

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 25.0 L 23.4

CHITTAGONG H 24.8 L 23.5

SYLHET H 25.8 L 21.5

RAJSHAHI H 27.2 L 22.4

KHULNA H 24.2 L 22.4

BARISAL H 24.2 L 22.8

RANGPUR H 32.0 L 21.0

COX'S BAZAR H 29.0 L 23.8

Light to moderate rain / thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty/squally wind will likely occur at most places over Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Sylhet, Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions and at many places over Rangpur division with moderately heavy to very heavy falls at places over southern part of the country in the next 24 hours, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:16pm and rises tomorrow at 6:08am.



A person carefully walks on the subsided portion of the Padma river embankment in Rajshahi city's Shekher Chalk area yesterday. Some 60 meters of the land started subsiding from October 21 and went at least seven feet down damaging houses alongside the road.

PHOTO: ANWAR ALI

# RAJSHAHI EMBANKMENT STILL SUBSIDING No initiative yet to protect city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Though the road on the Padma river embankment in Rajshahi city's Shekher Chalk area continues to subside, the authorities concerned are yet to take any initiative in this regard.

Some 60 meters of the land started subsiding from October 21 and went at least seven feet down from the road level till yesterday, said an official of Rajshahi Water Development Board.

While visiting the area it was seen that the houses of Idris Ali, Abul Kalam Azad, Abdul Hakim and Jotsna Bewa were severely damaged. Cracks were seen at other houses too, putting the lives of the dwellers at risk.

The dwellers, residing along the road, claimed the land was subsiding gradually due to the receding river water, which also widened the cracks.

The authorities were regularly visiting the area, but they were yet to take any initiative, they alleged. Many were also leaving the area out of fear, they added.

"My house is getting damaged everyday," said Mohammad Idris, a resident. "The crack on the wall widened in the last three days and some portion of the land underneath subsided on Friday night," he said.

A huge portion of the embankment also subsided on the night of October 28.

During the last month's flood, water leaked through old blocks of the embankment, which made it vulnerable, said Moklesur Rahman, executive engineer of Rajshahi WDB.

The embankment was constructed in the late 90s and was not maintained properly, he added.

"We are observing the situation and would start the repair work as soon as the funds are available," he said.

# Islamic scholars want to fight militancy with govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers yesterday at a discussion emphasised incorporating the role of alem-ulema, pir and mashaikh (religious scholars) in the government's ongoing initiatives to purge the country of militancy.

They said militancy has no place in Islam and that those who are carrying out subversive activities in the name of Islam do not belong to the religion.

They further said they were ready to assist the government in combating terrorism and urged to launch a separate TV channel for airing anti-militancy programmes.

Bangladesh Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat held the programme at the capital's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, with the title "Vital role of ulema and pir mashaikh against terrorism and militancy and in disseminating message of the holy Quran and Sunnah." The organisation's President Syed Bahadur Shah Mujaddidi announced to hold an anti-militancy rally compromising Islamic scholars in the capital on January 28.

He demanded disposal of cases filed for the killing of religious scholars including Ahle Sunnat leader Maulana Nunul Islam Faruqi. Jainul Abedin Jubayer, principal of Nesaria Kamil Madrasah in Chittagong, and Golam Maula Nakshabandi, member of Islamic Foundation's governing board, also spoke.

# RU teacher Raja shown arrested over provocation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday showed arrested the colleague of a Rajshahi University

(RU) teacher who committed suicide on September 9, claiming to have unearthed some evidence showing he had allegedly provoked her into taking her life.

Assistant Professor Atiqur Rahman Raja of mass communication and journalism department was picked up on Thursday afternoon from the city. He has been kept under the detective branch of police since the courts stayed closed during the weekend.

Police recovered the body of Associate Prof Akter Jahan Joly of the same department on September 9 from her room at RU and found an alleged suicide note.

Sources involved in the investigation said a part of the evidence was text messages found on Joly's cellphone dating back to August. Those indicated that they had been seeing each other for around seven years and recently had been in a disagreement over Raja refusing to provide Joly an "outcome of their relation", they said.

Raja was "irresponsible" for not checking up on Joly after getting her last SMS in which she wrote to have dressed up with his gifts and was "going to sleep in peace", presumably after taking sleeping pills, said the sources. Police will be considering this "irresponsibility" to be provocation, they added, quoting Raja as saying that this was his "biggest error in life".

