

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.9 L 26.8

MYMENSINGH H 35.0 L 27.5

CHITTAGONG H 35.4 L 26.0

SYLHET H 35.5 L 25.6

RAJSHAHI H 37.2 L 27.2

RANGPUR H 36.5 L 25.5

KHULNA H 35.0 L 26.0

BARISAL H 34.3 L 27.0

COX'S BAZAR H 33.5 L 25.5

Rain is likely to occur at a many places over Chittagong division and at a few places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Mild heat wave is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Naogaon, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Sayedpur and Majidpur and it may abate, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:46pm and rises tomorrow at 5:10am.

SC halts removal of Hanif flyover stairs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court has issued status quo on the removal of stairs set up on the Mayor Mohammad Hanif flyover for entry and exit.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division of the SC Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order on Thursday following a petition filed by Orion Infrastructure Limited, which has built the flyover, seeking a stay on a May 31 High Court order.

Orion Infrastructure's lawyer Advocate Ahsanul Karim yesterday told The Daily Star that the stairs need not be removed from Hanif flyover following the SC order until it passes any further directive.

Earlier on May 31, the HC in a suomoto (of its own) move directed to take necessary steps to remove all the illegal stairs from Mayor Mohammad Hanif flyover.

It also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to remove the stairs from the flyover.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rina Sultana, 45, has been suffering from kidney disease for last three years.

She took treatment at several hospitals in



Bangladesh but her condition did not improve.

Doctors have advised her to go for kidney transplantation in India immediately as both of her kidneys have stopped functioning.

For that, she needs over Tk 20 lakh. But her family alone can not afford the treatment expense. So the family requested all to extend their helping hands to save her life.

Assistance can be sent to Motiur Rahman, AC No: 15941-6, Rupali Bank Ltd, Dhaka Cantonment, bKash AC: 01703757484.

EVENTS IN FRAME



(1) A human chain in Bogra town yesterday demand arrest and punishment for the killers of Mashuk Ferdous, son of JSD central committee member Emdadul Haque. The class-IX student was beaten to death near his house on May 11. (2) RMG workers at a sit-in before Jatiya Press Club in the capital want salary arrears and bonus before Eid, as well as budgetary allocation for their accommodation facilities. (3) Bhola District Citizens' Forum, Dhaka forms a human chain at the same place demanding justice over the death of Mahmuda Meher Tithi, a housewife of Bhola's Lalmohan upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

NEWS IN brief

3.5 lakh Yaba pills seized in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police seized 3.5 lakh Yaba pills, worth Tk 10.5 crore, in a house in Anwara upazila of Chittagong early yesterday.

On a tip-off, police raided the house of a listed Yaba smuggler Abul Kashem at Gahira village and seized the pills.

The contraband pills had been smuggled through Myanmar, said police, adding that they were trying to arrest Kashem.

Youth found dead in Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police recovered the body of a youth from the Benapole port bypass road yesterday.

Sheikh Milton Hossain, 25, son of Sheikh Joinal Hossain, of Boroachra village, went out of his home on Thursday evening and did not return, said police quoting his family.

Police sent Sheikh's body to Jessore Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

CUB holds roundtable on budget

CITY DESK

The CESD (Center for Entrepreneurship & Sustainable Development), Canadian University of Bangladesh, recently arranged a roundtable on "National Budget-2017-18: Paving the Way to Vision 2021/41" on Banani campus in the capital.

The participants expressed positive views on the amount of the proposed budget which is Tk 4 lakh and 266 crore for 2017-18 fiscal year. They urged that the proposed additional excise duty on bank deposits and VAT (value added tax) for education sector should be reconsidered.

Prof Mohammad A Arafat, chief advisor, Board of Trustees, Canadian University of Bangladesh, conducted the programme while its Founder and Chairman Dr Chowdhury Nafeez Sarafat gave vote of thanks.

Dr Mohammed Farashuddin, economist and former governor of Bangladesh Bank, and Prof Shamsul Alam, member, General Economics Division (GED) and Planning Commission, were present among others.

