

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
H 29.8 L 17.4	H 29.1 L 15.8	H 31.2 L 19.0	H 31.3 L 16.2	H 29.3 L 13.4	H 28.8 L 14.4	H 29.3 L 17.6	H 30.2 L 16.7	H 31.5 L 19.0	

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:54pm and rises tomorrow at 6:30am. Country's highest temperature 31.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Teknaf and Sitakunda and lowest 11.8 degree in Sreemangal.

Norwegian FM arrives Monday

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



Norwegian Foreign Minister Borge Brende arrives in Dhaka on Monday morning on a two-day visit to Bangladesh. During the visit he will meet high government officials. He will also place floral wreath at the Central Shaheed Minar at the first hour of February 21. Diplomatic sources said the Norwegian foreign minister's visit is in response to Bangladesh Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali's invitation during the latter's four-country tour in Nordic countries in September last year. During his meeting with Mahmood Ali, Borge lauded Bangladesh government's actions against terrorism and violent extremism.



Artist Abdul Mannan paints at an art camp at the capital's Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy organised the camp participated by noted painters to pay tribute to the martyrs of the Language Movement of International Mother Language Day.

FATWA AGAINST 2 IN LAXMIPUR HC summons UP chairman, OC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has questioned the legality of extra-judicial punishment handed out to a woman and a man by a union parishad chairman in the name of "fatwa" (religious edict) at a village arbitration in Laxmipur in December last year. The court on Tuesday issued a rule on a suomoto (of its own) move asking the authorities concerned to explain as to why the punishment should not be declared illegal. In the rule, the HC also asked the authorities concerned of the government to show cause as to why they should not be directed to take appropriate legal action against the chairman of Char Martin union in Kamolnagar upazila, and the officer-in-charge of Kamolnagar Police Station for his negligence in taking action in this regard. The bench of Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore and Justice AKM Shahidul Huq ordered the chairman and the OC to appear before it on February 22 and explain their roles in the incident. The judges also directed the superintendent of police of Laxmipur to ensure the security of the two victims and their presence at the court the same day. The chairman handed out extra-judicial punishment to the duo in the name of fatwa on December 21 last year. The incident was informed to the OC but he refused to take any action without a written complaint. BLAST legal adviser and Supreme Court lawyer SM Rezaul Karim brought the issue to the notice of HC bench for necessary order after an online outlet published a report on Tuesday.

'Woman' kills husband in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed allegedly by his wife over a family feud at his house near Abujar Gifari University College in the capital's Malibagh yesterday. The deceased, Ohidul Islam Swapan, 60, was a freedom fighter and a contractor. Police detained his wife Moushumi Islam, 40. During a quarrel, Swapan was about to hit Moushumi with a brick but she snatched the brick and hit him instead, said Shahjahanpur police quoting the detainee. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy. Morgue sources said there was an injury mark in the head.

English-Bangla jumble hampers Bangla learning: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mixing of English and Bangla and incorrect pronunciation are hampering the proper learning of Bangla language, a roundtable told yesterday. The speakers urged the government to spread the use of Bangla at all levels including in official work, judicial process, advertising, and higher education. Bangla daily Prothom Alo and HSBC Bank jointly organised the discussion titled "Use of Bangla at all levels" at the newspaper's office in the capital. Preferring a foreign language to the mother tongue and the jumbling of two languages together indicate one's inferiority, said educationist Prof Rafiqul Islam. "We must have respect for our mother tongue," said the language hero, adding, "The government

should expand its use. Otherwise, our sacrifice for the language will go in vain." Former caretaker government adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury said media influenced the use of language. Some electronic media, especially FM radio stations, distort Bangla so terribly that a new language variant called "Banglish" (a jumble of Bangla and English) was created, she said. "In addition, the current school textbooks have several linguistic mistakes. If students learn incorrect Bangla, how will they use it properly in their daily life?" Higher education in the country is dependent on English, and most solvent people want to educate their children in English medium schools, so it is obvious why "Banglish" is in use, said Mohammad Azam, associate professor of Bangla at Dhaka

University. "If Bangla is not taught properly at educational institutions, its wide-scale use at all levels is not possible." Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of Bangla Academy, said the government had to make people legally bound to use Bangla. Echoing him, Prof Sikder Monoare Mursheed of DU said the government needed to form a policy and an enforcement body in this regard. Writer Selina Hossain stressed on the need for raising mass awareness about the proper use of Bangla. Abdul Quayum, associate editor of Prothom Alo; Mohammad Daniul Haq, professor of linguistics at DU; Sajjad Sharif, managing editor of Prothom Alo; Mahub-ur-Rahman, deputy chief executive officer of HSBC; and Biswajit Ghosh, professor of Bangla at DU, also spoke.

