

WEATHER

FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHATTOGRAM	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISHAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 26.0°C L 12.6	H 25.6°C L 10.6	H 26.6°C L 13.6	H 27.3°C L 13.5	H 25.1°C L 11.0	H 25.0°C L 10.5	H 26.5°C L 11.5	H 26.2°C L 09.2	H 27.7°C L 15.0

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. Mild to moderate cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Madaripur, Moulvibazar, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Jashore, Chuadanga and Barishal. The sun sets in the capital today at 05:31pm and rises tomorrow at 6:44am.



A RARE BUT WELCOMING SIGHT... A mango tree adorned with buds in Sylhet city. Usually, the flowers start to bloom with the onset of Bangla month of Falgun. Though locals predict this might have happened due to climate change, they are enjoying the phenomenon nonetheless while being greeted by the sweet aroma of mango blossoms. The photo was taken in Ribaki Bazar Police Lines area yesterday. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Ctg residents worry over water price hike

CWasa to increase rate by 5pc from next month

ARUN BIKASH DEY and AMIR HASAN SHAHRIAR, Ctg

Port city residents are aggrieved over the decision of Chittagong Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (CWasa) to increase household water bills by five percent from February 1.

They said without taking proper initiative to reduce system loss and corruption, CWasa decided to increase the cost, which would adversely impact port city dwellers.

The decision was taken at a CWasa board meeting on Wednesday, said its officials. They said currently Tk 9.42 is being charged for 1,000 litres of water for household purposes.

According to port city residents, around 80 percent people live in rented houses and they would have to suffer as the homeowners would increase rents, citing the price hike.

Moreover, they alleged that though CWasa could not supply water as per demand in many areas, it's increasing the price instead of taking proper initiative to address the crisis.

CWasa can supply 34 crore litres of water per day against the demand of 50 crore litres, said officials.

Meanwhile, sources in CWasa said the system loss of water has increased from 15 percent to over 21 percent due to "illegal connections" and pipe leaks over the last two years.

In addition, some parts of Halishahar, Patenga, Bakalia, Chandgaon, Oxygen, Bayezid Bostami, Pahartoli, Akbar Shah and Bahaddarhat areas are still out of CWasa coverage, said officials.

"We have been living in Naya Bazar since 1990s. Till now, we have never gotten uninterrupted water supply from CWasa. On top of that, they are increasing the price...", said Shirin Akter, a resident.

SM Nazer Hossain, vice president of Consumers Association of Bangladesh, Chittagong, said the hike is "illogical" and "unacceptable".

"CWasa took the decision without any dialogue with the stakeholders... A public hearing should be held before taking such decisions," he said. Low and middle income groups would be the worst sufferers, he said, adding that the homeowners may increase the rent as well.

"If CWasa can address its system loss issue properly, it won't need to increase the supply price," he said.

Terming the hike irrational, Prof Sikandar Khan, vice chancellor of East Delta University, said Wasa must justify the reasons for taking such initiative. "If they can improve their services, only then the rate

JU observes 48th founding anniversary

UNB, Ju

Jahangirnagar University (JU) observed its 48th founding anniversary yesterday amid festivity and fanfare.

Marking the university day, JU wore a festive look with the participation of more than 500 former and current students, teachers, employees, and officials with colourful banners, balloons, and feasts.

Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam inaugurated the programme by hoisting the national and JU flags and releasing balloons in front of the Business Studies Faculty at 10:30am.

"The administration is working to make the university more digital and up to date," she said.

Pro-VC (administration) Prof Amir Hussain and Treasurer Prof Sheikh Monjurul Huq were present at the inaugural session. Acting Registrar Rahima Kaniz conducted the programme.

The daylong event included a puppet show and other performances by Student Welfare and Counselling Centre of the university at the Selim Al Deen Muktamancha, where eminent folk singer Momotaz Begum performed.

JU was founded on August 20, 1970. It formally began its academic activities as a residential university on January 12, 1971, with four departments, 21 teachers, 150 students, and three residential halls.

CTG NURSING COLLEGE TEACHER MURDER No headway in 4 years; colleagues demand probe by PBI or CID

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

With no headway in investigation in four years, colleagues of Anjali Devi -- a senior teacher of Chittagong Nursing College (CNC), who was hacked to death in broad daylight in the port city -- demand that administration hand over the case to Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) or Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

The current investigation officer (IO), Moinur Rahman, also wants to hand over the case to PBI or CID for the sake of intensive probe.

Contacted, Moinur, also an inspector of the detective branch (DB), said the investigation was on.

"We are busy with several cases and naturally cannot intensively concentrate on a single case," he said, adding, "It'd be better if the case is handed over to Police Bureau of Investigation or Criminal Investigation Department."

Students and colleagues of Anjali expressed their frustration as police could not solve the case.

They also demanded the case be investigated by PBI or CID.

Romena Akter, a colleague of Anjali at CNC and president of Chittagong Divisional Nurses' Association, said they are upset as police have failed to arrest anyone in the case.

"Anjali was a teacher at CNC, her husband and two daughters are doctors... If the murderers of someone with above average social status cannot be arrested, how can average people trust law enforcers to ensure their security?" asked the teacher.

"We don't understand how police are conducting investigation... They have failed to find any clue behind the murder in the last four years," said Romena, adding, "The case should be handed over to either PBI or CID."

