



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 31.0 L 16.6

MYMENSINGH H 29.2 L 15.8

CHITTAGONG H 30.5 L 17.0

SYLHET H 31.5 L 16.8

RAJSHAHI H 30.0 L 12.3

RANGPUR H 28.8 L 13.7

KHULNA H 30.8 L 15.0

BARISAL H 30.4 L 14.5

COX'S BAZAR H 28.5 L 17.2

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Night temperature may rise slightly and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:49pm and rises tomorrow at 6:36am. Country's highest temperature 32.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Chandpur and lowest 11.0 in Tentulia.

JS passes civil aviation authority bill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliament last night passed a bill titled "Civil Aviation Authority Bill, 2017" for updating the existing relevant legislation.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon moved the bill which was passed by unanimous voice votes.

On March 28, 2016, the cabinet approved the draft of the Bangladesh Civil Aviation Authority Act to replace the existing Bangladesh Civil Aviation Authority Ordinance 1985, and fulfil the requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

According to the bill, the Civil Aviation Authority would be headed by its chairman. It will have six members to be appointed by the government.

The draft law authorises the chairman to convene a meeting whenever he or she wishes while the quorum of the meeting which would need a quorum of three.

A high-powered governing body headed by the minister concerned would be formed under the law to oversee operations and policy-level decisions, particularly financial matters, of the Civil Aviation Authority, Bangladesh. **BRTA BILL PLACED** The Bangladesh Road Transport Authority Bill, 2017 was placed in the parliament last night for making motor vehicles and road transport system smooth, planned, technology-based, environment-friendly and modern.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader placed the bill which was later sent to the

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An elderly man on a wheelchair, with the assistance of two youths, moves across the Amar Ekushey Granthamela premises in the capital yesterday. Switch, a voluntary organisation of students from Dhaka University and Buet, in collaboration with the Bangla Academy, are providing free wheelchair support to people with disabilities at the book fair. Inset, two volunteers with wheelchairs near the venue entrance.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Is indigenous literature scarce at fair?

MATHEWS CHIRAN

The indigenous communities have distinctive lifestyles and cultural traditions. But if you go to the Amar Ekushey book fair, you will find only a few literary works portraying their lives. The number of books authored by indigenous writers is also very few there.

Readers only get to know about the books written on indigenous communities by Bangalee writers.

However, indigenous writers and publishers do not see the lack of content, except for a lack of support and publicity. There are a few writers who are trying individually to familiarise their works to the readers in the book fair.

One poet, Mithun Raksam, has composed "Gandha Chor" (The smell thief), a poetry book depicting the life of the ethnic minorities.

Member of Garo community, his another publication is a research book, "Garo Jatir Modda o Panio", (Drinks of the Garo Community).

Both were published by Teuri, a new publishing house founded in April 2016.

However, the publisher, Sadhan Maibam, a Monipuri, has not been allocated a full stall because as a new publishing house, he does not fulfil the conditions of Bangla Academy.

He is displaying his publications at stall no. 39 where the magazine "Chibima" put up its issues for sale.

Talking about his challenges, the Garo poet said, "Since these books are not publicised, publishers shy away from these as they consider the financial matter."

The poet plans to publish books in his mother tongue in the next book fair with Bangla translations.

Sadhan Maibam, owner of Teuri, said, "There are a good number of indigenous writers creating good writing but their books sell less compared to Bangalee writers."

If the textbooks of the mainstream education have a fair amount of content on indigenous lives, students will be more attracted to the literature, he added.

The publisher said the academy could relax rules for indigenous publishers to facilitate their participation in the fair.

There are a few magazines by indigenous writers and publishers at the Little Mag corner on the academy premises.

Most indigenous writers are writing individually for different publishers and struggling to publicise them properly. The works of some writers include "Baboharik Garo Obhidhan", a dictionary by Himal Ritchil; "Nill Foring Kabba", a poetry book by Shawnaei Debi Shanu; and "Bohujatir Bangladesh", a research book by Prasanta Tripura.

