

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DKHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 25.0 L 15.5	H 26.0 L 15.0	H 25.6 L 13.2	H 22.6 L 11.8	H 24.0 L 14.5	H 24.6 L 14.3	H 24.0 L 9.5	H 26.5 L 16.0

Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over the river basins and adjoining area and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country, reports UNB. Mild cold wave sweeping over Rangpur division and Sreemangal may continue, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:31pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43am.

PM's flight glitch 2 Biman staff sent to jail after remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent two suspended staff of Biman Bangladesh Airlines to jail on completion of their 15 days' remand in two phases in a case filed over the technical glitch in Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's flight.

The order came against engineer Rokonzaman and junior technician Siddiqur Rahman after they had surrendered before the court seeking bail.

Earlier another Dhaka court yesterday asked Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police to submit on February 19 the probe report of the case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Nabi passed the order after the investigation officer failed to submit any probe report yesterday. Nine employees of Bangladesh Biman Airlines were made accused in the case filed under the Special Powers Act on December 21. Seven of the nine suspended employees were arrested that day and two more on January 10. They all were remanded.

On November 27, a Biman flight carrying Hasina made an emergency landing in Turkmenistan on her way to Budapest as engine-1 of the plane was losing oil pressure.

11 Shibir men held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police claimed to have detained 11 activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir while allegedly holding a "secret meeting" at a hostel of Chittagong Eden School and College in Mohammadpur area of the port city yesterday evening. All of them are leaders of Shibir, claimed Waliuddin Akbar, inspector (investigation) of Panchlailsh Police Station. A good number of books on Jihad were also seized, he said.

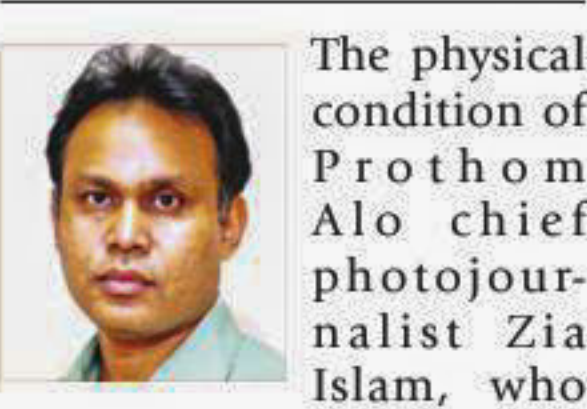


CONCRETE TO REPLACE GREENERY: The Roads and Highways Department has chopped down around 150 roadside trees in the capital's Banani for construction of a flyover. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Zia Islam's physical condition stable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The physical condition of Prothom Alo chief photojournalist Zia Islam, who was injured in a road accident, is stable, a colleague said yesterday quoting his doctors.

The senior correspondent of the daily said Zia's eyes were responding, and his body temperature and blood pressure were normal.

Zia suffered injuries in the head and leg when a speeding car hit his motorcycle from behind in front of Bashundhara City in the capital on Monday night.

He fell unconscious and was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital before being shifted to Apollo Hospitals the next afternoon. He underwent a major surgery on that day and was kept under observation for 48 hours.

Erroneous teaching begot textbook 'mistakes'

Prof Serajul Islam Chy tells roundtable at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The "embarrassing mistakes" in the new school textbooks are a result of the erroneous lessons being delivered to students over the years, Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury said yesterday.

"These errors are not accidental. These are not an outcome of anyone's neglect," he said. This is a strategy of the government to appease Hefajat-e-Islam, a Qawmi madrasa based organisation, he said.

The government has compromised with Hefajat; it would later tell Hefajat that it could not keep the organisation's demands fulfilled because of the ongoing protest, he said.

The academic was addressing a discussion on "Textbook Scam and Future of Education", organised by

Student Federation of Bangladesh at Teacher-Student Centre of Dhaka University.

Hefajat and Bangladesh Awami Olemia League demanded exclusion of some of the poems written by "Hindus and atheists".

Citing that the Pakistani regime had also attempted to alter words in the poems of Kazi Nazrul Islam and Jasimuddin, he said, "I didn't expect the same in independent Bangladesh."

Serajul Islam said the three-stream education system was based on class discrimination. "Madrasa education is a conspiracy to keep the poor marginalised," he said.

Mentioning that the situation of education reflects state mechanism, Tanjim Uddin Khan, associate professor of international relations of Dhaka University, said, "The education sys-

tem is not children-friendly."

Meanwhile, speakers yesterday demanded exemplary punishment for the persons responsible for the "embarrassing mistakes" in the textbooks.

If these errors are aimed at materialising the agenda of a vested quarter, it will jeopardise the age-old Bangalee culture, said Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council.

He said this while addressing a press conference on "Incidence of Human Rights Violation against Minority People in 2016" organised at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Stories, essays, and poems bearing the message of traditional culture, patriotism, independence, values and ethics have been replaced by contents of religious, sexist, and communal elements, he said.

