

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 28.2 | L 18.0

CHITTAGONG H 28.0 | L 18.4

SYLHET H 29.4 | L 18.1

RAJSHAHI H 27.4 | L 15.5

KHULNA H 27.5 | L 16.8

BARISAL H 28.4 | L 16.0

RANGPUR H 27.6 | L 14.8

COX'S BAZAR H 29.0 | L 19.5

Light rain or drizzle to occur at one or two places over Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet Divisions and weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in the next 24 hours till 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during mid-night till morning. Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, UNB reports the Met Office as saying. The sun sets in the capital tomorrow at 05:19pm and rises on Tuesday at 06:40am.

Students suffer in tattered dorm

SUSANTO GHOSH and M JAHIRUL ISLAM
JEWEL, Barisal

During winter, the three one-storied buildings get extremely chilly even after closing all the doors and windows, since most of them are damaged or cracked.

In rainy season, water seeps through the rusty tin roofs and walls.

There are four bathrooms, around 100 yards away from the adjacent buildings, which are damp and not properly cleaned; most of the doors are unhinged.

The Kobi Jibanananda Das Hostel of Government BM College, Barisal can hold around 50 students but approximately 120 are staying there.

The resident students continue to suffer due to its derelict condition and an acute accommodation crisis.

A five-storied building was allotted for them in 2009 at Tk 3 crore financed by the Education Engineering Department under the education ministry, whose construction started in 2010 but was still not finished.

GOVERNMENT BM COLLEGE

"If we can use that building, about 200 students can stay there," said Sanjoy Kumar Bishwas, hostel superintendent and an associate professor of accounting. He said the hostel, popularly known as "Hindu hostel", is for the Hindu male students.

"Around 60 percent work has been completed," said SM Emanuel Hakim, principal of the college, adding, the work was supposed to be finished by 2013. When asked about the delay, he said he joined the college around 18 months back and has informed the authorities concerned regarding the issue right away.

Meanwhile, students are observing different movements demanding immediate steps to resolve their accommodation crisis.

Shohag Das, a student of the hostel, leading the movement, said, "We have highlighted the issue several times but to no avail. Every hostel of the campus has modern building except for this one."

"The beds get wet when it rains as the tin-

roofs have developed many holes," said Biplob, a resident of the hostel.

"There's always a long queue in front of the toilets, and we end up wasting much time," said Subrata Sarkar, a student of soil science.

"We live in a crammed and unhygienic condition," said Sanjoy Kumar Debnath, a sociology student.

About 30,000 students are studying in the college under HSC, honours and master's programmes but only 2,000 of them can stay in six hostels, the principal said. "We've also informed the education ministry about the crisis. Hopefully they will look into it."

He said during the construction of the new hostel, contractors were changed couple of times, which delayed the project. The education minister visited the hostel around two years ago and directed the respective department to construct the building quickly, he said.

Atik Construction got the work in 2010 and the work order was given in 2011. They gave the work to Munirul Islam

Manik, another contractor, who left the work incomplete," said Chinmoy Bishwas, project engineer of Atik Construction. He claimed they were not notified about the contractor leaving the work unfinished.

"Recently, we received a letter from the education engineering department that the construction work was left unfinished. So we took the responsibility of completing the work, which will be finished within six months," he added.

Contacted, Manik said they got the tender in 2010 and its quotation was based on the pricing of the materials of that year but as expenses went up over the years they could not continue the work.

"We know that the students are suffering and we have informed the higher authorities about the issue. Hopefully, we'll be able to finish the work by June next year," said Jahangir Hossain, executive engineer of the education engineering department.



PICTURES TELL THE TALE. A student studies in a room at the Kobi Jibanananda Das Hostel of Government BM College, Barisal. Around 120 students are crammed inside the tin-roofed dilapidated structure, bottom left, while the much awaited five-storied hostel building, bottom right, is yet to be completed even after six years. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTOS: ARIFUR RAHMAN

Obituary

CITY DESK

Parveen Ahmad, wife of late Sayeed Ahmad, former secretary of Bangladesh government, passed away at the capital's Labaid Specialized Hospital on Saturday. She was 80.

Parveen had a number of research papers on prospects of Bangladeshi women, their health, nutrition, and education, women and rural economy and handicraft. Many of her books are preserved in Bangladesh National Museum.

She also made many contributions to documentary making in the country. She was the founder member of Karika and vice president of Sayeed Ahmad Foundation for Culture and Arts (SAFCA).

She was buried at her family graveyard in Azimpur after her namaz-e-janaza was held at Jam-e-Masjid in Lalmaia after Zohr prayers yesterday.

Her quirk will be held tomorrow after Maghrib prayers.

Sohrab Uddin Sarkar
CITY DESK

Sohrab Uddin Sarkar, former official of Bangladesh Television, died at the capital's United Hospital on Saturday. He was 64.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Matlab of Chandpur after Zohr prayers yesterday. All are requested to pray for the departed soul.

Contributions
FROM PAGE 3

sacrificed his life on July 1 when he was fighting to rescue hostages from the Holey Artisan Bakery in the capital's Gulshan.

Sifatullah, also a former director of the physical exercise department at JU, thanked JUDO. On behalf of Rabiul, his younger brother Shamsuzzaman Shams did the same.

Hope for Sylhet city canals

Ecnec okays Tk 236 crore project to recover, protect waterways

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Tk 236.4 crore project has been sanctioned at the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) meeting on December 22 to recover, protect and beautify all the canals under the Sylhet City Corporation (SCC).

