

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA 26.1 | 15.5 MYMENSINGH 25.3 | 12.4 CHITTAGONG 26.0 | 14.6 SYLHET 27.0 | 13.5 RAJSHAHI 25.8 | 09.2 RANGPUR 24.2 | 10.3 KHULNA 25.7 | 12.3 BARISHAL 26.3 | 10.4 COX'S BAZAR 28.0 | 15.5

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6pm today. Light to moderate fog may occur at places during late night to morning. Met Office said, reports UNB. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:28pm and rises tomorrow at 6:44am.



A boy looks through a book in a pile where no item is up for sale. Anyone in need of anything kept here, including clothes and books, can just pick it up and take it. This concept, called "Manabatar Dewal" (Wall of Humanity), is currently trending throughout Bangladesh. This one was set up by Asad, a resident of Lalbagh in Old Dhaka. The man collects the clothes and books from around the neighbourhood and puts them up for the poor. The photos were taken yesterday.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Political movement will be dealt with politically: Quader

UNB, Munshiganj

Road, Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said nobody believes that those who faced defeat both in their movement and in election have anything new to do.

The minister came up with the remark while talking to reporters before starting his journey for Tungipara from Shimuliaghata in Munshiganj around 9:30am.

"They failed to wage any movement for 10 minutes in the last 10 years. What will they do now? If they wage any movement politically, we'll respond to it politically," he said.

Responding to a question about Oikyafront's programme demanding cancellation of the election, Quader said it is an opposition party's programme; it is their personal matter. "They can announce any programme in a legal way centring the election. There's nothing to say. Action will be taken, if they carry out violence in the name of movement."

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Delta Plan 2100 must involve public approval: Speakers

Special conference by Bapa and BEN begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Humanity is facing a major threat and Bangladesh would be one of the most affected countries due to climate change, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said yesterday.

"Think what would happen if a huge part of the country goes under water," Prof Sayeed wondered at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka.

Announcement about a special conference on "Delta Plan 2100 and Sustainable Development in Bangladesh" was made at the press conference. The special conference is scheduled to start from tomorrow at

Krishibid Institution Bangladesh auditorium in Farmgate.

The two-day conference, jointly organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Bangladesh Environment Network (BEN), will inform people about the long-term strategy and identify the strengths and weaknesses of Delta Plan 2100.

Experts from home and abroad, with representatives of areas covered under the plan, will take part in the event. At the press conference, speakers stressed the need for collective national discussion on the projects.

"The government undertook some major projects, including the ones on climate change," Prof Sayeed, also

president of BAPA, said. Some good work may have been done but most of the time they were not "fruitful" due to some individuals pursuing their self-interest, he added.

"It is a must for the government to share such development project planning with the public to maintain transparency," he recommended.

The Bapa president said civil society should urge the government for dialogues over the issues, adding that the purpose of the special conference is to encourage similar constructive discussion among all stakeholders of Delta Plan 2100.

BEN Co-chairman and Bapa

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Harmless prank ends in fatal consequence

Teenager knifed to death by child

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage boy died after he was stabbed by a child following an altercation in Bongshala area in the capital yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Shourav Hossain, 15, a worker of a laundry in Siddique Bazar area, Shahidur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Bongshala Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Police detained the 10-year-old attacker from nearby area, he said.

The police official said the child went to a toilet when Shourav playfully locked the door from outside.

Later, coming out of the toilet, the boy locked into alteration with Shourav over the matter. At one stage, he stabbed Shourav with a knife kept at the laundry, leaving him critically injured.

Shourav was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where doctors declared him dead, the OC added.

Three police officials closed for 'assaulting' JNU students

JNU CORRESPONDENT

Three police officials were closed yesterday for allegedly assaulting 11 Jagannath University (JNU) students in Wari Police Station in the capital, Wari Division Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Mohammad Farid Uddin confirmed.

The closed police are: Sub-Inspectors Abdul Aowl, Utpal Datta Apu, and Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Md Nazrul Islam of Wari Police Station.

JNU's History and Culture department student Mahidul Islam and Accounting and Information Systems student Md Nikson told The Daily Star that police

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Development often comes at the expense of the poor. In riverine Bangladesh, boats were once the only means of transportation in many areas, and people used to earn a livelihood by ferrying passengers. Today, with phenomenal development in communication infrastructure including bridges, the term "ferryman" is almost as dead as the profession itself. A group of small local boats anchored in a beautiful pattern -- because the boatmen do not have much work these days -- were seen at Kamrangirchar in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE

All stakeholders must work together, say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Child marriage is one of the worst forms of violence against women, which leads to forced sex, early pregnancy and often domestic violence -- ruining a child's chances to fully reach her potential. Law is not enough, and the government or non-government organisations alone cannot address the multi-dimensional issues contributing to this widely prevailing social menace. An action plan should be sketched out on the basis of knowledge and experience of individuals and organisations working in the field. All stakeholders, including development partners, must work together to eliminate child marriage, speakers said at a roundtable at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

Share-Net Bangladesh, a knowledge-based platform focusing on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), organised the event aiming to strengthen

collaboration between stakeholders.

