

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 29.6 L 21.4	MYMENSINGH H 25.5 L 21.2	CHITTAGONG H 31.6 L 21.0	SYLHET H 28.5 L 20.5	RAJSHAHI H 31.6 L 21.4	RANGPUR H 28.2 L 21.5	KHULNA H 33.2 L 21.0	BARISAL H 32.7 L 21.8	COX'S BAZAR H 29.8 L 20.5
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Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Mymensingh, Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur and Khulna divisions with moderately heavy to very heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:23pm and rises tomorrow at 5:31am.



A crowd forms near a bus as commuters are locked out of the vehicle after all its seats get occupied. Public sufferings continue as transport operators resume the sitting service, in which buses take passengers as per its seating capacity. The photo was taken at the capital's Farmgate yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

ACC seeks FBI support for training its officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has sought cooperation from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the US to train its officials in investigating terror financing and money laundering. A top level FBI team is likely to visit the ACC office in July to discuss how the commission could get assistance from the Bureau, sources said. Yesterday, FBI agent David J Eaton met ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmud at the ACC's Segunbagicha headquarters to discuss various issues, says a press release. Mentionable, FBI has been cooperating Indonesia's Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) since 2008 by exchanging information on the methodology of corruption and money laundering as well as other related crimes and providing training. At the meeting, Mahmud pointed out several activities of ACC and said they are keen to get FBI's cooperation. Saying that human trafficking, drug trafficking, money laundering and terror financing are inter-linked, he said ACC got allegations that money is being laundered into developed countries, including the US. In reply to a query, the ACC chairman said the commission is working independently and there is no pressure from any quarters including the government, businessmen and politicians. Praising the ACC's recent activities, Eaton said the FBI can help the commission by giving basic training to its officials.



Recipients of the Bangladesh Police Women Award 2017 with guests during the awarding ceremony at Police Staff College in the capital's Mirpur yesterday.

21 personnel

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at the event as chief guest and State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki and State Minister for Posts and Telecommunications Tarana Halim as special guests. The award was given in eight categories: Entrepreneur Women Organization of the Year, Women Organization of the Year, Lifetime Achievement Award, Bangladesh Police Women Leadership Award, Medal of Courage, Excellence in Service, Community Service, and Peacekeeping Mission. Police Nari Kalyan Samity won as Entrepreneur Women Organization of the Year and Bangladesh Police Women Network as Women Organization of the Year. Fatema Begum, additional inspector general (AIG) of police at Police Headquarters, was given the Lifetime Achievement award. Shehela Parvin, superintendent of police (administration); Rowan Jahan, additional superintendent of police (ASP) in Jamalpur, and Bina Rani Das, ASP of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-12) in Sirajganj, won in the Bangladesh Police Women Leadership category. The Medal of Courage award went to Nadia Jui, senior assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) in Khilgaon Zone; Shamima Ara Begum, senior assistant director (Supply); Rab Headquarters; Panna Akhter, trainee sergeant of DMP Traffic (North); Anima Kha, constable of the Detective Branch in Bagerhat, and Lata Parvin, constable of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP). Tasmiah Tahlil, ASP (Confidential), Police Headquarters; Rawshan Sadia Afroz, deputy director (Academic) of Police Staff College; Nishat Rahman Mithun, senior assistant commissioner of Detective Branch, DMP (North), and Shamsur Nahar Khanam, ASP of the Special Branch, won in the Excellence in Service category. The awardees in the Community Service category are Tanjina Akter, ASP of Armed Police Battalion, Uttara-8; Sonia Parvin, ASP and in-charge of Brahmanbaria Women's Support Centre; Yasmin Ara Begum, sub-inspector (SI-Disarmament) of CMP Victim Support Centre, and Jannatul Ferdous, SI, Barguna. The Peacekeeping Mission awardees are Rofkhar Sultana Khanam, AIG (Administration), Police Headquarters; Mahfuza Akter, ASP (Training and Sports); Asma Begum Rita, ASP (Expatriates Support Cell), and Marjina Khatun, SI of the Special Branch.

Obituary

CITY DESK



Col Abney Ain Maruf Saklain, a member of Retired Armed Forces

Officers' Welfare Association (RAOWA) and a former MP, died on Tuesday at his residence, aged 73, says a press release. His first namaz-e-janaza was held at 3:30pm in front of the parliament building (South Plaza) and the second one at Mohakhali DOHS Mosque after the Asr prayers the same day. Later, he was buried at Army Graveyard. His quikhwani will be held at the mosque after the Asr prayers today.

Prof M Badruddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof M Badruddin, former chairman of the law department and dean of law faculty of Rajshahi University, died due to a cardiac arrest at Green Life Hospital in Dhaka yesterday. He was 81. He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter. His namaz-e-janaza will be held at RU Central Mosque after the Juma prayers and he will be buried in RU graveyard today, said Barrister ABM Altaf Hossain, a former student of Prof Badruddin.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the sixteenth death anniversary of Surendra Nath Halder; father of Chaitanya Chandra Halder, court correspondent of The Daily Star, says a press release. On the occasion, recitation from the Geeta, Kirtan, memorial discussion and a prayer session will be held at his village home in Nayakandi Bajitpur under Rajoir upazila of Madaripur.

