

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
H 26.4 L 14.2	H 23.5 L 12.0	H 28.6 L 16.5	H 27.8 L 13.0	H 23.5 L 12.0	H 23.0 L 9.6	H 27.0 L 15.0	H 27.6 L 13.0	H 29.8 L 18.8	

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Night temperature may rise slightly over northern part and it may fall slightly elsewhere over the country and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:46pm and rises tomorrow at 6:38am.

Prof Anisuzzaman flown to Bangkok for treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University Anisuzzaman was flown to Bangkok of Thailand yesterday for better treatment. The eminent writer, researcher and educationist was admitted to Labaid Hospital in the capital on December 17 with respiratory complaints. He underwent treatment there till December 26, said a press release sent by Bengal Foundation of which Anisuzzaman is a trustee. He is now undergoing treatment at a Bangkok hospital, it said. His wife, daughter and Bengal Foundation Chairman Abul Khair are accompanying Anisuzzaman.

Taleya Rehman in London hospital with leukaemia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent rights activist Taleya Rehman is undergoing treatment at the University College Hospital Macmillan Cancer Centre in London as she is suffering from leukaemia. Her treatment ended on Wednesday, her husband Shafiq Rehman, a veteran journalist, told The Daily Star. Earlier on January 18, Taleya was diagnosed with leukaemia by doctors of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, he said. Taleya, also the executive director of Democracywatch, was flown to London on January 22 for treatment.



Violating the law that was enacted to protect the environment as well as the forests, owners of many brickfields have been burning wood as fuel. The photo was taken recently from a brickfield in Sadullapur area of Savar where a pile of wood has been gathered for burning.

Savar brick kilns flout rules

Burn wood rampantly posing threat to environment

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

Even though using wood in brick kilns as fuel has been declared illegal, several brick kilns of Savar, outside the capital, have continued burning logs, much to the harm of the environment. Over 200 brick kilns have been set up in Savar including 30 to 35 in Amin Bazar and 10 to 15 in Genda area, locals sources said. While visiting some of the brick kilns -- such as Ms/Mahin Bricks Co (MBC) and Bangla Brick Kiln -- this correspondent saw that huge quantity of logs had been piled up at the brickfields to be used as fuel for making bricks. Seeking anonymity, a worker of MBC in Sadullapur area of Savar, said they burn 25 to 30 maunds of wood beside coal in the kiln daily. Factory owner buy these wood for Tk 150 to Tk 180 per maund from several forest areas including Kaliakor and Modhpur in Gazipur, said the worker. Many locals, wishing not to be named, alleged that the owner of MBC is a ruling party leader who uses wood in his brickfield defying the government ban. However, The Daily Star correspondent

could not reach him as his cell phone was switched off. Workers at Bangla Brick Kiln in Genda area of Savar were also seen using wood and coal simultaneously as fuel defying government ban. However, neither the owner nor the workers agreed to talk to this correspondent. A head technician of the brick kiln said although they use coal but they need 1,200 to 1,400 maunds of wood to keep the furnace burning as the kiln is quite old. Most of the brick kilns in this area use huge amount of wood, he added. Shamsul Hoque, secretary of a local environmental organisation Nodi o Paribesh Unnayan Parishad, said, "We often see that most of the brick kilns of Savar use jhut (scrap fabrics from garment factories), tire and wood beside coal for making bricks." Though use of wood is illegal but local administration does not take any action against those brick kilns as they get money from the owners, he alleged. According to green activists and health experts, using wood in the brick kilns as fuel is not only a major cause of deforestation, it also has negative

impacts on the environment in respect of air quality, human health and vegetation in particular as brick kilns emit huge amount of toxic fumes in the air. "The smoke from burning wood round the clock here badly affects us," said Montaz Uddin a resident of Genda area. "Massive use of wood for making bricks has not only been reducing trees in our area but also damaging our crops and polluting the air, added Montaz. Contacted, Abu Naser Beg, upazila nirbahi officer of Savar, said "I do not know that brick kilns in this area are burning wood for making bricks. Please send me a list of those. I will take action against them." Brick Kiln Act-2013 does not allow use of wood for brick burning, said Md Alamgir, director of the Department of Environment (DoE), Dhaka region, adding, recently they have conducted a drive at several illegal brick kilns in Savar. During the drive two brick kilns were fined TK 2 lakh for using wood in the brickfields, the director said, adding, the drives will continue.

