



YESTERDAY'S
TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 34.8 L 27.6

MYMENSINGH
H 34.7 L 27.0

CHITTAGONG
H 34.4 L 27.0

SYLHET
H 36.3 L 25.5

RAJSHAHI
H 35.0 L 27.3

RANGPUR
H 33.6 L 26.6

KHULNA
H 33.0 L 27.0

BARISAL
H 32.0 L 27.3

COX'S BAZAR
H 32.3 L 26.2

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with gusty wind may occur at many places over Khulna, Barisal & Chittagong divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh & Sylhet divisions with moderate to heavy falls at places over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today. UNB reports quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:31 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:34am.



An artisan gives finishing touches to clay pots (or ghat) to be used in Manasa Puja. Hindus worship the goddess of snakes seeking protection from snake bites in the Bengali months of Asar and Sraban, the rainy season, when movement of the creature increases. Manasa ghats are an important part of the puja rituals as one of the images of this deity carries a clay bowl on her left hand. The photo was taken at Sihpasha village in Barisal's Agailjhara upazila on Monday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

32 gold bars seized from Biman aircraft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Customs officials seized 32 unclaimed gold bars, weighing around 3.7 kilograms, on an aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines at Shah Amanat International Airport yesterday morning.

Officials of Chittagong customs and Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID) found the gold after searching a carry-on bag in the onboard luggage compartment of the aircraft after it arrived at the airport from Dubai.

No one, however, was arrested in this connection.

Mahbubur Rahman, assistant commissioner at Chittagong Customs House, said CIID and customs officials searched the aircraft based on secret information that Biman's BG 148 flight, that reached Chittagong from Dubai around 8:00am, had a consignment of smuggled gold on board.

"After searching the hand luggage shelf on the plane, the 32 pieces of gold bars, weighing around 3.7 kilograms, were found in a hand bag," said CIID Assistant Director Abu Hanif Mohammed Abdul Ahad.

The ownership of the bag was not claimed by any one and the matter was under investigation, he added.

Since January 2018 till date, over 297 pieces of gold bars have been seized from Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport, said sources.

Road accidents kill four

STAR REPORT

At least four persons were killed in separate road accidents in three districts yesterday.

In Kishoreganj, three persons died on the spot on Bhairab-Kishoreganj road after a Kishoreganj-bound CNG-run auto-rickshaw was hit by a bus coming from the opposite direction in Kuliarchar upazila, reports our correspondent.

The identities of the deceased could not be known immediately, said police.

On information, law enforcers seized the vehicles but the bus driver managed to flee.

Meanwhile in Mymensingh, Khandaker Shamim Hossain, 20, died on the spot when a pick-up van skidded off the road and overturned on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Bhaluka upazila, police said.

No further details could be known immediately.

Prepare list of vulnerable buildings in Dhaka

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has directed the government to identify the vulnerable buildings in Dhaka and submit a list of those before the court by November 22.

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), Ministry of Housing and Public Works, and Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence were asked to implement the directive.

In response to a writ petition, the court on Monday issued a rule asking the authorities to explain why they should not be directed to ensure safety of the vulnerable buildings.

The court also asked why they should not be ordered to demolish the six-story building of Gulshan Shopping Centre after disconnecting its electricity and gas supply lines, as the structure has been declared unfit for use.

The bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashrafur Kamal came up with the order and rule following the writ petition filed by Swadesh, a rights organisation, seeking necessary orders.

Petitioner's lawyer Barrister Rashna Imam told The Daily Star that Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence declared the six-story Gulshan Shopping Centre "unfit for use" earlier this year as per the Fire Prevention Act, 2003.

But the owner is still using the building where around 4,000 people work, she said, adding that a serious disaster may take place if the building is not demolished.

Barrister Rashna and Advocate Zubaida Gulshan Ara appeared for the petitioner, while Deputy Attorney General Ekramul Haque Tutul represented the government.

