

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 25.6 L 12.0	H 24.9 L 12.1	H 27.2 L 12.5	H 24.2 L 07.8	H 25.0 L 10.0	H 25.0 L 08.5	H 25.0 L 08.5	H 25.2 L 13.5

Weather may remain dry over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today. Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the country during midnight till morning. Met Office said, reports UNB. Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal divisions and the regions of Tangail, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Rangamati, Comilla, Feni and Srimangal and it may continue. Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:33pm and rises tomorrow at 06:43am.



Clouds of dust rise up posing a health hazard for passers-by on the road from the Malibagh level crossing to the Rampura road which is undergoing development works. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

SC asks govt to publish gazette on lower court judges' conduct

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday directed the government to publish by February 5 a gazette notification on the rules determining discipline and conduct of lower court judges.

The SC passed the order following a petition moved by the attorney general seeking four weeks' time for the gazette.

The government had drafted the rules and sent those to the SC for its opinion. The court revised the draft rules in the light of the 1999 verdict in the separation of the judiciary case. On December 12 last year, the apex court asked the law ministry to issue a gazette notification on the rules by today, adjourning the hearing on the Masdar Hossain case, also known as the separation of the judiciary case, till that date.

SNAPS & snippets

Fire guts houses, warehouses, shop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A fire gutted eight houses, two warehouses of jhut (garment rags) and a scrap materials shop at Abdul Ali Nagar of Pahartoli in Chittagong city yesterday.

The fire originated from a cigarette butt in one of the tin-roofed structures around 3:00am and soon engulfed the adjacent areas, said fire service sources. Firemen brought the blaze under control around 6:15am. The loss is estimated at Tk 6 lakh, they said. No casualty was reported.

Monsur Ahmed Chy gets award

CITY DESK

The Asian Centre for Inclusive Education (ACIE) gave away the third Nirafat Anam Memorial Inclusion (NAMI) award 2017 to right activist Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury for his contribution to the inclusion of people with special needs in Bangladesh and beyond.

Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) Prof Abdul Mannan handed over the award to Monsur at Krishibid Institute on Friday. Monsur Chowdhury, who lost his vision at the age of seven, studied using braille. On completion of education from Dhaka University, he has served in NGOs, including Jatiya Protibondhi Unnayan, said a press release yesterday.



GULISTAN, MOTIJHEEL Eviction drive faces hawkers' resistance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hawkers in the capital's Gulistan and Motijheel area yesterday protested an eviction drive of the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) conducted to free the roads and footpaths for safe walking.

The hawkers vandalised a number of vehicles of the city corporation and engaged in a scuffle with DSCC officials during the drive, conducted from 12:00pm to 3:00pm, led by three DSCC magistrates in association with Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Earlier on Wednesday, DSCC Mayor Sayeed Khokon announced that the hawkers will not be allowed to sit with their goods in Gulistan and adjacent areas during working hours from yesterday.

But they will be allowed to sit at some selected places from 6:30pm onwards during the working days, and on the holidays they will be allowed to do business all day, he said.

Youth stabbed to death in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals stabbed a youth to death in the capital's Shah Ali area last night.

The deceased has been identified as Kamal Hossain, 20, son of Mohammad Hanif, a resident in Mirpur Gudaraghat slum.

Quoting relatives, sources at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) said some youths asked Kamal to go to Kingshuk Housing area under Shah Ali Police Station. Upon arrival, he was stabbed in the chest around 9:00pm, the sources said.

He was rushed to Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital and later shifted to DMCH, where doctors pronounced him dead around 12:00am.

Anwar Hossain, OC of Shah Ali Police Station, said they were trying to arrest the killers.

WAR CRIMES IN KISHOREGANJ Case against 2 suspects nears final stage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proceedings in a case against two Kishoreganj war crimes accused is set to enter the final stage with International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday fixing February 12 for closing arguments.

Moreover, the tribunal recorded the testimony of the first prosecution witness in a case against five Moulvibazar men who allegedly committed crimes during the Liberation War.

In the Kishoreganj case, the court completed recording the testimony of the lone defence witness, Dween Islam Bachchu, also a son of accused Muhammad Moslem Pradhan.

Hearing the arguments, the tribunal will keep the verdict waiting for delivery, as has been in similar cases.

