

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 34.6 L 24.2

MYMENSINGH
H 30.7 L 21.9

CHITTAGONG
H 33.1 L 26.5

SYLHET
H 32.2 L 19.2

RAJSHAHI
H 36.9 L 26.8

RANGPUR
H 31.5 L 22.8

KHULNA
H 35.6 L 27.2

BARISAL
H 34.5 L 27.0

COX'S BAZAR
H 33.0 L 26.0

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Barisal, Sylhet and Khulna divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Mild heat wave sweeping over Rajshahi, Pabna and Jessore may continue, says Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:27pm and rises tomorrow at 5:25am.

Nirmul Committee leaders visit Dolon Majumdar

Leaders of Ekattorer Ghatk Dalal Nirmul Committee visited Dolon Majumdar, a woman who was injured in a road accident on the way to a court following a case filed for being tortured by a local influential last month, at a hospital in the capital yesterday. During the visit to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedic Rehabilitation (Nitor), a team led by its committee president, Shahriar Kabir, donated Tk 26,000 to Dolon, a resident of Mollahat upazila of Bagerhat, for her treatment and legal procedure, said a press release. The Nitor authority formed a medical board and decided to bear the victim's treatment costs following a request of the committee leaders, said the release.



Prof Anisuzzaman receives "Ananda Puraskar-1423" at a ceremony at a hotel in Kolkata yesterday. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Literature can lead the way

Says Prof Anisuzzaman after receiving 'Ananda Puraskar' in Kolkata
SUBRATA ACHARJEE, Kolkata

The more the people of Bangladesh and India would know each other, the closer they would come, overcoming confusion and fear, and literature could play a pivotal role in this regard, eminent educationist and writer Prof Anisuzzaman said yesterday. He said this after receiving prestigious "Ananda Puraskar-1423", a literary award given by the Anandabazar Patrika, a noted Bangla newspaper published from India's Kolkata. Anisuzzaman, professor emeritus of Dhaka University, received the award for his autobiography "Bipula Prithibi" (The Vast World). Eminent poet of India's West Bengal Shankha Ghosh handed over the award at a ceremony at a hotel in Kolkata yesterday evening. "We the people of the two neighboring countries have been maintaining a good relation for years. But some confusion and fear still exist," Prof Anisuzzaman said. "I think the confusion and fear stem from the ignorance of not knowing each other. Reading literature is the best way to know the people." Prof Anisuzzaman received the award for the second time. In 1994, he got the award for publishing a series of 14 cassettes titled "Oitijher Ongkar" containing Bangla poetry, songs and plays. Anandabazar Patrika has been giving the award every year since 1958.

NEWS IN brief

Govt dillydallying over Sramik Dal's May Day rally venue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday alleged that the government was "dillydallying" over giving permission to its associate body Sramik Dal for holding a workers' rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan to mark May Day. "The Awami League and its allies rally at Suhrawardy Udyan anytime...but the government is dillydallying in giving permission to BNP and its associate bodies to do the same," BNP senior joint secretary general Rizvi Ahmed told a briefing at the party's Naya Paltan office. He urged the government to give permission for May 2 or 3 if it is not possible on May Day.

Dhaka road crashes kill 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were killed and another was injured when a truck hit another parked truck in the capital's Shyampur area yesterday. The deceased were Shamsher Ali, 50, -- driver of the parked truck -- and Salam, 45, said police, quoting witnesses. In Naya Paltan area, Jasim Uddin, 40, was killed by a bus while he was crossing a road. The deceased was a resident of the area, police said.

Japan honours ex-air chief Mahmud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japan has honoured Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) AG Mahmud with "Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star" for his contributions to rescuing 151 hostages from an aircraft hijacked by Japanese Red Army in 1977. The 83-year-old was among the 105 foreign recipients of "2017 Spring Imperial Decorations", said Japanese embassy press release yesterday. The award giving ceremony will be held on May 9 at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo where Japanese Emperor Akihito and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will be present, reports The Japan Times.

Book fair at Raowa Club begins May 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day book fair will begin at the convention hall of the Retired Army Officers' Welfare Association (Raowa) Club on May 5. Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Chowdhury of Dhaka University will attend the inaugural ceremony.