NEWSIN brief

CMP traffic week: 11,712 cases filed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 11,712 cases were filed and 945 vehicles were seized in 10 days of the extended traffic week in Chittagong city that ended on Tuesday, police said yesterday.

According to an email from the traffic division of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP), more than Tk 35 lakh in fines were realised during the special drive.

Against the backdrop of recent student protests demanding safe roads, the traffic week was launched following a directive of Bangladesh Police Headquarters.

The drive, which was supposed to end on August 11, was later extended by three days.

Police constable among three held with yaba

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three persons including a police constable were held with yaba pills in their possession from a hotel in Khulna city on Tuesday, law enforcers said.

The arrestees were identified as Constable Pritom Roy, posted in Khulna Police Lines, and his cohorts Sumon Mondal, and Shawon Roy.

On information, a team of police entered the Mid Night Residential Hotel and arrested the trio from a room and recovered nine yaba pills, Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Khulna Sadar Police Station said.

A case has been filed against them, the OC added.

Ashrafur Islam passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Ashrafur Islam, a senior customs official, died of cardiac arrest at Ayesha Memorial Hospital in Dhaka, said a press release. He was 41.

He joined the customs department through 22nd BCS and had been serving as a director of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

National Board of Revenue Chairman Md Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, BCS (Customs & VAT) Association President Khondaker Muhammad Aminur Rahman, its Secretary General Md Shahidul Islam expressed deep shock at his untimely demise, said an NBR press statement.

Anwara Begum passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anwara Begum, mother of Prothom Alo's Chittagong Bureau staff reporter Gazi Firoj Shibli, died at a private hospital in the port city yesterday, aged 75, said a press release.

She was suffering from various age-related complications. Anwara was buried at her family graveyard in Hathazari upazila after a namaz-e-janaza.

Members of Chittagong Press Club and Chittagong Union of Journalists expressed condolences to the bereaved family members.

Fire destroys 130 shanties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 130 shanties including several shops were burned down in a fire that broke out in Chittagong city's EPZ area early yesterday morning.

Abdul Mannan, deputy director (DD) of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Chittagong, said a leaking gas cylinder caused the fire that swiftly engulfed the affected shanties around 2:45am.

Around 8:00am, after about six and a half hours of efforts, four fire units from Agrabad, Bandar, EPZ and Nandan Kanan fire stations were able to douse the blaze, the DD said, adding that the fire might have caused an estimated damage worth around Tk 7 lakh.

Golam Sarwar's janaza held at Barisal home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A namaz-e-janaza of journalist Golam Sarwar was held at his village home in Banaripara upazila of Barisal yesterday.

He was also given a guard of honour as freedom fighter by police on the playground of Banaripara Model Union Institution where the janaza was held.

Golam Sarwar, editor of the daily Samakal, passed away in Singapore General Hospital on Monday night, at age 75. His body arrived in Dhaka the next day.

Today his body will lie in state at Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka from 11:00am to 12:00pm for people from all walks of life to pay their tributes.

The body of the journalist was flown by helicopter to his village Jumadi around 2:30pm yesterday. Before the janaza, family members, relatives, eminent local personalities, and socio-political and cultural organisations paid their respects to him there.

Awami League lawmaker Talukdar Md Yunus, Workers Party lawmaker Sheikh Tipu Sultan, Banaripara upazila AL General Secretary Maolad Hossain Sana, freedom fighter Mahabubuddin Bir Bikram, Barisal mayor-elect Serniabad Sadiq Abdullah, Banaripara upazila Chairman Golam Faruk, Banaripara municipality Mayor Suvash Chandra Shil, Superintendent of Police in Barisal Saiful Islam were present on the occasion.

The coffin was taken to his home before it was flown back to Dhaka at 4:00pm.

At 10:00am today, another janaza will be held at the Osmani Hall playground of Bangladesh University of Textile, near the office of Samakal, in Teigaon, says a press release. Then his body will be taken to Central Shaheed Minar. From there, it will be taken to Jatiya Press Club for another janaza after Zohr prayers. The veteran journalist will be laid to rest at Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Mirpur after Asr prayers today.



