

YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURESDHAKA
H 27.5 | L 18.5CHITTAGONG
H 27.0 | L 18.1SYLHET
H 28.2 | L 17.5RAJSHAHI
H 27.5 | L 15.1KHULNA
H 28.5 | L 16.5BARISAL
H 28.1 | L 16.5RANGPUR
H 23.5 | L 16.6COX'S BAZAR
H 29.0 | L 18.0

Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country, reports UNB. Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:20pm and rises tomorrow at 6:00am. Country's highest temperature 29.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Chandpur and lowest 11.5 in Tentulia.



Rice plants, a variety of Boro called B-28, being transferred from seedbeds to the growing fields in Savar's Birulia. The farmer, Alamgir, prefers to use his own seeds in his own fields. The photos were taken yesterday.



PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

Change mentality to establish women's rights: President

BSS, Dhaka

Underscoring the need for changing the mentality of men for establishing the rights of women in the society, President Abdul Hamid said joint efforts of men and women are needed for building Bangladesh as a prosperous country in the world.

"Much progress has been made in women development but their rights are yet to be established fully in the society. We, especially the men, have to change our mentality for this reason," the president said while speaking at the opening programme of a two-day golden jubilee celebration of Lalmatia Mohila College in the capital yesterday.

Abdul Hamid said the development of women has spread at home and abroad now and their vivid presence is everywhere, including in politics, economic activities, arts-culture and sports.

The prime minister, speaker, leader of the opposition in parliament, deputy leader of the House, and women members in the cabinet are not only the example of women empowerment, but they are also taking the country ahead with their merits, skills, courage and efficiency, he added.

About the demand of the students for nationalisation of the college, Abdul Hamid said, "I am the president, not the government. I will make a request to the authorities concerned to take steps in this regard."

12-POINT DEMAND FOR SYLHET ENGINEERING COLLEGE

Students confine principal, three dept heads for hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Sylhet Engineering College students kept confined its acting principal, three department heads and staff for over 12 hours to the administrative building to press home their 12-point demand, including proper utilisation of annual budget for development of the institution.

They locked the main entrance of building of the college, which is also an engineering faculty section of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust), from 11:00am to 11:30pm.

The students unlocked it following a meeting with the college authorities who assured them of looking into their demands within one week, campus sources said, adding that they postponed their movement till then.

Earlier in the afternoon, they had cut all the utility lines off the building.



They also demand that semester schedules be maintained by creating academic calendar, all scheduled classes be conducted regularly and courses be completed on time, fees collection be performed through direct banking instead of mobile banking, accommodation fees be reduced, dormitory problems be solved, full-time efficient teachers be appointed, campus security be tightened, wi-fi connections on the campus as well as

at dormitories, college bus for students, and "corruptions and anomalies in the administration" be stopped.

In the evening, Md Alamgir Hossain, head of computer science and engineering department; Ramendra Kumar Das, head of civil engineering department; and Md Rafiqul Islam, head of electrical and electronics engineering, refused to fulfill all of the demands, prompting the demonstrators to demand resignations of the three and Registrar Md Selim.

At that time, acting principal Abdul Halim, over the phone, said the students have no valid reason as there is no anomaly in the administration.

Dormitory problems have already been looked into a week ago, he said, adding that they are also planning to hire some bankers from Sonali Bank to collect fees.

About full-time teachers, he said the administrative system allows appointing part-time teachers only.

Youth arrested over threat to neighbour on Facebook

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police yesterday arrested a youth allegedly for issuing death threat to another youth on Facebook in Sylhet city over previous enmity.

Sahel Ahmed Nayan, 28, son of Helal Miah, was arrested at his house in Bandhan Residential Area of Khasabari.

He was out on bail in two cases, one for drug peddling and another for subversive activities, said police.

Fardin Ahmed Sahin of the same area filed the case under the information and communication technology act after receiving the threat in his inbox, said Mosarraf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Sylhet Airport Police Station.

Road crashes cost 9 lives

CITY DESK

Nine people, including two college girls, were killed and 23 others injured in road accidents in four districts yesterday.

In Jessore town, two college girls were killed and a person was injured as a truck rammed a motorcycle the girls were riding at Hushtala on their way to college.

The deceased were Poppy Parvin and Ramisa Khatun, masters final-year students of Jessore Government MM College. Both hailed from Dottakona of Monirampur upazila.

Poppy died on the spot while Ramisa died at Jessore General Hospital. The injured, Nasir Uddin who was driving the motorcycle, was rushed to the hospital in a critical condition.

In Sirajganj, two people were killed and 20 others injured as a bus collided head-on with another bus on Bogra-Nagarbari highway in Ghurka Bazar area of Raiganj upazila.

One of the deceased was identified as Abu Bakar Siddique, 35, of Ghurka village, said police adding that the incident occurred as the as the driver of the bus lost his control over his vehicle.

In Noakhali Sadar, two people were killed and another was critically injured as a bus collided head-on with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them on Sonapur-



Subarnachar highway in Samiti Bazar area.

The deceased were Faruk, 48, of Musapur union and Muktiped Mojumdar, 35, of Charjabbar. Muktiped died on spot while Faruk died at Noakhali General Hospital.

In Barisal, two youths were killed as a microbus hit their motorcycle on Bakerganj-Barisal highway in Katherpul area of Bakerganj upazila.