Early marriage is often seen as a way to step into the next phase in life when girls are not studying, not receiving any training and are not employed. From this realisation, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) began working with different ministries to provide girls with all the opportunities and ensure that they have access to the services available.

At present, 52 percent of girls in Bangladesh are married off before they turn 18, according to Share-Net.

Referring to a baseline survey, the platform says 50 percent of married adolescents became pregnant before they turned 18 and 22 percent gave birth by age 15.

Teenage pregnancy in the country is 31 percent, second highest in the world and the highest in South Asia. Contribution of adolescent fertility to total fertility is 24.8 percent, according to the survey.

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DEATH OF ARITY Court asks for probe report by Feb 11

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed detectives to submit by February 11 the probe report on the case filed over "provoking suicide" of ninth-grader Arity Adhikary of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College in December last year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Sadbir Yasir Ahsan Chowdhury passed the order after police's Detective Branch (DB) Inspector Kamrul Hassan Talukder, investigation officer of the case, failed to submit the probe report yesterday.

Earlier in the day, Hasna Hena, now on bail in the case till submission of the probe report, was present at the court.

Hasna Hena, 51, was arrested by DB on December 5. She was sent to jail the next day by a Dhaka court. Later she was released on bail on December 9 last year.

Adity's father Dilip Adhikary filed the case with Paltan Police Station on December 4 against three teachers including Hasna Hena, a day after she died by suicide, after reportedly being subject to humiliation by teachers.

The two others -- Principal Nazneen Ferdous and morning shift in-charge Zinat Akhtar -- are yet to secure bail from any court, sources said.

Adity's death stirred protests by students and guardians. Students boycotted classes and demonstrated, but and later withdrew their programmes upon assurance from the government that the persons responsible for the incidents will be brought to justice.

The two others -- Principal Nazneen Ferdous and morning shift in-charge Zinat Akhtar -- are yet to secure bail from any court, sources said.

Be aware of fake Facebook accounts of army chief

ISPR urges all

UNB, Dhaka

Mentioning that Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed has no Facebook account, Inter Services Public Relation (ISPR) Directorate yesterday urged all to remain aware about fake accounts in his name.

"Several persons/groups have opened fake Facebook accounts using the name and picture of army chief General Aziz Ahmed and they are uploading different information and sending friend requests with an ill motive," it said in a press release.

The ISPR Directorate requested all to remain aware in this regard.

3 held for 'misusing social media'

STAR REPORT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested three persons in three different districts, over making derogatory comments against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and spreading rumours on social media.

Carpenter Tofazzal Hossain Helal, 40, from Bahaddarhat of Chattogram was held early yesterday. Deputy Director of Rab-7 Major Mehedi Hasan claimed that Helal used to make derogatory comments and post distorted photos of Sheikh Hasina and Obaidul Quader from his Facebook account for a long time.

"Going through his social media, Helal was found to be a supporter of BNP," he said, adding he was handed over to Chandaon Police Station.

Rab arrested one Akhalkuzzaman Ansari in Rajshahi city for spreading fake images of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Sheikh Hasina, former state minister Tarana Halim and making derogatory comments on social media, according to our staff correspondent in the district.

In Bogura, Rab arrested Abu Rayhan Al-Biruni Pushkin, a sand trader, at his residence at Naruli Maddhyapara for spreading rumours.

Company Commander of Rab-12 Jamil Ahmed claimed that Pushkin has been spreading propaganda and false information against government, its high-ups and the army, reports our Bogura correspondent.

They also seized two mobile phones and filed a case under Digital Security Act with Bogura Sadar Police Station.



Share-Net Bangladesh organised the event at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.



Kazi Shahabuddin Shahjahan (1953-2019)

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing away of our beloved 'Bobby Khalu' on 5th January, 2019 following post surgical complications at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. Inna Lilla Wa Inna Iliae Rajeun. He was 66. His mortal remains will be flown back to Dhaka on Friday and namaz-e-janaza will be held on Saturday, 12th January after MAGRIB PRAYERS AT GULSHAN CENTRAL MOSQUE (AZAD MASJID) after which he will be buried at Banani graveyard.

We will forever mourn the untimely demise of this dynamic and charismatic personality who had a heart of gold with boundless love for all. There will be very few who will not have a personal story of him to narrate.

We request all to please make Du'as for him to be placed in the highest echelons of Jannah. Ameen.