Of the project cost, Tk 200.94cr will be provided by the government and Tk 35.45cr from the SCC's own fund, said an SCC press release yesterday.

"Ecnec has given two years' time for the project's completion. We will start in January next year and hopefully complete it by December 2017," said Enamul Habib, SCC chief executive officer.

He said the project has been approved following a proposed plan conducted by the city corporation in 2014. A team led by Prof Jahir Bin Alam of Shahjalal

University of Science and Technology then conducted a study in 2015 on how to protect the city canals and the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives forwarded it to the planning commission, which Ecnec finally approved.

As part of the project, 26.96km RCC retaining walls around 13 major canals, 5km U-drains and 3.5km walkways will be constructed and 10km canals will be dredged, Enamul said.

The total length of the city canals is 76km, according to the city corporation. The 13 canals are Malnichhara, Goalichhara, Gaviar Khal, Mugnichhara, Kalibari Chhara, Haldichhara, Jugnichhara, Dhopachhara, Bubichhara, Babuchhara, Ratnar Khal, Jaitiyar Khal and Basur Khal.

"We are about to give the city a natural and fresh look by recover-

ing and protecting its canals. We have also prepared a detailed design," said Nur Azizur Rahman, acting chief engineer of the SCC.

Meanwhile, showing concern, Faruk Mahmud Chowdhury, president of SHUJAN Sylhet chapter, alleged the city corporation has taken many projects to recover and protect the canals, but never informed the citizens about the project cost, who were the contractors, tendering authority or even the name of the projects. "So, we urge SCC to ensure the clarity regarding the project," he said.

"We are also coming up with plans for recovering and protecting the remaining canals," said the SCC chief executive officer, adding, "The previous projects undertaken to save the city canals have been successfully implemented and we will continue to do so."

BETTERING GAS PRODUCTION \$167m ADB loan in the offing

BSS, Dhaka

The government will on Wednesday sign with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) a \$167 million loan agreement for financing a project to improve infrastructure and operational efficiency of the country's gas sector.

Last month, the ADB approved the loan to help promote sustainable economic growth and reduce poverty in Bangladesh by improving production efficiency at a key gas field north of the capital Dhaka and by expanding transmission infrastructure.

The state-owned Bangladesh Gas Transmission Company Limited (BGTC) and Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFCL) will also ink two project loan deals with the ADB the same day.

Under the agreement, the ADB will finance the "Natural Gas Infrastructure and Efficiency Improvement Project".

The project aims to improve efficiency in natural gas production by installing seven wellhead gas compressors at the Titas gas field and expand natural gas transmission pipeline capacity by constructing a 181-kilometre, 36-inch parallel gas transmission pipeline from Chittagong through Feni to Bakhrabad.

The Chittagong area sometimes suffers from a gas supply shortfall due to full capacity attainment of the existing 175 kilometre, 24-inch Bakhrabad-Chittagong gas transmission pipeline.

Ctg man stabbed to death while trying to calm conflict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man was stabbed to death while he was trying to calm two groups down conflicting over money in Fateyabad Railway Station area of Hathazari upazila in Chittagong on Saturday night.

Md Jahangir Alam, 45, a gatekeeper of a local mill, of Nandirhat area in the upazila, was declared dead at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said Assistant Sub-Inspector Pankaz Barua of CMCH Police Camp.

The details about the two groups could not be known immediately.

Another local youth, Salman, 20, who was also stabbed during the incident, was undergoing treatment at the hospital, he said.

Police detained a man on the spot and later, another Md Helal Uddin, 28, of Nandirhat in the upazila with a gun and two bullets in connection with the incident, said Sub-inspector Anisur Rahman of Hathazari Police Station.



Too tired to realise the danger, a worker falls asleep on top of a goods-laden speeding truck, on the ever busy Dhaka-Tangail highway. The photo was taken recently in Gazipur.

One killed, five injured in Jamalpur road accident

BSS, Jamalpur

A schoolboy was killed on the spot and five others were injured when two motorcycles collided head-on in Sarishabari upazila in Jamalpur on Saturday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Md Asaduzzaman Milon, 16, a student of class X of Boyra Israel Ahmed High School. He was the son of Abdul Aziz of village Pakhimara in the same upazila.

Police said the accident took place around 2:00pm when the two speeding motorcycle hit each other in Masjid Road area on the Sarishabari-Tarakandi road.

The injured motorcycle riders are Arif, 20, Al-Amin, 20, Fohad, 18, Sagar, 18, and Rayhan, 18.

Four of the injured were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while Rayhan was admitted to a local clinic.

Tourist flow peaks at Cox's Bazar

FROM PAGE 4

However, the tourists expressed satisfaction over the security arrangements in hotels. "Our hotel is fully covered by CCTVs," said one Munir Hossain.

Munir, however, said there were many things to do from the administration's side to fully tap the tourism potential of Cox's Bazar. "There should be a bypass road to divert busses from the main roads close to the beach to avoid noise. There should also be footpaths and overpasses."

Cox's Bazar now has a combined capacity to accommodate over 80,000 tourists at around 400 hotels, motels and guesthouses, according to industry insiders. Foreigners make up five percent of the total annual visitors of Cox's Bazar, they said. Around 25 hotels claim to be of five-star and three-star standards.