

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 28.3 L 24.5	MYMENSINGH H 25.5 L 21.2	CHITTAGONG H 22.5 L 21.5	SYLHET H 25.5 L 21.5	RAJSHAHI H 34.8 L 24.3	RANGPUR H 24.5 L 21.0	KHULNA H 34.8 L 27.0	BARISAL H 32.0 L 23.5	COX'S BAZAR H 29.6 L 24.8
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Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh, Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Khulna division with heavy to very heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:23pm and rises tomorrow at 5:31am.

NEWS IN brief

2 workers injured as barrel of acid explodes in Benapole port

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole
Two port handling labourers sustained burn injuries as a barrel of acid exploded while they were loading it into a truck in Benapole Port on Thursday night. The injured -- Yakub Ali, 42, and Asraf Hossain, 40, of Kharidanga village in Benapole -- are undergoing treatment at Jessore Medical College Hospital. Of them, Yakub's condition is critical, said doctors at the hospital.

Woman found dead in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur
A woman was found dead at her rented house in Ambari village under Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur yesterday. The deceased Sabina Yasmin, 28, of Thakurgaon, was an employee of a Bogra based NGO. Victim's husband, Misti Sarker who lives in Sylhet came to see her on Thursday. He is traceless after the incident, said Officer-in-Charge of Parbatipur Police Station Mostaq Hossain. The OC claimed that Sabina was strangled as there were strangulation marks on her neck. The body was sent to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital. A case was filed.

BIDS conference begins Sunday

STAR REPORT
A two-day conference on key economic and development issues will begin in Dhaka on Sunday. The Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies is organising the event -- BIDS Critical Conversations, 2017 -- at a city hotel. The theme of the conference is "The Bangladesh Journey -- Accelerating Transformation". The event will have 14 sessions covering topics including education quality, child and maternal health and nutrition, labour market challenges, inclusive finance, mobile financial services, sustainable cities, urbanisation and climate change, energy security, and growth and governance.

2 RU students shown arrested in militancy cases

RU CORRESPONDENT
Two Rajshahi University students out of three were shown arrested in two militancy-related cases yesterday after they were held the day before as militant suspects. The two are Jubayer Hossain of marketing and Maksudul Haque of biochemistry and molecular biology, said Motihar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Humayun Kabir. The OC said Al Taufiq Sunny of geography and environmental studies was released as they did not find his involvement in militancy.

2 cops punished for trying to implicate innocents

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail
Two policemen were punished yesterday as they allegedly tried to implicate some innocent youths in a narcotics case in Tangail. On primary investigation, Assistant Sub-inspector Shariful Islam Sharif of Tangail Model Police Station was suspended and Constable Azad Miah closed to the police lines, said Superintendent of Police Mahub Alam. The SP issued the order yesterday on a written complaint from Arif Khan, one of the youths, on April 17. According to the complaint, Arif along with his two friends -- Masud Rana and Mohammad Sajib -- were having a conversation at Zila Sadar Club around 7:30pm on April 16. At that time, ASI Sharif in plain clothes entered the club introducing himself as a cop. He later asked them whether they were on drugs. They said no. Then Sharif locked them inside the club. Around four minutes later, he returned with several objects including small pieces of paper and a polythene bag and told them that those were proofs that they were taking Yaba pills. Sharif slapped them when the youths denied the allegation. Later, Sharif put his revolver to Arif's head and asked them to admit the allegation; otherwise, he will shoot them. At that time, Sharif demanded Tk 3 lakh for their release. The youths were confined to the police station that night. In the morning, the cops realised Tk 12,000 from the youths' families. The youths were released after the policemen had taken undertakings from their guardians on a plain paper.



Celebrated actor and cultural personality Syed Hasan Imam receives 'Lifetime Achievement Award' of Meril-Prothom Alo Awards 2017 from film actress Sarah Begum Kobori and Prothom Alo Editor Matiuur Rahman. The award ceremony was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

'Hospitals of the poor'

BSS, Dhaka
Community clinics established in remote areas of the country have gained public trust by providing free healthcare services like pre-and post-delivery healthcare, reproductive health, family planning, immunisation, nutrition and health education to women and children. There are more than 13,000 community clinics, which provide the services to rural people. Though community clinics are facing some problems including shortage of physicians and medicines, they have earned reputation as "hospitals of the poor". Non-government organisations in some regions are also working for child health development through these clinics. Mofazzal Hossain, a community health service provider of Paikpara Community Clinic at Barhatra upazila in Netrakona, said, "Most of the villagers in the area are poor. Only community clinics provide them with some medicare services. Thirty types of medicines are given free of cost at the clinics." He said free medicines for diseases like flux-coughing are supplied alongside vaccines for pregnant women and children. "However, the clinic has a vacant post of a trained health worker."

