

WEATHER

FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR	Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, said the Met Office. Moderate to thick fog may occur over northern part and river basins of the country during mid-night till noon. Light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country during midnight till morning. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:35pm and rises tomorrow at 06:43am.
	H 25.0 L 12.8	H 23.3 L 10.7	H 25.0 L 13.8	H 24.7 L 15.0	H 22.5 L 08.6	H 23.0 L 09.9	H 24.8 L 11.2	H 25.5 L 10.4	H 26.3 L 14.7	

Tarana appoints 'torture victim' as assistant

UNB, Dhaka

Purnima Sheel, allegedly tortured by BNP-Jamaat-e-Islami men during the post-election violence in 2001, has been appointed as the personal officer (PO) of State Minister for Information Tarana Halim. In her Facebook post Tarana writes, "Can you remember that Purnima of Sirajganj, the 14-year-old girl, who was the victim of monstrous torture of BNP-Jamaat after the election on October 1 in 2001. Today I feel proud that I have appointed Purnima, the victim, as my personal officer."

She also said, "Purnima, we have not forgotten you. You have seen the dark side of life; now you are welcome to the world of light... Let's start moving forward; dear Purnima, I greet you."



Speakers at a memorial meeting for former Dhaka North City Corporation mayor Annisul Huq at Bangla Academy yesterday. Shilpir Pashe Foundation organised the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

Strict enforcement of tobacco act stressed

BSS, Rangpur

Anti-tobacco activists yesterday laid emphasis on creating social awareness for strict enforcement of the amended Tobacco Control Act to save thousands of nonsmokers from indirect smoking.

As the anti-tobacco campaign is carried out at a considerable scale, tobacco companies are changing strategies to hinder success in the policy-making process by inspiring farmers in tobacco cultivation offering them lucrative profits, they said.

The opinion came at an advocacy meeting organised by District Tobacco Control Law Enforcement Task-force Committee (DTCLETC) and Association for Community Development (ACD) at conference room of the deputy commissioner in Lalmonirhat district town.

Project Coordinator of ACD Ehsanul Amin Emon narrated the present tobacco cultivation scenario, violation of the amended Tobacco Control Act and health hazards of smoking in public places.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) of Lalmonirhat Rezaul Alam Sarker, the chief guest, called for creating public awareness to ensure strict enforcement of the tobacco control laws.

Member-secretary of DTCLETC and Civil Surgeon of Lalmonirhat Dr Kashem Ali chaired the meeting.

The man of vision remembered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent personalities yesterday recalled Dhaka North City Corporation mayor Annisul Huq as a visionary social worker, who dreamt of transforming the city into a modern one.

Unlike many others, Annisul did not just dream and not follow through. He acted courageously to implement his visions, they told a commemorative programme at Bangla Academy in the capital.

Shilpir Pashe Foundation (SPF), an organisation founded by the late mayor to help ailing artists, arranged the programme in Abdul Karim Shahitya Bisharad Auditorium of the academy.

While serving as the DNCC mayor, Annisul, who was suffering from a neurological ailment, lost his battle for life in a London hospital on November 30 last year, after nearly three months' treatment there. He was 65.

Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman said Annisul combined hard work with determination to orchestrate a plan for a modern Dhaka city.

He removed an illegal truck stand in Tejgaon area, a move many would not have dared to accomplish. To achieve something like that, not just determination courage is also essential, said Prof Anisuzzaman.

Bishwo Shahitto Kendro founder Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said Annisul aspired to build a Dhaka the way its



Annisul Huq

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Bengal Foundation Chairman Abul Khair said people will remember Annisul for what he accomplished. Others will have to come forward to complete his unfinished works, he added.

Annisul's widow Rubana Huq said as a public servant, he has set an example. All his life he pursued the aesthetics of art, she added.

DNCC mayoral aspirant Atiqul Islam, magician Jewel Aich, singer Syed Abdul Hadi, media personality Nawazish Ali Khan, and SPF Secretary General Omar Sadat, also spoke.

dwellers want to see it.

Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam said Annisul wanted to change the country's political practices. "The kind of politics he practiced should be followed by others," he said.

Litterateur Selina Hossain said it is hard to accept the demise of Annisul. He was such a mayor who thought that development is required not only in terms of constructing structures but through enriching literature, arts and culture, she said.

Businessperson Anjan Choudhury said Annisul was a successful businessman as well as a good father and a family person.

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Lone consumer rights body struggling

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three of them will be available by the next fiscal year. The consumers will be able to lodge their complaints through their mobile phones..."

