

WEATHER

FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHATTOGRAM	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISHAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 31.3 L 15.7	H 28.0 L 16.0	H 30.4 L 15.0	H 30.2 L 16.0	H 25.4 L 14.8	H 27.5 L 15.5	H 31.2 L 15.0	H 31.0 L 13.0	H 32.6 L 16.2

Light rain/drizzle is likely at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and regions of Kushtia & Jashore in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:41pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am.

Khirshapat mango to get GI recognition

BSS, Dhaka

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun yesterday said Khirshapat mango of Chapainawabganj, one of the most popular varieties of the fruit, will get Geographical Indication (GI). The minister will hand over the certificate formally at a programme to be held at the industries ministry today, an official release said. The scrumptious Khirshapat makes up 20 to 25 percent of total mango production in the country. Gradually, mango export is increasing in different countries, particularly in Europe and Middle East. Among the exported mango varieties, Kirshapat has been listed on top. GI is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities that are due to that origin.



GOOD DAYS FOR SALT FARMERS

Clockwise from left, with salt production in full swing, farmers are passing busy days gathering the essential product from a salt field at Gondamara in Chattogram's Banshkhal upazila. Sea water being evaporated under the sun to produce salt. A farmer piling up salt. This season, good prices have brought smiles to salt producers in the district. It's being sold for around Tk 400 per maund. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



Gaibandha-3 goes to polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The election to Gaibandha-3 (Palashbari-Sadullapur) constituency will be held today amid tight security and BNP boycotting the polls. Voting was suspended ahead of the 11th parliamentary election held on December 30 last year for the death of BNP-led 20-party alliance candidate TIM Fazley Rabbi Chowdhury on December 20. The Election Commission on December 23 declared the fresh schedule for the election. Younus Ali Sarker of Awami League, Dilara Khandker Shilpi of Jatiya Party (Ershad), Khademul Islam Khudi of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Mizanur Rahman Titu of National People's Party and independent candidate Abu Zafar Md Zahid are contesting the polls. On January 10, the last date of with-

drawing candidacy, BNP aspirant Moinul Hasan Sadik, Socialist Party of Bangladesh candidate Shafiqul Islam and Islami Andolan's Hanif Dewan withdrew their candidature. Moinul quit the race suspecting "rigging" on the voting day. Meanwhile, all the necessary measures for holding the polls have been taken, said Abdul Matin, returning officer and deputy commissioner. There are 4,11,854 voters in the constituency and they will cast their votes at 132 polling stations, he said. Abdul Mannan Mia, superintendent of police in Gaibandha, said 2,500 law enforcers, 20 platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh and Rapid Action Battalion each and 1,584 Ansar members will be deployed to maintain law and order during the election.

Man killed over betting feud

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A man was stabbed to death in Savar yesterday allegedly over a dispute centring on betting. The deceased, Johorul Islam, 30, was a day labourer. Johorul, one Rezaul and some others were playing a board game, wagering against each others, at a house in Palashbari area in the evening, said police quoting locals. At one stage, Rezaul had an altercation with Johorul over Tk 100 that he had apparently won during the game. As Johorul refused to give him the money, Rezaul stabbed him with a knife and left the scene, said police. Johorul was taken to Enam Medical College Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. Doctors at the hospital said he died of profuse bleeding. Abdul Malek, father of Johorul, filed a murder case with Ashulia Police Station, said Officer-in-Charge Rezaul Haque. He said they were trying to arrest Rezaul, who went into hiding. Johorul's body was sent for autopsy, the OC added.

Bangladeshi killed in wild elephant attack in Darjeeling

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A 50-year old Bangladeshi tourist was trampled to death by a wild elephant in Dooars, Darjeeling on Friday (January 25). The deceased was identified as Syed Saimoon Kanak, son of late Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) leader Noor-e-Alam Ziku. Kanak was JSD's media affairs secretary. The incident took place at Murti area under Nagarkata Police Station in Dooars. Quoting other visitors who witnessed the incident, Shri Ashim Majumdar, officer-in-charge (OC) of Nagarkata Police Station said that some visitors were going to Khuniar forest from Murti in a private car. The car stopped in front of a wild elephant standing on the road at about 5pm. Three people got out to take pictures. The OC said that the elephant attacked

Kanak as he was the nearest, while the other two managed to flee and take shelter inside the car. Kanak died on the spot. Police from Nagarkata police station rushed to the spot and recovered the body. With this incident, in total five people died from elephant attacks between Monday to Friday, OC said. Sima Choudhury, the honorary wild life warden of Dooars, said, "Though it is prohibited to go near any elephant, tourists violate the rule often, leading to their deaths." Kanak and his wife had reached Kolkata on Monday. They went to Darjeeling to visit Dooars forest. Kushtia district unit JSD president Golam Mohsin said Kanak's body was to be brought home after an autopsy, and he will be buried in Dhaka.

