

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.7 L 18.0	H 30.2 L 22.2	H 32.1 L 20.3	H 30.7 L 18.1	H 30.5 L 19.0	H 31.0 L 19.0	H 30.2 L 19.6	H 31.2 L 23.0

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:14pm and rises tomorrow at 06:12am.

Saima elected Unesco jury board chair

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT



Saima Wazed, daughter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has been elected chairperson of the international jury board of Unesco-Emir Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah Prize for Digital Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. Saima, chairperson of the National Advisory Committee on Autism in Bangladesh, has been elected the jury board's chairperson for the next two years at its yesterday's meeting, according to a press release of Bangladesh embassy in Paris.



With winter approaching, people throng makeshift shops near Dhaka GPO to buy blankets yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Arrested servant confesses to killing ex-army man: Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion arrested a servant of a retired army man in Dhaka's Pallabi on Wednesday night in a case filed for killing him over a month ago. Abdul Ahad, 35, admitted that he murdered Brig Gen (ret'd) Wajih Ahmed Chowdhury following a dispute with him over the payment for his job at the house, said Rab officials. On October 5, Wajih, 76, was found unconscious in his residence in Mohakhali DOHS area. His throat, hands and legs were tied, said his son Fuad. He was declared dead at Combined Military Hospital on that day.

Ecneec okays Tk 3,200cr shipping scheme

UNB, Dhaka

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) yesterday approved the "Bangladesh Regional Domestic Shipping Transport Project-1" with an outlay of Tk 3,200 crore, aiming to ensure safe journeys of passengers and goods transportation through Chittagong-Dhaka-Ashuganj river route. The approval came from the 11th Ecneec meeting of the current fiscal year held at the NEC conference room in the capital with Ecneec chairperson and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. Briefing reporters after the meeting, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said 12 projects were approved involving Tk 9,663.99 crore. "Tk 4,255.38 crore will come from the national exchequer, Tk 533.08 crore from the organisation's own fund while Tk 4,875.53 crore as project assistance." Of the approved projects, nine are new while three are revised ones. The minister said Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority will implement the project (Chittagong-Dhaka Ashuganj) and connected river ways dredging and installation of other

related establishments including terminal) by June 2024. The government will provide Tk 320 crore while the World Bank Tk 2,880 crore as project assistance. The other aims of the project are to maintain route navigability, installing security equipment to ensure smooth plying of vessels, and thus reduce the travel and transportation time by around 10 hours on Dhaka-Chittagong river route from the existing 40 hours, he said. The project will be implemented in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Shariatpur, Narsingdi, Brahmanbaria, Kishoreganj, Chittagong, Chandpur, Laxmipur, Barisal and Bhola districts. The operations under the project include conducting performance-based capital dredging and maintenance dredging to maintain navigability on Chittagong-Dhaka-Ashuganj domestic river route, constructing one new passenger terminal at Shashanghat in Dhaka, development of three passenger terminals at Narayanganj, Chandpur and Barisal, constructing one cargo terminal at Pangaon and another in Ashuganj.

The Ecneec meeting gave nod to another project, "grid-based power supply efficiency improvement", at an estimated cost of Tk 2,982.38 crore to be implemented by June 2021, with an aim to enhance the efficiency and reliability of power supply in 27 upazilas through improving the 230kv and 132kv power transmission system. The other approved projects are upgradation of Jhenidah-Chuadanga-Meherpur-Mujibnagar road with Tk 286.75 crore (1st revised); construction of 19 river police stations and barracks with Tk 97 crore; construction of three PC girder bridges on Jamalpur-Madarganj highway with Tk 70.09 crore; establishment of wellhead compressor at the location of Titas Gas Field with Tk 910 crore; improvement of flood control and drainage system in Noakhali with Tk 324.99 crore; re-excavation of Kumar Nad with Tk 237.26 crore; modernisation of the existing police hospitals with Tk 292.07 crore; construction of BNA Bangabandhu Complex at Patenga (1st revised) with Tk 278.12 crore; and CMH, Dhaka extension and modernisation (2nd phase, 1st revised) with Tk 115.62 crore.



A bus passing a level crossing through the wrong side showing an utter disregard to a barricade put on the other side with a train fast approaching, while passers-by and onlookers stand carelessly. This has become a common scene on Chittagong city roads, recurrently causing traffic accidents. The photo was taken in Pahartali area yesterday. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

No alternative to resisting Rampal

Says BNP leader Gayeshwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no alternative to resisting and putting up a strong resistance against the Rampal power plant project through a movement, said BNP leader Gayeshwar Chandra Roy yesterday. Stating that the power plant is a seriously harmful project for the country, he said the government has taken up the "anti-people" project only to "make a neighbouring country happy". The BNP standing committee member was addressing a discussion organised by the party's forest and environment wing in the capital's Jatiya Press Club. Gayeshwar said BNP has been on the streets for 10 years and would continue to do so for 20 more years if necessary to protect the country's interests. Meanwhile, a delegation of BNP went to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) headquarters to meet DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia and talk over getting permission for holding a rally at Suhrawardy Udyan on November 13. The commissioner was not in the office at that time, Abdus Salam, an adviser of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, told journalists after coming out. BNP rejected DMP's last minute permission on Tuesday allowing to hold the rally at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh as they applied for Naya Paltan. BNP earlier sought permission seeking Suhrawardy Udyan on November 7 and 8 but police denied them on security grounds.

