

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 25.0 L 12.0	H 22.7 L 10.3	H 27.0 L 12.5	H 24.0 L 11.7	H 24.1 L 08.4	H 22.5 L 09.0	H 26.2 L 12.0	H 26.8 L 10.0	H 26.8 L 14.0

Weather may remain dry over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, said the Met office. Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the country during mid-night till morning. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:40pm and rises tomorrow at 06:40am. Highest and lowest temperature recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

ICT seeks probe report against 2 Habiganj men March 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday directed the prosecution to submit an investigation report, if any, on March 11 in a case filed against two Habiganj men for allegedly committing crimes during the Liberation War in 1971.

Yesterday was fixed for submitting the report but Prosecutor Zead Al Malum sought one-month time and the three-member tribunal led by Justice Md Shahinur Islam fixed the date.

The accused -- Jamal Uddin Master, 65, and Abul Khayer Golap alias Golap Mia, 65, of Nabiganj upazila in the district -- are now in jail.

The accused were allegedly involved in killing, rape, torture and abduction in the district, the prosecution said.



A group of students of Dhaka University burn the effigy of the proctor in front of Raju memorial sculpture yesterday. The students under the banner "Students against Repression" also demanded his resignation for not taking any action against Bangladesh Chhatra League activists over attack on them.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

NEWS IN brief

90 maund of jatka seized in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Coastguard and fisheries department seized 90 maund of jatka (hilsa fry less than 10 inches) in the Kirtonkhola river in Barisal city yesterday afternoon.

On a tip-off, coastguard officials searched an abandoned trawler in the river and seized the fish fries, said Bimol Chandra Das, district fisheries officer.

Prof Amran Comilla University VC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Dr Amran Kabir Chowdhury, professor of Dhaka University's biochemistry and molecular biology department, has been appointed the new vice-chancellor of Comilla University for the next four years.

The education ministry yesterday issued a notice signed by its Deputy Secretary Habibur Rahman in this regard.

DoE fines iron factory in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Department of Environment (DoE) fined an iron-rod manufacturing factory Tk 1 lakh in Chittagong city for polluting the environment by emitting black smoke.

Benz Industries (Bangladesh) Ltd, located in Nasirabad industrial area, was instructed to take necessary measures in this regard, said Sangjukta Das Gupta, assistant director of DoE, Chittagong.

Wage board for journos outcome of combined efforts: Inu

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu yesterday said the formation of the ninth wage board for journalists and employees of newspapers and news agencies was a result of demands made by journalists and efforts of the information ministry.

While addressing a press conference in the Press Information Department (PID) auditorium in the capital, he attributed the formation of the 9th wage board to the combined efforts of journalists and the information ministry as well as the government's journalist-friendly guidelines.

State Minister for Information Tarana Halim also spoke on the occasion.

Justice Sayeed's birth anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the ninety sixth birth anniversary of late Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, former president of Bangladesh.

On the occasion, Utsho Publishers will reprint Bengali literary journal "Rupayan", which was edited by Abu Sayeed Chowdhury in 1940, inspired by national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, said a press release.

Justice Chowdhury resigned from the post of vice chancellor of Dhaka University on March 15, 1971 protesting the murder of two students by Pakistani occupation forces.

He played a significant role in mobilising the world opinion for the cause of Bangladesh as a special envoy of the provisional government. In 1985, he was unanimously elected chairman of UN human rights commission.

Social worker Khalek dies

BSS, Dhaka

Abdul Khalek, a renowned social worker and businessman of Shariatpur district, died at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) on Monday, aged 82, family sources said.

He left behind his wife, eight sons, four daughters, a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He had been sufferings from old age complications for long. His namaz-e-janaja will be held on the ground of Goidda SM Senior Madrasah in Bhedorganj of Shariatpur district after the Asr prayers yesterday.

7 DU AFFILIATED COLLGES Admission seekers' demo shuts Nilkhet

DU CORRESPONDENT

Admission seekers of seven colleges affiliated with Dhaka University yesterday demonstrated in the capital's Nilkhet intersection alleging irregularities in the admission process of 2017-2018 session.