Sources at the DNCRP said it has so far earned around Tk 25 crore as fine from various companies and trading houses since the Consumer Rights Protection Act-2009 (CRPA-2009)

came into effect on April 6, 2010.

The money was collected through disposing of around 8,653 complaints as well as conducting 8,833 drives in markets and trading houses between April 10 and December 31, 2017.

A total of 33,980 organisations were fined either following the complaints filed by aggrieved consumers or during

market drives.

The CRPA, 2009 was formulated to provide protection of consumer rights and also to prevent any acts against consumer rights and interest and other relevant issues.

According to the CRPA-2009, an aggrieved consumer can get 25 percent of total fine, while the DNCRP get the rest 75 percent.

UN official arrives today

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Rohigya refugees who have been taking shelter in Bangladesh to flee persecution in their homeland by the Myanmar military.

So far, since the military crackdown was unleashed in Rakhine state of Myanmar on August 25, more than 6,55,000 Rohingyas have taken refuge in Bangladesh.

Yanghee's original plan was to visit parts of Myanmar including the Rakhine state in January to assess the state of human rights across the country.

The Myanmar authorities, however, slapped a restriction on her entry to the

country and withdrew their cooperation till the rest of her tenure.

Against this backdrop, she decided to visit Bangladesh and Thailand instead.

Before departing on her 13-day trip, Yanghee, a human rights expert, in a statement yesterday said, "I am determined to carry on -- to the best of my ability -- this very important task of helping the victims of human rights violations and abuses in Myanmar, as mandated to me by the United Nations system."

"By not giving me access to Myanmar and by refusing to cooperate with the mandate, my task is made

that much more difficult, but I will continue to obtain first-hand accounts from victims and witnesses of human rights violations by all means possible, including by visiting neighbouring countries where some have fled."

"I have a responsibility to speak on behalf of these victims, and I will not be deterred. This is why I am going ahead to visit neighbouring countries to reach out as far as possible to all victims and witnesses to learn of their experience," Yanghee said.

Following the visit, she will present a report to the Human Rights Council in March 2018.



Passengers on a speed boat travelling to Sandwip from different parts of Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong yesterday. The journey is extremely perilous, but commuters take this route everyday without wearing any life jacket. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Vehicles plying a heavily damaged road at Demra near the Mayor Hanif flyover in the capital's Jatrabari. Hundreds of vehicles use this damaged yet busy road everyday. The road is filled with numerous potholes making it risky for vehicles to ply. Despite the fact, it has not undergone any maintenance work for long. The photo was taken yesterday.

Engage children in literary

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spreading the ideas of non-communalism and amity.

"Cultural activists have to carry on with their selfless activities to uphold the spirit of the liberation," he said.

Eminent writer Selina Hossain said the conference is a grand combination of Bangla literature and culture as many writers and artists are gathered here.

"Our motto should be spreading love and affection to each other through the

conference," she said.

Poet Azizur Rahman Aziz, writer Sunil Kumar Bhattacharya, dramatist Saibal Kumar Ghosh, University of North Bengal Prof Utpal Mandal, and the Bengal Council Secretary General Kamrul Islam, also spoke.

Earlier, activities of the conference started at Dhaka University around 9:00am with a poetry recitation. Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Akhtaruzzaman was present there as the chief guest.

9th wage board for journalists

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interests would get priority in the wage board over the interest of newspaper owners.

Tarana said she wants to sit with television (TV) journalists, who are working in the field, for eliminating the wage discrimination in broadcast journalism.

She also informed about a plan of conducting a publicity campaign titled "Branding Bangladesh" to publicise the country's development and prospects at upazila and district levels and in different foreign missions.

The campaign will contain the information of the country's migrant workers' contributions to the economies of the countries where they are employed in, Tarana said.

It will also highlight the number and employment sectors of migrant workers as well as their contributions to the domestic economy.

The Department of Films and Publications (DFP) has already been directed to take measures regarding the publicity campaign, the state minister added.

Star graphics

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Mirpur Jannatul Mawa graveyard following a namaz-e-janaza.

The Daily Star deeply mourned his untimely death and conveyed sincere condolences to the bereaved family members.

Ban the short

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constitution and are tantamount to issuing Fatwa (religious edict) on women.

Spreading such inflammatory and instigating material is a punishable offence under various laws including the Information and Communication Technology Act 2006.

Therefore, the short film needs to be banned and all the people affiliated with the film including its producer Hurricane Production and its director Hayat Mahmud Rahat need to be brought to book, the ASK said.