Writer Himel Ritchel said,

"Bangla academy can provide funding to the indigenous researchers and publishers to publish books to create more writers."

He also said separate stalls for indigenous literature supported by the academy would create a new dimension to the fair.

Jalal Ahmed, member secretary of the fair conducting committee, said, "Rules for participating in the fair for indigenous publishers could be relaxed if the committee considers it necessary to promote the indigenous writers or publishers."

He said the academy tried to promote literature of diverse cultural communities and it would look into it. On the sixth day of the fair, 90 new books arrived.

Among them, "Jole Khujji Dhatob Murdra" by late Mahbulul Haque Shakil, special assistant to the prime minister, was launched at Kabi Shamsur Rahman Seminar Hall at the academy where Dipu Moni, MP, poet Helal Hafiz, and poet Habibullah Siraji were present.



The interns of Dhaka Medical College demonstrate on the campus yesterday to protest an "assault" on one of their fellows, allegedly by a patient's relative on February 4. The demonstrators also demanded that the attacker be arrested and their security be enhanced. They, however, withdrew their "work stoppage".

PHOTO: STAR

CONFINEMENT OF TEACHERS BY STUDENTS No class, exam held at Ruet for teachers' strike

A CORRESPONDENT, RU

Teachers of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) yesterday refrained from holding classes and exams as part of their indefinite strike demanding punishment of students who had confined them for nearly 20 hours on Saturday evening.

Teachers were confined, shamed and insulted during the confinement. So, teachers have taken the decision to boycott all classes and exams until the students involved are punished, Nirendranath Mustafa, president of Ruet teachers' association, said while talking to journalists.

The demands of the teachers include conducting of a proper investigation into the incident and punishment to the students who assaulted the teachers physically and made derogatory remarks about them on various social media platforms.

Many students are even slandering the teachers on social media, Nirendranath added. "The VC has been informed of our demands." The decision came from an emergency meeting of the Ruet teachers' association held around 2:00pm on Sunday, said Nirendranath in a press release yesterday.

Earlier on Saturday, students demonstrating against the "33 Credit System" confined 16 teachers including Rafiqul Alam Beg, vice chancellor of the Ruet, for around 20 hours to their offices.

The Ruet authorities cancelled the credit requisite on Sunday. On January 28, a section of students, especially from sessions 2014-15 and 2015-16, started demonstrating against the "33 Credit System" that was introduced in 2013.



KUNIO HOSHI MURDER

Rangpur court ends recording of testimonies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Rangpur court finished recording testimonies over the murder of Japanese national Kunio Hoshi with five people, including officer-in-charge of Kaunia Police Station, testifying before it yesterday.

With this, the court recorded testimonies of 55 witnesses, said public prosecutor Rathish Chandra Bhowmik. Arguments will start after February 13, he said.

Kunio was shot dead in Aluwar village in Kaunia of Rangpur on October 3, 2015. A charge sheet accusing eight JMB men was submitted on July 3 last year.

28 Jamaat women remanded again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed 28 female leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami on a one-day fresh remand in a case filed against them for planning to sabotage government establishments.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Zakir Hossain Tipu passed the order after Shariful Islam, inspector of Mohammadpur Police Station and investigation officer of the case, produced them before it with a seven-day fresh remand prayer for each.

They were produced before the court on completion of their two-day remand in the case filed under the Special Powers Act. In yesterday's forwarding report, the IO said the arrestees gave important information about their meeting to iron out plans for conducting subversive activities on different government establishments. So, the arrestees need to be remanded again, the IO added.

Following the hearing, the magistrate rejected their bail petitions and placed them on remand again with the condition that female police personnel have to be present during the interrogation.

On Friday, police arrested the 28 while they were holding a secret meeting in a building on Nurjahan Road.

The police also recovered leaflets, money receipts and monthly reports of Jamaat-e-Islami along with books authored by Ghulam Azam and Motiur Rahman Nizami. In the case statement, Sub-inspector Yahya said the women gathered in the house for planning subversive activities against the government.

