs, and WaterAid in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Burglary at four Rangpur schools

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Burglars equipped with sharp weapons ransacked office rooms of four schools in Rangpur city and looted cash, documents and a national flag early yesterday, said police. Afan Ullah High School, Mahiganj Girls' High School and College, Mahiganj Government Primary School, and Mahiganj Kindergarten School are in Mahiganj area. Mahiganj girls' school Principal Jahanagara Begum, quoting their night guard, said a gang of burglars stormed into the office room by breaking the locks and ransacked it. They left the spot with necessary papers, a national flag and cash worth Tk 30,000, she claimed. Meherul Islam, the night guard of Afan Ullah High School, said a gang of 10 members with sharp weapons rushed to the spot by a microbus. They stormed into the room in the same way and ransacked it showing him their weapons, he said. Ataur Rahman, a teacher of the school, said he found that Tk 8,000 had gone missing. They could not say whether anything went missing from the offices, Sub-inspector Shah Alam, in-charge of Mahiganj police outpost, quoted the authorities of two other schools as saying. The incident happened due to negligence of police, an allegation from the Mahiganj residents denied by the SI. They are trying to identify the gang members, he said. A general diary was filed with Rangpur Sadar Police Station regarding the incident.

Motijheel school guardians protest fee hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Guardians of the students of Motijheel Ideal School and College yesterday blocked a road in the capital's Mugda protesting hike of monthly tuition fees. They formed a human chain and kept the road blocked for about one hour from 7:00am creating severe traffic jam on adjacent roads. They said the school authorities increased the fees by Tk 150 in October violating government directives. They demanded that the Ministry of Education form a committee to probe irregularities and corruption of the school. The forum called upon the authority to hold a meeting with them, says a press release. They also held protests in front of the school's Motijheel main branch and Banasree branch.

Fakhrul slams Hasina's remarks on next polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's comment that people will not let BNP come to power in the next general election is "lamentable" and "harmful" for democracy, BNP Secretary General Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday. "The prime minister in her speech said the Awami League will come to power in the next election. She has called upon people so that BNP cannot come to power," he said. Hasina, delivering her introductory speech on Sunday, the second day of the 20th Awami League council, asked AL men to stay alert so that BNP-Jamaat, which "embezzled public money", cannot come to power. She also asked the AL leaders and workers to take all out preparations for the next general elections for a third consecutive win. "I want our party to win the polls and serve the people of Bangladesh again," she said. Addressing a programme in the capital's Dhaka Reporters Unity marking the 15th death anniversary of BNP leader Akhtar Ahmed Siddique, Fakhrul said it was clear from the prime minister's speech what their plan was regarding the next polls. He said the prime minister stated in front of foreign delegates that her party had saved democracy and would work so that it flourishes, something not matching with what she stated on Sunday.

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