Jalal Uddin BARC executive chairman

CITY DESK



Dr Mohammad Jalal Uddin, an agricultural scientist, joined Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) as its executive chairman on Tuesday replacing his predecessor Dr Abul Kalam Azad, a press release said yesterday.

Government appointed the immediate past BARC chair Dr Azad as new director general of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI).

Dr Jalal Uddin began his career as a scientific officer at BARI, Gazipur back in 1983. He served in different important capacities and got promotion as director in 2012.

NEWS IN brief

JU celebrates anniversary

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday celebrated its 46th founding anniversary through various programmes.

JU Vice-Chancellor (VC) Prof Farzana Islam inaugurated the celebration in the morning. Colourful procession, puppet show and cultural programmes were also held.

Later, the VC laid foundation stones of two multi-storied building -- Danbeer Abdul Kadir Mollah Convention Centre and IBA-JU building. Abdul Kadir Mollah, chairman and managing director, Thermax Group, is funding the convention centre.

Mentionable, the university was established in 1970 and was inaugurated a year later on this day.

US embassy closed on Sunday

CITY DESK

The American embassy, including the consular section and the American Center with the Archer K Blood American Center Library and the EducationUSA Student Advising Center, will be closed on Sunday (January 15) on the occasion of Martin Luther King Jr's birthday, an American holiday.

Emergency services for American citizens will be available at 5566-2000.

Enamul Bari appointed new Biman chairman

BSS, Dhaka

Muhammad Enamul Bari, former chief of air staff, has been appointed as the chairman of the new 13-member board of directors of Biman Bangladesh Airlines for 2017.

The board was reconstituted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation & Tourism on Wednesday, says a press release.

DU English dept reunion Jan 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former students of Dhaka University's English department will return to their alma mater to celebrate their 30th annual reunion on January 27 (Friday).

Graduates, from as far back as 1940s to as recent as last years, are expected to gather at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) for the event starting at 3:00pm.

The alumni can register themselves online (edas.sslwireless.com) or at the spot.

The general members will pay Tk 500 each, Tk 800 for a couple, and life members Tk 400 for the get-together.



Makeshift shops occupy the entire footpaths, while cars are parked on the street, making people's movement immensely difficult, in Chittagong city's Jamal Khan area where three schools are located. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Five tyre shops burnt in Gabtoli

Reason not known immediately

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five tyre shops were burnt in a fire in Lalkuti of Gabtoli in Dhaka last night, said Darussalam police.

On information, around five firefighting units controlled the fire around 11:55pm, which broke out around 10:45pm at Lalkuti-Beribadh Tyre Potti, fire service sources said.

The reason behind the fire and damages caused by it could not be known immediately.

Fix holding tax on basis of size, not rent

Speakers demand at Ctg press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a programme in Chittagong demanded the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) fix the holding tax on the basis of size (per square feet) of the establishments instead of rent.

They also threatened to go for tougher programmes including hartal if their demands were not met within the next 30 days.

They came up with the demands at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club yesterday, organised by Chittagong Taxpayers' Surakkha Parishad, where Md Nurul Afsar, the parishad's member secretary, read out a written statement.

The CCC has begun the process of fixing 17 percent holding tax as per the

Government Ordinance of 1986, he said. "We, the tax payers, think the process is unjust." He also urged the CCC mayor to fix the holding tax as per the earlier system.

Earlier, the holding tax was fixed as per the size of the establishments (per square feet).

Where the holding was about Tk 40,000 earlier, now it will be about Tk 4 lakh, he claimed, adding that its impact will also fall on the tenants.

Former CCC councillors MA Malek, Jannatul Ferdous Popy and convener of the parishad Hakim Muhammad Ullah also spoke.

Mentionable, a process of holding tax re-assessment is going on in 41 wards of CCC, inaugurated by its mayor on March 21, 2016.

Three ex-GB officials jailed for corruption

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Barisal court has sentenced three suspended officials of Grameen Bank to 10 years' imprisonment each for misappropriation.

It also fined on Wednesday Delwar Hossain, manager of Rayepasha-Karapur branch; Shah Alam, an officer, and Manirul Islam, manager at the headquarters, Tk 5 lakh each in default to suffer six more months in jail.

Of the convicts, Manirul is in jail while the other two are on the run.

According to the prosecution, the three collected Tk 4.17 lakh showing as loan against six clients from July 29, 2010 to July 4, 2011 and, later, by depositing Tk 1.19 lakh embezzled the rest Tk 2.98 lakh.

On allegations from the clients, the GB authorities suspended the officials and Anti-Corruption Commission started an investigation.

Wazed Ali Gazi, assistant director of ACC in Barisal, lodged a case against them on November 24, 2013.

Nazimuddin, deputy director of ACC, submitted a charge sheet on February 26, 2015.

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