

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
H 29.0 L 17.7	H 27.2 L 16.3	H 28.0 L 19.0	H 28.0 L 16.0	H 28.8 L 15.3	H 26.8 L 15.8	H 30.2 L 16.5	H 30.0 L 16.4	H 29.2 L 19.2	

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day and night temperatures may rise slightly, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:10pm and rises tomorrow at 6:00am. Country's highest temperature 31.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Chuadanga and Patuakhali and lowest 13.5 in Tetulia.

GROWING PAINS



Top, A side of the capital's Rokeya Sarani near Shewrapara has been dug up for the ongoing metro rail project, which not only worsens the gridlock, but also forces pedestrians to walk along the street. **Bottom left**, The work has left large chunks of the concrete slab of the footpath over the sewer open and unprotected, exposing people to the threat of major accidents. **Bottom right**, Following rainfalls, the road and sidewalk also become slippery and mud-streaked creating an unsafe environment for the road users, in stark contrast to a sign putting emphasis on safety. The photos were taken on Monday.

SNAPS & snippets

RU alumni reunion on May 13

CITY DESK
A get-together of the alumni of Rajshahi University will be held at Golf Club in the capital on May 13, said a press release. Former students are asked to get registered for the programme by logging into www.rexrust-te.org. The deadline for registration is April 15, it added.

Women empowerment dialogue held

CITY DESK
A dialogue on women empowerment was held at American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) on March 15, said a press release. The Office of Student Affairs (OSA) organised the "Open Dialogue on Women Empowerment", where around 200 students of the university talked with their Vice-Chancellor Dr Carmen Z Lamagna. Dr Carmen shared how she advocated women empowerment and overcame challenges she faced after being the first female vice-chancellor in Bangladesh, the press release added.

Monirul Islam passes away

CITY DESK
Monirul Islam Majumder, former reading in-charge of The Daily Star, passed away at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. He was 56. He suffered from liver cancer for a long time along with other complications including diabetes, says a press release. He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter. Monirul was buried in East Rampura graveyard following a namaz-e-janaza at Salambagh Jame mosque in the area.



Family and friends of bank official Arifun Nesa Arifa, who was killed allegedly by her former husband, form a human chain before Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding immediate arrest of the killer. Arifa was hacked to death in front of her apartment door in the capital's Kalabagan on Thursday.

Journos march to PMO for 9th wage board today

BSS, Dhaka
Journalists, serving in mainstream print and electronic media, will march towards Prime Minister's Office (PMO) today protesting the delay in constituting the ninth wage board as pledged by the authorities concerned. The march, being organised by Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), will start from the Jatiya Press Club around 11:00am, read a press release, signed by Secretary General of a faction of BFUJ Omar Faruque, yesterday. All journalists are requested to join the protest programme, it added.

ENSURING JUSTICE FOR POOR Govt-NGO partnership must: JS speaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
An effective partnership between government and NGOs is required to ensure justice through community legal service for the poor, marginalised and socially-deprived people, said Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury yesterday. Women and children are mostly deprived of legal services in the society, she told a conference at the British Council in Dhaka. She stressed the need for awareness programmes on their rights. She was addressing the conference on community legal services in Bangladesh, arranged by Community Legal Services (CLS), a programme designed by DFID to broaden legal services. David Ashley, acting British High commissioner to Bangladesh; and Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, a CLS partner organisation, also spoke. CLS also released two publications -- the Quality Standards Handbook and a series of 13 Good Practice reports -- for legal services, and awarded several partner organisations. BLAST Honorary Executive Director Sara Hossain, DFID Bangladesh Senior Governance Adviser and Governance Team Leader Joel Harding and British Council Bangladesh Director Barbara Wickham also attended the event.

Trust fund for physically challenged DU students formed

DU CORRESPONDENT
A new trust titled "LG Life's Good Trust Fund for Physically Challenged Students" has been set up at Dhaka University (DU) yesterday. Managing Director of LG Electronics, Bangladesh Edward Kim handed over a cheque worth Tk 10 lakh to DU Treasurer Prof Dr Md Kamal Uddin yesterday at the Vice-Chancellor's office. Every year, seven physically challenged students of DU will be awarded "LG Life's Good Trust Fund Scholarship" from the trust.