Architect Rafiq Azam's project shortlisted for MIPIM award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Renowned architect Rafiq Azam's project "Bangladesh Chancery Complex" in Pakistan's Islamabad has been shortlisted in this year's MIPIM Awards. Rafiq is the principal architect of Shattoto, an architecture firm based in Dhaka with a focus on "architecture for green living". Four projects have been selected as finalists in the "best future project" category, according to the MIPIM website. The MIPIM Awards is an internationally-acclaimed real estate competition. "It honours the most outstanding and accomplished projects, completed or yet to be built, around the world..." says the website. It also writes about Rafiq's project: "The 1971 war in Pakistan resulted in the splitting of the country between East and West, and the emergence of the new country of Bangladesh, beside the bay of Bengal. A sign of continuing improvements in the socio-political environment in the region is the construction of the Bangladesh Chancery Complex in Islamabad. Work began in January 2017 on a five-acre area of land close to the regal Margalla Hills." The other three projects under the category are China World Trade Center Phase 3C Development by Andrew Bromberg at Aedas, Christiansholm by COBE, and Quay Quarter Tower by 3XN Architects. Some 44 projects have been shortlisted in 11 categories among 214 international entries. The award will be announced at Palais De Festival, Cannes, France, on March 16.

SNAPS & snippets

DIU students receive awards

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

High Commissioner of Canada to Bangladesh Benoit-Pierre Laramée presented awards and certificates to Daffodil International University students, who recently won prizes in a "social business creation competition" organised by HEC Montréal's Social Business Centre in Canada in collaboration with the Grameen Creative Lab. Kazi Mesbah ur Rahman, Faisal Bin Abul Kasem, Bhaskar Sarkar and Shamsun Nahar (DIU) and Margot Mollat du Jordin (student of McGill University, Canada) won the 2nd prize of the competition among 44 teams from 30 universities representing 16 countries, said a press release yesterday.



Dignitaries at an inauguration ceremony of IDP's "Study in UK, USA, Canada & New Zealand" event at a hotel in the capital on Friday. Kamal Uddin, Quazi Gulam Farhad and Mosharrar Khan Yaafi were present.

Bangladesh, Nepal info commissions sign MoU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Information Commission of Bangladesh and National Information Commission of Nepal at the former's Agargaon office in Dhaka yesterday. Prof Golam Rahman, chief information commissioner, and Krishnahari Baskota, chief of the National Information Commission of Nepal, signed the MoU. Under the MoU, both the commissions will set up information and communication technology (ICT) networks and share information; exchange capacity building, human resource development and research programmes for the officials.



A delegation of Labour Friends of Bangladesh led by Dr Rupa Huq, MP (shadow minister for home affairs in the UK), meets President Abdul Hamid at Bangabhaban in the capital yesterday.

JS adopts notice over

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running a report on January 23 under the headline "Police await PM's order to crack down on drug lords". On January 26, the House unanimously adopted a similar notice on violation of another AL lawmaker Enamul Haque's special privilege and sent it to the standing committee. Like Shamim Osman, Enamul also said The Daily Observer mentioned several lawmakers' names, including his, and published their photographs only to "defame them". Yesterday at the beginning, Speaker Shirin Shamim Chaudhury announced that she accepted the first notice from Shamim, but rejected his two other notices on violation of his special privilege, saying that the parliament's rules of procedure do not allow her to accept those. In the two other notices, Shamim said the Bangla daily Prothom Alo and Bangla Tribune, an online based news portal, last year on January 6 and November 27 respectively published two news regarding the seven-murder case in Narayanganj against him which maligned his image at home and abroad. Later taking floor in parliament, Shamim lambasted Prothom Alo and The Daily Star for publishing news on various occasions identifying politicians, including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, as "dishonest" politicians. He also demanded that the law minister formulate a new law to take actions against the media houses which he said had assassinated politicians' characters.

