

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 25.0/L 14.4	H 25.6/L 13.6	H 26.3/L 12.6	H 24.4/L 07.6	H 24.5/L 09.8	H 24.8/L 09.0	H 25.0/L 09.4	H 26.8/L 14.4

Weather may remain dry over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Light to moderate fog may occur at places during mid night till morning. Met Office said. Mild to moderate cold wave sweeping over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Khulna divisions and Tangail, Faridpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Sreemangal, Barisal and Bhola may continue. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:34pm and rises tomorrow at 6:43am.

Hasina arrives in Zurich

UNB, Zurich

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in Zurich on Monday morning on a five-day official visit to Switzerland to join the 47th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

An Eithad Airways flight, carrying the PM and her entourage that left Dhaka at 10:35pm on Sunday, landed at Zurich International Airport around 6:00am (local time). PM's press secretary Ihsanul Karim told the news agency over the phone.

The four-day meeting will begin today in Davos in the eastern Alps region of Switzerland. During her stay in Davos, Hasina will attend a number of events.

Today, the PM will attend the opening plenary of the WEF at the Congress Centre in Davos. Before that, WEF Executive Chairman Klaus Schwann will meet Sheikh Hasina.

Hasina will also join a workshop titled "Shaping a New Water Economy" at the same venue.



Medical students of the University of Science and Technology Chittagong (USTC) continue their demonstration for the fifth day yesterday in front of the university main gate, demanding MBBS registration from the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council. PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

USTC students continue demo

Block road for half an hour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Medical students of the University of Science and Technology Chittagong (USTC) continued their demonstration yesterday on the campus and its nearby roads in the port city demanding registration from Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC).

On the fifth day of demonstration, several hundred students brought out a procession and locked the main collapsible gate of the academic building in the morning, said sources.

They also blockaded the road before USTC for around half an hour.

A heated exchange occurred between students and police members, deployed to avert any untoward situation, as the demonstrators were told to free the road, said witnesses.

But Nizam Uddin, officer-in-charge of Khulshi Police Station, said students observed their demonstration peacefully around 1:00pm.

An MBBS student of 25th batch said they would continue the demonstration until the authorities complete their registration.

Around 1,200 MBBS students, around 400 each in the 25th, 26th and 27th batches, of USTC face uncertainty as BMDC has refused to register them as the university violated rules by admitting students three times the permissible number in each batch. Of the students, around 600 are from India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives.

Students of 25th batch, who are now in fifth year and scheduled to attend the final professional examination from January 23, said they will not be able to join internship or practice after passing MBBS unless they get registration from BMDC.

Himalayan vulture rescued from village near Lawacherra



MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

A rare Himalayan vulture has been rescued from an abandoned house in a village near Lawacherra forest in Sreemangal and put under treatment for injuries in its wings.

A villager, Musim Mia, captured the bird in Jalalia village of Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila Sunday, said Tabibur Rahman, assistant conservator of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division in Moulvibazar.

Lawacherra Wildlife Rescue Centre will release it into Lawacherra forest after treatment, he said.

Wildlife researcher Tania Khan said the Himalayan vulture was a rare species. "It is not sighted often in our country. The bird lives in areas like the Himalayas, Bhutan, Tibet, China and other such regions in the north. But it flies long distances," she said.

A Himalayan vulture usually weighs 15-20kg but the rescued one is only 6kg because it had eaten enough for a long time, said Tabibur, adding that its wingspan measured 6-7 feet.

Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, Sylhet chapter, said wildlife found in localities indicated a serious degradation of habitats. He said this bird might have come foraging. "We should think about the ecological health of the forests."

Younger brother confesses to killing Shihab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The younger brother of slain private university student Shihabul Islam Shihab yesterday confessed to killing his drug-addicted brother for taking revenge for torturing his parents.

A Dhaka court sent Sifatul Islam Khan Sifat, 17, a college student, to jail after recording his statement.

Police recovered the body of Shihab on Saturday from his Adabar residence in the capital. Sifat was held the next day.

Sifat stabbed Shihab to death around 4:00am on Wednesday as he beat his mother on January first week, said police.

Nirob made Jubo Dal president, Tuku general secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saiful Islam Nirob and Sultan Salahuddin Tuku were made president and general secretary (GS) respectively of the central committee of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, youth front of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday announced the five-member central committee, according to a press release.

Masum Hasan was made the organising secretary of the organisation.

The five-member committee will submit the full committee within a month for approval, the release added.

Print media not dying down anytime soon

But they need to embrace digital changes, says expert Earl Wilkinson

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While there is a general concern over the future of journalism amid an aggressive expansion of social media, a globally reputed media expert has said journalism's future is actually great provided that it embraces the digital changes that shape audience habits.

"Our industry rules are changing with the change in technology... so, we too need to change. But, we need news media to be trusted more than ever," said Earl J Wilkinson, executive director and chief executive officer of International News Media Association (INMA).

Headquartered in the United States, INMA is the world's leading provider of global best practices for news media companies looking to grow revenue, audience, and brand amid profound market change.

