

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 26.4 L 25.0	MYMENSINGH H 26.5 L 25.0	CHITTAGONG H 28.0 L 26.0	SYLHET H 29.5 L 25.5	RAJSHAHI H 31.2 L 27.0	RANGPUR H 30.2 L 26.6	KHULNA H 28.0 L 25.6	BARISAL H 27.3 L 25.7	COX'S BAZAR H 28.4 L 25.5
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Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions with heavy to very heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today. Day temperature may rise by (1-4) degree Celsius and night temperature may fall by (1-3) degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:47pm and rises tomorrow at 05:11am.

Press Council chief wants budgetary allocation for journalists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Bangladesh Press Council (BPC) Chairman Justice Md Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed yesterday urged the government to make separate allocation in the national budget for journalists.

The finance minister proposed a Tk 4,00,000 crore budget for the 2017-18 fiscal, but there was no budgetary allocation for the journalists, he said.

He was addressing a journalist training programme organised by BPC at Rangpur circuit house.

Journalists across the country are always deprived of due honorarium for the negligence of their employers, said the chairman.

The chairman also said that the press council would take an initiative to train government officials across the country to improve relations between the public servants and journalists.

Muhammad Wahiduzzaman, deputy commissioner of Rangpur, chaired the meeting.

BPC Secretary Shyamal Chandra Karmaker and member Dr Utpal Kumar Sarker, among others, spoke.

Wilful

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form an "Accidental Compensation Tribunal" to promptly handle cases filed over compensation claims of accident victims.

Prof Ridwanul Hoque of department of Law at Dhaka University and SC lawyer Md Abdul Halim, among others, spoke at the discussion presided over by Dr Kamal Hossain, also president of BLAST.



A LUKEWARM RESPONSE: Daily commodities like sugar, edible oil, chickpeas and pulses are put on display on a truck. State-run Trading Corporation of Bangladesh started selling the commodities at 25 different points in Sylhet city in the month of Ramadan. But the government initiative to provide lower-income people with the essentials at a reasonable price has apparently failed to get momentum. Some potential buyers alleged that they were being discouraged as the dealers were not selling oil, a much sought-after item, without chickpeas or lentil. Denying the allegation, a dealer said they were selling the goods at a cheaper price compared to the market rates, but a few buyers were turning up. The photo was taken from Surma Market area yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marjana Akter Ilma, a seven-year-old girl, has been suffering from blood cancer (acute lymphoblastic leukaemia) for the last two years.

Daughter of Masum Billah of Bagerhat, Marjana is undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

Every month Ilma's family has to spend around Tk 70,000 for her treatment which needs to be continued for three more years, but it is very difficult for the family to bear such expense.

So, the family requested generous people to extend their helping hands to save her life. Aid can be sent to Abraz Khan, AC: 00641210002479, Southeast Bank Ltd, Begum Rokeya Sarani Branch, Mirpur or contact at 01754263636.



PURBACHAL NEW TOWN PROJECT

70pc work finished

Public works minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain yesterday told parliament that around 70 percent development works including land development, roads and bridge construction of the Purbachal New Town project, had been completed.

The minister in a scripted answer said the project has around 25,016 residential plots and it is possible to accommodate at least 15 lakh people there.

In reply to a query, he said the government would prepare a comprehensive risk sensitive land use plan at every upazila to avoid catastrophe of climate change caused by unplanned urbanisation in divisional cities.

While answering to another query, the minister said a project awaits the approval of his ministry for constructing 6,032 residential flats at Basila in Dhaka to rehabilitate non-Bengalis currently living at Geneva Camp, Mohammadpur.

Under the project, to be implemented by National Housing Authority, the government would prepare 140 plots, he said. To implement the project, the minister said, the government, following the approval, will acquire 62.50 acres of land.

DEPRESSION IN BAY

Two lighter vessels sink

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two lighter vessels capsized at the Bay of Bengal while three others ran aground in Chittagong due to the stormy weather and rough seas yesterday.

Due to heavy rolling, one of the vessels, Olympic-2, tilted and water entered the vessel, said Jahirul Islam, master of Olympic-2, adding that the vessel capsized near Patenga sea beach around 1:00pm.

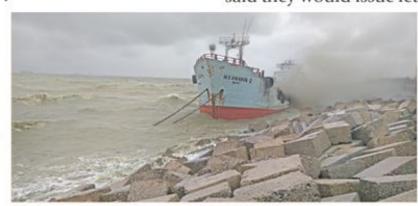
Another vessel, Hazi Qayes of Madina Group, developed a crack in its hull after it hit the mother vessel from which it was unloading cement clinker during heavy rolling and capsized in Jaliapar around 1:30pm, said Nabi Alam, general secretary of Lighter

Vessel Workers' Union.

All the crew was rescued beforehand. Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Member (Admin and Planning) Md Zafar Alam could only confirm the incident of Hazi Qayes and said they would issue letters to the owners to salvage the vessels by 24 hours.

Meanwhile, two lighter vessels, Marcentile-26 and Blue View, which were anchored at the river Karnaphuli, ran aground, said Nabi, adding another lighter vessel MV Anannya-2 grounded at Patenga beach at the same time.

Unloading of goods from 40 mother vessels at the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port remained suspended, said sources in the Chittagong Port.



One of the three lighter vessels, MV Anannya-2, grounded at Patenga beach due to depression in the Bay yesterday. Two other such vessels (not in picture) capsized in the rough seas.

PHOTO: STAR

NEWS IN brief

Ruling, opposition MPs for reducing excise duty against bank deposits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Participating in the discussion on the proposed national budget for 2017-18 fiscal year, both treasury and opposition bench lawmakers yesterday demanded that the minister reduce the rate of excise duty against bank deposits.

The House sitting started around 11:10am with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told parliament that the draft of the "Education Bill" is at the final stage and soon will be sent to the cabinet division for approval. Replying to a query, Nahid informed the House that instead of 50 percent, 80 percent of the assistant teachers would be promoted to assistant head teachers.

Chaina Patowary gets bail

CU CORRESPONDENT

A female Chhatra Union leader of Chittagong University got bail yesterday in a case filed under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act.

A Rangamti court passed the order considering her age as she is below 18, said her lawyer Advocate Dulal Kanti Sarkar. The court also fixed June 20 for next hearing, he added.

On June 2, Chaina Patowary, a first-year student of music and cultural secretary of arts faculty committee of CU unit Chhatra Union, was shown arrested after Ehsan Uddin, a local Chhatra League man, filed the case over allegation of defaming Islam through a Facebook post.

Zulfiqur new envoy to Brazil

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to appoint Zulfiqur Rahman, as the next ambassador of Bangladesh to Brazil, according to foreign ministry yesterday.

The post fell vacant following the death of Bangladesh ambassador to Brazil and former foreign secretary Mohamed Mijarul Quayes, who died in Brasilia, Brazil on March 11. Zulfiqur is now serving as the Bangladesh ambassador in Republic of Korea.



Man gets life term for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A Gazipur court yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for killing his wife in April this year. The convict -- Sorbesh Ali, 36, of Bagbari village under Tangail Sadar -- was also fined Tk 10,000, in default of which he will have to serve one more month in jail.

According to the prosecution, on April 2, 2017, Sorbesh killed his wife Shahida Begum, 30, over a family feud and fled the scene.

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