Govt hospitals need wheelchair access, sign language readers

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mainstream health services need to incorporate specialised service and facilities for the differently-abled to ensure health access to all, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday. The entry and exit points of all medical facilities should have easily accessible wheelchair ramps for the physically-challenged and sufficient staff members of the facilities should understand sign language used by the speech-impaired, they also said. Bangla daily Prothom Alo in association with Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) and the Netherlands-based Light for the World organised the roundtable at the newspaper's office in the capital. Although many high government officials at the policy level appear cooperative and eager to address the

issues the differently-abled face at medical facilities, not much progress is visible at the grassroots level, complained a number of speakers. Ibrahim Hossain, a physically-challenged and a campaigner for people with disabilities in Pabna, said the doctors and other health staff at government hospitals are oblivious to the fact that the differently-abled require special support during treatment. Head of ENT (ear, nose and throat) department at National Institute of ENT in Tejgaon of Dhaka, Associate Professor Manash Ranjan Chakrabarty, said he several times had difficulty treating persons with speech impairment as he did not have any means to communicate with such patients. To ensure proper treatment, all hospitals should have adequate health staff with sign language training, he advised.

AHM Noman Khan, executive director of CDD, said, "Everybody wants the people with disabilities get their due rights." It is time to figure out why specialised service and facilities are still not available at medical facilities despite the government's willingness. Disability rights specialist Lieke Scheewe of Light for the World stressed the need for improving rehabilitation services at hospitals treating the differently-abled. Prof AHM Enayet Hossain, additional director general of Directorate General of Health Services, said a multisectoral initiative is required to ensure treatment of the people with disabilities. The roundtable was moderated by Abdul Quaium, associate editor of Prothom Alo. CCD Assistant Director Anika Rahman, among others, also spoke.

Scrap Rampal project

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Professor Tanjimuddin Khan of Dhaka University said the coal plants alone will take 219,600 cubic metres of water every day from the Passur river, which will contribute to salinity and change the temperature of the river water. Sarder Ruhin Hossain Prince of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Saiful Huq of Biplobi Workers Party, Shuvrangshu Chakrabarty of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (Marxist), Bazlur Rashid Feroj of BSD, Azizur Rahman of Biplobi Communist Party, Zonayed Saki of Ganoshanghati Andolon, spoke. CPB leader Manoj Das presided over the rally. One Biren Sarker of Tala upazila under Satkhira died of cardiac arrest on his way to join the rally. From the rally, the committee announced that it would hold protest programmes in the districts adjacent to the Sundarbans from April 25 to June 25. On July 25, a human chain will be formed from Shamnagar upazila of Shatkhira district to Sharonkhola upazila of Bagerhat district. In 2009, Bangladesh and India signed a deal to set up two power plants in Shapmari and Katakhal, nine kilometres away from the Sundarbans. A total of 1,834 acres of land has already been acquired for the power plants with a capacity of 1,320 megawatt of electricity. Despite the government's assurance that the plant would not harm the Sundarbans, the Unesco remains firm against the project and on October 20 again requested the government to cancel and relocate it to a more suitable place.

Shamsul elected councillor in Finland

CITY DESK



Expatriate Bangladeshi Shamsul Alam has been elected a councillor of Finland's Kerava City Council on April 9, says a press release.

Hailing from Brahmanbaria, he has been living there for seven years.

Brac undertakes

FROM PAGE 3

The development organisation began its regular relief effort immediately after the flood hit, but with the fast deterioration of the situation it is undertaking this added emergency relief activity, said a press release. The programme will be carried out in Kishoreganj, Sunamganj, Habiganj, and Netrakona in coordination local government.



Pick-up trucks parked in a row beside a pile of bamboo and empty barrels on a portion of the Outer Stadium of the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. The open space has been turned into a parking lot, used by shop owners from a nearby market. The vehicles, carrying supplies to and from the stores, are often parked there on a regular basis, shrinking the historic playground once home to many iconic cricketers. Moreover, Chittagong District Sports Association is constructing a swimming pool on the ground, which sparked protest and eventually resulted in a recent clash between police and Bangladesh Chhatra League activists.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

French national goes missing in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A French national, last seen in Dhaka on January 11, remains missing, said a press release of the French embassy in Dhaka yesterday.

Arthur Ange, a 29-year old backpacker and cyclist is used to hitchhiking (travelling on foot), said the release, adding that he was in Bangladesh as part of his multination tour.

Arthur's family members have been in deep anxiety since his disappearance.

The embassy has already informed Bangladesh home ministry of the French citizen's disappearance and circulated a missing notice through its own network.

Information about Arthur's whereabouts is requested to be provided at the following cellphone number of the Embassy of France: 01713 090 450.



Arthur Ange

Culprits have been identified

FROM PAGE 3

Sylhet during the meeting. On Tuesday, he held a similar meeting in Sunamganj.

Meanwhile, the speech given by the secretary to the ministry Shah Kamal at that meeting sparked protests among the farmers and activists.

The Secretary commented that Sunamganj should not be declared a "Distress Zone" since not a "single goat" died there due to the flood. He also said it is written in the disaster management law that half of the inhabitants must die before an area is declared a "Distress Zone".

Kasmir Reza, president of Haor O Paribesh Unnayan Sangtha, said, "A comment like this from a responsible person of the state is unacceptable. He definitely doesn't know the law he cited from."

"The president also visited the haor areas. The scenario is clear. People are suffering. We demand that the haor areas must be declared a 'Distress Zone'

and the government should take more initiative to save the people who lost everything."

Contacted, Advocate EU Shahidul Islam Sahin, former president of Sylhet District Bar Association, said the comments made by the secretary are disappointing as he wrongly explained the law.

"There is no such provision in the law that states half of the inhabitants must die before an area is declared a 'Distress Zone'. According to the law, the president can declare an area a 'Distress Zone' or can consult with the local administration in this regard," he said.

Boro, the only crop of the haor areas in Sunamganj, has been destroyed due to incessant rain and onrush of water from upstream rivers, around 15 to 20 days before harvest.

Not just the farmers' dream of a good harvest was shattered, they have been dealt a triple blow with the death of fish and ducks.

At the same time, farmers are being forced to sell their cattle as they do not have any fodder to feed the animals.

Most of them are also in debt.

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