

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAH	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.5 L 21.3	H 28.2 L 17.5	H 29.5 L 22.8	H 30.5 L 17.8	H 27.4 L 17.7	H 28.5 L 14.2	H 29.0 L 22.5	H 29.0 L 21.8	H 30.5 L 21.2

Rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Mymensingh, Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions with hail till 6.00pm today. Day and night temperature may remain unchanged over the country, Met Office said, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 06:05pm and rises tomorrow at 06:13am.

Ctg man gets life term for killing elder brother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday sentenced a fugitive to life imprisonment in Chittagong city for killing his elder brother in 2002.

It also fined Md Ibrahim, hailing from Hasandandi area in Chandanaish upazila, Tk 20,000, said additional public prosecutor (PP) Lokman Hossain Chowdhury.

According to the prosecution, Ibrahim had an extra-marital affair with his elder brother Ismail's wife. On May 19, Ibrahim hacked his brother to death on their vegetable garden in Munshi Dighir Par area.

Their father filed the murder case.

The charge sheet was submitted in November 16, 2002 to the court that indicted him in March, 2003. The convict now is absconding.



Khadiza Begum Nargis flashes V-sign at her home in Sylhet yesterday expressing satisfaction over a verdict delivered by a court. The 23-year-old college student was hacked by Badrul Alam, a student at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, on October 3 last year when he was snubbed by her. Yesterday, the court sentenced Badrul to life in prison.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

NEWS IN brief

Man arrested with Yaba tablets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of Detective Branch (DB) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police arrested a person with 7,000 pieces of Yaba tablets in Bahaddarhat Bus Terminal area of Chittagong city on Tuesday night.

The arrestee is Abul Kalam, 52, of Teknaf in Cox's Bazar, said police.

On information, a team of DB members conducted a drive in the area and arrested Kalam with the Yaba tablets, said Inspector Humayun Kabir of DB.

Road crash kills one, injures six

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A person was killed and six others were injured as a pickup-van hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them from behind on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Boiler area of Trishal upazila in Mymensingh yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Quader, 60, in the area. He died on the spot.

Of the injured, one was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while others were given first aid. Police seized the pickup-van but its driver fled.

Ctg airport staff sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An airport staff was sent to jail yesterday after he surrendered before a Chittagong court seeking bail in a gold smuggling case.

The accused is KM Nuruddin, Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport's traffic helper.

According to the prosecution, Customs officials recovered 25 gold bars searching the baggage of one Alauddin Chowdhury of Boalkhali who arrived at the airport from Dubai on November 1, 2013.

In December, 2014, Assistant Director MH Rahmatullah of Anti-Corruption Commission, Chittagong, filed a case accusing four people in this connection.

The accused are Customs Assistant Revenue Officer Anisur Rahman, KM Nuruddin, Alauddin and airport steno-typist Momen Mokshed.

On June 21 in 2016, the ACC submitted the charge sheet accusing the four and three Ansars of the airport.

ACC's human chain against corruption tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will organise a countrywide human chain tomorrow with the participation of about 2.5 lakh students of 22,000 educational institutions to create social movement against corruption.

The human chain which will be formed in the capital will stretch from Uttara to Jatiya Press Club via Farmgate, Shahbagh and Bijoynagar.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid and ACC's Chairman Iqbal Mahmud, will take part in the event.

Iqbal said the human chain will demonstrate the corporation's firm stance against corruption.

REPORT ON SDG ACHIEVEMENT IN EDUCATION BY 2030

Lack of collaboration among ministries, NGOs main hurdle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A lack of collaboration between related ministries and non-government organisations, and institutional and financial capacity gap are the major challenges to achieve sustainable development goal (SDG) in education within 2030, said Global Education Monitoring Report 2016.

Climate change impacts and natural calamities such as flood and cyclone are other challenges for Bangladesh in attaining the SDG as the climate-related challenges also affect the schooling system, said the report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco).

Unesco Bangladesh and

Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco (BNCU) jointly organised a programme at BANBEIS Bhaban in the capital yesterday to disclose findings of the report presented by Maki Hayashikawa, chief of Section for Inclusive Quality Education at Unesco, Bangkok office.

"With increasing frequency of floods and climate change impacts, many environmental migrants from rural areas become slum dwellers in Dhaka. Unsurprisingly, the school system is routinely affected by climate-related challenges," said the report.

Appreciating the country's solar-powered floating school programmes in remote areas, the report stressed the need for such programmes to

increase educational participation and rural children's continuation of study.

The report also lauded the government's free schoolbook distribution programme and teacher training initiatives.

Addressing the programme, Abul Kalam Azad, principal coordinator for SDGs at the prime minister's office, said achievement of the country in education sector was remarkable, but its quality was not up to the mark.

Secretary Md Sohrab Hossain and Additional Secretary Chowdhury Mufad Ahmed of education ministry, BNCU Secretary Monjur Hossain and head of Unesco Bangladesh Beatrice Kaldun also spoke, among others.

DoE fines Ctg mill for emitting untreated smoke

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The department of environment (DoE) yesterday fined a steel re-rolling mill in Chittagong Tk 3.6 lakh for polluting environment through emitting untreated smoke.

The DoE team led by its director Md Azadur Rahman Mollick conducted the drive and found that Saleh Steel Industries Ltd was emitting untreated smoke in Nasirabad industrial area at Bayezid in the city.

Later, at a hearing held at DoE office yesterday afternoon, the industry was fined Tk 3.6 lakh for emitting the untreated smoke in the air and polluting the environment, said assistant director (AD) Sangjukta Das Gupta of DoE.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion
Gonoshasthaya Kendra will hold a seminar on kidney transplantation in Bangladesh. Venue: Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital, Time: 2:30pm.

