

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 29.0 L 17.7	MYMENSINGH H 28.4 L 15.0	CHITTAGONG H 27.8 L 17.5	SYLHET H 27.9 L 16.3	RAJSHAHI H 28.0 L 16.0	RANGPUR H 27.4 L 15.0	KHULNA H 28.8 L 16.5	BARISAL H 29.0 L 15.2	COX'S BAZAR H 29.2 L 17.5
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Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:11pm and rises tomorrow at 6:19am.

Driver arrested for mugging on running bus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

A driver of a bus was arrested early yesterday for mugging passengers on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road on Wednesday night. Khandaker Shaker Ahmed, officer-in-charge (operation) of Kotwali Police Station, said they arrested the driver, Masum, 40, in Shambhuganj Bazar area and seized the bus. Quoting bus passengers, the OC said around 10:00pm on Wednesday night, an Anik Paribahan bus left Shambhuganj Bridge area in Mymensingh town for Sherpur with nearly eight passengers on board.

Soon, making a detour, the driver started driving the bus on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj road and its crew -- Faisal, Ghaton and Babul -- started snatching cash and valuables from the passengers.

Locals came to the passengers' rescue and started chasing the bus after hearing their cry for help. The driver and the crew at one stage, around 11:00pm, deserted the bus near a brick field in Shaheb Kachari Bazar area in Mymensingh Sadar upazila and ran away.

Saidul Islam, a passenger of the bus, later filed a case with the police station under the Speedy Trial Act, alleging that the driver and crew of the bus snatched Tk 50,000 from him, the OC said.

Police are conducting raids to arrest the other criminals, he said, adding that criminals, posing as bus crew, might be resorting to this new technique to rob bus passengers of their valuables.

The arrested driver was being interrogated at the police station till filing of this report around 6:15pm.



Stacks of cauliflowers, a seasonal vegetable, on a rickshaw-van making their way to a local market in Hemayetpur, Savar yesterday. Emergence of cauliflowers in the markets signals the arrival of winter. Bangladeshi winters are known for an abundance of vegetables.

SNAPS & snippets

Man killed over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Police recovered the body of a man in Sadar Dakkhin upazila in Cumilla early yesterday.

The throat of Khorshed Alam, 42, was slit, said Mohammad Mamun, officer-in-charge of Sadar South Police Station.

Around 8:00pm on Wednesday, Mofizul Islam and his cohorts Khorshed called Khorshed out of his home and killed him over a land dispute, alleged Nurul Islam, father of the deceased.

Nurul filed a case against Mofizul and 10 others. The body was sent to Cumilla Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

125 asst judges get promotion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday decided to promote 125 assistant judges to the post of senior assistant judge.

The decision was taken at a full court meeting with Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain in the chair, SC sources said.

Judges of the High Court Division of the SC attended the meeting held at the conference room of its administration building-4 yesterday afternoon.

The full court meeting also decided to relax conditions for the promotions to the posts of district judges, additional district judges and joint district judges, and to dispose of the pending departmental cases against five judicial officers, according to the sources.

Keeping it in the family

Veteran politicians being challenged by sons in both camps

M NURUL HAYAT CHOWDHURY and ARUN BIKASH DEY, Cg

Senior politicians of both Awami League (AL) and BNP are facing challenges within their families in Chattogram, with their sons also vying for respective parties' nomination for the upcoming national election.

In Chattogram-1 constituency, AL leader and Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain and his son Mahabubur Rahman have submitted nomination forms to secure AL's ticket.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam and his son Mujibur Rahman submitted nomination forms to contest at both Chattogram-8 and 9 constituencies.

"Although both my father and I have collected party nomination

forms, I would accept whatever party high command decides," said Mujibur Rahman.

Nurul Islam echoed the same view when contacted.

AL lawmaker Shamshul Hoque Chowdhury and his son Nazmul Hoque Chowdhury collected nomination papers to contest the polls from Chattogram-12 constituency.

From BNP, the party's vice chairman Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury and his son Samir Quader Chowdhury both collected party nomination papers for Chattogram-6.