Mayur river in peril

Encroachment, pollution go on unchecked; dissolved oxygen level falling

UNB, Khulna

Rampant encroachment and unchecked pollution have put the Mayur river, one of the freshwater rivers in Khulna, at stake destroying its resources and ecosystem. Due to a lack of proper drainage system, the 22-km river flowing beside the northwestern side of the city receives most of its waste. The river is also obstructed by sediments as its natural tidal flow is prevented by gates at various points. Once a storehouse of freshwater fish, the river water was used for agriculture but unplanned urbanisation and unchecked disposal of waste severely polluted it making its water unusable, locals said.

Also, the dissolved oxygen (DO) level in the river is falling day by day due to release of waste into its water. According to the Environment Conservation Rules, 1997, the DO level must be at least 5 parts per million (ppm) in water to support life. But, the Department of Environment (DoE), Khulna data shows that the DO level has now declined to 2 ppm in the Mayur water. DoE senior chemist Kamruzzaman Sarkar said the river's DO level is decreasing gradually. It was 1.1 ppm in January while 1.3 ppm in February. Under the circumstances, he said, the Mayur could be declared biologically dead.

Official data shows that the DO level in the river water was 0.5 ppm in March 2016 while 0.8 ppm in May and June, 2.1 ppm in July, 2.5 in August, 2.8 ppm in September and 2.9 ppm in October last year. A senior official at Khulna DoE said waste was being released into the river through some 26 drains of Khulna City Corporation (KCC). If the trend continues, he said, the Mayur will soon be a dead river. Citing the findings of his research, Tusher Kanti Roy, an associate professor at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, said since a sluice gate was set up in Pashur river, the Mayur is experiencing waterlogging, which was inten-

sifying its water pollution. A recent study titled "Saving Mayur River and its Connected Canals of Khulna City" reveals that over one-third of 1.5 million city dwellers are directly exposed to the waterlogging problem. About 80 percent of the city roads go under knee-to-waist-deep water when there is moderate to heavy rainfalls. Also, the Mayur's geomorphology has changed significantly in recent years. Contacted, KCC Chief Planning Officer Abir Ul Jabbar said the city corporation has taken a five-year project involving Tk 800 crore to save the river, but it has been facing difficulties in implementation due to pressure from a "vested quarter".

Jhenidah

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came from a pro-Jamaat family. According to CITC officials, Abu's wife Sumaiya Begum brought him into militancy after they got married nine years ago. One hour before the operation came to an end, members of the Special Weapons And Tactics were able to bring Sumaiya, injured with gunshot, along with their six-year-old daughter Khadiza out of the den. Sumaiya told police that two persons including one individual named Abdullah came to their house from Jhenidah days before the operation. The officials suspect that Abdullah took shelter at the den after police had raided his two-room tin-roofed house at Porahati village in Jhenidah on April 21 in another operation codenamed "South-paw", CITC officials said. MILITANTS' BODIES BURIED

The bodies of the four militants were buried at Fakirpara of Chapainawabganj municipality graveyard early Saturday, reports our Chapainawabganj correspondent. Three of them were killed in suicide blasts and the other one, Abu, died from bullet wounds, according to one of the doctors who conducted autopsies on them on Friday. Meanwhile, being ordered by a court, police sent Sumaiya's daughter to a safe home in Rajshahi. Police on Friday filed a case with Shibganj Police Station under the Anti-terrorism Act against Sumaiya.

Cruelty, thy name is husband!

FROM PAGE 3

Yesterday, Taslima was telling the heartbreaking story of horror unleashed on her on Wednesday early hours to this correspondent lying on the bed of burn unit at Barisal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH), with tears rolling down her cheeks. With critical injuries, Taslima remained chained to the bed until her parents appeared in the very morning for her rescue after her eldest son -- an eighth grader -- informed them over the phone of the incident. Taslima's mother Nurjahan said one of Badal's relatives even waylaid them when they were taking their

daughter to hospital. Taslima, daughter of Aji Howlader of Jupihati village at Uzirpur in the district was married off to Badal around 16 years ago. Badal was paid Tk 2,00,000 at the time of marriage and 1,00,000 last year as dowry, said Nurjahan, but he was demanding more. She added that the torture on Taslima had escalated in the recent past, as they could not pay any more money. Unable to bear the intensity of torture, Taslima said she escaped to her sister's residence in Dhaka around two weeks back. Upon requests from her husband

