

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 26.8 L 17.2	H 27.0 L 18.5	H 27.0 L 16.7	H 26.5 L 12.8	H 26.6 L 14.6	H 26.5 L 14.5	H 27.8 L 14.5	H 29.2 L 20.5

Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country, reports UNB. Night temperature may fall slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:16pm and rises tomorrow at 6:36am. Country's highest temperature 30.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and lowest 10.6 in Tentulia.

NARAIL WAR CRIMES Probe report against 3 sought Feb 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday directed the prosecution to submit investigation report, if any, on February 15 next year in a case filed against three Narail men for allegedly committing crimes during the 1971 Liberation War.

Yesterday was fixed for submitting the investigation report. But Prosecutor Rezia Slutana Chaman prayed for three months' time to do so, which the tribunal accepted.

Of the accused Abdul Wahab and Omar Ali Sheikh are now in jail while Khandakar Shawkat Ali Babul is on the run.

The investigation against the duo started on March 21 this year and the investigation officer has already found their involvement in two incidents of killings committed in 1971, according to the prosecution.

All of them were alleged members of Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army, they said.

DU BCL leader shot

DU CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants shot a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader of Dhaka University unit at Palashi early yesterday.

Abdullah Al Zobaer Bhuiyan, a vice president, is now out of danger, according to Dhaka Medical College Hospital sources.

"Miscreants shot him in the leg in front of the Banbeis office from a private car when he along with two other BCL leaders was going to Nilkhet from Palashi riding a motorbike," Sarker Raihan Zahir, president of DU Mohsin Hall unit of BCL, told The Daily Star.

Lalbagh police said they were yet to take steps as none filed a complaint.



Members of the forest department carry a dead barking deer after it got hit by a train in Lawachhara forest of Moulvibazar. Wildlife also fall victim to accidents coming in contact with exposed live wires running through the forest, escalating the danger they are already in. Inset, a dead Phayre's leaf monkey, which fell victim to electrocution. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTOS: STAR

No haven for wildlife

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Wild animals are getting killed on a regular basis either being hit by vehicles or trains in the Lawachhara forest under Moulvibazar.

Moreover, exposed live wires running through the forest and lack of proper monitoring often escalate the danger the animals are already in.

Around 15km stretch of the Sreemangal-Kamalganj road passes through the forest and hundreds of vehicles use the road everyday. As a result, wild animals often fall victim to reckless driving.

A barking deer was killed after being hit by a train while crossing the track last week, said forest department sources.

The same day, a Phayre's leaf monkey (choshmapora banar) came in contact with an exposed live wire, leaving it dead on the spot near the track, they added.

Also, on November 11, another deer was killed after being hit by a passenger bus, and on the night of August 17 a monkey became a roadkill.

According to Tabibur Rahman, assistant conservator of wildlife under the forest department, around 50 animals like monkey, deer, fox, fishing cat, snake and large Indian civet died in accidents during the last seven to eight months.

The rights activists, however, alleged the num-

ber is much higher and accidents occur on a regular basis but often get ignored.

"Many times monkeys upon seeing a train try to escape by swinging from one branch to another. While doing so, they often mistake the exposed wires as branches..." said Javed Bhuiyan, joint convener of Lawachhara Forest and Wildlife Conservation Committee. "Active efforts should be launched to check for hazardous exposed live wires and fix them."

Contacted, Shivu Lal Basu, general manager of

LAWACHHARA FOREST

Rural Electrification Board of Bangladesh Moulvibazar, said, "The power lines are more than 20 years old. We have already sent a requisition to the higher authorities for new wires with safety covers."

Also, a major reason behind the accidents is reckless driving, said assistant conservator Tabibur. Many animals come out at night in search of food and get hit by speeding vehicles, he said.

He said the forest department has put up signs warning the drivers. "We try to alert people on driving slowly when animals are seen crossing the road. But we do not have enough manpower to launch a comprehensive campaign. We need support from the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in

this regard."

He recommended regulating traffic after 10:00pm and if needed reroute it through Noorjahan Road, which is just 2/3km away.

While driving along the road recently, this correspondent saw only four warning signs. The signs were small and hardly noticeable while one was partially torn.

"There has to be a stringent law against reckless driving," said Sharif Jamil, joint secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa), Sylhet chapter.

A more effective solution will be to divert the road and the rail line away from the forest, he said. "There is so little of wildlife left, preventive measures have to be taken immediately."

Mihir Kumar Doe, divisional forest officer (wildlife), said the speed limit should not exceed 20km to 30km per hour while driving along the road and emphasised setting up speed-breakers and warning signs.

Seeking anonymity, an RHD official said they had set up speed-breakers before, but had to remove those since it increased incidents of robberies in the forest area.

"The road through the forest is zigzagged and the drivers are in a way forced to drive slowly," said Utpal Samontu, executive engineer of RHD in Moulvibazar. For saving the wildlife, he also emphasised diverting the road away from the forest.

Ctg RMG workers hurt in cop action

During demo for trade union polls; others demonstrate in Savar for Tk 15,000 as minimum monthly wage

CITY DESK

At least 15 RMG workers were injured in an "attack" by cops on over 3,000 workers of a factory in Chittagong during a demonstration for holding a trade union election while in Savar around 20,000 workers protested at their workplaces demanding fixing their minimum wage yesterday.

In Chittagong city, the workers of Clifton Deluxe Fashions Ltd kept Baizid Bostami Road blocked for an hour in the evening, demanding that their factory's trade union election be held, reports our staff correspondent.

