

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 33.8 L 26.4	H 32.6 L 27.6	H 34.0 L 26.4	H 34.5 L 26.7	H 35.4 L 27.0	H 34.0 L 28.0	H 33.5 L 27.5	H 33.2 L 26.5	H 32.2 L 26.0

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind and lightning flashes is likely to occur at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi and Mymensingh divisions till 6:00pm today, reports UNB quoting Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:49pm and rises tomorrow at 5:20am.

Oli Ahmed's SUV attacked in Comilla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Liberal Democratic Party President Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed's vehicle was vandalised in Comilla's Chandina upazila yesterday.

Miscreants smashed the rear glass of the SUV that was carrying him, when it reached Chandina High School, locals said.

Col Oli, however, was unharmed.

He was en route to inaugurate the newly-built Momtaz Ahmed Bhaban of Chandina Redwan Ahmed Degree College campus-2, said Monirul Islam Bhuiyan, principal of the college.

His SUV slowed down when brickbats were hurled from behind, said Monirul.

"Awami League men attacked a freedom fighter in front of police," Col Oli alleged.

Mohammad Samsul Islam, officer-in-charge of Chandina Police Station, said, "We don't know who

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A fish seller displays a large Baghair fish (also known as the devil catfish) in the capital's Eskaton intersection. The rare fish was caught from the river Jamuna in Sirajganj, and weighs around 40kgs. The seller informed that each kg of the fish would sell for 1,600 taka.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

1,000 acres of land kept in economic zones for Indian investors

PM tells Indian envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said 1,000 acres of land have been allocated in economic zones for Indian investors and if they are interested, they can set up LNG plants there.

She made the remark when Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh, called on her at her office.

Briefing reporters following the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim said the primary topic of their discussion was bilateral cooperation, especially the projects being implemented in Bangladesh with Indian cooperation.

The prime minister told the high commissioner that Bangladesh and India witnessed a remarkable progress in different areas of cooperation over the last nine years, particularly in the field of power and energy.

She hoped that India will continue to extend its cooperation for ensuring energy security in Bangladesh.

The Indian envoy informed the Bangladesh premier of the present state of power projects in Bangladesh and the development of discussions on new power projects for Bangladesh, West Bengal and eastern part of India.

Shringla hoped that Indian Home Minister Rajnath Singh's 3-day visit to Bangladesh, commencing from today, will strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

Hasina recalled her visit to Saantiniketan in May, and her meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

PM's Principal Secretary Nojibur Rahman was present at the meeting.

DB police imposters loot Tk 15 lakh in Wari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man, with the help of some of his friends, posed as officials of Detective Branch (DB) of police, and looted Tk 15 lakh of his brother in broad daylight.

DB revealed the information after three of the six member gang, including the mastermind Rajon, gave confessional statement in the court last Monday.

Arrestees Enamul Hassan Rajon, 38; Khoiam Parvez, 46; and Juwel Mia, 30, are now in jail.

A team of DB police arrested the three while conducting drives in Dhaka's Badda, Ramna and Bangshal area last Sunday, said Sikder Hasan Imam, senior assistant commissioner of DB police.

Rajon is the younger brother of victim Najmul Hasan, a businessman.

On June 25, Najmul's manager Babul Das, 32, and Md Hossein, 43, withdrew Tk 15 lakh from Mercantile Bank Limited's Wari branch and headed towards Dholaikhal on a rickshaw.

When they reached near Tipu Sultan Road of Wari, four people on two motorbikes stopped the rickshaw and introduced them-

selves as DB officials. They took away Babul Das along with the money, leaving Hossein behind, said AC Imam, quoting the case statement.

Later, the perpetrators stopped at an empty street and took away the money, stabbing Babul in the stomach.

Najmul filed a case with Wari police against four unidentified people.

DB police, through a shadow investigation, came to know that the victim's younger brother Rajon is a drug addict and his business had failed despite taking a loan from Najmul.

AC Imam said that the accused shared the looted money and went into hiding after the incident. Of the total amount, Rajon took Tk 5 lakh; Parvez, who arranged manpower got Tk 2.5 lakh; and Juwel received Tk 75,000. The rest of the money was distributed among three others.

Police were able to recover a DB jacket, handcuff, a knife, two motorbikes used in the mugging, and Tk 2.20 lakh from the three arrestees.

"We have details on the other three involved in the incident, and are now conducting drives to arrest them," said AC Imam.

1st gold for Bangladesh in Int'l Maths Olympiad

Ahmed Zawad makes country proud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young Bangladeshi has won gold medal in the 59th International Mathematical Olympiad, the first ever for the country in the competition.

Ahmed Zawad Chowdhury, from Cantonment English School and College in Chittagong, won the gold medal with a score of 32 out of 42, according to the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) website.