Wife kills husband after row over finances



Jibonnahar at the office of Gazipur police superintendent yesterday. She was arrested on Friday for killing her husband following an altercation over financial affairs.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police arrested a woman on Friday for killing her husband following an altercation over financial affairs. The arrestee was identified as Jibonnahar, wife of Rabikul Islam, resident of Gorgoriya Masterbari area under Sreepur upazila of Gazipur, said Javedul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sreepur Police Station. Locals spotted a blood stained sack in the bamboo grove near the boundary wall of Meghna Composite Mills and informed police. On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the sack and found Rabikul's body parts in it. Jibonnahar was detained for interrogation. "During primary interrogation, Jibonnahar admitted that she killed her husband, cut the body into pieces and put those in the sack before throwing it away," said Gazipur Superintendent of Police (SP) Shamsunnahar. A murder case was filed yesterday with Sreepur Police Station by the victim's father Abdul Latif in this connection. Jibonnahar was shown arrested in the case. During a press conference at the office of the SP yesterday, Jibonnahar described the

incident. Quoting her, the Gazipur SP said, Rabikul, from Mymensingh, married Jibonnahar five years ago. The couple and their four-year-old daughter Maria lived in a rented house in Sreepur. Rabikul was a store loader at a local garments factory while his wife Jibonnahar was employed as a sewing operator at Meghna Knit Composite Ltd. They often fought over money issues. On Thursday night, the couple had an altercation. At one stage, Rabikul slapped his wife. While Rabikul was sleeping that night, Jibonnahar repeatedly hit him on the head with a brick until he lost consciousness. She then strangled her husband to death with a gamchha (towel) and hid the body inside a cupboard. On Friday morning, she went to work. After returning home at 11pm, Jibonnahar cut Rabikul's body into pieces - severing the head, hands and legs - using a boti (curved kitchen knife). She then put the body parts in two sacks and threw one of the sacks in a drain near her house, while the other was thrown in the bamboo grove near Meghna Composite Mills.

Govt working for 'realistic solution' Says Quader about 9th wage board

BSS, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the government is very sincere to reach a "reasonable and realistic" solution over the issue of Ninth Wage Board Award for journalists and employees working at newspapers and news agencies. He was addressing reporters at the conference room of the information ministry after a meeting of the reconstituted cabinet committee on reviewing the report of the wage board. Committee members Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud, Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun and State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid were present at the meeting. Later, the review committee held another meeting with Newspaper

Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab). Quader, also convener of the reconstituted cabinet committee, said the issue is old, but "we started our journey anew". Thanking the Noab leaders as they joined the meeting on a short notice, Quader said in initial discussions they expressed their observations and gave comments. "Open discussions were held at the meeting and they informed us about their bottom line. Discussions would be held with the journalists also," he added. Quader said the issue of the Ninth Wage Board Award is not simple. There are some complications and mutual cooperation is needed to find a solution, he added. He said problems will arise in the implementation process if the commit-

tee declares the award unilaterally. Quader said, "We are also considering the issue to bring the journalists of the electronic media under the wage board. More discussions will be held in phases." The cabinet approved reconstitution of its committee on reviewing the report of the Ninth Wage Board for journalists and employees working in newspapers and news agencies on January 21 at its maiden meeting. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader is the head of the seven-member committee. Other members include Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Munnujan Sufian.

Government

FROM PAGE 3 The foreign minister noted that unemployment ratio was higher among graduates or post graduates compared to those who had completed high schools. "We are working to empower all in near future," added the foreign minister. Bangladesh Supply Chain Council chief M Nayeem Hossain presided over the programme. Among others, former Bangladesh Bank governor Dr Atiur Rahman, and Dhaka University Business Studies faculty Dean Professor Shibli Rubayat Ul Islam, spoke at the supply chain and career opportunity programme.

Implement counter trafficking law effectively: speakers

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for an effective implementation of the counter-trafficking laws to stop trafficking of the country's migrant workers. They also urged the government to groom skilled manpower by providing the workers with quality training. They were speaking at an advocacy meeting, "Analysis and Application of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012", at a hotel in the capital. Lawyers, trade union leaders and migrant rights activists attended the programme, jointly organised by Solidarity Center, Bangladesh and SAARCLAW. Chief guest at the programme, Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) Director General Salim Reza, in his speech, said the government has a zero-tolerance policy to combat trafficking. SAARCLAW Secretary General Muhammad Mohsin Rashid stressed the need for creating awareness to prevent trafficking. He suggested that the BMET provide training to the youths so that they can be ready for overseas jobs. Supreme Court lawyer Barrister Lutfun Kadir made a presentation on "Explanation of Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012". As panel discussant, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association President Advocate Fowzia Karim Feroze said investigation of the cases related to trafficking was not being done on time as stipulated in the law. The delay is prolonging the sufferings of the victims, she added. Solidarity Center's Country Program Director Christopher K Johnson, its Senior Program Officer Dr Lily Gomes, trade union leader Nazma Akter, WARBE Development Foundation Director Jasiya Khatoun and BOMSA Chairman Lily Jahan and its Director Sumaiya Islam also spoke at the meeting.

CLIMATE CHANGE Bangladesh seeks finance, tech transfer to vulnerable countries

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Masud Bin Momen has called for providing financial resources and ensuring technology transfer to the vulnerable countries, including Bangladesh, to face the threats posed by climate change and related disasters. "Big emitters must go for rapid mitigation of GHGs. Also, providing financial

resources and ensuring technology transfer to the vulnerable countries for their adaptation efforts would be the most effective response to the threats to international peace and security posed by climate change and related disasters," he said. Momen made the statement at the open debate on "Addressing the impacts of climate-related disasters on international peace and security" at UNSC Chamber in

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