JOURNO SHIMUL MURDER Miru's brother, driver remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Shahzadpur court yesterday placed the order after Habibal Haque Mintu, brother of Shahzadpur mayor's younger brother and driver on a five-day remand each in a case filed over the murder of journalist Abdul Hakim Shimul. Senior Judicial Magistrate Hasibul Haque passed the order after Habibal Haque Mintu, brother of Shahzadpur mayor Halimul Haque Miru; and Shahin Alam, his driver, were produced before the court with a seven-day remand prayer, said Additional Public Prosecutor Abul Kashem. Earlier on February 13, the same court placed Miru and five others on a five-day remand each in the case. On February 2, Shimul, Shahzadpur correspondent of the daily Samakal, was shot during a factional clash of Awami League in Shahzadpur of Sirajganj when the municipality mayor and his supporters were seen opening fire, said police. Shimul died the next day. The victim's wife filed the case accusing Miru and others.

Road crashes take 7 lives

CITY DESK

Seven people including a four-year-old boy were killed and five others injured in road accidents in six districts yesterday. Our Dinajpur correspondent reports, a four-year-old boy was killed as a bus hit him while he was walking beside Modhupur-Badarganj road holding his mother's hand in Badarganj upazila of Rangpur. The deceased -- Rowshan Ali, son of Abdur Rashid of Modhupur Dolpara village in the district -- died on the spot, said police. In Naogaon, a rickshaw-van puller was killed as his vehicle collided head-on with a bike in Dweepganj Bazar area of Badalgachhi upazila. The deceased was identified as Aftab Hossain, 34, of Tegharia village. Four people were also injured in the accident. Our Bogra correspondent reports, a pedestrian was killed as a bus ran him over on Bogra-Dhaka highway in Majhira area of Shajahanpur upazila in the district. The deceased was Abu Sayeed, 35, of Boropathar village in the upazila. Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, a youth was killed

as a dumper truck skidded off the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway after it hit an unidentified vehicle in Kharana area of Patiya upazila in the district. The deceased, Subhas Das, 24, of the upazila, was helper of the truck. Our Tangail correspondent reports, a truck driver was killed as his vehicle hit another one on the Dhaka-Tangail highway in Postkamuri area of Mirzapur upazila. The deceased was Arif Hossain, 25, of Lalpur in Natore. Triggered by the accident, vehicular movement on both sides of the highway ground to a halt for about an hour, highway police said. In Tangail Sadar, a biker was killed and his co-rider injured as a bus rammied his vehicle on the Dhaka-Tangail highway in Bhatkura area. The deceased Nazmul Kabir, 20, of Mymensingh was a medical representative. He died on the spot. Police seized the bus and detained its driver. In Munshiganj, Dulal Barman, 42, a fish trader, was killed as a Bus hit the CNG-run auto-rickshaw he was in at Nurpukurpar of Tongibazar upazila.

MOUCHAK MARKET Retrofit building, ensure utility services

HC asks owners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the owners of capital's Mouchak Market to continue renovation of the building and to keep the building's utility services active so that the traders can run their businesses. The order came after hearing a petition filed by Mouchak Market Bonik Samity (Mouchak market traders' association) on February 12 following a meeting of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk). The association filed the petition apprehending that Rajuk might shut down the market, said the petitioner's lawyer barrister Khandoker Reja-e Rabbi. On June 6, 2016, the Supreme Court stayed a HC order that asked the authorities concerned to keep the shops of Mouchak Market closed.

Books on films draw attention at fair

MAHDI AL MUHTASIM with MATHEWS CHIRAN

The Ekushey book fair is an event unlike any other. It can satisfy anyone's literary palate with a wide array of selections. Durjoy Chakraborty, a final-year student at Dhaka University, was going through books on films at the Suhrawardy Udyan premises of the fair yesterday. "I like to read books on films and the history behind moviemaking, which will help me to think critically while watching a movie," said Durjoy. He bought "Pratibader Nandanikata: Bangladesher Prothabirodhi Chalacchhita" (The aesthetics of protest: unconventional films of Bangladesh) by Dr Naadir Junaid from Janantik publication house. "The book will help readers understand how cinema can be a tool to depict various injustice and irregularities of the society and grow a political consciousness," said Junaid. The book offers an in-depth analysis of films including "Abar Tora Manush Haw" by Khan Ataur Rahman, "Ghuddi" by Saiyad Salauddin Jaki and "Matir Moyna" by Tareque Masud. Tareque's "Chalacchhitalekha: Chitrnatya o Gaan" is generating much enthusiasm among film aficionados. The book is published by Prothoma Prokashani. Also, a new edition of "Bangladesher Chalacchhiter Etikotha" is