The other accused is Syed Mohammad Hussain alias Hossain,

64, younger brother of convicted war criminal Syed Hasan Ali. The duo faces six charges. Moslem, 66, is now in jail while Hussain on the run.

The charges include forcing Hindus in Dampara village under Nikli Police Station in Kishoreganj to convert to Islam in mid-August; and abducting, confining and torturing four people in Nikli Bazar from September 2 to October 19.

The others are over the killing of 26 people in Gurui village on September 6; killing of 35 Hindus and torturing of four others in Dampara village on September 23; and abduction and murder of freedom fighter Abdul Malek of Purbogam village under Nikli.

The last charge is over the killing of freedom fighters Khairul Jahan Bir Pratik and Md Selim Bir Pratik under Hossainpur Police Station on November 26.



Teachers and employees of non-MPO educational institutions continue their sit-in on the eighth day before Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding inclusion of their institutions in the government's Monthly Pay Order (MPO) facility.

'Jamaat leader' held in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police claim to have arrested a Jamaat leader, an accused in different arson cases, from Rangpur city's Station Road area Saturday.

The arrestee Obaidullah Salafi, 47, is the general secretary of Rangpur district Jamaat unit, said police. He was sent to Rangpur jail yesterday through a local court.

Two arrested with Yabas in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested two youths with 2,500 Yaba pills, raw materials and a machine for making the contraband tablets in No-15 Ghat area of Patenga in Chittagong city on Saturday night.

During primary interrogation, Md Rasel Mahmud, 29, of Khulshi, and Md Nazrul Islam, 27, of Chandgaon, admitted their involvement in Yaba producing and peddling. A case was filed.

BGB destroys liquor in Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) destroyed a huge quantity of illegal liquor, seized from different border areas in Sylhet, at the BGB headquarters in Sylhet yesterday morning.

The liquor is worth Tk 6 crore. BGB officials said the liquor was seized by the BGB members from different borders in Sylhet division from February 24 last year to January 12 this year.



Orientation of 3rd batch of the Master of Professional Human Resource Management (MPHRM) at Dhaka University was held recently. Prof Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman, pro-VC (administration), was present as the chief guest with Prof Dr Md Serajul Islam, director of MPHRM, in the chair.

HIT-AND-RUN

Corraya's bail plea hearing awaits remand report

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Hearing on a bail petition submitted by actor and model Kalyan Corraya, accused in a case filed over a hit-and-run incident that left chief photojournalist of daily Prothom Alo Zia Islam injured, was not held yesterday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Abdulla al Masud did not hear the petition as Sub-inspector Omar Faruk Khan, the case's investigation officer, failed to submit a progress report on the interrogation of the accused at jail gate.

The court said the hearing would be held after the report's submission.

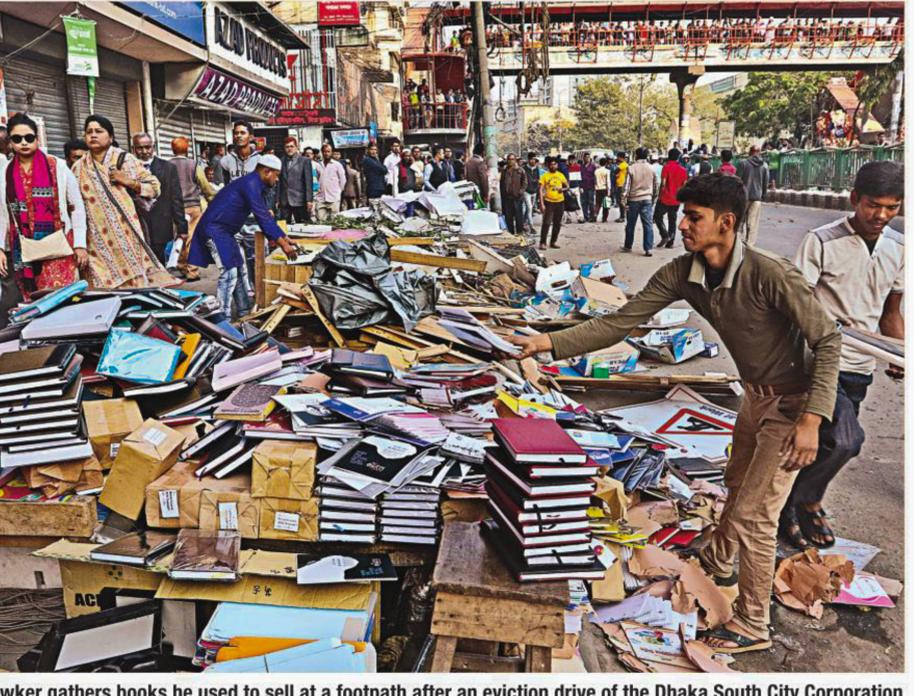
Another Dhaka court on January 11 allowed police to interrogate Kalyan at the jail gate for three days in connection with a case filed with Kalabagan Police Station.