They claimed that 40 workers were injured in the attack and admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

The factory's quality inspector Md Hanif told The Daily Star, "The authorities had earlier formed a trade union for three years that actually protects the owner's interests, not the workers'. We are demanding such a union, leaders of which would be elected by workers."

"But the authorities are not heeding our demand. Instead, they are trying to keep the existing trade union sans elections," he said.

"Some representatives of the workers went to discuss it, but the management declined to talk. Later, when they were peacefully rallying... in front of factory, the police swooped on them as the factory authorities suggested doing so," Hanif further alleged.

Assistant Commissioner (Panchlaish Zone) of

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Ties not reliant on Teesta alone

Home minister tells PTI in Kolkata

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal says he believes the Teesta river water-sharing treaty with India will be a reality in future but maintained that relations between the two countries do not depend on this single treaty.

"Any treaty is done on the basis of a mutual interest of both the countries. A treaty cannot be signed by neglecting the interest of a country which is party to it. We feel that Teesta treaty will happen in future. The way the bilateral relations are moving forward, we are hopeful that Teesta treaty will happen sooner or later," he has told PTI in Kolkata during his recent visit to the city.

"It is true that Bangladesh is facing some problems. Water is essential for both the countries," he says.

However, Kamal makes it clear that the future of the India-Bangladesh relations doesn't depend on the Teesta treaty. "The bilateral relationship won't depend on this treaty."

He says the opposition and fundamentalist forces in Bangladesh are using Teesta issue to flare up anti-India sentiments in Bangladesh.

Replying to a query, the home minister says Pakistan needs to be isolated for "harbouring terrorists and supporting terror acts".

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Ensure hijras' equal access to jobs

Bandhu Social Welfare Society urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has to ensure equal job opportunity for marginalised people, including hijras, according to their competence, said speakers at a programme in Dhaka yesterday.

Addressing Bandhu Media Fellowship Award Giving Ceremony, organised by Bandhu Social Welfare Society at The Daily Star Centre, they also urged people to change their perspectives towards hijra.

Chief Information Commissioner Prof Md Golam Rahman said, "By identifying a group differently and offering special care we marginalise a group. We should come out of this perceptual problem."

"To meet the problems of hijras, we need to address social stigma and taboo, which are creating problem to ensure their rights," he said.

He called upon the media to point out the community's problems on a regular basis.

Chairman of Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Dhaka University Prof Mofizur Rahman demanded such an environment in which the hijra community can live like other people.

Ten journalists -- Dilshad Karim Elita of The Daily Star, Mohammad Sakawat Hossain of the Dhaka Tribune, Jifur Murad of the daily Ittefaq, Jakia Ahmed of banglatribune.com, Waresunnabi Khandoker of poriborton.com, Masuma Sarmin of City FM 96.0, Shafiu Alam Imran of the daily Bhorer Kagoj, Khalid Ahsan of BTv, Imdadullah Siddique of ATN Bangla, and MA Baten of SATV received the fellowship.

Dr Abu Jafar Md Shafiu Alam Bhuiyan, professor of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism; Sohel Haider Chowdhury, general secretary of Dhaka Union of Journalist; and Shale Ahmed, executive director of Bandhu Social Welfare Society, among others, addressed the programme.

Ahsania treats 300 eye patients for free

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 300 people got free eye treatment in a daylong camp on the Nalta Sharif Central Ahsania Mission Orphanage premises in the capital's Uttara on Saturday.

The camp was held on the occasion of Ahsania Mission founder Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah's 143rd birth anniversary which was observed by the orphanage authorities.

People needing glasses and medication were also provided those for free, said a press release.

A seminar highlighting the life and works of the social reformer was also held at the orphanage.

Alhaj Ansar Uddin Ahmed, caretaker of Pak Rawja Sharif at Nalta Sharif in Satkhira, convened the programmes.

Abu Muhammad Yousuf, joint secretary of the Ministry of Social Welfare; was present as the chief guest.

Muhammad Khalilullah, former senior adviser to World Health Organization; AFM Enamul Haq, convener of Nalta Central Ahsania Mission (extended programme); and Mohammad Selimullah, president of Nalta Central Ahsania Mission, among others, spoke at the seminar.



Lt (retd) Suvesh Kumar Mitter, then captain of Bangladesh Navy's first warship -- The Padma, hands over its ensign, which he tenderly preserved over the years, to Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Nizamuddin Ahmed at the Navy Headquarters in Dhaka yesterday when the navy chief accorded a reception to the Indian war veterans, who fought for Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971.

PHOTO: ISPR



Recipients of the "Media Fellowship Award 2016", standing behind, with the guests, sitting in front, at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday, organised by Bandhu Social Welfare Society.

PHOTO: STAR

Death anniversary

CITY DESK



The second death anniversary of poet, journalist and freedom fighter Arunabh Sarkar was observed yesterday.

Arunabh received many awards including Bangla Academy Literary Award and Tangail Sahitya Sangsad Poetry Award. He published three collections of poems: Nagare Baul, Keu Kichhui Jane Na, and Narira Fere Na. He also edited the poetry magazine Eshika from 1969 to 1985.

2ND DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Today is the 2nd Death Anniversary of Khawja Zain Niaz, Businessman and Social Worker. A Doa Mehfil and food will be distributed among the destitute at orphanages in Dhaka. His family requested all to pray for the salvation of the departed soul. Zain Niaz was the only son of Khawja Niaz Moinuddin, Managing Director of Trade Linkers.

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