



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.2 L 26.2

MYMENSINGH H 32.5 L 26.4

CHITTAGONG H 31.0 L 24.6

SYLHET H 32.8 L 26.0

RAJSHAHI H 32.4 L 25.7

RANGPUR H 31.5 L 26.7

KHULNA H 33.7 L 26.5

BARISAL H 32.7 L 25.7

COX'S BAZAR H 28.0 L 24.0

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Rangpur, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Country's highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Jessore and lowest 24.3 degree in Rangamati, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50pm and rises tomorrow at 5:17am.

# GAZIPUR BOILER BLAST

## Faulty pressure relief valve to blame

### Finds labour ministry preliminary report

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The boiler explosion at a garment factory of Multifabs Limited in Gazipur on Monday might have occurred due to a fault in a safety device (pressure relief valve) of the boiler, according to a preliminary report of labour and employment ministry.

The inspector of the ministry, Hanif Hossain, prepared the report after visiting the spot a day after the explosion and submitted it yesterday to the office of the Chief Inspector of Boilers, a government agency under the industries ministry.

Quoting Khokon Kundu, the boiler maintenance manager of Multifabs Ltd, Hanif in the report said even after expiry of the boiler's licence, the authorities of the factory conducted a test run of it. At that time, they found faults in the safety device.

"Then they went for a quick fix and ran the boiler again," said Hanif, referring to the report.

On Monday evening, the boiler exploded, killing 13 workers and injuring around 50 others. A portion of the factory collapsed and the machinery of the factory got disintegrated on impact.

Hanif said there is a guideline of renewing the licence every year.

"The licence of this factory expired on June 24 this year. They applied to the boiler directorate earlier on Monday (the same day) for renewing the licence," said the inspector.

The inspector said the boiler exploded as there were

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A metal road divider precariously leans toward a portion of Bangabandhu Avenue near GPO intersection in the capital. Locals said at least two such dividers have been in this state since a speeding vehicle hit those several nights back. The authorities apparently are yet to take notice.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Prof Fakrul Alam joins Star as consulting editor



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## HSC results July 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent examinations will be published simultaneously on July 23.

A top official of the education ministry confirmed the date to The Daily Star yesterday, saying Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina approved the date.

"As per the regulation, the ministry has been publishing the results of HSC and SSC examinations within 60 days from the completion of tests and the deadline ends on July 24," said the official, wishing not to be named.

The education minister, along with the chairmen of all education boards, will hand over copies of the results to the prime minister on July 23. Later in the day, the minister will officially announce the results at a media briefing.

This year, a total of 11.83 lakh candidates appeared for the examinations that began on April 2. The written tests ended on May 15.

## Two add'l DIGs sent on forced retirement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has sent two additional deputy inspectors general (DIGs) of police on forced retirement, according to a home ministry circular issued on Sunday.

They are Yeasmin Gafur, commandant of Special Branch Training School of Dhaka; and Bakhtiar Alam of Police Academy in Sarda, Rajshahi.

In the circular, the ministry stated that they sent them on retirement as per the section 9 (2) of Public Servants (Retirement) Act, 1974, without mentioning any reason.

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## Halt online media policy: TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fearing for press freedom, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) yesterday called upon the government to halt the implementation of Online Mass Media Policy.

The organisation pushed for halting the policy's implementation until the rectification of such sections which pose potential threat to the freedom of press.

To implement the policy, TIB urged the government to form an independent, neutral and effective national broadcasting commission comprising the persons who are acceptable to all instead of giving temporary charge to the information ministry.

The organisation also demanded that the government suspend its implementation until formation of such a commission.

In some cases, the policy poses a

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## Media reports move ACC to act on fertiliser corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of media reports and High Court ruling, the Anti-Corruption Commission has decided to investigate the allegations of corruption and irregularities in the fertiliser sector managed by Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC).

It will also investigate the irregularities of a Tk 115 crore project to restart Chittagong Chemical Complex, which was supposed to be completed in 14 months till December 2014, but has not finished in 48 months. In addition, the anti-corruption body will look into the recruitment anomalies of BCIC in 2014.

To do so, ACC appointed its Deputy Director SMM Akhter Hamid Bhuiyan as investigating officer on June 14 to probe the allegations of misappropriation of crores of takas and misuse of power by BCIC's outgoing chairman Mohammad Iqbal.

Meanwhile, BCIC officials have welcomed the ACC move, saying it would bring transparency in fertiliser management. "We hail ACC's move," said a senior official, seeking anonymity.

According to an ACC letter to Iqbal, who is an additional secretary, investigator Bhuiyan requested him to provide ACC all relevant documents during the investigation.

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## Discoverer of Haridhan no more

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Haripada Kapali, a farmer who discovered a high yielding rice variety outside of a formal research station and shot to fame, died yesterday at his village home in Jhenidah's Ahsannagar at the age of 96.

Family members said the agrarian farmer who was suffering from old-age complications breathed his last around 1:15am.

The rice he developed, taking the breeding line from a highly productive rice variety of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), got popularised among farmers in Jhenidah and was named after him -- Haridhan.

He left behind his wife Sumita Rani and his adopted son Rupkumar and a host of admirers and well wishers to mourn his death. He was cremated at Aliarpur in Chuadanga yesterday afternoon.

Local agriculture officials, farmers, and people in the community mourned the death of Haripada Kapali.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, BRRI Director General Dr Bhagya Rani Banik paid tributes to Haripada, and said he had perseverance and was very hard-working. She lauded Haripada's zeal in making something good out of a popular BRRI variety.

In 1994, while weeding out a plot of BR-11, a popular rice variety of BRRI, Haripada came across a bunch of paddy which was different from the other paddy plants. That bunch was healthier, taller, and looked more promising to him.

Developed and released by BRRI back in 1980, BR-11, also known as Mukta by then, had turned out to be the country's best bred Aman rice variety.

He took special care of the newly-found bunch and facilitated its growth in a natural way. At first he thought this

would not yield good crops. But finally, this separate paddy gave better production than the already planted ones. Haripada collected this paddy separately and stored it in a safe place. Next year he made separate seeds, prepared seedbeds and sowed the 2/3 grammes of seeds in another plot. He compared that with BR-11 and found better vigour in the segregated ones.

When Haripada got a better yield from the new variety, his peers from neighbouring farm plots rushed to him and showed interest in cultivating Haridhan.

Haripada Kapali comes from a poor family of Enayetpur village in Jhenidah



Haripada Kapali

sadar upazila. He was the only son of Ishwar Kundu. His father died when Hari was eight. He immediately started cultivating the ancestral land to support his family.

When he was seventeen or eighteen years old, he married Sunita Rani, daughter of Raban Biswas of the same upazila, and relocated himself to his father-in-law's house in Ashannagar. He turned over a new leaf here. He involved himself whole-heartedly in farming on lands, some of which he inherited from his father-in-law and some of which he bought.



Foreign Minister of Thailand Don Pramudwinai meets Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

## Abinta Kabir Foundation School opens

UNB, Dhaka

A new model school of Abinta Kabir Foundation has been opened in the capital's Bhatara area.

US Ambassador in Dhaka Marcia Bernicat inaugurated the school on Wednesday, said a press release yesterday.

Earlier in February this year, the foundation also opened five schools in Natore.

Another school in Bashabo is also going to open later this month.

Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy in Dhaka Joel Reifman, Mission Director, USAID (Bangladesh) Jaina Jaruzelski, Counselor for Political and Economic Affairs Andrea Brouillette-Rodriguez, Director and Chief Operating Officer Scholastica School Wasima Parveen, Ruba Ahmed and Nilu Rowshon Murshed were also present.

Abinta Kabir along with 19 other hostages was killed in a terrorist attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan on July 1 last year.

## Speed up development projects: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the civil servants to go for implementing the budget and development projects without any delay to yield better outcomes and move the country forward speedily.

She also directed them to take steps to fulfill the basic needs of the citizens, ensure social security and construction of necessary infrastructures, and generate employments.

"We've the largest-ever budget and ADP this time. You'll have to go for quick implementation of those and completion of the near-ending projects with little funds so that we can take new projects. Remain alert so that no project gets extended like elastic," she said.

The prime minister was addressing a programme in her office marking the signing of the annual performance agreement (APA) of the ministries and their subordinate bodies.

Noting that the government's specific goal should be to ensure the country's speedy development, she said the

cabinet members are liable to parliament while MPs are liable to the people. "Awami League is aware enough in this regard as it never forgets its election manifesto."

Hasina said every political party should have an effective economic policy to take forward the nation and the country's bureaucracy must act with sincerity to achieve the goal.

She also said the country's economic policy needs to be updated in every 10 years to make it more time-befitting one.

The prime minister said the APA makes the officials responsible which helps complete development works in a specific timeframe, enabling people to enjoy its benefits.

The APA is an internal mechanism of the civil administration from top to grassroots level aimed at evaluating their yearly performance and making them accountable to their responsibilities.

The government, for the fourth year, has signed the APA with the ministries and their subordinate bodies, including divisional, district and upazila-level offices.



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