

WEATHER
FORECAST



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.2 L 28.0	H 33.3 L 26.9	H 34.4 L 26.5	H 33.2 L 25.7	H 35.0 L 26.8	H 35.0 L 26.5	H 34.7 L 26.4	H 32.8 L 27.2	H 32.0 L 25.7

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Rangpur, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna and Mymensingh divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today. Day and night temperature may fall slightly over the country. Met office said, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 05:16am.

Youth's body found on train roof

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

Police recovered the body of a youth from the roof of a train at Chittagong Railway Station yesterday morning.

The deceased Md Shipon, 18, hailing from Habiganj of Sylhet used to work as a mason in Chittagong, said SM Shahidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Government Railway Police.

Witnesses informed police seeing the body after the Udayan Express train from Sylhet reached the station around 8:00am, said the OC.

The injury marks beneath the right ear of the youth indicate that he might have been hit by something while travelling on the train, the OC added.

The body was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.



A car crosses the rickety Bhakurta Steel Bridge over the Turag river in Savar. A large sign on the bridge, inset, forbids heavy vehicles from using it. The 379-foot bridge has been in a dilapidated condition for years. But heavy vehicles still use the risky bridge as the authorities concerned have apparently done nothing yet to repair or rebuild it. The Daily Star published similar photos of the bridge before, mentioning the risks involved. The photos were taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

NEWSIN brief

Man jailed for ticket scalping

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday sentenced a man to three months' imprisonment for ticket scalping.

Anwar Hossain, 45, was caught red-handed when he was selling train tickets in black market at the station, said Gausul Azam, executive magistrate of Rab.

Ear Hossain, Ansar commander of the station, said they seized 12 tickets and around Tk 26,800 from his possession. Anwar admitted that he used to hire women to buy train tickets and later sell those in black market, the magistrate said.

Man held for 'killing' wife over dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

A man was arrested for allegedly killing his wife over dowry in CO Bazar area of Rangpur city yesterday.

The arrestee Sohel Rana, 26, was given Tk 50,000 as dowry when he married Sultana Parvin, 18, two years ago. Later, he demanded Tk 50,000 again and used to torture her for it, said Sultana's brother.

Yesterday, Sohel started beating Sultana and later strangled her to death with a scarf as her parents did not meet his demand. On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Rangpur Medical College Hospital for an autopsy.

Normalcy back in city CNG stations

UNB, Dhaka

The gas supply at CNG refuelling stations of the capital returned to normalcy as the production at Bibiyana Gas Field yesterday resumed on completion of its maintenance work.

The CNG refuelling stations had to suspend the gas supply for 24 hours from Wednesday zero hour following a sudden instruction by the Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company, causing trouble to many in refuelling their vehicles.

LDCs launch capacity dev initiative to tackle climate change

CITY DESK

The 48 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) announced a major new South-South initiative on knowledge sharing and capacity development to tackle climate change, said a press release yesterday.

The LDCs Universities Consortium for Climate Change (LUCCC) was launched in Kampala, Uganda on Monday at the opening of the 11th International Conference on Community Based Adaptation by the Chair of the LDC Group Gebru Jember from Ethiopia.

The Secretariat of LUCCC is headquartered at the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at the Independent University, Bangladesh. Dr Saleemul Huq, director of ICCCAD, spoke at the event.

Farewell to SUDHIN DAS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from all walks of life yesterday gathered at the capital's Central Shaheed Minar to pay their last tributes to Nazrul Sangeet luminary Sudhin Das.

The Ekushey Padak winner breathed his last on Tuesday night at the age of 87 due to old age complications.

The tribute, organised by Sammilita Sangskritik Jote around 11:00am, drew a large crowd including his colleagues, well-wishers, eminent cultural personalities and top government officials.

Sudhin Das' body was later cremated at Postagola cremation ground.

A revered teacher of Nazrul songs, Sudhin Das, single-handedly took up the task of preserving authentic musical notations of Nazrul songs after noticing widespread distortion of the original melodies created by National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam.

During an interview in 2010, he once said, "If ten Rabindra Sangeet singers sing a [particular] song, it sounds the same with very little distortions. But if ten Nazrul Sangeet singers sing one song, there'll be at least three versions of it, if not ten."

When Nazrul's songs gained popularity on radio around 1954-55, many singers started singing it without a care for the original tunes.

This observation had inspired him to launch a lifelong journey into the treasure-trove of Nazrul Sangeet and preserve its original musical notations.

He started collecting the old records that were made in Nazrul's lifetime and documenting the original swaralipi (musical notations) of the songs.

He published 33 volumes of authentic Nazrul swaralipi against many obstacles, with the help of Nazrul Academy and Nazrul Institute.

"The most important thing he did is that he saved Nazrul Sangeet from distortion," said Nazrul researcher Prof

Rafiqul Islam, while offering tribute to Sudhin Das at Shaheed Minar.

Earlier yesterday, the body of the preeminent singer, researcher and music teacher was taken to his residence at Mirpur from Apollo Hospital where he breathed his last.

