

WEATHER
FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA H 27.1 L 17.2	MYMENSINGH H 27.0 L 15.5	CHITTAGONG H 27.6 L 16.5	SYLHET H 27.2 L 16.3	RAJSHAHI H 26.0 L 14.4	RANGPUR H 27.0 L 14.6	KHULNA H 26.6 L 14.2	BARISAL H 27.5 L 14.0	COX'S BAZAR H 28.2 L 17.5
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Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during mid-night to till this morning. Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:19pm and rises tomorrow at 6:40am.

Decomposed body found in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered a partially decomposed body of a man from a house in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong yesterday. The deceased was identified as Saiful Islam, 35, from Doazipara of Muradpur union in the upazila, police said quoting locals. There were injury marks on the body of the victim, said Sub-Inspector (SI) Imdadul Haque of Sitakunda Police Station. Locals informed police yesterday after a foul smell was emitting from his house that was locked from the outside, he added. Police broke the door open and found the body. They later sent it to Chittagong Medical College Hospital Morgue for an autopsy. Saiful was a barber and he might have died around four days ago, said police.

Road crash kills one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A man was killed while another injured in a road accident in Sapahar upazila of Naogaon early yesterday. The deceased is Masud Rana, 28, son of Alauddin, of Raipur village in the upazila. The accident occurred when the motorcycle carrying them went out of control and hit a roadside tree, said police. Locals rushed them to Sapahar Upazila Health Complex. Masud died on way to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.



ARE WE THERE YET?

Ongoing work of overhauling sewerage system in Chawk Bazar area of Dhaka has turned the area inaccessible to any sort of vehicle. The work, under Dhaka South City Corporation, has been going on for around six months. But throughout this extended duration of work, the authorities have been ignoring to provide a safe passageway for pedestrians, let alone for vehicles. Clockwise from top, a man hangs on to an electric pole to pass a heap of mud on the roadside, while a woman follows him trying to steer clear of the mud. Excavation work going on without any safety barrier for pedestrians. A large section of a road left unrepaired after installation of sewer pipes. The photos were taken yesterday.

Malta cultivation sees success in Barisal

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

Two years ago, Sadik Hossain's fate changed when he harvested malta, a very profitable fruit in the southern district. Malta farming has turned out to be a success for the businessman turned farmer, as well as for many others in Barisal. Sadik, a small businessman from Dinar village under Charkawa union of Barisal Sadar upazila, decided to plant malta trees on his land to grow organic fruits after learning that chemical-tainted fruits pose threat to human health. With that in mind, two years ago, he planted malta trees. Now all his malta trees are producing fruits. "I have already sold 6 maunds of malta for Tk 20,000 a maund in the local market," Sadik said. He planted 200 plants of "Bari malta" on two acres of land investing Tk 80,000 in November 2015. Now he hopes to plant 300 more trees on

additional three acres of land. Sumitra, 35, owner of another malta orchard in Tulaban village, said, "Last year, I sold Tk 80,000 worth of malta. I hope to get Tk 1.5 lakh [from its sale] this season, spending only Tk 25,000." One kilogram of large and sweet malta is selling at Tk 100 in the local market, Sumitra added. Following Sumitra's footsteps, others have also become inspired and interested in cultivating malta. Real Chakma, 32, had a good harvest this year from his orchard. Maha Ranjan Chakma, 35, a fruit trader, said he collected malta from the local orchards this year. He sold them at high price because the quality of the fruit was good. The use of vermi-compost fertiliser and bio-pesticide instead of chemical fertilisers or insecticides is also increasing to ensure organic nature of the fruit. The fruit weighs 250 to 300 grams

each, said Gonesh Chandra Dutta, 45, a fruit trader. "It is very popular in local market, because it is more tasty and delicious compared to the imported ones," he added. Swapon Kumar Halder, senior deputy director of Horticulture Centre at Agriculture Research Institute in Barisal, said malta farming is now popular in the southern region and it is increasing day by day as it is a profitable crop. Deputy Director of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in the district Krishno Prasad Mallik said malta was grown on 54 hectares of land in the district and 635 tonnes of the fruit was harvested this year. The yield has been good due to favourable weather conditions, he added. A pilot project was taken up for the first time in Chittagong hill tracts with a variety called Bari-1 and around 18,000 malta plants were distributed by DAE among farmers in the district this year, he also said.



Farmer Sadik Hossain working at his malta orchard in Barisal Sadar upazila. His orchard has produced high yields in the very first year.

PHOTO: STAR

NEWS IN brief

N'ganj OC closed over negligence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The officer-in-charge (OC) of Narayanganj Sadar Police Station was closed to police lines on charges of negligence in duty yesterday. The police official is Mir Shahin Shah Parvez, said Superintendent of Police (SP) of Narayanganj Moinul Haque. The SP and the deputy commissioner went to Sadh Paul's church beside Bangabandhu Road in Narayanganj city to join Christmas programme yesterday. To ensure maximum security, the police officials concerned were directed to make the footpath in front of the church free of hawkers, said police sources. But, Shahin did not take proper steps to evict the hawkers; moreover, he misbehaved with an additional superintendent of police, the sources added.

Shahed RUJ president, Arafat GS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Kazi Shahed and Illias Arafat were elected as the president and general secretary respectively of Rajshahi Union of Journalists (RUJ) yesterday. Nurul Islam Sarker, chief election commissioner of RUJ, declared the results of the triennial election held at Barendra College in Rajshahi city. Sharif Sumon was elected as the vice president while Saifur Rahman Rocky as the joint secretary of the seven-member committee.

Motorcyclist dies in road accident

UNB, Chuadanga

A motorcyclist was killed when his vehicle collided head-on with a human hauler in Noymile area of Alamdanga upazila yesterday. The human hauler (locally known as tractor) hit the motorcycle ridden by Rashedul Islam, son of Razzak Biswas of Panchkamolapur village, while he was returning to his workplace in Dhaka from his residence. He died on the spot, said Tozammel Haque, officer-in-charge of Alamdanga Police Station.

Journo Delwar passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Sheikh Delwar Hossain, general secretary of Hakimpur Press Club and staff correspondent of private television channel Rtv, died of cardiac arrest on Sunday evening. He was 46. He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter. His namaz-e-janaza, held on the press club premises, was attended by journalists from Dinajpur and Joypurhat. He was buried at his family graveyard at Dhakkhin Basudevpur village in Hakimpur upazila yesterday afternoon.

NRB Conclave

Transforming Bangladesh through Knowledge Remittance

Lutfey Siddiqi CFA
Governor & Visiting Professor-in-Practice
London School of Economics

Faisal Ahmed
Chief Economist
Bangladesh Bank

Nazia Andaleeb Preema
Visual Artist
Bangladesh Creative Forum
President
Women in Leadership (WIL)

Tina Zabin
Policy Advisor
Startup Bangladesh

Humayun Rashid
Managing Director
Energypac Power Generation Limited

Kazi M. Aminul Islam
Executive Chairman
Bangladesh Investment
Development Authority (BIDA)

Dr. Arif Dowla
Managing Director
ACI Limited

6 keynote sessions 3 panel discussions

1 insight session

Panel Discussion Topics

- Investment and NRB challenges & opportunities
- NRB and future skill development
- NRB and transforming the 8 divisions through innovation

*THE EVENT IS BY INVITATION ONLY

Registration & Information

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Date: 30 December, 2017
Time: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Venue: Grand Ballroom
Le Meridien Dhaka