Earl, who has written reports and books related to the future of media, marketing, and the strategic outlook for the news media industry, said the digital age would allow anyone to be a publisher, which was a huge opportunity for growth of journalism.

"But, the news brand is important. Whatever the platform is, the audience will look for the brand [that is trusted]," he told a seminar, "Future of Journalism", organised by the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB).

Editors, senior journalists, communication and journalism teachers attended the programme at Sonargaon hotel in the capital yesterday.

The media expert said there was a fear that the print media would find their days diminishing soon with the growth of digital media, but that was not true.

Still now, print media represents 65 to 98 percent of the revenue base in South Asia, and it is not going to dry down anytime soon because of people's emotional affinity with print, but digital platforms have to be incorporated simultaneously, he added.

The news contents that are printed can be reached to the audience via internet and smart phones in text, video and audio forms, so the audience avail the news instantly, Earl said.

"Smart phones are going to be the game-changers," he said, adding it happened in developed countries, and was fast happening in India and Bangladesh.

Earl said there would be an online video revolution in the near future, which would collide with the tradi-



Earl J Wilkinson speaks at a seminar titled "Future of Journalism" organised by the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) at a hotel in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

HC to decide on 4 female prisoners' bail on Jan 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court will decide on January 26 whether it will grant bail to four under-trial female prisoners at Kashimpur Jail in Gazipur.

The HC yesterday set the date for delivering verdict on a rule delivered on this issue.

Sumi Akter Reshma from Narayanganj, Razia Sultana from Gazipur and Rani alias Nupur from Mymensingh have been in the jail since 2009 in three murder cases, and Shanaj Begum from Narayanganj has been suffering in jail since 2008 in a killing case.

On November 30 last year, another HC bench directed the jail authorities to produce the four detainees before the court yesterday so that their statements could be heard on a suo moto move after Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee brought for the status of the cases.

Adil consul general of DR Congo

CITY DESK

Ziauddin Adil, a businessman and media personality, has been appointed as the consul general of Democratic Republic of Congo in Bangladesh.

Recently a ministerial representative team of DR Congo visited Bangladesh to hand over the appointment letter to Adil, says a press release. During their visit they discussed the future trade investment opportunities and travel facilities with the new Congo consul general in Bangladesh.



Hawkers under the banner of "Bangladesh Hawkers Union", in a procession in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, protest eviction drives against them. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DSCC firm on freeing Gulistan streets: Khokon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amidst protests by hawkers over an eviction drive, Mayor Sayeed Khokon yesterday said Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) would stick to its decision to keep Gulistan's streets free from street vendors during office hours.

The drive will continue to ensure free streets for the public, he said after a meeting with an 11-member delegation of Bangladesh Hawkers' Federation at Nagar Bhaban.

The delegation, led by Abdul Hashem Kabir, presented a memorandum with a 10-point demand including a stop to eviction without prior rehabilitation of hawkers.

They also asked that the government recognises hawkers, stops extortion and ends prosecuting hawkers. Earlier, several hundred hawkers gathered to protest in front of Bangabazar.

"There is no question of giving the hawkers any chance... There are about 1.2 crore people residing in this city. Of them, 60 percent people walk to their destinations and there should be no obstruction in their way," said Khokon at the meeting. The eviction will not be lenient towards any political office occupying footpaths or streets, he added. The mayor, however, said measures will be taken to establish a holiday market for hawkers.

Khokon said they would take up initiatives and recommend sending the hawkers abroad for jobs in government projects. He threatened to withdraw the rehabilitation efforts if the hawkers conspired against the eviction.

Responding to a question, the mayor said one of the main causes of traffic congestion was hawkers taking up footpaths. "We will take other steps to bring vehicles under discipline after the move against hawkers," he said.

During the second day of the drive, the DSCC took down a Jubo League office in Gulistan amid protests from a few activists.

The mayor on Wednesday had announced that the hawkers would not be allowed to sit with their goods in Gulistan and adjacent areas during working hours from January 15. But they will be allowed to sit at selected places from 6:30pm onwards and all day on the weekends, he said at a meeting with leaders of hawkers' associations.

Scrap law on girls' marriage before 18

Views-exchange meeting urges PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a views-exchange meeting yesterday requested the prime minister to scrap the special provision which allows marriageable age for females before 18 under the proposed Child Marriage Prevention Act-2016.

If the government include the provision, it will be misused and the number of child marriage will increase a lot across the country, especially in the rural, char and slum areas, they told the programme at the capital's Brac Centre.

Representatives from different local and international NGOs and journalists took part in it, while the NGOs announced arranging a mass gathering at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka at 3:00pm tomorrow protesting inclusion of the provision.

Laila Khondkar, director (child protection) of Save the Children; Muslima Jahan, a reporter of Prothom Alo, Jinat Ara Haque, national coordinator of We Can Bangladesh; Banasree Mitra Neogi, programme coordination of Manusher Jonno Foundation; Habibur Rahman, programme head (gender justice and diversity) of Brac; Wasim Uddin Bhuiyan, reporter of New Age; and ANM Kaiser Jilani, a team leader of Care, spoke.