The deceased were Zafar, 32, and Bani Amin, 30. Zafar rented the motorcycle while Amin was the driver.

Police said Zafar died on the spot while Amin was declared dead at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

In Laxmipur, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver was killed and another injured as his vehicle collided head-on with a pickup van at Charchamita Bazar on Laxmipur-Dhaka highway in Sadar upazila, reports UNB.

Jahangir Alam of Charboga village in Raipur upazila died on the spot.

195 Pak war criminals must be tried

Says Mozammel

BSS, Dhaka

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq yesterday said the country will prosecute 195 identified Pakistani war criminals for sure.

"Though we are bringing the people of our country, those committed crimes against humanity in 1971, to justice, but we are yet to try the 195 identified war criminals from Pakistan.

But we will do it for sure and if necessary, we will go to international court for that," Mozammel said.

The minister said these while inaugurating Muktijuddher Bijoy Manch organised by Bangladesh Gano Ajadi League at Liberation War Museum in the capital.

MADDHYAPARA MINE Resume rock production or face tougher movement

Locals warn authorities at Dinajpur human chain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Locals yesterday demanded that Maddhyapara Granite Mining Company Ltd (MGMCL) resume its rock production by January 1 in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur, which has remained suspended for 16 months.

Under the banner of a committee "Khoni Bachao" (Save the Mine), they raised the demand at a human chain in the mine area.

Due to the prolonged suspension of the rock production, the miners have been suffering from economic hardship.

At the human chain, the speakers alleged that some officials of the state-run MGMCL, and Germania Trest Consortium (GTC), a Belarus-based company, are conspiring to close it down.

"We did not witness such a long rock production suspension in the last 10 years," said Afzal Master, convener of the

Khoni Bachao committee.

The demonstrators threatened to go for tougher movement if the mine production does not resume by the stipulated time.

When the rock production was ongoing at the mine, nearly 2,000 people had been involved directly in the process to make a living but now they have become jobless, they said.

Mir Abdul Hannan, general manager of MGMCL, said the production at the mine would again resume next month.

GTC got the contract for producing rock and ensure maintenance of the mine in September 2013. It suspended the production of rock in August last year due to a shortage of equipment, said General Manager of GTC Jaber Siddiqui.

GTC is trying its best to restart the rock production, said Jaber.



(From left) Prof Akhlaque Haque from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Bangladesh Development Initiative (BDI) President Dr Munir Quddus, Fariba Islam of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Mumtarin Aishee Rabeya of the Asian University for Women, economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud and Brac University Vice-Chancellor Prof Syed Saad Andaleeb at a ceremony in the capital's Policy Research Institute yesterday to present certificates and prize money to the two students and another for their winning entries at the BDI 2016 Essay Competition for University Students.



The Turag being dredged in Ashulia by Bangladesh Water Development Board for better navigability. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

3 females clinch best essay

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the best essay titled "Digi-teacher: Ensuring Quality Education for All".

Nishat Anjum of the University of Cambridge got Tk 30,000 for the second best essay, "Building a Better Bangladesh: By Reforming Education".

Mumtarin Aishee Rabeya of the Asian University for Women obtained Tk 20,000 for the third best on "Information Communication and Technology for Agricultural Development".

Fariba, Mumtarin and Nishat's father Ayub Chowdhury, on her behalf, each received a certificate from renowned economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud at a ceremony in the capital's Policy Research Institute.

Presenting her essay, Fariba mentioned that rural students do not get quality education due to a lack of skilled teachers and proper educational materials.

"I wanted to develop a video tutorial for students from class VI to XII. These tutorials can be played through any video supported mobile phone both online and offline," she said.

Collaboration between government

and non-government organisations can ensure smooth operation, she added.

Though not physically present, Nishat explained her idea through an audio recording, stating limitations of Bangladesh's schooling system and highlighting its impacts on children.

She proposed reforming the system to ensure a positive classroom environment and building teachers' capacity.

Mumtarin mentioned that farmers can benefit using information and technology to increase crop production and get just prices for crops.

Congratulating the winners, Prof Wahiduddin said students of the present generation were doing very well in different sectors with their innovative ideas.

BDI President Dr Munir Quddus, also dean of College of Business at Prairie View A&M University, Northwest Houston Center, gave the welcome speech.

Brac University Vice-Chancellor Prof Syed Saad Andaleeb, Prof Emeritus Ahrar Ahmad of Black Hills State University and Prof Akhlaque Haque from the University of Alabama at Birmingham also spoke.

Obaidul Quader

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At another discussion, other AL leaders lambasted BNP leaders for raising questions over the Narayanganj City Corporation polls, saying it proves the party has become "bankrupt".

"There is no need to give any reply," said Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, adding that BNP was facing the situation for not participating in the 2014 parliamentary polls.

AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif said BNP leaders were commenting for losing their "psychological and political balance".

The discussion was organised in Dhaka University's Teacher-Student Centre marking AL leader Abdur Razzak 5th death anniversary.

The leaders said Razzak not only led a sector of Mujib Bahini during the Liberation War but also played a significant role in waging a movement for trying war criminals.

They also said the nation would remember him for the tremendous role he played behind the signing of the Ganges water treaty in 1996.