

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 33.2 L 25.4	MYMENSINGH H 32.0 L 24.9	CHITTAGONG H 33.6 L 26.8	SYLHET H 33.7 L 24.9	RAJSHAHI H 31.8 L 25.8	RANGPUR H 29.5 L 25.0	KHULNA H 32.5 L 25.0	BARISAL H 33.8 L 25.6	COX'S BAZAR H 33.0 L 25.8
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Light to moderate rain/thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Barisal and Chittagong 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 5:43pm and rises tomorrow at 5:51am, Met offices said.

Boss of a firm held over stealing Tk 6cr fertiliser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday arrested a director of a shipping firm for misappropriating around Tk 6 crore worth of fertiliser belonging to Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC).

According to the case statement, the arrestee, Moshir Rahman Khan of Bogra, is an executive director of South Delta Shipping and Trading Ltd that had a contract to deliver 8,500 metric tonnes of fertiliser to a BCIC buffer warehouse at Santahar of Bogra.

The contractor, however, misappropriated 3,889.55 metric tonnes of the fertiliser as it delivered only 4,610.45 metric tonnes to the warehouse.

A former deputy chief engineer (technical) of BCIC and its warehouse in-charge Nabir Uddin Khan illegally sold the 3,889.55 metric tonnes of fertiliser, certifying that they had received the entire shipment of 8,500 tonnes of fertiliser.

ACC's assistant director Aminul Islam filed the case yesterday with Adamdighi Police Station against the arrestee, Nabir and Masudur Rahman, former accounts officer of the warehouse.

The ACC is conducting drives to arrest the other accused in the case.

Meanwhile, the ACC yesterday submitted charge sheet against two former government employees and a former municipality mayor of Shailakupa in three separate cases filed over corruption that took place between 2015 and 2016.

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This portion under the Mayor Hanif Flyover in the capital's Fulbaria area has turned into a makeshift stable. As the horses are fed and tended there, the air in the area gets filled with acrid smell of their urine and faeces. The place is also being used as a stand for horse-driven carriages. Though this has long been a public nuisance, the authorities concerned turn a blind eye. The photo was taken on Saturday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

ROHINGYA CRISIS Working group an 'uncertain' process

Says Fakhru
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said the proposition of forming a joint working group to repatriate Rohingyas is an "uncertain" process.

"This [joint working group] is an uncertain matter. This proves that the incumbent government has failed to solve the Rohingya issue with urgency," he alleged, adding, "The government also failed to convince the international community the severity of the situation facing Bangladesh."

Fakhru made the remarks at a programme organised by Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sanskritik Sangstha at the capital's Segunbagicha Kochikacha Auditorium.

"The prime minister or any high-up of the government is yet to go abroad to resolve the Rohingya crisis," the BNP leader also said.

BGB-BSF TALKS IN DELHI TODAY BSF killing to top agenda

STAR REPORT

The issues of India's Border Security Force (BSF) killing unarmed Bangladeshi nationals and the smuggling of firearms and drugs from India into Bangladesh are likely to be on the top of the agenda at the bi-annual director general-level talks in Delhi today between the border protection forces of Bangladesh and India.

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) is expected to once again raise the issues at the talks, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

According to rights group Ain o Salish Kendra, 16 Bangladeshis were killed by BSF along the border during the first nine months of this year while 31 were killed in 2016 and 46 in 2015.

The other issues Bangladesh will raise at the talks include detention of innocent Bangladeshi citizens by BSF, illegal trespassing of Indian nationals, Indian mobile phone network coverage on Bangladesh border, development and construction works within 150 yards of the zero line and protection of banks of joint rivers, according to BGB officials in Dhaka.

Other issues to be taken up at the BGB-BSF meeting include illegal cross-border movement, human trafficking, smuggling of fake Indian currency, narcotics, cattle smuggling, border vigil and building single-row fencing between the two countries.

The chiefs of BDR and BSF are expected to address a joint media conference on October 5 -- the last day of the meet.

A 26-member delegation headed by BGB Director General Maj Gen Abul Hossain reached Delhi yesterday afternoon. BGB high officials and commanders of different regions and officials from the home ministry, foreign ministry, narcotics control department, Joint Rivers Commission, Land Record and Survey Department, and Survey of Bangladesh are included in the delegation.

