

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHATTOGRAM	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISHAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 27.2 L 13.6	H 26.7 L 11.5	H 28.2 L 13.8	H 29.0 L 13.5	H 26.0 L 11.4	H 26.0 L 10.7	H 26.4 L 11.0	H 27.0 L 9.60	H 29.0 L 15.2

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country having chances of light rain/drizzle at one or two places over Rangpur & Rajshahi divisions in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met office. Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the country during late night



These large daikon radishes are one of the biggest attractions at a farmers' market held during the annual congregation of Maizbandari at Fatikchhari upazila in Chattogram. Farmers from all over the district showcase their best produce at the market. Each daikon radish may weigh up to 6kg. Depending on the size, and time of day, farmers sell these for Tk 50-200. The photos were taken recently.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

SNAPS & snippets

Fair Group sponsors 'Startup Ecosystem'



CITY DESK
Fair Group has sponsored "Startup Ecosystem" of Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA), says a press release.
Fair Electronics Ltd of Fair Group along with BHTPA is sending students ranked 1st in "National Girls Programming Contest-2018" to Malaysia for visiting the Innovation and Commercialization Center, University of Putra, Malaysia and Malaysia Technology Development Centre, to know about the innovation ecosystem.
The official handover of the travel arrangements took place at BHTPA in the capital's Agargoan on January 27.
Managing Director (Secretary) of BHTPA Hosne Ara Begum and other high officials from BHTPA, along with Mesbah Uddin, chief marketing officer; JM Taslim Kabir, head of marketing; and Maruf Hasan Bhuiyan, assistant manager of Fair Group, were present there.

Job fair held at Green University



CITY DESK
A daylong job fair was held at Green University of Bangladesh (GUB) yesterday, says a press release.
Center for Career Development of GUB organised the fair in collaboration with US-Bangla Airlines.
Prof Md Golam Samdani Fakir, vice-chancellor of the university, inaugurated the fair as guest of honour.
Md Fazlul Hoque, chairman of Noble Group of Companies, was present as the chief guest. Prof Muhammad Fayaaz Khan, pro-VC of GUB and Prof Golam Ahmed Faruqui, dean of GBS, spoke at the event.

BLAST to send report on disabled persons to UN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The authorities concerned of the government should have taken opinions from non-government stakeholders before sending its initial report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) to the United Nations, speakers at a discussion on CRPD alternative report said yesterday.
Bangladesh Legal Aid Service Trust (BLAST) organised the discussion at Azimur Rahman conference hall in The Daily Star Centre.
BLAST will send the alternative report to UNCRPD committee on behalf of different non-government organisations that work for disabled persons.
On April 18, 2017, Bangladesh government submitted its initial report to UNCRPD committee on disability.
UNCRPD working group will hold a meeting in Geneva on April 8, 2019 to discuss these reports,

sources said.
A six-member team of BLAST, all of them persons with disabilities, prepared the alternative report.
Advocate Rejaul Karim Siddiquee, head of the team, told The Daily Star, "In fact, there is a difference between the reality and the report prepared by the government. We have pointed out the flaws in that report."
Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury, former member of UNCRPD committee on disability, said, "This report is not the end, it's only a beginning. We have to continue the discussion to improve the lives of persons with disabilities."
Abdul Hie Mondol, president of National Grassroots Disability Organization; Mohua Paul, vice-chairperson of Access Bangladesh Foundation; and Osman Khalid, chairman of Society of the Deaf and Sign Language Users, spoke at the programme among others.

**ENCROACHMENT ON KARNAPHULI
Eviction to begin Monday, three years after HC order**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Chattogram district administration has decided to launch an eviction drive on February 4 on illegal structures built occupying banks of both sides of Karnaphuli River, three years into a High Court order to do so.
The decision was taken from a meeting held at the conference room of Chattogram district administration yesterday.
Md Elias Hossen, deputy secretary of Chattogram district administration told The Daily Star that demarcation work and public announcements to vacate the illegal structures will begin from today. The programme was delayed due to a fund crunch, he had earlier said.
"Finally we have managed the fund, and will start work to rid the river of illegal settlements,"

Elias said.
Advocate Manzill Murshid filed a writ petition on behalf of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh with the High Court in 2012, seeking an order for survey on how much land of the river was taken up by encroachers.
That same year, the HC ordered the district administration to conduct a survey and submit its findings to the court. The authorities detected at least 2,185 structures, and submitted the report to the court in 2016.
The High Court then ordered the district administration to remove all illegal structures within six months, but the authorities could not comply with the order in the last three years.
Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that he was happy to learn of the development. "I hope

the district administration won't bow down to any pressure, and will execute the order as given by the High Court," he added.
Edris Ali, professor of Chemistry at Govt Hazi Mohammad Mohsin College and a researcher, said the eviction drive, if executed, will be a milestone in saving rivers.
"District administration should have a tough approach to remove the structures, no matter however influential the people who own the illegal settlements are," he said.
He said the nation's economy revolves round the Karnaphuli river as the key port of the country lies at the estuary of the waterbody.
"The river is also a crucial part of the under-construction tunnel and outer ring road. If we don't save the river, the country's economy will die with it," he added.