Cuja protests journo Shimul killing

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University Journalists' Association (Cuja) yesterday formed a human chain before CU Central Shaheed Minar protesting the killing of Abdul Hakim Shimul, a correspondent of the Daily Samakal.

He died on his way to Dhaka after being hit by stray bullets during an Awami League infighting in Shahzadpur of Sirajganj on Thursday.

On Thursday, bullets were fired from the licenced shotgun of Shahzadpur Municipality Mayor Halimul Haque Miru, also organising secretary of Sirajganj AL, inside his house following a clash between his supporters and the ones of AL activist Bijoy Hossain, said police.



Locals in a procession in Shahzadpur of Sirajganj yesterday demand death penalty for municipality mayor Halimul Haque Miru over the murder of journalist Abdul Hakim Shimul.

PHOTO: STAR

NEWS IN brief

BCC staff stage demo for arrears

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Hundreds of Barisal City Corporation (BCC) staff yesterday for the sixth day observed work abstention demanding their five months' arrears.

Many staff of second, third and fourth class have not been paid their salaries since September, said the demonstrators while staging a sit-in before the corporation building.

Wahiduzzaman, chief executive officer (CEO), said BCC has 476 permanent and 1,600 temporary staff working on daily basis which is unnecessary. On the other hand, the revenue that the corporation collects is not sufficient to pay all the staff, he added. "We have decided to pay two months' arrears," he added.

Swedish lawmaker for working together to protect environment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visiting Swedish lawmaker Johns Holm yesterday made a call to work together to protect the world from environmental degradation.

Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable countries for environmental pollution and population, he said.

A two-member Swedish Parliament delegation comprising Johns Holm and Nooshi Dadgostar held a meeting with Environment and Social Development Organization yesterday at its office in Dhaka, where Holm came up with the statement. They discussed environmental issues and emphasised environmental pollution in Bangladesh, particularly e-waste pollution, traffic and urban pollution, says a press release.

ESDO chairperson Syed Marghub Mourshed welcomed the delegation.

Youth sued over boy's death in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Father of 15-year-old Foyzal, who was killed after being hit by a stump in Chittagong city, filed a case on late Sunday against his son's playmate for causing death by negligence.

Sadarghat police said Shah Jahan filed the case against Arafat, 22, who threw the stump that hit Foyzal during a cricket match at Collegiate School field and eventually caused his death on Sunday around 5:00pm. Arafat is now in police custody.

2 jailed for carrying jatka in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-8 seized 200 maunds of jatka (hilsa fry less than 10 inches) from a truck and detained its three staffs at Rupatali in Barisal city yesterday.

The truck was carrying the fish to Madaripur from Patuakhali, said sources. Of the detainees, Khokon Gaji, 38, who was illegally trading the fish, was sentenced to 18-month imprisonment, the truck driver Masum to 13-month imprisonment and his helper Rakib was fined Tk 5,000 by a mobile court. The fish were distributed in orphanages.

Nazrul promoted to additional secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday promoted Nazrul Islam, a deputy press secretary to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, to the rank of additional secretary.

With this promotion, given from the president's 10 percent quota, Nazrul, an information cadre official, has been made officer on special duty (OSD) and attached to the ministry. He will have to join his principal cadre job before post-retirement leave starting on December 31 next year, the notification reads.



EU keen to support new EC

FROM PAGE 4

On Sunday, at a formal diplomatic briefing, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali sought support from UN and other international partners to implement the relocation plan of Rohingya to Hatiya island in the Bay of Bengal.

Pierre, however, said at this moment they don't have enough information needed for them to provide response.

The government of Bangladesh has decided to shift tens of thousands of Rohingya population from Cox's Bazar to Thengar Char in Hatiya to ensure humanitarian assistance to the Myanmar nationals.

Pierre said they never miss any opportunity to raise their concerns regarding Rohingya situation in Myanmar and they will continue to support to resolve the Rohingya issue.

High officials of the EU delegation in Bangladesh attended the briefing.