Larma dreamt of secular Bangladesh

Discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 33rd death anniversary of Manabendra Narayan Larma, founder president of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanhati Samiti (PCJSS), was observed yesterday. A commemoration meeting near Teacher-Student Centre of Dhaka University was held, marking the day, where political leaders, academicians, civil society members and students paid their tributes. "MN Larma was not only a leader of the minority people but also a national and revolutionary leader," said Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon. MN Larma dreamt of a secular Bangladesh and fought to establish it; we have to materialise his dream, said Muhammad Samad, convener of the national committee observing MN Larma's death anniversary. Meanwhile, PCJSS Rangamati unit marked the day by bringing out processions and holding a candle-light vigil, reports a Rangamati correspondent. The day was also observed by PCJSS with due solemnity in Khagrachhari, reports a correspondent.

Turkey hopes for greater bilateral ties

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Appreciating Bangladesh's steady economic growth and development, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus expressed hope that future bilateral cooperation would intensify. His statement came during a courtesy call by Bangladesh Ambassador to Turkey M Allama Siddiki at his office recently, says a press release. Numan Kurtulmus, head of the Turkish chapter of a Bangladesh-Turkey Joint Economic Commission, expressed interest on holding the commission's meeting in 2017.

Lost their homes twice

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circumstance was illegal as it bypassed all legal procedures. "They have been living there for over four months and evicting them now would either require the order of the deputy commissioner or the court," he said. He added, "Some 600 houses were set on fire evicting 2,500 people in a preplanned attack on Sunday by some local influential and police." He also demanded a fair judicial probe into the incident, as "police, local administration, and local government representatives were involved in it." "Most of the people, including women and children of the families are living under the sky in acute crises of food," he said. Part of Sunday's eviction, which was filmed by a bystander, went viral on social media where some people in plain clothes were seen torching the houses in the presence of policemen. The families took shelter at Sahebganj, Joypurhat and Madarpur villages of Sapmara union in the upazila after their eviction. Recently, a man filed a complaint with the airport authority against some immigration police officials of CMP for trafficking his son to Libya on October 3.

3 Indian navy ships reach Ctg today

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Three Indian naval ships will arrive at Chittagong port today on a five-day visit to the port as part of ongoing bilateral exchanges between the two countries. The ships are on an overseas training tour in the region and are visiting Thailand, Myanmar and Bangladesh, said a press release. During the visit, officers, cadets and sailors of India and Bangladesh will get an opportunity to interact with one another and benefit from best practices being followed by both the navies in training field. Besides training activities, a number of visits, cultural activities and sports exchanges are also planned.

SNAPS & snippets

Traffic cops pump water away from Merul Badda road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traffic police of Tejgaon Industrial Zone on their own pumped clogged water away from a road to minimise traffic congestion in the capital's Merul Badda yesterday. They used a pumping machine for about two hours to clear the road, said Abu Yusuf, senior assistant commissioner (Tejgaon Industrial Traffic Zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police. The residents have to suffer each day as the three-lane Merul Badda road near Merul Badda kitchen market turns into a one-lane due to waterlogging, creating a heavy traffic congestion, he said.

CU to retake C3 unit entry test

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University authorities Wednesday decided to retake its "C3" unit admission test under the business administration faculty as allegations of digital forgery were made by many aspirants. The test will be held on November 25, Vice Chancellor Prof Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury told a press briefing. Terming the forgery a technical error in printing, he said they will remain more cautious to prevent it. Admission seekers who took the tests of C3 (science group) unit on October 31 alleged that all the correct answers in the MCQ scripts were slightly blurred. A probe report submitted yesterday prompted the authorities to take the decision.

IBA admission test today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The admission test for the BBA programme at Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of Dhaka University under the 2016-17 academic session will be held today. The two-hour test will start at 10:00am at five centres including the IBA building on DU campus, said a press release yesterday. A total of 6,860 examinees will vie for each of the 120 seats available.

Shyamoli gets visa application centre

CITY DESK

Indian Visa Application Center situated on road -2, house -24, in the capital's Dhanmondi is shifting to Alamin Apon Heights, 27/1/B (1st Floor), Shyamoli, Mirpur Road, Dhaka-1207 (opposite Shyamoli Cinema). The new Indian Visa Application Center will open on Sunday. Working hours will be from 8:00am to 6:00pm.



People form a human chain under the banner of Jatiya Nari Nirjatan Protirodh Forum in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, protesting sexual assaults on women and demanding punishment for perpetrators. PHOTO: STAR

Anti-Rampal cycle procession in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A bicycle procession, protesting the government's decision to set up Rampal power plant in the Sundarbans, was held in Barisal city yesterday. Biggan Andolon Mancha Barisal organised the procession which started in front of Ashwani Kumar Hall in the morning and ended at Central Shaheed Minar after riding through different city streets. A drama, based on environmental issues, was also staged before the starting of the procession.



Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, chairperson of Brac University's Board of Trustees, and Vice Chancellor Prof Syed Saad Andaleeb with recipients of "BRAC University Faculty and Staff Awards" --Assistant Prof Dr Hasibun Naher (best researcher) of mathematics and natural sciences, librarian Hasina Afroz (best staff), senior lecturer Zara Sheikh of pharmacy (best teacher), in the capital's Brac Centre Inn yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Finished Apartments at BASHUNDHARA

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ASSET DEVELOPMENTS