Don't vote for those who indulge in corruption

Prime minister urges people at AL rally in Magura

UNB, Magura
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called on people not to vote those to power who indulged in corruption, engaged in terrorism and militancy and killed people in arson attacks as they will push the country towards destruction again. The prime minister was speaking at a rally in Magura at Freedom Fighter Asaduzzaman Stadium with district Awami League president Tanjil Hossain Khan in the chair. Hasina, who is also the president of the ruling AL, said the next election will be held in 2019 and urged the people to vote for AL so that it gets another chance to serve the nation. Earlier, Hasina inaugurated a number of 19 projects and laid the foundation stones of nine others involving around Tk 310 crore. The inaugurated projects include Magura Technical Training Centre, Muktiyoddha Complex Building, Magura 250-bed Hospital, fire service and civil defence stations in Sreepur and Mohammadpur upazilas, 100.10 metre bridge over the Fotki River from Moghi UP Complex to Andolbaria road in Sadar upazila, some 9.71 km road from Katakhal GC to Ichakhada R&H in Sadar upazila, Natun Bazar Bridge on Magura-Sreepur road, Magura deep water treatment plant with a capacity of treating 350 cubic metre water per hour and upgrading Sreepur Upazila Health Complex to 50-bed one. She laid the foundation stones of regional passport office, 96-metre bridge on the Fotki River from Bunagati to Beroilpalita in Shalikh, 66-metre bridge on Boroichara Atirbhita-Boroichara Bazar road in Shalikh, 96-metre bridge over the Chitra River on Baulia-Shorshun road in Shalikh, upgrading Magura town portion of National Highway (N-7) to four-lane one, third City Operations and Infrastructure Development Project (2nd phase) of Magura municipality, Sheikh Kamal IT Training and Incubation Centre (hi-tech park), Sreepur upazila mini stadium and Shalikh upazila mini stadium.

'6 kidnapers' held

A CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj
Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested "six members of an organised gang of kidnapers" including two women in Narayanganj Sadar upazila. The gang had been in the business for the last seven to eight years, according to a press release signed by Additional Superintendent of Police Md Shakil Ahmed of Rab-11 in Narayanganj. The six were arrested while the elite force was investigating an incident of abduction of a Barisal madrasa principal, the release added. The arrested people are Sumaiya Akhter Sumi alias Sathi, 20, of Mehendiganj in Barisal; Nila Begum, 38, daughter of Abdur Rahim of Joydevpur in Gazipur; Shahidul Islam alias Sagar, of Dshwaranj in Mymensingh; Mahub Hawlader, 36, of Dshminia in Patuakhali; Ismail, 23, of Hajiganj in Chandpur; and Selim, 32, of Senbag in Noakhali. Principal Anisur Rahman of Dorichar Khajuria Nisaria Fazil Madrasa in Barisal came to Dhaka on an official work on March 13 morning. His acquaintance Sumaiya over the phone insisted that he should meet her in the capital's Gulistan area. After the meeting, Sumaiya convinced him to go with her to Narayanganj for introducing him to her parents. Anisur was taken to Delpara Kutubpur area in Fatullah. The gang then confined him and forced him to ask his family members over the mobile phone to send them Tk 3 lakh via bKash. On March 15, the family sent Tk 1.36 lakh to the abductors through bKash. Being failed to contact Anisur's family for the remaining amount, the abductors left him in Signboard area in the afternoon of the same day, Rab claimed in the press release. Anisur then informed the matter to Rab-11. Following the allegation, Rab conducted the raids and arrested the six kidnapers, said the release.

Raowa celebrates 35th anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Retired Armed Forces Officers' Welfare Association (Raowa) yesterday celebrated its 35th founding anniversary. In this regard, the organisation arranged a gala night at Raowa Convention Hall in the capital's Mohakhali where its senior and founding members were awarded. Prizes were distributed among the winners who participated in different sport events including golf and swimming. The events took place last week marking the anniversary. Maj Gen (ret'd) Abdur Rahman Khan, one of the most senior members of Raowa, handed over the prizes as the chief guest. Raowa Secretary General Lt Col (ret'd) Amir Azam Khan and other members were present.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offers prayer after inaugurating 19 projects and laying foundation stones of nine others involving around Tk 310 crore at Freedom Fighter Asaduzzaman Stadium in Magura yesterday.