"We go to community clinics when we suffer from fever, headache or allergy. But we have to go to the sadar hospital for major diseases," said Akkas Ali, a 60-year-old villager. Contacted, public health expert Dr Nazneen Akhtar said some community clinics are saving poor and helpless women through their services. "It's a positive side of the community clinics. Because, if a mother remains healthy, her child would be healthy. And, if both of them are healthy, a healthy society would be built," she said. Highlighting various aspects of the community clinics, its project director Dr Makhduma Nargis said, "At least 18 development partners are working in this government programme." World Vision, Bangladesh is working in Muktagachha of Mymensingh. "Many are still reluctant to take services from the community clinics, while many are complaining that they're not getting desired services," said Jayanta Nath, its regional health coordinator. In this situation, he said, they have appointed a nutrition consultant for every 300 families, who are raising child nutrition awareness among the mothers. Besides, Jayanta said, "Various community and support groups have been made aware of their responsibility for running the community clinics."

Dr Abdul Khaleq, a professor of development studies at Dhaka University, stressed the need for further improving the services, availability of necessary equipment and the presence of trained manpower at the clinics. He said despite various limitations, community clinics are running, but health service providers need more training. The government took a five-year (2009-2014) project titled "Revitalisation of Community Healthcare Initiatives in Bangladesh". Later, the project was included in the Fourth Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Development Programme. Currently, the work area and scheme's infrastructure are being increased further, said Dr Makhduma Nargis, the project's chief coordinator. She said the number of service recipients and the quality of the services are growing. Dr Nargis said there are arrangements for natural delivery in more than 900 clinics, while a strong monitoring team has been formed, a step crucial for mother and child healthcare. Contacted, Dr Md Yusuf, line director (in-charge) of community based healthcare of the Directorate of Health, said importance is being given for timely presence of the health service providers. "Those who won't discharge their duties properly will be punished."



Way League MP Shamim Osman speaking at a rally in front of the Railway Jame Masjid in Narayanganj city's DIT commercial area yesterday. The speakers, including Osman, at the rally demanded immediate arrest of Rafiur Rabbi, a cultural activist and the father of murdered schoolboy Tanwir Muhammed Taqi, for allegedly hurting religious sentiment. The rally was attended by several leaders of Hefajat-e-Islam, Jatiya Party and the ruling party.

PHOTO: STAR

Remove SC sculpture before Ramadan

Demands Islami Andolan Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Islami Andolan Bangladesh yesterday demanded that the government remove the sculpture of "Greek Goddess Themis" from the Supreme Court premises before Ramadan. If the government does not remove it before Ramadan [expected to begin on the last week of May], the party will organise countrywide protest rallies on the 17th Ramadan and later lay a siege to the court, the party leaders said. They made the demands at a gathering in front of the capital's Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. "Installing an idol on the court premises, located adjacent to the National Eidgah, is an attack on the country's culture, and it also hurts religious sentiment of Muslims," said the party's Ameer Maulana Syed Rejaul Karim. "The chief justice cannot impose his choice over us by setting it on the court premises where people of all groups get justice. We also demand his immediate removal," said Maulana Rejaul, also the Charmonai Pir. Khorshed Ali Masum, president of the party's Dhaka north unit, said, "We don't accept the idol as a symbol of justice. The government must remove it soon, otherwise we will do it on our own, if the party chief makes the announcement," he said. Kazi Ataur Rahman, the party's joint secretary general, said, "The prime minister told the Islamic leaders that the idol will be removed, but it did not happen yet." The party's Senior Nayeb-e-Ameer Sayed Mohammad Foyzul Karim, Nayeb-e-Ameer Abdul Haque Azad and Secretary General Maulana Younus Ahmad also spoke at the gathering.

3 Coast Guard men die in road crashes

CITY DESK
Six people including three Coast Guard members were killed in road accidents in three districts yesterday. In Barguna, three Coast Guard members were killed as a bus collided head-on with a motorcycle they were riding on Patuakhali-Kuakata road in Bandar area of Amtali upazila. The deceased are Abdul Sadek, 30, Fuad Hossain, 23, and Anamul Haque, 38. All were serving at Patuakhali Coast Guard's base station in Durgapur area. In Mymensingh, two people including a school boy were killed as a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them ran into a bus on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road in Kanarampur Bazar area of Nandail upazila. The deceased were auto-rickshaw driver Shatil Mia, 28, and his cousin Rakib, 13, of Beelbadera area in the upazila. Rakib, son of Shahadul Islam, was a seventh-grader of Kashinagar High School. In Savar, a man was killed as a truck carrying coal turned turtle after the driver lost his control over the vehicle on Nobinagor-Chondra highway in Zirani area of Ashulia. The deceased was the vehicle's helper Milon Hossen, 18, of Natore.

Burnt teenager dies at DMCH

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj
A burnt teenage girl died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday, three days after miscreants set fire on their house in Gazaria of Munshiganj. The victim, Sonia Aktar, who attended this year's HSC examination, was a student of Dr Abdul Gaffar School and College in Gazaria. Her mother Hazera Begum said some miscreants set fire on their house on April 18. Sonia was admitted to the DMCH with 80 percent burn injuries. A case was filed with



Gazaria Police Station accusing unidentified persons. None was arrested till yesterday. Additional Superintendent of Police Mohammad Sohel Rana said they were trying to identify the criminals.

Drama urges

FROM PAGE 3
been a zero cost project," Bangladesh Ambassador to Greece, Malta and Armenia Jashim Uddin wrote on his Facebook wall sharing the video of the short drama.

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