

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.3 L 28.2

MYMENSINGH H 33.2 L 27.0

CHITTAGONG H 34.0 L 26.8

SYLHET H 34.6 L 26.3

RAJSHAHI H 36.2 L 27.7

RANGPUR H 33.5 L 28.5

KHULNA H 33.4 L 26.5

BARISAL H 33.0 L 27.8

COX'S BAZAR H 31.6 L 26.0

Rain accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Mymensingh, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country, says Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:39pm and rises tomorrow at 5:30am.

DHAKA-CTG HIGHWAY Flyover to be completed by next year

BSS, Dhaka

Construction of the country's first six-lane flyover on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Mohipal in Feni is in full swing with completion of 75 percent of its work, an official concerned said.

The official added that the construction work of the flyover would be completed before its scheduled time in early 2018.

The 660-metre flyover is being constructed involving Tk 157.99 crore to ease traffic congestion on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway and in its adjoining areas.



Marzia Rahman Joly, wife of slain publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan of Jagriti Prokashani, arranges a book at the bookshop café on New Elephant Road in the capital. Dipan's family recently opened the library and café, named "Dipanpur", commemorating his 45th birth anniversary.

PHOTO: STAR

A slice of Dipan's dream

Family launches bookshop café in capital

AASHIQ ABDULLAH APU

Spreading the light of knowledge was something that Faisal Arefin Dipan had always dreamt of.

But his life was cut short on October 31, 2015 as he was brutally hacked to death by suspected religious extremists inside the office of Jagriti Prokashani, a book publication house founded by him, in the capital, leaving his dreams unfulfilled.

However, his family members decided to carry forward the legacy he left behind. They launched a bookshop café named "Dipanpur" on New Elephant Road in the capital recently, marking 45th birth anniversary of the late publisher.

"Dipan always dreamt of doing something for the country and its people. He started his publication house to serve people by spreading the light of knowledge. As the government or other publishers did not take any initiative after his death, I along with some of my friends decided to fulfil his dream and to keep his memory alive," Dipan's wife Marzia Rahman Joly told The Daily Star.

Entering the bookshop, spreading over about 3,000 square feet, one would be mesmerised to see a huge collection of books. One can read books there over a cup of coffee or snacks as there is a service named "Dipanjoli" inside the café.

"Books of foreign authors will also

be available here soon," said Marzia, also owner of the bookshop café.

The shop also has a stage named "Dipontola" for holding launching ceremonies of new books.

Dipanpur also has a special corner offering a huge collection of children's book.

"Children are now more interested in passing time on social networking sites than reading books. But here we have special arrangement for the children that will help build their reading habit," Marzia said.



Faisal Arefin Dipan

Some stationery products and paintings of different artists will be up for sale.

Noted writer Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal graced the inauguration ceremony last month. He said he had always wanted to have such bookshop café in the country. "I believe, if anyone comes here, his mind will be filled with joy," he added.

Dipan's father Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque of Bangla department and Prof Abul Barkat of economics department of Dhaka University, and Prof Yasmeen Haque of computer science department of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, were also present at the ceremony.

Two books -- "Sahitya Chinta" written by Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque and "Inir Jonno Chhora" by Kazi Tahmina -- were launched on the inaugural day.

TRADE BOOST WITH INDIA Govt modernising land ports

BSS, Dhaka

The government has launched a fresh project to develop the infrastructures of three land ports to boost trade with India through regional connectivity.

The security features of Benapole land port will also be modernised under the project.

The three new land ports are Shewla in Sylhet, Bhomra in Satkhira and Ramgar in Khagrachhari districts.

"Under the Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-I, immigration and customs facilities will be upgraded through the necessary infrastructural development to expedite trade and business with India," a planning ministry official told the news agency.

He said the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecneec) has already cleared the project involving Tk 693 crore. The Bangladesh Land

Port Authority is tasked with implementing the project by June, 2021.

According to the Development Project Proforma (DPP), Shewla Customs Station, situated at Biyanibazar upazila in Sylhet district, was declared a land port in 2015. Its opposite part is Sutarkandi land port which is in Karimganj district of the Indian state of Assam.