Sylhet trader found dead at home

Housemate on the run
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
A trader was found dead inside his house in Sylhet city early yesterday.
The deceased -- Sahabuddin Miah, 40 -- used to run a fruit store in the city's Madina Market area, said his shop supervisor Rubel Miah.
Sahabuddin and another fruit shop owner Rahman Miah used to live in a rented house in the area, he said.
Their employees usually have meals in the house thrice a day in exchange of payment, he added.
"After closing shops around 1am, we all went to the house to dine. When we left, Sahabuddin and Rahman were inside the house as usual," he said.
"In the morning, another

Empowering women by enhancing skills

'Jukta Hoyo Mukta' project completes its tenure
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
For over a decade, Sabita, whose husband abandoned her, had been looking for opportunities for a better life. She had to consider the well-being of her son too. Things started looking up, as the 30-year-old got a job at a garment factory following a training for women from the underprivileged Dalit community.
Like Sabita, many women have been beneficiaries of a project called "Jukta Hoyo Mukta" (United We Stand) that completed its tenure yesterday with an event highlighting its success at Six Seasons Hotel in the capital. The aim was to raise awareness among women, mostly divorced or separated from their husbands, through giving them information and to empower them by enhancing their skills.
Under the project that ran from February 1, 2016, a mobile app was developed to disseminate information on child marriage, menstrual health, family planning and many other important issues. Daycare centres, complaint centres and adolescent clubs were also set up. The European Union provided



PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Sylhet Mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury (middle) inspects road expansion work in the city's Dhopadighi area on Monday.



Students participate in a Service Days activity to get a better understanding of SDGs.

ISD organises 'Service Days' on SDGs

CITY DESK
From January 29 - 31, International School Dhaka (ISD) organised 'Service Days' with the participation of secondary students of the institution. During the programme, students took action on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by designing, collaborating, and volunteering on different community service projects at various partner organisations of ISD.
Some of the services were designed in classes while others were taken as extra-curricular activities. Under this project, 40 student leaders and 235 students from grades sixth to twelfth worked on projects to serve and learn about the local community. Sixty teachers were also present as mentors, said a press release.
Sarah Harkin, ISD Service Coordinator said, "Our mission is to develop empathic leaders who will be committed to a sustainable future. Our students are encouraged to volunteer for local social organisations or develop their own volunteer initiatives to address SDGs."
Caesar Rahman, Co-founder, Creative Conservation Alliance said, "One would think there is no room for wildlife or nature in Bangladesh, but it's amazing that we still have some amazing biodiversity which is worth saving."
The event was organised with help of various partner organizations: Abinta Kabir Foundation, GarbageMan, Solmaid School, Utsho Bangladesh, PFDA Vocational Training Centre, and Creative Conservation Alliance.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Road accidents take five lives

STAR REPORT
Five people including two children were killed in road accidents in four districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.
In Tangail, two people were killed when a train hit a battery-run auto-rickshaw at a level crossing in Hatia area of Kalihati upazila.
The accident occurred around 5pm, leaving the driver of the three-wheeler and its lone passenger dead on spot, said Mosharaf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Bangabandhu Bridge East Police Station.
Identities of the deceased could not be known immediately, he said.
In Dinajpur, a fifth-grader was killed as a tractor hit him in Laxmanpur village of Parbatipur upazila.
Nitai Chandra, 12, son

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

CMCH doctor dies by 'suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A doctor of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) died allegedly by suicide at his residence in Chandgaon Residential Area in the port city early yesterday morning.
The deceased was identified as Mustafa Murshed Akash, 32, who was posted at the medicine department of CMCH, said Newaj Morshed, Akash's younger brother.
Akash was brought to CMCH in a critical state where the on-duty physician declared him dead around 6:20am, said Assistant Sub-Inspector Alauddin Talukder of CMCH Police Outpost.
Dr Rajib Palit, emergency medical officer of CMCH, however, said the reason of death will be confirmed through autopsy report.
"I don't want to say anything at this moment...we are shocked," Akash's brother said.
Akash was a student of Chittagong Medical College's 47th batch and completed MBBS in 2010, said Mujibul Haque Khan, president of Bangladesh Medical Association, Chattogram, adding, he was also doing post-graduate training.
Dr Nahid Hasan, a colleague of his at CMCH, said Akash was a brilliant doctor. "The news of his death has left us shocked."
Abul Bashar, OC of Chandgaon Police Station, said police were investigating into the incident.
Though a note was found with the deceased, The Daily Star has decided not to publish its content, on ethical grounds.