In previous conversations, Joly also threatened "to do something" and Raja had asked if she was "taking revenge" and asked to "find a new path", they said. Joly married an associate professor of the department before joining RU in 1997. She divorced him in 2012.



JOLY'S DEATH

# SNAPS & snippets

## SAU celebrates anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

To mark its 10th anniversary, Sylhet Agriculture University (SAU) organised a two-day programme yesterday.

Vice-Chancellor of the university Dr Golam Shahi Alam inaugurated the programme cutting a cake in front of the administrative building.

A colourful procession was brought out by the students and teachers and other members of the university which marched through different roads of the city.

SAU Photographic Society arranged a photography exhibition on the campus and a cultural event was arranged where cultural organisations of the university performed.

## TIB debate contest Wednesday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) will organise an anti-corruption debate competition on Wednesday, marking International Anti-Corruption Day, said a TIB press release.

Students from HSC to postgraduate level will be eligible to participate in the competition styled "Durjoy Taronno-Durnitir Biruddhe Aksathe" (invincible youths, stand together against corruption).

Detailed information can be found at www.ti-bangladesh.org/psc16.



Participants at an art competition organised by London Grace International School in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Confce on Shakespeare ends

FROM PAGE 4

English of IUB organised the conference on Thursday, said a press release.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor graced the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest while Dr Gowher Rizvi, international affairs adviser to the prime minister, was present as the special guest.

Renowned Shakespeare scholar, Prof Imtiaz Habib of Old Dominion University, USA presented the keynote paper at the ceremony. Rashed Chowdhury, IUB chairman; Prof M Omar Rahman, vice-chancellor; Dr Mahub Alam, dean of SLASS; and Towhid Bin Muzaffar, head of the English department spoke on the occasion. The conference ended with the staging of late Syed Shamsul Haq's adapted Bangla version of "Macbeth" performed by Padatik Nattya Sangsad yesterday.



Launches and boats remain beached at the Bay of Bengal yesterday, with the meteorological department asking seaports to hoist cautionary signal 4 as a depression crosses the country's coastal areas. The Photo was taken at Firingi Bazar Fishery Ghat in Chittagong.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## Newspaper press

FROM PAGE 4

Golam Sarwar Azad (Ittefaq) is senior vice-president and Md Shamim Chowdhury (Daily Star), Shahidul Islam (Dinkal), Shahidul Islam Pramanik (BSS), Shah Alam (New Nation), Abdul Matin (Sangram) and Liakat Ali (Dinkal) are vice-presidents of the committee. Md Ali Khan Apu (BSS), Md Monirul Islam Bhuiyan (Daily Star) and Md Ahsanullah (New Nation) are joint secretaries general.

Other office bearers are: Md Khalid of BSS (organising secretary), Tazammal Hossain of Ittefaq (treasurer), Md Yousuf Ali of The Daily Star (publicity secretary), Abu Kawsar of Ittefaq (office secretary) and Jane Alam of Ittefaq (sports secretary).

## ADR ensures justice along

FROM PAGE 3

supplements of The Daily Star, gave the introductory speech while KAM Morshed, director of advocacy for social change and ICT unit at Brac, chaired the programme. NLASO Director Malik Abdullah Al-Amin, the Brac division Director Prof Abdul Bayes and a coordinator, Andrew Jenkins, and senior staff lawyer Asma Khanom Ruba at Ain o Salish Kendra also spoke.

# AUW entry process session held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An open house session of Asian University for Women (AUW) was abuzz with several hundred prospective students from 30 colleges in the port city and their teachers and parents yesterday.

The AUW held the session at city hotel from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

The session inaugurated by Rosie Bateson, AUW acting vice chancellor, brought an opportunity for the students wanting to enrol in the university.

Currently, AUW offers degrees in four academic disciplines namely environmental sciences, economics, public health and politics, and philosophy and economics, informed Riad Hossain, AUW associate director (admission), adding, the university offers scholarships for talented students based on their performance in entry tests and also financial condition of their families.

Entry tests for the forthcoming semester will be held in March, and the deadline for admission form submission is January 31, 2017, he mentioned.

The tests will be conducted in Chittagong, Dhaka, Rajshahi and Bogra.

Riad said 25 percent of the seats would be reserved for Bangladeshi students in the semester and the rest for students from 15 other countries.



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