Besides, the operation of Bhomra land port started in 2013, and open yard, warehouse and other infrastructures have been constructed for it. But, expansion of yard for non-perishable goods appears inevitable for high pressure of cargos. Moreover, after the construction of the Padma Bridge, communication and traffic through this port will increase for less distance with Kolkata than Benapole land port.

On the other hand, the Ramgar land port is situated in Ramgar upazila of

Khagrachhari district. The port will be a vibrant place to boost trade with Tripura as the hilly north Indian state has over 400km border with Bangladesh. In addition, the development of the port will pave the way for using Chittagong port.

As the Benapole port is a more important land port to Bangladesh, the government is implementing "Sasei Road Connectivity Project Development of Benapole and Burimari Land Ports". But, security measures for Benapole were not included in the project that is why it has been incorporated in the new project.

Modern security system and boundary wall will be installed to make Benapole port more secure.

Bangladesh has a total of 23 land ports to run regional trade as it has 4,095km border with India.



Death anniversary of Santosh Gupta today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 13th death anniversary of eminent journalist and writer Santosh Gupta.

Santosh Gupta Smriti Parishad will place wreaths at his memorial at Postagola Crematorium this morning.

Biography of Santosh, written by Syed Mohammad Shahed and published by Bangla Academy, will be launched in the academy auditorium in the capital on Wednesday, marking the day.

Santosh served as the senior assistant editor of the Daily Sangbad and made significant contributions to all democratic movements including the Liberation War. His post editorials under the pen name "Aniruddha" made him popular at home and abroad.

He wrote 18 books and edited over 15.

He won different awards, including Swadhinata Padak and Ekushey Padak.

He died due to brain haemorrhage at the age of 80.



Visitors look at artworks at a group exhibition titled "Charcoal", organised by Galleri Kaya, on its premises in the capital's Uttara recently. The event beginning on July 28 has been extended till August 18. It was scheduled to end on August 11.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Youth

FROM PAGE 3

SIM Farhan Sheikh, director of Hello Governance, said connecting youths through social networking sites and e-governance can help change the existing society.

Muntakim Saad, a reporter of The Daily Star, said the youths are not responsible for the problems they are facing now.

"Concerned authorities, who are constantly pushing the youths back, should change their mindset and help the youths grow irrespective of their identities," he said.

BIPSS President Maj Gen (retd) ANM Muniruzzaman and Prothom Alo Associate Editor Abdul Quayum, among others, spoke at the roundtable.

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Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the seventh death anniversary of Taslimuddin Ahmed, a leather technologist, says a press release.

He was the son of late Dr Altafuddin Ahmed, founding principal of Chittagong Medical College.

His wife Yasmeen Ahmed requested relatives, friends and well-wishers to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

High hope for tourism

FROM PAGE 3

BEZA officials said they will give priority to private investors -- both from home and abroad.

The proposed park is five kilometres from Teknaf. Cox's Bazar-Sabrang Marine Drive is the access road to the proposed park that connects the National Highway in a stretch of five kilometres.

Cox's Bazar airport is 96 kilometres from the proposed park while Teknaf Land Port is nine and the Naaf river is eight.

Minorities drowning

FROM PAGE 3

that her government termed the communities ethnic minorities, let alone implementing the declaration," he said.

Noted columnist and writer Syed Abul Maksud urged the government and political parties to observe the indigenous day across the country.

"If the government can observe different types of days...why it could not observe the indigenous day?" he said. "No sponsors would be needed to observe the day if people come forward in this regard."

Pankaj Bhattacharya, president of Oikya Nap, termed the recent incidents of violence against the minority communities a consequence of political crisis. He said the incidents occurred due to a lack of democracy in the country.

"I salute the journalists who stayed beside the minority communities and raised their voice against the violence amid pressure of section 57 of the ICT act," he said.

Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, and Prof Mesbah Kamal of Dhaka University also spoke among others.

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