Contacted, Samir said, "Our party is giving emphasis on the participation of youths in politics. So, I am confident of getting nomination in this constituency."

Asked about Giasuddin collecting nomination form for the same constituency, Samir said his father has also collected nomination

paper for another constituency.

"Of the two of us, whoever gets the nomination, I am confident about the party's victory in this constituency," he said.

In Chattogram-4, both BNP Vice-Chairman Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and his son Mir Mohammad Helaluddin are contending to get the party ticket for the next general polls.

Helal told The Daily Star that his father would be the most eligible candidate in this constituency if the party gives nomination considering seniority and contributions to the party.

But he presumes that he would be the pick in case the party high command decides to take a chance on a promising young aspirant.

BNP Central Committee Member Shamsul Alam and his son Mohammad Shouib submitted nomination forms for Chattogram-

9 constituency.

Recognising his father as the most competent candidate, Shouib said, "I have collected the party nomination form just to have an experience... I want to be more involved in politics following the footsteps of my father."

Adviser to the BNP chairperson Golam Akbar Khondoker and his son Tarek Akbar Khondoker collected nomination forms for Chattogram-6 constituency.

Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, joint general secretary of BNP's Chattogram south district unit, and his son Osman Chowdhury are vying to get the BNP ticket from Chattogram-15 constituency.

Same applies for Manirul Islam, chairman of Borotakia Group, and his son Niaz Morshed, as both collected BNP nomination papers to contest from Chattogram-1 constituency.



FACEBOOK BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER... Holding hands, bride Sarah Kuhn and groom Michael Apu Mondol pose for a photo after their wedding yesterday in Kaunia area of Barishal city. Californian Sarah flew in from the US to tie the knot with her beau, whom she met on Facebook a year ago, on November 19, said Michael's sister.

China offering visa on arrival for Bangladeshi travellers

Beijing giving Dhaka 'higher priority', say embassy officials

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China has announced "visa on arrival" for Bangladeshi citizens who need to visit the country on urgent humanitarian, business and other grounds.

"Bangladeshi citizens who are qualified and able to provide relevant supporting documents can apply for port visas at relevant Chinese ports," Chinese Embassy spokesman and political counsellor Chen Wei said.

Wei said foreigners who need to enter China urgently for humanitarian reasons, or who are invited to enter the country for urgent business or other needs, or are set to visit China as tourists, facilitated by Chinese travel agencies, are eligible.

The Ministry of Public Security at the ports is the authority to issue the visas by the State Council.

The duration of stay for port visas should not exceed 30 days.

According to a press statement issued in Dhaka yesterday, China's port visa system

does not impose restrictions on specific countries, but only makes requirements for entry purposes.

According to the Chinese Embassy, the number of Bangladeshi visitors to China is increasing each year. In 2016, the number of visitors was 39,055 and it stood at 47,430 in 2017. As of now, the number of Bangladeshi visitors has already crossed 50,000.

Meanwhile, Chinese Embassy officials said the introduction of visa on arrival will bring a positive impact and greatly help people who need to visit China urgently.

They said Beijing is giving Dhaka a "higher priority" in its diplomatic policies.

In 2017, the bilateral trade value reached \$16 billion, 5.8 percent higher than that in 2016, with China remaining the number one trade partner of Bangladesh.

The bilateral trade between the two countries in the first half of 2018 stood at \$9.35 billion, a 17.6 percent year-on-year-increase. Chinese investments stand at \$85.94 million and \$380 million in terms of stock, they added.

SC stays trial of ex-MP Hafiz Ibrahim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court verdict for eight weeks that cleared the way for a Barishal court to resume the trial of former BNP lawmaker Hafiz Ibrahim in a case filed in 2013 over misappropriating relief items.

The apex court also asked Hafiz Ibrahim's elder brother, businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun, to file a leave-to-appeal petition with the court against the HC verdict.

A seven-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order after hearing a petition filed by Hafiz Ibrahim seeking a stay on the HC verdict.

Following the SC order, trial of the corruption case will now be halted for eight weeks, said ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan.