From there, the body was taken to Nazrul Institute -- where he conducted research on Nazrul songs for many years -- for a brief tribute around 10:00am.

Abdur Razzaque Bhuiya, executive director of the institute, said Sudhin Das' dedication for music made their job of preserving Nazrul Sangeet much easier.

"If it wasn't for a dedicated person like him, Nazrul Sangeet wouldn't have survived [today]," Razzaque told The Daily Star over phone.



At the Central Shaheed Minar, different socio-cultural and political organisations paid their last respect to Sudhin Das.

Among the organisations Bangladesh Awami League, National Awami Party, Nazrul Institute, Nazrul Academy, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Chhayanaunt placed floral wreaths.

Cultural personalities including Hasan Imam, Ramendu Majumdar, Khurshid Alam, Fakir Alamgir, Ferdous Ara and Shaheen Samad also paid homage to him.

Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, principal secretary of Prime Minister's Office, paid respect at the Shaheed Minar on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, also attended the programme.

Born on April 30, 1930 in Comilla's Bagichagaon, Sudhin Das got his first music lessons from his elder brother Suren Das.

His first performance on the then Pakistan Radio came in 1948.

Hasina featured among world leaders in US book

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been featured distinctively in a book unveiled in the USA on Tuesday as one of the 18 current women national leaders of the world.

The prime minister's photo with six other world leaders was printed on the cover page of the book "Women Presidents and Prime Ministers", said a press release of the Bangladesh embassy in Washington.

Leading US rights activist and educator Richard O'Brien authored the book unveiled at Woman's National Democratic Club at Washington DC.

The author dedicated three pages to characterise Sheikh Hasina's dedication and struggle for restoration of democracy and voting rights, attempts on her life as well as historic achievements as the three-time prime minister of Bangladesh.

He also praised the Bangladesh premier for dedicating herself to making Bangladesh "more stable, more democratic and less violent" referring to her remarks "When I have been able to establish Bangladesh as a poverty-free country, a hunger-free country, perhaps then I may say I am proud".

The book also include many significant events of Bangladesh's politics including Sheikh Hasina's return from exile in 1981, fall of Ershad regime in 1990 and grenade attack on her on August 21 in 2004.

Police to get 50,000 more staff: JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday told parliament that the government, in principle, decided to create 50,000 more posts with Bangladesh Police to further strengthen the capacity of the law enforcement agency.

In reply to lawmakers' queries, the minister said as part of the move, the government has already taken steps for creating 226 posts with Narsingdi district police and 367 posts with Rajshahi police.

Kamal also said members of the law enforcement agencies are working relentlessly to maintain law and order and ensuring security of people and their properties.

"There is no alternative to ensuring people-friendly police forces to develop law and order throughout the country. Industrial police, naval police, tourism police, Special Security and Protection Battalion and Police Bureau of Investigation were added to the organisational structure of Bangladesh Police," he added.

The home minister said the government always shows zero tolerance towards militancy and terrorism.



People have started to stream back to the capital after the Eid holidays. The photo was taken yesterday around 2:30pm at Kamalapur Railway Station.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



Without a care in the world, this little fellow enjoys its meal at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan. The photo was taken around 4:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

DODGING REVENUE IN KHULNA ACC sues former MP, VAT appellate tribunal chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday sued former Natore lawmaker MA Talha and former commissioner of Customs, Excise & VAT Appellate Tribunal Mohammad Nurul Islam for allegedly dodging government revenue of about Tk 1.79 crore.

The case was filed with Khalishpur Police Station in Khulna, said ACC Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya.

The commission decided to file the case after it had taken cognizance of a report submitted by ACC Assistant Director Mahatab Uddin following an investigation.

According to the report, Portland Services Ltd, owned by Talha, is a licensed organisation which supplies wine, beer, whisky and toiletries to the sailors of foreign ships.

Portland imports these items and gets duty-free facilities on the condition that it cannot sell these to anywhere else.

According to the report, although there had been documentary evidence against Portland of dodging tariff worth Tk 1,79,94,360 in 2009, the then commissioner of the tribunal Nurul ordered that no such incident had taken place.

However, Mongla Customs House in Khulna appealed against the order.

The allegations were proved and the tribunal imposed Tk 10 lakh fine and ordered Portland to deposit the dodged money.

"Portland imported wine, beer and whisky and sold those at local markets," said Mahatab, adding, after scrutinising the documents he found involvement of both Talha and Nurul in the corruption.

UNB adds, Talha is a former lawmaker of Jatiya Party from Natore-1 constituency.

20,000 posts

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secondary schools, he said, replying to a question.

The government will appoint teachers against the vacant post for the subjects of Bangla, English, Mathematics, Social Science, religion of Islam, Geography, Physical Science, Zoology, Commerce, Physical Education, Fine Arts and Agriculture Education, he added.

In reply to another question, the education minister informed parliament that there are 134 universities --39 public and 95 private ones -- in the country.

The cabinet has approved a draft bill for setting up two public universities-- Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Science and Technology University and Sheikh Hasina University. The bill is now awaiting approval from the president, Nahid said.