

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 31.2 L 23.5	H 26.4 L 23.5	H 31.0 L 22.3	H 27.5 L 22.8	H 29.9 L 22.6	H 27.8 L 20.6	H 35.2 L 24.3	H 32.5 L 23.2	H 31.0 L 26.0

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers and lightning flashes accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Mymensingh, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places and hail at isolated places over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:29pm and rises tomorrow at 5:21am.

Charred body of ex-Jubo League leader found in room

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday recovered the charred body of a former Rangunia Jubo League leader from his house in the upazila.

The victim, Abul Hashem Bacha, 50, was a former assistant secretary of Jubo League's Rangunia upazila unit. He was home alone during the incident when his wife and daughter were visiting a relative, Imtiaz Uddin Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Rangunia Police Station told The Daily Star.

The room where the body was found did not have any window and the victim's body and the bed were almost burnt to ashes, he said, adding that several other pieces of furniture in the room were burnt partially.

The body was sent to Chittagong Medical College for autopsy. Purnochondro Mutsuddi, deputy assistant director of Chittagong Fire Service and Civil Defence (zone-3), told this correspondent that the fire service has recovered an LP (liquefied petroleum) gas cylinder unscathed from inside the victim's room. Other rooms of the house were found intact.

They did not find any leakage in the cylinder, nor did they find any sign of electrical short circuit in the room, Purnochondro added.

Victim's neighbour Murshed Talukdar, also a Jubo League member of Chittagong district (north), told this correspondent that he speculated the incident might be a planned murder as the door of the room was locked from outside when locals rushed to the house following the fire.



Despite accidents on the rail tracks due to risky crossing over, awareness among the public seems to be non-existent. People are seen running across rail tracks with an oncoming train dangerously close at Jurain rail gate in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Indigenous people want 5pc reservation in govt jobs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Almost a month into the prime minister's announcement to abolish the quota system, a group of indigenous people yesterday demanded a five percent reservation of all government jobs for the ethnic minority communities under special arrangement.

They also welcomed the premier's decision to make the special arrangement and urged her to keep their five-point demand in mind while planning the next course of action.

The demands include an official policy regarding the job reservation, which will be followed by government, semi-government, autonomous organisations and state-run banks; proper representation of all ethnic minorities while forming a committee to implement the policy; and keeping

the same share for indigenous students in higher education institutions.

The indigenous group under the banner of "Bangladesh er Khudro Nrigosthi Jonogon" (Ethnic Minority People of Bangladesh) raised the demands at a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

The organisers said indigenous people, who lag behind the majority of population, should be given this quota-like privilege in government organisations as part of the directive in the country's constitution to ensure equity among people.

The quota system helped ethnic minorities in different ways to catch up with the majority section, while giving them a chance to serve the country and improve their living standards, they said.

Against this backdrop, if quota

privileges are scrapped, then it would be difficult for them to make progress, they opined.

"We urge the prime minister to reserve five percent of jobs under the new special arrangement similar to the quota system," said convener of the group Ajoy Prokash.

He also called for the same allocation for indigenous students in universities.

Member of the group Shubhashis Chakma said if the government wants to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it must give these communities opportunities and ensure their rights.

Bangladesh is home to around 15 lakh indigenous and tribal people, making up 1.8 percent of the total population of the country.

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Two found dead in Rajbari, Barguna

STAR REPORT

Two persons were found dead in Rajbari and Barguna yesterday, report our local correspondents.

In Rajbari, the body of Jannatul Kulsum, 20, was found hanging with a rope from the ceiling in her residence around 2:30am, said the family.

Her father Ayub Ansari said they rushed to her room when her younger sister screamed.

Nur Mohammad, sub-inspector of Baliakandi Police Station, said they sent the body to Rajbari General Hospital morgue

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NEWS IN brief

7 Jamaat men held in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police arrested seven leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami when they were holding "a secret meeting" at Anandabuss village in Gangni upazila of Meherpur early yesterday.

The detainees are: Jamaat's Gangni upazila unit Ameer Robiul Islam, Meherpur municipality unit Ameer and also Meherpur Sadar upazila parishad Vice Chairman Mahbub-ul-Alam, and activists Abdul Khaleq, Mohibul Islam, Abdur Rahim, Hasem Ali and Nasir Uddin.

On information, Gangni police raided Abdur's house and made the arrests.

A Meherpur court sent all the seven to jail after police produced them before it in a case filed under special power act.

Prime accused of Patuakhali driver killing case held in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police arrested the prime accused in a Patuakhali's driver killing case in Narayanganj on Thursday night.

On January 1, the arrestee, Mir Shahajada, 35, along with nine others hacked his neighbour Sohag, who used to transport passengers on the motorbike, over a land dispute in Patuakhali's Indrokul village, said Baufal police of Patuakhali.

Sohag died at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College hospital on January 13. Baufal police said they were trying to arrest the other accused.

Teenager drowns in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A 14-year-old boy drowned while fishing in a pond in Kanthalia village of Nabinagar upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased, Imran Hossain, son of Jazz Mia, was a sixth-grade student at a local madrasa.

Quoting locals, Raju Ahmed, inspector (investigation) of Nabinagar Police station, said Imran went fishing in the pond near their house. At one point, he drowned.

He was declared dead at Nabinagar Upazila Health Complex.