Anjali Devi, 57, was brutally hacked by four masked assailants on Telipatti Road of Chawkbazar on her way to college around 8:45am on January 10, 2015. According to sources in police, it does not seem like a case of mugging as the attackers did not take Anjali's mobile phone, money or handbag.

Anjali died at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) around 12pm that day.

DB of Chittagong Metropolitan Police was assigned to investigate the case after victim's husband Dr Rajendra Chowdhury filed a murder case with Panchlaish Police Station. Deputy Commissioner of DB (CMP North zone) Mostain Hossain expects that the criminals would be identified and arrested soon.

CONSTRAINTS IN INVESTIGATION Contacted, Inspector Keshab Chowdhury, who investigated the case for one year in 2016, said, "There was no CCTV at or around the spot," adding, "Moreover, the eyewitnesses could not give a clear description of the attackers."

After the murder, Anjali's husband Rajendra left their house in the city and moved to his village home in Hathazari upazila of the district, said sources. Their daughters currently reside in Dhaka.

Rajendra could not be contacted for his comment as his cell phone was switched off.

Masterda Surya Sen's execution day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Political and socio-cultural organisations in the port city yesterday observed the 85th execution day of revolutionary Masterda Surya Sen.

Placing wreaths at his statue at Masterda Surya Sen Memorial Library in Roazan upazila of Chittagong, Awami League lawmaker from Chittagong-6 constituency ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury said Masterda freed Chittagong from British rule for three days; for this reason, Chittagong is called the sacred land of revolution.

"His spirit would remain at the centre of revolution among us for ages," said the lawmaker.

Chittagong city units of Socialist Party of Bangladesh and Socialist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist), Chittagong city units of Bangladesh Students Union and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front placed the wreaths at the sculpture of Masterda on the JM Sen Hall premises in the city to pay tribute to the anti-British movement hero.

Leaders of the parties at a brief rally said the uncompromising character of Masterda Surya Sen inspired the people of sub-continent to unite in a movement against injustice and repression.

Masterda sacrificed his life to free the country from the colonial oppressors, they were of the view. The sacrifices of revolutionaries during the anti-British movement continue to inspire people to fight against oppressors, they added.

Shafi Uddin Kabir Abid, member of Chittagong district committee of Socialist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist); Nurul Huda Nipu, member of Chittagong district unit of Socialist Party of Bangladesh; and Arif Mainuddin, president of Chittagong city unit of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, were present, among others, at the time.



Teenager stabbed to death in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A teenager was stabbed to death in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj yesterday, police said.

The deceased was identified as Aslam Miah, 17, said Rafiqul Islam, inspector (investigation) of Rupganj Police Station.

After primary investigation police said Aslam may have been killed by one Mehedi Hasan, 17, over previous enmity.

"Some four or five months ago, Aslam had beaten up Mehedi following an altercation," the police official said.

Yesterday, when Mehedi found Aslam in Chonpara Bazar area around 12:30pm, he knifed Aslam in the back and fled the scene.

Locals rescued Aslam and took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he was announced dead on arrival.

The body has been kept in DMCH morgue for autopsy, while police have been trying to arrest Mehedi.

Early marriage increasing risk of cervical cancer: Experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of awareness on the risks of child marriage is the main cause behind the rise of cervical cancer in Bangladesh, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday marking Cervical Cancer Awareness Day 2019.

They also said that no woman should die from this type of cancer if it is diagnosed early and treated accordingly, adding that to fight cervical cancer, proper health education is needed.

March for Mother and the Rotary International jointly organised the discussion at the VIP Lounge of Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

"If three methods -- vaccination at the age of 9-14, public awareness and screening for the women aged between 30 and 60 -- are implemented, cervical cancer could be prevented effectively," said Prof Dr Sabera Khatun, chairman of Gynecological Oncology department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

Speakers also pointed out the increased risk of cervical cancer caused by "sex before 16" and "sex within one year of first menstruation".

"Abnormal bleeding such as bleeding between menstrual periods, after having sex, untimely menstruation or after menopause is a symptom of this type of cancer. Unusual colour and odour of bleeding, frequent and painful urination, and pelvic pain are other symptoms," said Dr Habibullah Talukder Ruskin, associate professor of National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH).

If at least one of these symptoms appears, he suggested going to the doctor for screening.

"Due to economic reasons, many women with cervical cancer don't want to come to hospital for treatment. It's a fact, but cervical cancer could be diagnosed free of cost in several districts and upazillas," said Prof Dr Swapan

Child drowns in bucket of water

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 14-month-old boy died after falling into a bucket of water in the capital's Demra area yesterday.

The victim is Moshir Rahman, son of Motiur Rahman, a trader in the area. The family used to live on the second-floor of a building at Sarulia.

Motiur said his son crawled to the bathroom in the morning and fell into a bucket of water. His mother was busy working in the kitchen at the time.

Around 10:30am, she noticed that her son was missing and found him inside the bucket. The couple took the baby to Dhaka Medical College Hospital right away. He was declared dead at the hospital around 1:30pm, said Abdullah Khan, assistant sub-inspector of DMCH police outpost.

The body is being kept at the hospital's emergency ward for now, he added.



A truck gets overturned in Dhaur area of Ashulia after its driver apparently lost control over the vehicle early yesterday. The accident might have taken place due to overloading. The driver of the onion carrying truck and his helper were not found on the spot. The photo of two workers carrying away sacks of onions was taken around 2:30pm. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Dhaka Walking Club forms a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, to create awareness about the necessity of walking among people. PHOTO: STAR

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