As a team, Bangladesh secured the 41st place among 107 countries with three bronze medals and two "honourable mentions".

Tamzid Morshed Rubab, Joydeep Saha and Tahnika Noor Samin from Notre Dame College (NDC) in Dhaka won bronze medals while Rahul Saha from Dhaka College and Soumitra Das from Police Lines High School in Faridpur won honourable mention for the country in this year's competition.

A six-member Bangladesh team participated in the contest, which started on July 3 in Romania.

IMO is the world championship mathematics competition for high school students and is held annually in a different country.

The first IMO was held in 1959 in Romania, with seven countries participating. It has gradually expanded to over 100 countries from five continents.

This year, a total of 615 competitors from 116 countries participated in the competition.

CID busts 'fraud gang', arrests 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police yesterday claimed to have busted a "fraud gang" and arrested 13 members of the gang, for allegedly collecting money from people in the name of providing jobs.

Molla Nazrul Islam, special superintendent of CID, said, "Running an office in Dhaka's corporate area in the name of a reputed and famous company, the group used to give fake advertisements in vernacular daily newspapers for recruiting employees."

During a briefing at CID headquarters in the city, the official said the fraudsters used to collect money from three lakh to 15 lakh from victims as security money, pension scheme and private car.

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Work together to protect children

Speakers urge families, civil society, govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Families, civil society and the government should work together to provide equal opportunities to children for their development and to ensure their protection, speakers at a roundtable in the capital said yesterday.

The roundtable, "Child protection and prevention of corporal and psychological punishment of children", was organised by Bangla daily Prothom Alo, in association with Save the Children and Bangladesh Legal Aid And Service Trust (BLAST) at the former's office in Karwan Bazar.

Kazi Reazul Haque, chairman of Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), said there has been policy-level progress in protecting child's rights, but little has been done to implement that.

Justice (ret'd) Nizamul Huq Nasim, chief legal advisor to BLAST, said incidents of corporal punishment have reduced in urban areas, but the scenario has not changed much in rural settings.

Laila Khandaker, director of Child Protection Unit of Save the Children, said violence against children is a violation of human rights.

Prof Quazi Faruque Ahmed, chairperson of Initiative for Human Development, said parents and teachers should be made aware of the negative impact of corporal punishment on children.

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Dreams bigger than their disabilities

CRP's wheelchair basketball teams off to Indonesia

AKLAQUIR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

Marzana Akter injured her legs in 2015 when she fell off a tree, and has been unable to walk since then. She has to move around in a wheelchair now, but her dreams are much bigger than her disability.

A nine-member team led by Marzana is now in the Indonesian city of Bali, to take part in the fifth Bali Cup International Wheelchair Basketball Tournament that began yesterday. Alongside the women's team, a men's team of wheelchair basketball players is also taking part in the five-nation tournament. Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), a non-government organisation working for people with physical disabilities, has sent the two teams, patronised by International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Bangladesh.

"This game has taught us not to give up. It made us feel equal and taught us to accept ourselves the way we are," said Marzana, who sat for this year's HSC exam from Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Government Girls' High School and College in Dhaka. Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia and Laos are participating in the tournament hosted by Bali Sports Foundation, which will conclude on July 15.

Nahid Parvez Tonmay, coach of both teams, said, "Last year, we could not do well in the four-nation international wheelchair basketball tournament, but this year we expect both teams to win the titles."

Bangladesh men's team won the tri-nation tournament in 2014, the very first year it participated in an



The men's and women's teams at a training session at CRP ahead of the tournament. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

international contest, he noted.

"This is the second time that our women's team is participating in an international tournament after last year, while men's teams have participated in many competitions before", he added.

Md Sabuz Miah, captain of Bangladesh men's team, who had his both legs injured as he fell from a four-storey building while working there as a construction worker in 2014, said, "Playing basketball sitting on a wheelchair was very new to me and I learned it at CRP. There is a compulsory basketball class for every eligible indoor patient. I never knew that a wheelchair could bring me this far and initiate another beginning in my life."

"We will try our best to win this tournament. This is my first international competition and I am very

excited about it," added Sabuz, who now works at Acme Laboratories Ltd.

Rubina Khatun, a second-year university student who is unable to walk after contracting polio, said, "Our attachment with it [the game] has given us mental strength, which we need the most. Moreover, we are representing Bangladesh; we will bear the national flag. The feeling encourages us, makes us feel proud and keeps us going."

CRP Executive Director Maj Gen (ret'd) Shafiq-ul Islam told The Daily Star that the hospital has been working not only to cure ill people, but also to rehabilitate them and help them get included in the mainstream.

"We want the government as well as the society to come forward to support them," he added.

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