Schoolboy 'commits suicide'

UNB, Sylhet

A schoolboy reportedly committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling of his room in Dewannagar village of Biswanath upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Nuruzzaman, 14, son of Fatik Mia, was an eighth grader of PMC High School.

Family members found him around 8:00am. He was declared dead at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, said police. The body was sent for an autopsy, he added.

Three arrested on rape charge in two dists

STAR REPORT

Law enforcers arrested three people on rape charge in two districts in the last two days, according to reports from our local correspondents.

In Sylhet, police arrested two men -- Jashim Uddin from Sunamganj and Syed Niaz Uddin from Sylhet -- on Thursday night over raping a 19-year-old girl.

They along with two others, employees of a hotel, raped her in the hotel for 10 days until she managed to escape on April 30, said Dakshin Surma Police Station Officer-in-Charge Khairul Fazal.

Earlier in the day, the girl filed a case with the police station, accusing the four.

Citing the case, the OC said Jashim, who built a relationship with the girl

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Indigenous people under the banner of "Bangladesh er Khudro Nrigosthi Jonogon" (Ethnic Minority People of Bangladesh) demand a five percent reservation of all government jobs for them, from a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Political stability a big challenge, ADB says

Remains optimistic about Bangladesh's continuous growth

UNB, Manila

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has said it remains very optimistic about Bangladesh's continuous growth but how the country will maintain the current political stability remains a big challenge.

ADB's Director General of South Asia Regional Department, Hun Kim, told the news agency that with political stability, bureaucrats become more accountable, motivated and empowered -- enabling the development trend to continue.

Talking on the sidelines of the ongoing annual meeting of ADB, Kim said Bangladesh needs to continue the growth trend. "I'm very optimistic about Bangladesh."

Responding to a question, Kim, who oversees ADB operations and support for regional cooperation in Bangladesh,

Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, said, "Bangladesh is doing very well. It can take fast decisions. With the increased capacity of bureaucracy, Bangladesh is willing to take bigger investments."

Bangladesh's economy registered a record high growth rate of 7.3 percent in 2017 as higher farm and wage incomes lifted private consumption, according to the ADB Annual Report 2017.

The report says public investment has improved, although remittance inflows declined and exports have stagnated.

Bangladesh's growth, according to the ADB, was mainly driven by service industries, although agriculture, small-scale manufacturing and construction also made contributions.

ADB's Country Partnership Strategy for Bangladesh proposes total assistance

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One killed, 13 injured in Dhaka road crashes

Teenager dies in Dinajpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person was killed and 13 others wounded in road accidents in the capital's Paltan and Jatrabari areas yesterday.

Mohammad Shaon, 18, caretaker of a building at Arambagh in Motijheel area, died when a pickup hit him in Paltan area while he was crossing a road, said Shaon's aunty Rupa Begum.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Inspector (Investigation) of Motijheel Police Station Golam Rabbani said the pickup driver managed to flee.

Meanwhile, 13 passengers of a human hauler were injured at Mridha Bari in Jatrabari area when it hit a parked wrecker after its driver lost control over the vehicle, said Jatrabari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Azizur Rahman.

Seven of the injured took treatment at local clinics and hospitals while the rest at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The OC said they seized the vehicle but the driver fled.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reports, a teenage boy was killed as a bus hit him while he was crossing Kaharol-Pirganj road in Joymandh village of Kaharol upazila yesterday, said police. The dead is Shamim, 17, son of Kusmat Ali from village Dudia in Kaharol.

EC unable to work independently

Says BNP's Amir Khasru

UNB, Dhaka

The people will decide under which government the next general election will be held, BNP senior leader Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said yesterday.

"Election is a festival for the country's 16 crore people. They will join it, no matter whether you [the government] want it or not. They'll also decide how the election will be held," he said.

The BNP standing committee member was speaking at a discussion organised by Bangladesh Youth Forum at Jatiya Press Club in the capital, demanding

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North Bengal Sugar Mills to observe 'Shaheed Day' today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

North Bengal Sugar Mills will observe "Shaheed Day" today in memory of those who embraced martyrdom on this day during the Liberation War in 1971.

The Pakistani occupation forces killed Language Movement veteran and freedom fighter Lt Md Anwarul Azim, the then administrator of the sugar mill at Gopalpur in Natore, along with more than 150 officers and employees of the mill and dumped the bodies into a pond on its premises.

With this, the Pakistani army took revenge on Lt Azim, who with his fellow freedom fighters handed them a crushing defeat at Gopalpur Rail Station gate.

Moreover, he had ordered that the Ishwardi Airport be blown up. The government this year gave Azim highest state award, Swadhinata Padak- 2018 (posthumous), for his great contribution in the Liberation War.

In recognition of his role in the war, Gopalpur Rail Station was named Azim Nagar at the instruction of Bangabandhu in 1974 while a commemorative stamp was published in 1994. The pond was named Shaheed Sagar.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani, milad mahfil and discussion will be held while a barefoot silent procession will also be taken out to mark the day.



The Dhaka city unit of Parbatya Chhittogram Pahari Chhatra Parishad, an organisation of students from the hill districts, brings out a procession in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, protesting the murder of Rangamati's Naniarchar upazila chairman Shaktiman Chakma. PHOTO: STAR