A team of police give a guard of honour to veteran journalist Golam Sarwar at Banaripara Model Union Institution in Barisal yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Pvt university student 'abducted for ransom'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A private university student, traceless since Tuesday, was abducted for Tk 10 lakh ransom, alleged his family yesterday.

Enamul Haque Olen, 23, an Electrical and Electronics Engineering student at United International University (UIU), went out of his house at Mohammadpur in the morning on Tuesday and did not contact his family ever since, said his mother Fatema Chowdhury, whose husband is an expatriate in Saudi Arabia.

Enamul's cellphone was found unreachable since then, she said, adding that they received a call from his phone that night around 10:00pm when an unknown caller demanded Tk 10 lakh ransom for her son's release.

Yesterday, Fatema filed a general diary (GD) with Badda Police Station.

Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station, told The Daily Star that they were conducting drives to rescue Enamul and arrest his abductors.

Two CMP cops suspended over escape of accused

UNB, Chittagong

Two policemen of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) were suspended yesterday over the escape of an accused from their custody.

Sub-inspector Fakhru Islam of Akbar Shah Police Station and constable Khokon of Chittagong Court prosecution were suspended on charges of negligence of duty, said CMP Commissioner Mahbubur Rahman.

CMP Deputy Commissioner (West) Farukul Islam and CMP Deputy Commissioner (North) Hasan Mohammad Shawkat Ali issued the suspension orders.

Arrestee Masud Rana of Patwaribari in Kabirhat of Noakhali

district, who was an accused drug dealer, escaped from police custody when he was brought to the district court for hearing on Tuesday.

Akbar Shah Police Station Officer-in-Charge Jashim Uddin said Masud and the officers who brought him were waiting in the courtyard for the hearing on his remand around 2:00pm.

At one stage, Masud could not be found anymore. Eventually, they realised that Masud had fled averting everyone's attention, right from under police's nose.

Masud had been in jail since he was arrested in Pahartali area in the city one and a half months earlier, in a case filed under the Narcotics Control Acts with the police station.

Not much

FROM PAGE 4

But since then, there has been no visible progress in the case's investigation.

When asked, DMP Deputy Commissioner (Media) Masudur Rahman said detectives arrested five suspects who were present during the attack. "They (detectives) are trying to arrest other culprits, who were identified through scrutinising CCTV footage," he added.

In the early hours of April 9, with the quota reform movement in progress, a gang of people -- most of them wearing masks -- broke into the main entrance of the VC's residence and ransacked several rooms and furniture. They also set two vehicles parked inside the residence on fire.

Bangabandhu will live forever in people's hearts

Says state minister for foreign affairs

BSS, Rajshahi

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam yesterday categorically said the name of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman could not be erased from people's minds as long as Bangladesh exists.

Recalling Bangabandhu's contribution to the country's independence, he said the fugitive convicted killers of Father of the Nation and his family members will not go unpunished.

"All the fugitive convicts will be brought back to the country and executed on this soil so that no one can dare to commit such type of heinous crime," he said.

The state minister was addressing a meeting in Shilpakala Academy auditorium in Rajshahi city as the chief guest.

District administration organised the meeting, marking National Mourning Day and 43rd martyrdom anniversary of Father

of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Chaired by Deputy Commissioner SM Abdul Kader, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Commissioner-in-Charge of Rajshahi division Aminul Islam, Deputy Inspector General of Police Khurshid Hossain, Commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Hafiz Akter and Superintendent of Police Md Shahidullah.

Shahriar Alam said people irrespective of their political affiliation must follow the ideals of Bangabandhu.

"Apart from a few anti-liberation forces, the entire nation under the leadership of Bangabandhu fought and brought independence to the country, and that's why the Bangalee nation embraced him and affectionately decorated him with the honour of Bangabandhu," he said.

Alam said the present government under

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