They blocked the intersection for three hours, halting vehicular movement on the road from Nilkhet to Azimpur. This resulted in sufferings for commuters. The demonstrators claimed that many who appeared in the admission test of 2017-18 session are yet to get desired college or subject though they were in the merit list. On the other hand, many students who did not even appear in the exam got their.

Students withdrew the demonstration around 3:00pm after Abu Mohammad Delowar Hossainan, DU social science and arts faculty coordinator, assured them of resolving the issues by February 9.

Create environment for voluntary return of Rohingyas

US State Dept official urges Myanmar

UNB, Dhaka

The United States has said it will continue to call upon the Myanmar government to create necessary conditions in Rakhine so that Rohingyas can voluntarily return to their homes safely from Bangladesh.

"We'll continue to call on Myanmar government to create right conditions in Rakhine State that will facilitate safe return of Refugees," said visiting Deputy Assistant Secretary in the US State Department's Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Daniel N Rosenblum.

He made the remarks while responding to a set of questions after delivering a lecture on "The United States and the Indo-Pacific Region" in Dhaka yesterday.

US Ambassador Marcia Benicat and BISS Director General AKM Abdur Rahman, among others, spoke with BISS Chairman Munshi Faiz Ahmad in the chair.

Rosenblum said they strongly applaud the government of Bangladesh's response to the Rohingya crisis and its generosity in giving Rohingyas shelter in the country.

"We appreciate the efforts that the government is making to ensure that assistance reaches refugee camps," said the US Deputy Assistant Secretary.

"Everybody knows we've spoken out strongly about the atrocities," he said, adding that they will keep speaking out, will keep providing assistance and keep recognising the sacrifices Bangladesh made in dealing with the tragedy.

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) hosted the event at its conference room in the afternoon.

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PROTECTING LABOUR RIGHTS

Negligent employers, unaware workers major hurdle: Study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Negligence of employers in informal sectors and lack of awareness of their workers are major impediments to protecting the rights of workers through ensuring decent work environment and safety at workplace, found a recent study.

More than 98 percent of the employers in the sector do not provide any employment contract to their workers. Moreover, 56 percent of the employers and 44 percent of the workers do not have any knowledge about labour rights and decent workplace practices.

B-SkillFUL conducted the study, funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the European Union.

Findings of the study were revealed at a discussion organised jointly by National Skills Development Council (NSDC), Informal Sector Industry Skills Council (IS-ISC) and B-SkillFUL at NSDC office in the capital yesterday.

The survey, implemented by Switzerland-based organisation Swisscontact, was conducted between September 2017 and December 2017 in Gazipur, Tangail, Jessore, Bogra, Dinajpur and Joypurhat.

A total of 368 informal enterprises including different types of workshops (automobile, metal work, electronics, mobile phone and furniture), tiles fitters, tailors, boutiques and beauty parlours were surveyed.

The study also found that about 68 percent of workers in the sector have no knowledge about legal work hours and 70 percent of the workers have to work more than eight hours -- the maximum daily work hour permitted by the labour law.

Around 75 percent workers in the sector do not have any training on occupational safety and health hazards, according to the survey.

Dr Jakir Hossain, lead researcher of the survey project and also a professor at Rajshahi University, said employers in the sector deprive their workers of necessary facilities such as hygienic toilets and clean and ventilated workplace. As such, about 79 percent of them do not recruit female workers -- an act of gender discrimination. The ones still hire female workers do not even allow them any maternity leave.

ABM Khorshed Alam, chief executive officer of NSDC; Mirza Nurul Ghani Shovon, president of IS-ISC; and Matiur Rahaman, team leader of B-SkillFUL project; spoke, among others.

Action if

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way, metal detector and physical checking. He requested the city dwellers not to carry bags, backpacks or flammable substances while visiting the fair.

The fair venues and the surrounding areas will be hawk free and under CCTV coverage, he said.

A SWAT team, bomb disposal unit and dog squad will remain standby while a huge number of officials, in civil dress, remain deployed on the premises.

The security measures have been taken to ensure safety at the fair venues so everyone can enjoy the fair amid festivity, he added.

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