Zia suffered severe injuries when a speedy car hit this motorcycle from behind in front of Bashundhara City in Panthapath area on January 9. Kalabagan police arrested Kalyan the next day and sought a 10-day remand.

Zia was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and shifted to Apollo Hospitals the next day before undergoing a major surgery. He was kept under observation for 48 hours before being taken to Singapore for better treatment on Friday.



Kalyan Corraya



A hawker gathers books he used to sell at a footpath after an eviction drive of the Dhaka South City Corporation started from yesterday to free the roads and sidewalks of the Gulistan and Motijheel areas from the street vendors. The photo was taken near the south gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque yesterday.

PHOTOS: AMRAN HOSSAIN

More use of media, ICT to unleash farm sector's potentials sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's farming community has been immensely benefited by farm broadcasting, media reporting on agricultural issues and knowledge contents, apps and solutions developed through information and communication technologies (ICT).

Panelists and participants at a workshop on "Improving Lives of Farmers through ICT & Media" yesterday noted this and emphasised further employing the power of media and ICT in unleashing the full potentials of Bangladesh's vibrant farm sector.

Katalyst, a multi-donor funded market development project, organised the workshop in the capital. Chief Information Commissioner Dr Colam Rahman moderating the session.

The organisers said Katalyst has reached two million farmers through ICT and media-based agricultural solutions over the last five years and many other stakeholders and development partners are also working with the goal of improving the livelihood of farming community, who contribute nearly a fifth of the country's GDP.

Panelists and participants included agriculturalists, development partners, farm broadcasters, ICT and media professionals and representatives of agro-business companies.

They shared the experiences of farmers getting benefits of various ICT solutions, apps and call services purposefully customised to serve the target groups.

HC asks govt to produce 2 child accused before it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned of the government to produce two children who were detained in a case filed for killing another child in Kamrangirchar of Dhaka in last October, before it on January 29.

The HC gave the order following a petition filed by Children's Charity Bangladesh Foundation (CCBF), a rights organisation. CCBF's counsel Barrister Abdul Halim submitted the petition before the HC. He said the children were under nine years' old and police had sent them to the custody without determining their age.

Alif Bhuiyan, son of Uzzal Bhuiyan of Kamrangirchar, was killed on last September 29. His body was recovered on October 11 and the same day police arrested the two children.

Textbook

FROM PAGE 3

District Primary Education Office in the city. At the programme, the protesters said the textbooks were communalised and anti-women. A "communal education system" has been introduced through them, they said.

Udichi's Chittagong city unit Vice-President Prabal Dey, Chhatra Union's district unit President Md Golam Sarwar, and Khelaghar's city unit Vice-President Ashish Sen, among others, spoke at the rally.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation will lead a procession towards the education ministry from the Aparajeya Bangla sculpture at DU from 11:00am and demonstrate in front of the ministry today as per their pre-scheduled programme over the same demands.

PROPOSED CONVENTION CENTRE JU students want centre's name after any late personality

JU CORRESPONDENT

The students of Jahangirnagar University yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Farzana Islam protesting the proposed Abdul Kadir Mollah Convention Centre.

Abdul Kadir Molah, chairman and managing director of Thermax Group, is funding the centre whose foundation stone was laid on January 12.

The centre should be funded by the government and named after any late famous personality rather than a businessman, said the protesters.

Meanwhile, JU administration in a statement said there is no commercial goal behind constructing the centre, rather it is being built for education and research purpose.

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