The Indian side, led by BSF Director General KK Sharma, will consist of officials from the Indian external affairs ministry, Surveyor General of India and Narcotics Control Bureau.

'Accidentally' alive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was around 6:30 in the morning. Clad in burqa, a woman dumped a shopping bag on the road beside a five-storey building in the capital's Chowdhury Para area of Khilgaon.

Coincidentally, some residents of the building witnessed the incident and grew curious. They walked down the road to look for what was inside the bag.

As they approached, they heard a faint cry coming out of the bag.

A newborn baby girl, they found inside it, still alive. She was crying.

On information from the locals, police admitted the infant to nearby Khidma Hospital. Later the baby was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 9:30am, said Moshire Rahman, officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station.

The baby is now at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of DMCH.

Manisha Bannerjee, a professor of neonatology at DMC, said the baby was premature, weighing 1.75kg. A normal healthy newborn weighs around 2.5kg, according to doctors.

"The baby got cold as she was left in an open place. We warmed her up, and she is recovering now," the professor said.

Though the girl is doing okay, but she is still not out of danger, she said.

No signs of injury were found in her body, she added.

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BAD WEATHER Pvt chopper crash-lands in Pabna, one hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A private helicopter broke down in front of Chatmohar Palli Bidyut office when it made an urgent landing in the area to evade accident amid heavy shower yesterday afternoon.

One of the passengers was slightly injured while four other passengers and the pilot were rescued unhurt, said Md Ahsanul Habib, officer in charge (OC) of Chatmohar Police Station.

"A private helicopter of Square Aviation carrying five people from Dhaka reached near Chatmohar Palli Bidyut office around 5:00pm. The aircraft fell down and broke as the

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Meet the modern day 'Runner'

MD ABBAS, CU

In mid-2016, a teacher and two of his students of computer science and engineering department of Chittagong University (CU) were having an informal chat while walking on the department corridor.

But little did they imagine that their conversation would soon turn into something productive -- the idea of developing an Android game, being inspired by a poem of Sukanta Bhattacharya under the title "Runner". The game was later named "Mail Runner".

Sukanta wrote the poem focusing on the fearful, lonely and brave life of a runner -- an idea he borrowed from the early history of postal communication era when runners were highly popular figures in many parts of Asia, Africa, and different continents before introducing modern mailing system like post office. While carrying the mails, the runners used to hold the light in one hand and a javelin in another hand.

As per the discussion, Prof Hanif Siddiqe and his two students, Imtiaz Shuvo and Shakwat Nazim, both now graduates, teamed up for the project. Some other students also joined in voluntarily, but the three were the nucleus of the team.

Soon, the team started brainstorming and holding sessions to get something concrete. The seven-month-long hard work finally paid off. In January this year, the group officially started developing the game and launched it on February 22, much to their delight.

Referring to the runners' way of the world before the modern mailing system, Prof Hanif said while playing the game, one will get accustomed to the thrilling life runners used to lead back then.

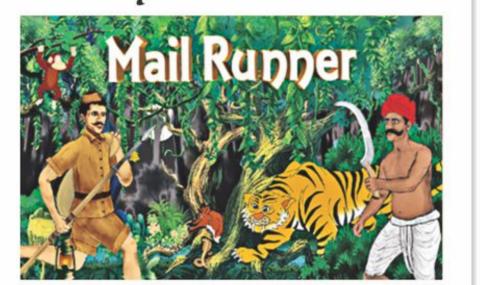
The game's historical significance makes it more enjoyable and appealing, he said.

"The game has a spontaneous medieval vibe. Background sounds feel like real."

"The game is surely a milestone in the Bangladeshi gaming industry," he said, hoping that it would be able to attract the game-loving people.

