

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 29.5 L 19.0	H 29.2 L 16.0	H 30.8 L 16.4	H 30.2 L 15.2	H 28.5 L 15.4	H 27.6 L 14.0	H 29.4 L 16.5	H 30.3 L 14.4	H 31.5 L 18.6

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country, having chances of light rain over North & Northwestern part of Bangladesh in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, said the Met office. Light fog may occur at places over the river basins of the country during late night till morning. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:53pm and rises tomorrow at 06:32am. Highest and lowest temperature recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

'Snatcher' responsible for victim's death held

The incident took place in Dhanmondi Jan 26
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday claimed to have arrested a mugger who was involved in the killing of a woman by pulling her handbag from a car and driving the vehicle over her in the capital's Dhanmondi on January 26. Dhanmondi police arrested Abdullah in Ashulia, on the outskirts of the capital yesterday and seized the car that was used in the mugging, said Maruf Hossain Sorder, deputy commissioner (DC) of Ramna Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

Yesterday, Abdullah confessed to his involvement in the crime before the magistrate of a Dhaka court. He was later sent to jail.

Helena Begum, a 40-year-old caregiver at Green Life Hospital in the city, was killed on the spot as some muggers in a car pulled her handbag, dragged her about 200 yards on a street and finally ran her over on Mirpur Road on January 26.

According to DMP website, Abdullah admitted that they were four in the car and he was sitting in the rear seat during the crime.

Helena's husband Monirul Islam Montu, who was accompanying her that day, told The Daily Star yesterday that an officer from Dhanmondi Police Station had already informed him of the arrest and the seizure of the car. "I can identify the car," he added.

DC Maruf said they were trying to arrest the other muggers.



SHAME!

Examinees cover their faces as photojournalists take their photos after an SSC examination at Bangladesh Mohila Samity High School and College centre in Chittagong city's Dampara area yesterday. A magistrate had found candidates with a set of MCQs on their mobile phones and tabs in a bus near the centre before the examination. After the physics exam was over, the authorities expelled 24 candidates as the questions matched with the original ones. Story on page 1.

PHOTO: STAR

SINGAIR-HEMAYETPUR ROAD HC halts felling of 4,000 trees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned of the government to maintain status quo on felling around 4,000 trees on Singair-Hemayetpur road in Manikganj for the next six months.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities to explain in four weeks as to why their decision to cut the trees should not be declared illegal, and why they should not be directed to revise their plan for the road construction by saving the trees.

An HC bench passed the order and rule following a writ petition filed by Md Monzurul Islam, a lawyer from Manikganj, challenging legality of the decision to fell the trees.

The petitioner submitted before the court a report headlined, "Singair e kata hochchhe 4,000 trees (4,000 trees being felled at Singair)", published in the Prothom Alo on January 25.

Petitioner's counsel Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua told The Daily Star that the trees on the road cannot be felled following the HC order.

Secretaries to the ministries of road transport and bridges and forest and environment, director general of environment department, chief engineer of roads and highways department, deputy commissioner of Manikganj, upazila nirbahi officer of Singair, officer-in-charge of Singair Police Station and editor of the daily Prothom Alo are the respondents to the rule, he said.

The lawyer could not say when the authorities decided to chop down the trees on the Hemayetpur-Singair road.

Earlier on January 18, the HC halted the felling of century-old trees along the Jessore-Benapole road following protests against the government decision.

INVOLVEMENT IN 'MILITANT ACTIVITIES' Sister follows suit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three days after her sister was charged by Australian Federal Police for stabbing a man in the neck in Melbourne, Asmaul Husna was arrested for a similar attack on Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) on Monday.

Asmaul Husna alias Shumona, 22, allegedly attacked a member of police with a knife when the law enforcers went to meet her at her Kazipara house in the capital to inquire about her sister, Australian expatriate Momena Shoma, 24, said Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner (Media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police. However, the police member survived the attack unscathed.

Momena is currently detained by Australian Federal Police over allegations

of stabbing a man in Melbourne which police described as an "IS-inspired attack", reports AFP. Meanwhile, during a police interrogation, Asmaul admitted to her involvement with "Neo-JMB", an offshoot of the banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), police claimed.

The law enforcers later conducted a search in the house and confiscated a laptop, a knife and two mobile phones.

"We suspect that Asmaul was motivated into militancy by her elder sister Momena," Additional Deputy Commissioner of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime Saiful Islam told The Daily Star.

Police filed a case with Kafrul Police Station in this regard. Yesterday, after

being produced before a court, Asmaul was placed on a five-day remand.

In another incident, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two "JMB militants", including a "regional leader" from Jhenidah, during a raid at the capital's Tejgaon Industrial area on Monday.