Wife of Bir Shreshtha Noor Mohammad dies

BSS, Dhaka

Begum Fazilatunnesa, wife of Bir Shreshtha Shaheed Lance Naik Noor Mohammad, was laid to rest at Dhuriya village in Narail Sadar upazila after Maghrib prayers yesterday.

She died at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka on Wednesday at the age of 71.

Her first namaz-e-janaza was held at 8:30am yesterday at BGB headquarters in Pilkhana, attended by BGB Director General Maj Gen Shafeenul Islam, among others, said a BGB press release.

People from all walks of life paid tributes to Fazilatunnesa. Narail Deputy Commissioner Anjuman Ara, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) (General) Md Yearul Islam, ADC (Revenue) Kazi Mahabubur Rashid, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's father Golam Mortaza Swapan and Bir Shreshtha Noor Mohammad Trust Member Secretary Azizur Rahman Bhuiyan also paid tributes.

In separate condolence messages, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed profound sympathy to the bereaved family.

The prime minister visited Fazilatunnesa at CMH on Wednesday before her demise.

Fazilatunnesa got married to Noor Mohammad in 1964. Lance Naik Noor Mohammad was killed in an engagement with the Pakistan Army during the 1971 Liberation War.

Man sent to jail for molesting girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

A Chattogram court yesterday sent a man to jail in a case filed over molesting a seven-year-old girl in Karnaphuli upazila on Wednesday.

The arrestee is Ilias, 45, said Officer-in-Charge Mohammed Alamgir of Karnaphuli Police Station.

Metropolitan Magistrate Al Imran passed the order after police produced him before the court.

Quoting the victim's mother, the OC said around 12:30pm the girl was playing with her friends in Mohalkhan Bazar area; Ilias took her inside a vehicle and molested her. Her mother found out about the incident after the girl fell sick that night.

Road crashes kill 6

STAR REPORT

Six people were killed in road accidents in five districts in the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Narsingdi, two bikers were killed as a bus ran over their motorcycle on Wednesday.

Police say Rayhan Mia, 25, and Rifat, 20, from Kishoreganj died instantly on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Mahmudabad area of Raipura upazila.

They were on the way to Bhairab Bazar from Morzal area in Raipura.

In Chattogram, a youth died after being hit by a bus while he was walking by a road in front of the city's Anderkilla Bazar yesterday.

Police could not ascertain his identity immediately.

In Jhenidah, a bus hit an elderly man killing him instantly at Sheikhpura Bazar in Shailakupa upazila yesterday.

Teher Ali, 70, from Sheikhpura village was crossing a road, said police.

In Barishal, driver of a human-haulier driver was killed as his vehicle flipped over after he lost control over the three-wheeler in Kajirhat Eidgha area of Muladi upazila yesterday.

Ripon from Darirchar area succumbed to his injuries at Muladi Upazila Health Complex.

In Joypurhat, a motorcyclist was killed as a truck hit the bike from behind on Hili-Panchbibi road in Bhimpur village of Panchbibi upazila on Wednesday.

Saiful Islam, 53, from Chechra village died on the spot.

WORLD COPD DAY Lung Foundation, Incepta bring out bicycle procession

CITY DESK

Bangladesh Lung Foundation and Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd brought out a bicycle procession in Dhaka on Wednesday, in observance of World COPD Day, says a press release.

With the slogan, "Smoking free life-Fresh air-Risk free Lung", a large number of lung specialists joined more than 200 cyclists in the procession that started on Manik Mia Avenue.

After travelling some important spots, it ended in front of Bangladesh National Museum in Shahbagh.

On the occasion, the foundation Secretary General Prof Mohammad Ali Hossain, Vice President Prof Mostafizur Rahman, Treasurer Doctor Asif



Mujtoba Mahmud and Incepta AGM (Marketing) Mizanur Rahman addressed a rally.

Prof Mohammad Ali said people continue to suffer from lung infection due to air pollution as well as smoking and the situation is getting worse day by day.

Considering the fact, people from all walks of life have to be aware about prevention of lung diseases, he said.

Talking about the procession, he said such initiatives have to be taken at the grassroots level.

A study, conducted in 2015, said three million people died due to lung infection across the world, according to the press release.