Prof Hanif also acknowledged the contributions

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Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid along with University Grants Commission Chairman Professor Abdul Mannan cutting a cake marking the 13th Foundation Day of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) on the university campus in the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday. ULAB Emeritus Professor Rafiqul Islam, Members of ULAB's Board of Trustees Kazi Nabil Ahmed, MP, Juditha Ohlmacher and Taheerah Haque, Vice Chancellor Prof Dr HM Jahurul Haque, and Prof Imran Rahman were present among others. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Anti-discrimination law a must Gowher Rizvi tells NHRC consultation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Enactment of anti-discrimination law is necessary to put an end to the various forms of discrimination prevailing in the society, said Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi yesterday.

Some people are not allowed to take certain jobs and even sit at village tea stalls, he told a consultation programme arranged by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

"It is unacceptable and we must have anti-discrimination law as soon as possible," he added.

He said a draft copy of the law is ready and is presently at the legislative and parliamentary affairs division of the law ministry.

NHRC arranged the consultation to share the draft Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report prepared by the commission with different stakeholders. A final copy of the report highlighting the country's human rights situation and recommendations is supposed to be submitted to the UN Human Rights Council this month.

Gowher Rizvi said the Dalits are the most disadvantaged groups in the society.

"It is the injustice we have been perpetrated and yet we do not think about this in our daily discourse," he said.

To ensure human rights, he further said, people need to develop a human rights culture first. Along with this culture comes respect for the rule of law, he observed.

Expressing his frustration, he said it is shocking that the privileged, well-off and powerful people think they are above the law; they think they make laws and rules for others, but not for themselves.

"As long as this remains, we will not be able to develop a human rights culture."

UNDP Bangladesh Country Director Sudipto Mukherjee and NHRC Full Time Member Nazrul Islam also spoke.

Road crashes kill six

CITY DESK

Six people died in road accidents in the country yesterday.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports, three people were killed and three others injured when a pick-up van carrying them collided head-on with a bus on Rangpur-Dhaka highway near Jaigirhat area in Mithapur upazila of Rangpur.

The dead are Monowara Begum, 40, of village Thanka, Monzu Mia, 35, of village Biral, and Abdul Kuddus 60, of village Biral of Bogra's Sherpur. The injured were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile in Dinajpur Sadar upazila, two people died as a bus hit a three-wheeler, locally known easy bike, they were travelling by on Dinajpur-Rangpur

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'Speed to blame' for Comilla bus plunge that killed 7

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

The bus was heading towards Dhaka from Comilla.

When it reached Nuritala, around 25km from the district town, the vehicle was moving at a high speed. There was a sharp turn ahead and a road sign warns oncoming vehicles of it and asks the drivers to slow down. But the driver of this bus overlooked the cautionary information, and at some point lost control over the wheel, letting the vehicle plunge into a roadside ditch full of water with more than 30 passengers.

This is how the Comilla road accident unfolded Sunday on Dhaka-Chittagong highway. Seven passengers were killed and at least 15 others injured.

"The driver was young, around 20 or 22. He was driving at a very high speed and chasing and trying to overtake another bus," said an injured survivor, Walilluah, 35, a resident of Debidwar upazila, Comilla. He blamed overspeeding for the accident.

Echoing him, Officer-in-Charge of Chandina Police Station Nasir Uddin Mrida told The Daily Star that this was not the first time an accident occurred at the location due to overspeeding. Nuritala is an accident-prone area, he said.

"There is a sharp turn here," he said, adding, "There are also warning signs asking drivers to slow down. But often drivers overlook the sign, try to speed past the place and eventually lose control over their vehicles."

Talking to The Daily star at the spot, local imam Mojaffar Islam, 50, said this was a four-lane road with a divider. "There is no way a head-on collision could occur. It was totally an avoidable accident."

He demanded exemplary punishment for the driver.

Both the driver and his helper of the Tisha Paribahan bus fled the scene instantly.

THE DECEASED

Five of the bus passengers died on the spot, while two others were declared dead in Chandina Upazila Health Complex, according to police.

One of the deceased, Jashim Uddin, a resident of Comilla sadar upazila, was heading to Dhaka to catch a flight to Oman at 7:00pm.

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As part of the campus activation programme, the export idea contest "Rise High Bangladesh" reached North South University (NSU) in the capital yesterday. Winners of the puzzle game pose with gifts on the university campus. The campaign will be held in 15 universities all over the country. PHOTO: STAR