Four JMB men sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent four members of the banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to jail after they were produced before it in connection with a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act. The arrestees include the group's "IT chief" Ashfaq-e-Azam alias Apel, 26, from Jhenpur. The others are Shuhuzzaman alias Shaon, 30, from Jhenidah, Mahbubur Rahman alias Rumi, 23, from Bogra, and Ashraf Ali, 24, from Jamalpur. The court passed the order after Mohammad Ayub, a sub-inspector of Jatrabari Police Station, produced them before the court with a forwarding report. In the petition, Ayub said the arrestees needed to be taken on remand so that more information could be gleaned from them and they needed to be confined in jail custody until a remand prayer is submitted. Rapid Action Battalion on Wednesday arrested the four from a flat in the capital's Jatrabari. They seized two pistols, 21 bullets and bomb-making materials, including explosives, detonators and circuit breakers. According to the case statement filed with Jatrabari Police Station, the arrestees were preparing to carry out subversive activities.

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19th Death Anniversary of former Secretary M. Akhtar Ali

On the occasion of observing the 19th Death Anniversary of former Secretary Late M. Akhtar Ali, Today the 3rd February 2017, a Milad and Dua Mahfil will be held at his residence after Asr prayers. All relatives and well-wishers of Late M. Akhtar Ali are requested to kindly join the prayers for the salvation of his sacred soul.

Mrs. Akhtar Ali
House # 14/A, Road # 95, Gulshan-2
Dhaka-1212. Tel: 8881544



Cultural activist Rafiur Rabbi, father of Taqi, at a roundtable at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, expressing frustration over the failure of the authorities concerned in bringing the perpetrators of his son's killers to book even though nearly four years have passed.

Chobi Mela begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chobi Mela, a biennial international photography festival, begins in the capital today. Jointly organised by Drik Picture Library Ltd and Pathshala South Asian Media Institute, the ninth edition of the festival will be held at four venues -- Bulbhook Hall Auditorium, Beauty Boarding and Shilpakala Academy. The two-week-long event will be open for all from 11:00am to 8:00pm till February 16. Shahidul Alam, director of the festival, at a press briefing at the Shilpakala Academy yesterday said 27 photographers from 16 countries including Bangladesh, USA, UK, Canada, India and Japan will participate in the festival. Two Bangladeshi photographers -- Nasir Ali Mamun and Saida Khanom -- will receive Lifetime Achievement Awards during the festival, he added. Eminent Bangladeshi photographer Nasir Ali Mamun's portrait photography from 1972 to 1982 will be on display at Shilpakala Academy gallery.

TAQI MURDER CASE Frustration as justice remains a far cry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday expressed frustration over the state's failure in bringing the perpetrators of Narayanganj schoolboy Taqi killing to book even though nearly four years have passed. They said the state ensured trials and charge sheet was yet to be submitted. They also sought the prime minister's intervention in this regard. Santrash Nirmul Taqi Mancha arranged the roundtable at the capital's Jatiya Press Club. The body of Tanwir Muhammed Taqi, son of cultural activist Rafiur Rabbi, was found floating in the Shitalakhya river on March 8, 2013, two days after he went missing. Rabbi sued unnamed people on March 8 that year and later submitted a complaint to Narayanganj's superintendent of police, accusing seven persons including local Awami League leader Shamim Osman, his son Ayon Osman, and 8-10 unnamed others, of the murder. Rapid Action Battalion in its investigation found involvement of Ajmeri Osman, son of deceased Jatiya Party lawmaker Nasim Osman and nephew of Shamim Osman, in the killing. Taqi's father Rafiur Rabbi, SHUJAN Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar, veteran cultural personality Kamal Lohani, Liberation War Museum Trustee Mofidul Haque, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Mujahidul Islam Selim, Oikya Nap President Pankaj Bhattacharya, Bangla daily Prothom Alo Joint Editor Mizanur Rahman Khan, and Ganosamhati Andolon Chief Coordinator Zonayed Saki, were present, among others.

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