over the phone repeatedly, the mother of two came back to her husband's home Wednesday early hours only to face the torture, what would haunt her for the rest of her life. Serajul Islam, director of SBMCH, said, "She (Taslima) was admitted to the burn unit, and later shifted to One-Stop Crisis Centre (OCC)." Feroz Kabir, officer-in-charge of Gouranadi Police Station, said a case was filed with the police station on Friday and the husband was arrested the same day. "This is a beastly attack. We demand exemplary punishment for the husband," said Rashida Begum, district women affairs officer in Barisal.

'FOR JUSTICE' Father, daughter 'commit suicide'

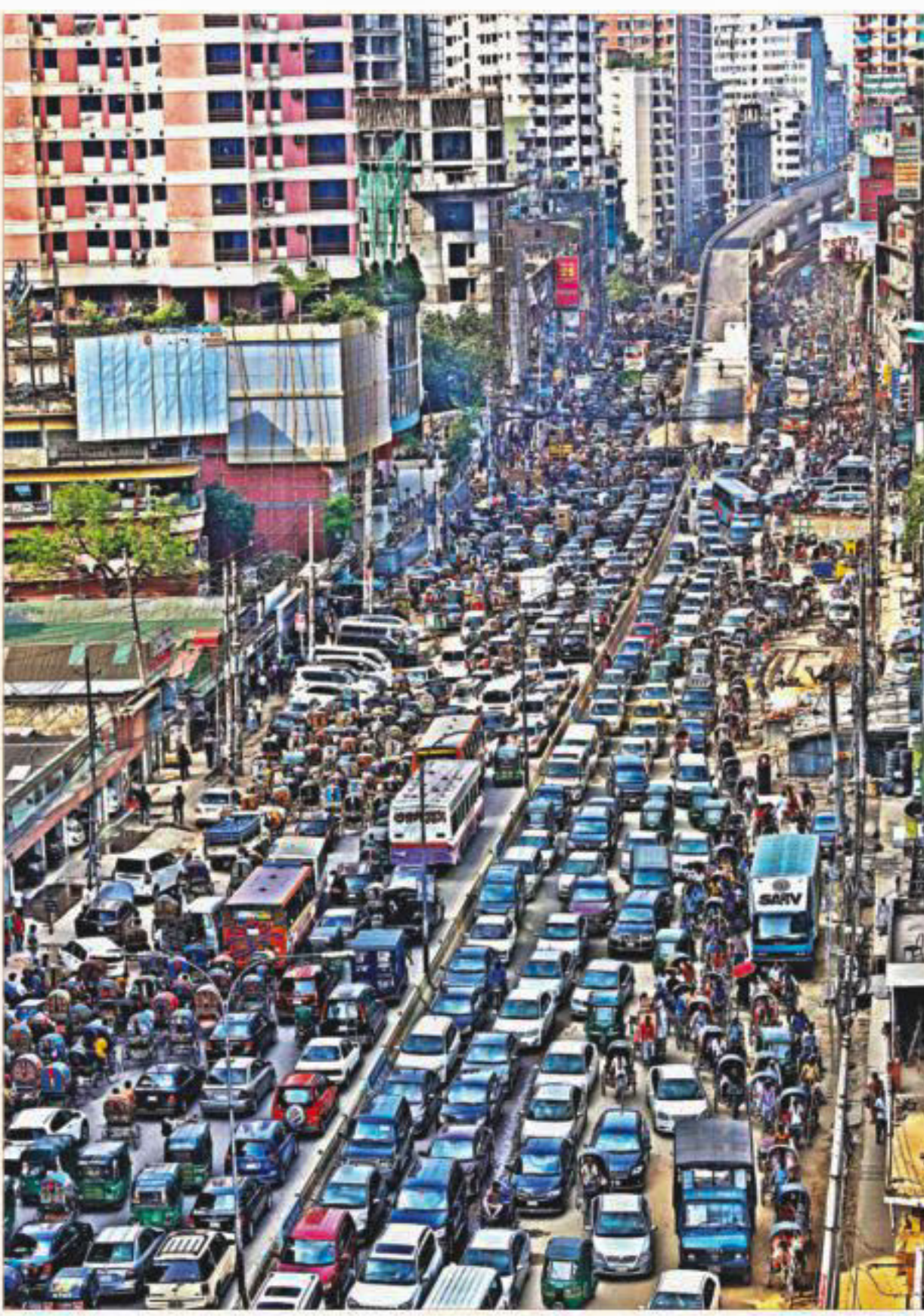
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Depressed about not getting justice, a man with his eight-year-old daughter allegedly committed suicide by jumping before a train in Gazipur yesterday, claimed the family. The bodies of Hazrat Ali, 45, a farmer, and his adopted daughter Ayesha Khatun, of Karnapur Sitpara village, were found near the rail tracks at Sreepur Railway Station, said Shahjahan Mian, station master of Sreepur, who also suspected that the two might have taken their own lives by jumping before a train of Teesta Express. Hazrat's wife Halima Begum said her husband and Ayesha set off for Sreepur Bazar around 8:00am and after sometime, she heard the news. Halima claimed that their only child Ayesha was sexually abused by a neighbor some three months ago. Hazrat informed the matter to Goshinga Union Parishad member Abul Hossain but he did not take any step which depressed her husband. However, Abul claimed that he was not informed about any such incident. Police yesterday evening detained Abul for interrogation.