Seminar
Dhaka University Mass Communication and Journalism Alumni Association will hold a seminar on Right to Information and in-depth journalism. Venue: Dhaka University, Time: 3:00pm

Fight extremism with counter-narratives

Experts suggest at BIPSS conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Circulation of effective counter-narratives is a must to combat violent extremism as militant outfits often use distorted narratives as a tool to recruit, experts told a conference yesterday.

They said youths were the main targets of extremist groups, hence they must be included in antiterrorism strategies.

The Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS), with support from Canadian High Commission in Dhaka, organised the conference at a hotel in the capital.

"Force is not the right weapon against violent extremism. Violent extremism is a battle of ideal, and countering it is also a battle of ideal," Brig Gen (ret) Shahedul Anam Khan said in his keynote paper entitled "Countering the Extremist Narrative".

He stressed the need for focusing on vulnerable groups, those on the path of being radicalised, and those already radicalised, while formulating the counter-narratives.

The state, former terrorists who returned to the right path, families, and youths should act as messengers to reach the targeted audiences with the narratives, said Anam, a security expert.

Speaking as the chief guest, Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka Benoit-Pierre Laramée shared his experience of an extremists' attack in Canada and emphasised increasing awareness among people and coordination among law enforcement and security agencies to combat terrorism and extremism in Bangladesh.

Shafiqat Munir, a research fellow at BIPSS, highlighted how youths get involved in militancy through the internet, especially social media platforms that are full of narratives of violent extremism. He laid stress on circulating more and more powerful alternative narratives online.

BIPSS president Maj Gen (ret) ANM Muniruzzaman and BIPSS research fellow Prof Abu Zayed Mohammad also spoke.

Biman runs

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CEO AM Mosaddique Ahmed announced that Biman has taken a scheme to appoint 50 percent female staff by 2030.

Director (Admin) Mohammad Maminul Islam and Biman General Manager (PR) Shakil Meraj were also present.

Captain Tania Reza, who joined Biman in 2000, so far operated F-28, DC10-30 and Airbus A-310, and now she is serving as captain of Boeing 737-800. Tania has experienced 6,000 flying hours.

Besides, Antara joined Biman in 2011 and gained experience of flying with Dash8-Q400 and Boeing 737-800 so far. Biman has now 140 pilots, including nine females, and over 50 percent of its 400 cabin crews are females. Besides, female employees are working with efficiency in ground service, engineering section and other departments of Biman.



Participants at a discussion on "Women empowerment in Bangladesh: European and Bangladesh Perspective", organised on the occasion of the International Women's Day by European Union at a hotel in the capital yesterday. Diplomats, private sector and development specialists from Bangladesh and the EU including EU Ambassador Pierre Mayaudon, former Bangladesh ambassador Nasim Ferdous, French Ambassador in Dhaka Sophie Aubert, President of Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Rokia Afzal Rahman, Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation Shaheen Anam, Chargé d'Affaires of Spanish embassy Alejandra Lopez-Garcia, Dutch embassy's Deputy Head of Mission Martine van Hoogstraten, Head of DFID Bangladesh Jane Edmonson, and Independent Director of IPDC Bangladesh Limited Nasreen Sattar spoke at the programme.

Ensure women's education

EU delegation discussion told

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Ensuring adequate access to education and financial activities for women is needed to empower them, observed speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh organised the discussion styled "Women Empowerment in Bangladesh: European and Bangladesh Perspective" marking International Women's Day.

Bangladesh has already achieved significant progress in many socioeconomic indexes, but the country's marginalised women still lag behind for inadequate access to education and economic activities, the discussants added.

The EU is contributing to women empowerment in Bangladesh by providing duty-free market access to readymade clothes, EU Ambassador Pierre Mayaudon said.

Citing some recent incidents, the

ambassador said still there are some concerns and tragic events. Citing the government statistics, he said there is "alarming rate" of violence against women in Bangladesh.

The ambassador mentioned that the newly passed Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 and recent changes in textbooks had presented the status of women and girls in Bangladesh in a conservative manner.

Former Bangladeshi career diplomat Nasim Ferdous said freedom of choice is the key to women empowerment in Bangladesh.

More participation of women is needed in the parliament and in policy making, she said, suggesting that the EU should arrange training and education programmes for women.

French Ambassador in Dhaka Sophie Aubert stressed the need for ensuring safe access to contraception for Bangladeshi women.

President of Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs (BFEW)

Rokia Afzal Rahman highlighted roles of NGOs in women empowerment.

Executive Director of Manusher Jonno Foundation Shaheen Anam said the newly passed child marriage restraint act, which has a provision allowing underage girls and boys to get married, would emerge as an obstacle to women empowerment.

The law will obviously be abused since about 67 percent of women are subjected to domestic violence in the country.

The given logics have been debunked by many studies, she said, adding that from now on, they would monitor how the rules are formulated and implemented.

Chargé d'affaires of Spanish embassy Alejandra Lopez-Garcia, the Netherlands Embassy's Deputy Head of Mission Martine van Hoogstraten, Head of DFID Bangladesh Jane Edmonson, and Independent Director of IPDC Bangladesh Ltd Nasreen Sattar, also spoke.



An overflow of sewage submerges part of Hemayetpur-Shingair road in the absence of proper drainage system, damaging the newly repaired road and posing serious hazards to pedestrians and vehicles. The photo was taken from Nazimnagar area on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH