

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA MYMENSINGH CHITTAGONG SYLHET RAJSHAHI RANGPUR KHULNA BARISAL COX'S BAZAR

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Light to moderate rain is likely to occur at many places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Mymensingh, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at

Tourism sector suffers loss due to recent landslides: JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon yesterday told parliament that tourism sector has incurred a loss of Tk 40 to 45 crore due to the recent landslides in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

In reply to lawmakers' queries, Menon said hotel, motel and trees had been damaged in the landslides.

"Tourism sector infrastructure has incurred loss of Tk 40/45 crore due to the recent landslides," Menon said in a scripted answer.

"Visit of tourists at Chittagong Hill Tracts, Teknaf and others adjacent areas has been decreased significantly. Therefore, overall loss in the tourism sector would be much more," he added.

The minister also said that tropical cyclone "Mora" had also damaged tourism infrastructure as well as caused decreasing of tourist in the area.

Menon, also president of Workers Party of Bangladesh, while replying to another query said renovation of Ruposhi Bangla Hotel will be completed by this year and would be re-launched as InterContinental Dhaka.

Renovation works of Ruposhi Bangla Hotel began in March 2015 and was scheduled to be completed by June 2016.

But, the minister said deadline of the renovation works has been extended till October 2017.

Responsibility of running the hotel has been transferred to InterContinental Hotel Groups, a leading global hotel chain.



A large portion of the Sylhet-Salutikar-Gowainghat road lies in a dilapidated state, with potholes and craters developing on it. This busy and important road is frequented by hundreds of vehicles on a regular basis. Locals allege that they have requested the authorities concerned numerous times for its repair work but to no avail. The photo was taken in Salutikar Bazar area yesterday noon.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Action against 45 Ctg colleges sought for charging extra fees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Chittagong city unit yesterday asked the district administration to take legal steps against 45 private colleges in Chittagong city that are charging additional money than the government fixed rate of Tk 3,000.

They held a rally on the Chittagong District Administration premises around 1:30pm and handed over around 50 written allegations against the colleges.

As per the government declared Class-XI admission policy issued on May 7, no college in metropolitan areas outside Dhaka can charge more than Tk 3,000 as admission fee.

"We set up six allegation boxes on May 10 in different areas of the city urging students and their parents to submit allegations if they are asked to pay more than the government fixed rate for college admission. We got 50 allegations against 45 private colleges. One college even was found charging Tk 25,000," said Nurul Azim Rony, general secretary of Chittagong city unit BCL.

If the government does not take actions in this regard BCL will continue protesting, said Rony. Chittagong city unit BCL President Emran Ahammed Emu was present among others.

Road crashes kill one, hurt 30 in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

An elderly man was killed as a Dhaka-bound bus hit him in Charnmatha area of Ghoraghat upazila in Dinajpur yesterday.

The deceased is Abdul Aziz, 75, of Birahimpur village under the upazila.

In another accident in Birampur upazila of the district, at least 30 passengers of a bus were injured when the vehicle collided head-on with a truck on Dinajpur-Bogra highway in Durgapur village yesterday.

Locals rescued the injured and rushed them to different hospitals.

RCC activities halted for employees' indefinite strike

Demonstrators demand implementation of enhanced pay structure for those working on daily basis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The activities of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) have come to a grinding halt as a group of employees yesterday went on strike for an indefinite period of time, demanding what they said payment of wages as per the government rules, among others.

Demanding the realisation of 11-point demand, hundreds of employees under banner of "RCC Employees' Union" took position in front of Rajshahi Nagar Bhaban around 9:00am. They also locked all entry points of RCC, barring the officials from entering the office.

Failing to get inside, some of the officials on condition of anonymity said they had to return home.

Dulal Sheikh, president of the employees' union, said they would not allow any activities until their demands are met.

The government on May 24 last year

revised the wage structure for the employees working on a daily basis and fixed per day salary at Tk 450 for unskilled labourers and Tk 500 for skilled labourers, he said.

But the labourers are still getting Tk 300 per day as wages, he said.

Their other demands include ensuring promotion and home loans for permanent employees, providing proper pension facilities, stopping harassment of permanent staff, and regularising the temporary staff who have been serving RCC for long.

Contacted over the phone around noon, RCC Mayor Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul said he was on the way to Dhaka.

Terming the incident "a violation of service rules", the mayor said the corporation had hardly any employees' union for the last one decade.

Our councillors and officials had been continuing discussion with the employees on the implementation of wage structure since May this year.

The demand for enhanced pay for daily labourers is logical, he said, but it needs time to fix it.

"They cannot put the corporation under lock and key like this and stop all activities forcibly. We're observing the situation," he said.

The Daily Star talked to Azmir Ahmed Mamun, general secretary of the employees' union, last evening to know the development.

He said they had also locked the city corporation garage in the city's Shalbagh area and the Central Park and Zoo managed by the RCC.

"We will continue the strike tomorrow until our demands are met," he added.

This correspondent last evening approached high officials of RCC, but they did not want to comment on the issue.

The Daily Star again tried to reach the mayor over the phone last evening, but he could not be contacted.



Employees of Rajshahi City Corporation stage a demonstration in front of the Nagar Bhaban yesterday demanding wages for those working on a daily basis as per the government rules.

PHOTO: STAR

Guardians protest Turkish

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dealing a blow to them.

For example, they said, for a student of grade-III, the guardians used to pay Tk 13,276 for each instalment except the first and last one of an academic session. As the authorities have suddenly brought down the number of instalments to eight from 11, instalment fees in this class have jumped up to Tk 21,493, they added.

However, the first and last instalment fees vary from grade to grade, they said.

"This is indeed a burden for us to pay a hefty amount of money for our children's education," said Afzana, a guardian.

Ismail Akbas, head of the junior section, told reporters that the parents had earlier signed an agreement regarding the changes in the yearly instalment plan.

Muhammad Shameem Reza, deputy head of the section, said the parents who cannot afford to pay the first instalment of the new academic session starting in August by July, they are requested to submit an application for paying the instalment in August.

Established in Dhaka in 1996, the school has six branches with 1,905 students in Dhaka, Chittagong and Bogra.

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