The arrestees are Nuruzzaman Labu, 39, from Jhenidah and Nazmul Islam Shaon, 26, from Faridpur. Rab recovered two knives, some US currency and religiously inciting books from their possession.

Before becoming a militant in 2015, Nuruzzaman used to work as a truck driver's helper. He was introduced to militancy by one Saif alias Rubel who inspired him to kill non-Muslims, said a Rab press release.

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Bathed in colours of spring



Wearing a flower tiara on Pchela Falgun, the first day of spring, a woman checks out books at a stall at the "Amar Ekushey Granthamela". The photo was taken from Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MATHEWS CHIRAN

The lively campus of Dhaka University becomes livelier in February during the Amar Ekushey Granthamela. It lit up with colours yesterday when the first day of Bangla month Falgun met February.

People, especially women, adorned with flower tiaras and bright-coloured outfits, gathered at the Charukala Institute premises on the campus in the morning to usher in "Ritu Raj" spring -- the season of flowers.

In no time the fair of books nearby also wore a festive look as the cheerful visitors started making stops from stall to stall.

From Shabbagh to Doyel Chattar and from Bangla Academy to Suhrawardy Udyan, people of all ages were seen enjoying themselves and taking photographs with their loved ones.

By the end of the day most of them were seen going home with bundles of books and wearing smiles on their faces.

"We bought books by Humayun Ahmed. On this day, it's the best decision to buy books of such a great writer as we all know he was a nature lover," Said DU student Progga.

Her friend Nafis, vacationing at home from Russia, agreed.

Many of the young couples, mostly in yellow attires, were buying books for their family or friends. Quite a good number of them chose to wear other bright colours too.

Udia Sen, a private university student, and her friend Chandan Halder, a medical student, were wearing blue. "We've chosen blue

colour on this day. It isn't a must to wear only yellow during this month... anything colourful is welcome."

Chandan said, "We enjoyed the day so much and we also bought books by writer Muhammed Zafar Iqbal."

Businessman Muhammad Upol bought "Bangladesher Cinemay

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A kite flies high above the sky after picking up a miniature national flag, symbolising the very freedom the country's forefathers had fought for in 1971. The bird was caught in flight over Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium on Monday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Dulu gets anticipatory bail in 14 cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to BNP leader Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu for four weeks in 14 vandalism and arson cases.

The cases were filed with different police stations in Dhaka for vandalising and torching vehicles during the anti-government agitation of BNP-led alliance in 2015.

After hearing 14 bail petitions, the HC ordered Dulu, former deputy minister for land, to surrender before the court after four weeks.

Barrister Shafique Ahmed and Barrister Aminul Haque appeared for Dulu who was also present before the court.

Delhi solar summit to call for clean energy

President Hamid among world leaders likely to attend March 11 event

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid is expected to attend the International Solar Alliance Summit in New Delhi on March 11.

The aim of the event is to make available solar energy at an affordable rate, create solar grids and establish solar credit mechanism.

More than a dozen leaders, including those from Asia Pacific and South America, will attend the summit.

French President Emanuel Macron, will be on a state visit to India coinciding with the event co-sponsored by his country. The Economic Times quoted officials as reporting yesterday.

Diplomatic sources in Dhaka and New Delhi said the presidents

of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, African leaders along with leaders of prominent oil producing South American nations and Pacific Islands are expected to attend.

Besides, heads of World Bank, ADB, BRICS Bank and European Investment Bank might be present.

The Bangladesh president is likely to hold bilateral talks with the visiting heads of state and government on the sideline. He is expected to meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi too.

Our New Delhi correspondent reported that Hamid will fly to New Delhi on March 11 and is likely to stay overnight.

The International Solar Alliance is a treaty-based inter-governmental

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Save the Children, Star sign MoU on child rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star and Save the Children, an international non-government organisation, yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to build strategic partnership for protecting child rights.

Under the MoU, the organisations will work together through organising campaigns, policy dialogues and special publications aiming to solve various child-related issues, like health, education and safety.

Speaking at the programme, Mark Pierce said his organisation has been working in Bangladesh since 1970 to assist Bangladesh in crisis and to ensure the rights of its children.

"The Daily Star is playing a significant role in our endeavour from the beginning of its inception. We are proud to have a partnership with the newspaper," he added.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam and Save the Children Bangladesh Country Director Mark Pierce signed the 16-month partnership contract,

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Mark Pierce, country director of Save the Children Bangladesh, shakes hands with Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, at the newspaper office in the capital yesterday. The two organisations signed a memorandum of understanding to work together towards protecting children's rights. PHOTO: STAR