Stop mercury contamination to avoid economic loss

Says new study published in Journal of Environmental Management

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A substantial economic burden could be avoided through a timely implementation of measures to prevent mercury exposures in the country, said a new study published in the Journal of Environmental Management.

"Our estimates suggest that loss of IQ from mercury exposure and its impact on earning potential at the 15 sites examined amount to USD 77.4 million in lost annual economic productivity," the report said.

The report is the first peer-reviewed analysis to estimate economic losses due to IQ

damage from mercury pollution in Bangladesh and 14 other countries.

Hair samples were collected from various sites located in 15 countries to measure the economic losses.

Researchers from Environment and Social Development Organization (ESDO), a Bangladeshi NGO, contributed to the global study by collecting hair samples from participants living in Dhaka.

"This study gives us just a sample of the extent of the damage... The high cost of mercury contamination should trigger actions to address pollution sources in our country," said Dr Shahriar Hossain, secretary general of ESDO, said a press release.

"The Minamata Convention needs to be ratified and fully implemented to prevent the lost earning potential of the country," said Syed Marghub Murshed, chairperson of ESDO.

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from mercury's adverse effects.

Mercury level in hair from participants in Dhaka ranged from 0.20 parts per million (ppm) to 2.68 ppm, said the report.

Also, more than one fifth of the participants had mercury level greater than a 0.58 ppm standard -- the reference dose that has been proposed in light of data suggesting

harmful effects of mercury at a lower level of exposure.

"Mercury is a serious global threat to human health and this study shows that it also imposes an additional burden on the economy," said Joe Di Gangi, PhD, science and technical advisor with IPEN, and co-author of the study. "...It is critical to monitor sources of mercury pollution..." he said.

Mercury exposure damages the nervous system, kidneys, and cardiovascular system.

Human exposure to mercury occurs primarily through consumption of contaminated fish. Rice and direct exposure to mercury vapor can also be sources.

One killed, two injured by lightning in Gopalganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man was killed and two others were injured as a lightning bolt struck them while they were cutting earth from the bank of Modhumoti river at Basherbaria Cahrpara village in Tungipara upazila of Gopalganj on Thursday.

The deceased was Faruk Mollah, 38, a day labourer.

Faruk's body was found floating in the river at 6:30pm. Locals rushed the injured, Anayat Talukder and Soriful Talukder, to Gopalganj General Hospital.

ROAD ACCIDENTS

2 university-level students among four killed

STAR REPORT

Four people including two university-level students were killed and five others injured in road accidents across three districts yesterday.

Nazmul Hasan, a second-year student of Arabic language and literature of Islamic University and resident of Rajibpur in Kurigram, died after his motorcycle was hit by a speeding easy-bike in Jhenidah's Harinakunda upazila.

IU Proctor Dr M Mahbubur Rahman said the accident took place around 3:30pm, and locals took an injured Nazmul to Kushtia Sadar Hospital where physicians declared him dead, reports UNB.

In Jessore, a first-year English literature student of Jessore MM Government College died after being run over by a bus in Molam Miar Bottala area of Monirampur upazila, reports our Benapole correspondent.

Sultana Kumu 20, a resident of Mohonpur Village of the upazila, died on the spot, said Mokarram Hossain, officer-in-charge of Monirampur Police Station.

Sultana was returning home on a motorbike with her cousin when the bus hit it.

Her cousin, Sabuj Hossain, was sent to Jessore Medical College Hospital.

In Tangail, two people were killed and five others injured in two accidents in Sakhipur and Kalihati upazilas, says our district correspondent.

The deceased are Alea Akter, 35, of Moythar Chala village in Basail upazila and Mohammad Kibria, 32, of Bhawal village in Kalihati upazila.

In Sakhipur, two CNG-run auto-rickshaws collided head on, killing passenger Alea on the spot and injuring five others of the two vehicles, said police.

The injured people were admitted to Sakhipur Upazila Health Complex.

RANGS

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