Secondary

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biggest challenges -- poor quality of education and its irrelevance to the local context. The four preconditions to achieving the SDG in education are accountability at all levels, people's participation, transparency, and inclusion, said Mujeri. Md Mohiuddin Khan, additional secretary to the education ministry, said none of the SDGs would be achievable without achieving the education goal. As per SDGs, education is a human right and a public good, said CAMPE executive director Rasheda K Choudhury, adding that 535 million children including those in Bangladesh were still out of school in the world. Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, convener of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, chaired the discussion.



Arrest of Romel Chakma's

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government resolve the land issue in the three hill districts. Foyzul Hakim Lala, general secretary, Jatiya Mukti Council, called upon all to get united and protest the killing of Romel. Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) General Secretary Liton Nandi, publisher Robin Ahsan, former president of BCU Baki Billah, among other spoke at the rally. Meanwhile, a candle lighting programme of Greater Parbatya Chattagram Pahari Chhatra Parishad of Chittagong University unit was allegedly foiled yesterday by the authorities of the CU with the help of police, reports our CU correspondent. The CU unit of the Parishad organised the programme in front of CU Central Shaheed Minar at 7:00pm yesterday, to protest the killing of Romel Chakma. Within five to ten minutes after the candle lighting programme started, the CU authorities and the police extinguished the candles to foil the programme, alleged Sunayon Chakma, president of CU unit of the Parishad. However, Inspector Akhtaruzzaman, in-charge of CU police outpost, refuted the claim of their involvement in foiling the programme. Liton Mitra, assistant proctor of the CU, said the organisers of the programme did not acquire prior approval from the CU authorities.

Mystery over Rajshahi

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Medical College in the city and pregnant with another child, did not want to make any comment. Sabbir went to his farmhouse in Keshabpur at 3:30am and enquired about the cattle, said Neherul Islam, its caretaker, adding, he left after some time. "He was as usual. He was not worried even. I don't believe that he committed suicide." Sabbir went to the police dormitory around 5:30am, a police official quoted his bodyguard as saying. The official, seeking anonymity, said an orderly of the dormitory first noticed the body sitting on the sofa around 9:30am after he had opened the window. He was asked by an officer to bring shaving foam from the room, he said. Another officer said police found a paper in his wallet where someone wrote, "I love you" with blood. The commissioner, Shafiqul Islam, said they did not find any suicide note in the room.

Excavations for sewerage network development, renovation of footpaths, and movement of slow-moving vehicles like rickshaws alongside buses and cars create a long tailback on Bir Uttam Shamsul Alam Road, from Kakrail to Malibagh intersection, in the capital yesterday. During rains, the situation gets only worse. But authorities seem to be perpetually indifferent to public sufferings while carrying out development works.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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