

**WEATHER FORECAST**

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

**DHAKA**  
H 28.4 L 14.8

**MYMENSINGH**  
H 27.5 L 13.4

**CHATTOGRAM**  
H 28.2 L 14.0

**SYLHET**  
H 29.5 L 15.0

**RAJSHAH**  
H 27.4 L 10.0

**RANGPUR**  
H 27.6 L 11.4

**KHULNA**  
H 28.2 L 12.5

**BARISHAL**  
H 28.5 L 11.0

**COX'S BAZAR**  
H 29.5 L 15.2

Weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today, reports UNB quoting Met office. Mild cold wave may continue to sweep over Rajshahi, Panchagarh, Kurigram and Chuadanga. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:46pm and rises tomorrow at 6:39am.



A jam-packed crowd at the Sugandha beach in Cox's Bazar enjoys a fireworks display, as part of the National Kite Festival organised on Friday. Kites of various sizes, shapes and colours were flown all day at the beach, while the evening also saw releasing of bright sky lanterns.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

**A vile act of cruelty**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

As a threat to a neighbour centring a land dispute, two persons allegedly slaughtered a dog and her four puppies in Gazipur yesterday morning.

A complaint was filed against Hashem, 50, and his brother Arif, 28, of Dakkhin Barotopa village under Shreepur upazila in the evening, said Assistant Sub-inspector Mobarak Hossain of Shreepur Police Station. "We are investigating the matter," he said.

The act of cruelty -- at the house of widow Aleya Begum -- has triggered a firestorm of protests in the area.

Aleya Begum alleged that the accused used to threaten her to evict her homestead, where she and her family members have been living since 2006.

The brothers came to the house on Thursday afternoon and beat up her and her daughter, Aleya alleged.

Yesterday morning, they

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**7 months on, no budget for BCC**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Seven months into the current 2018-19 fiscal, Barishal City Corporation (BCC) authorities are yet to place the annual budget.

As a result, some of the activities and services may get hampered, feared officials.

The last budget of Tk 406.45 crore for 2017-18 fiscal was placed and approved on August 28, 2017 by Ahsan Habib Kamal, the then mayor.

The fourth city corporation election was held on July 30 last year, and new mayor Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah took charge of office on October 23, 2018.

Israil Hossain, secretary to the BCC, said the post of CEO was vacant for a long time, which might have caused the delay. Election to the BCC also added to it, he said.

Seeking anonymity, a BCC official said after taking charge, the newly-elected mayor made 13 officials -- including the accounts officer -- OSD for various reasons, which may have also added to the problem.

In addition, during the end of the previous mayor's tenure, BCC employees

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**Flooded with 'requests', but none will be entertained**

Says land minister about eviction drive on Karnaphuli banks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed yesterday said no request seeking to save illegal structures built on both banks of Karnaphuli River would be entertained, in the drive scheduled to begin tomorrow.

The minister was taking to reporters after his visit to the river, ahead of the eviction drive.

Javed said the land occupied by the grabbers would be reclaimed as per RS (Revision Survey) and court directives.

He said he was being flooded with calls and requests, but there is no scope to entertain any of those.

"We have given ample time to encroachers to remove their structures. As they did not honour our generosity, we have no option left but evict the illegal settlements. There is no scope to fulfill any request coming from any influential. We will begin

as it is planned," Javed told the reporters.

The whole area ranging from Kalurghat area to Patenga has been divided into few zones, he said, adding that on the first day, they would be able to reclaim ten acres of land demolishing at least 200 structures.

The authorities will demolish the structures in various phases, added Javed, who was promoted to full minister in the cabinet formed after the December 30 victory of Awami League.

Termining the river a lifeline of the country, he said they are determined to free the river of illegal structures that is choking the river to death.

"I urge people to come forward to support us in this initiative, because as long as the river survives, the nation will survive with it," he added.

Officials of Chattogram district administration were present during minister's briefing in Sadarghat area.

**80th birthday of Hasan Azizul Huq celebrated at RU**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, RU

Prominent fiction writer Hasan Azizul Huq's 80th birthday was celebrated at Rajshahi University (RU) throughout the day yesterday.

On the occasion, a reception was held at Kazi Nazrul Islam Auditorium of the university. "Hasan Azizul Huq's 80th Birthday Celebration Council" arranged the programme from around 4pm.

Bangla Academy Award-winning playwright Prof Malay Kumar Bhowmick said, "Hasan Azizul Huq is one of the seniors who have been guiding us for a long time. He believes in what he writes and lives among general people."

Hasan Azizul Huq said, "This arrangement has made me speechless. I am an ordinary person from a little village, and I want to stay as simple as I am."

Professor emeritus Arun Kumar Basak handed over a memento to the writer at the programme, where a documentary titled "Golpoloker Chitrakor" based on the life of Hasan Azizul Huq, was screened at the event. The film was produced by Ahsan Kabir Liton.

**Power lines to go underground in Sylhet**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Overhead electricity lines at some key roads of Sylhet city are going underground as Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) started a project yesterday afternoon.

Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury inaugurated a portion of a big project for sustainable distribution of electricity in Sylhet division.

Ruhul Alam, executive engineer of Sylhet City Corporation (SCC), said that overhead power lines from Electric Supply to Circuit House areas via Amberkhana, Chowhatta, Zindabazar, and Bandarabazar are going underground.

Additionally, electricity lines from Chowhatta to Osman Medical College Hospital road are also going underground.

MM Siddique, project director of BPDB, said, "BPDB is now working for sustainable distribution of electricity in Sylhet division in a project worth Tk 1,900 crore."

"We will be digging trenches beside the roads, and the power lines of 33KV/11KV will go underground," he said, adding that several stations will be built if any further maintenance is required.

SCC Mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury said that putting the wires underground will give the city a neater look, as well as provide a sustainable method of power distribution.



An ongoing class at the medical college. The photo was taken recently.

**KHULNA MEDICAL COLLEGE**

**Acute teacher shortage hampers education**

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

An acute shortage of teachers has been hampering academic and administrative activities at Khulna Medical College (KMC) for a long time, making life difficult for teachers and students alike.

Due to the crisis, theoretical and practical classes, tutorials and exams are not being taken on time, students alleged.

KMC started its academic journey with 50 students in 1992. At present, there are around 861 students (six batches) pursuing medical degrees at the institution.

Though the college is supposed to have 132 teachers under 32 departments, the number of available teachers is 76.

Against the required 23 professors, 35 associate professors, 43 assistant professors and 31 lecturers, KMC has four, 16, 30 and 26 respectively.

Some of the preliminary courses offered for students are anatomy and histology, physiology, biochemistry,

community medicine, forensic medicine and toxicology, pathology, pharmacology & therapeutics and microbiology.

KMC is supposed to have 58 teachers to teach the abovementioned courses. But 20 of those posts are vacant. Moreover, none of the eight departments has any professors.

In addition, there is no associate professor in physiology, community medicine, forensic, pathology and microbiology departments.

Hepatology, pediatrics, nephrology, blood transfusion and physical medicine departments do not even have any teacher. At times, retired teachers take classes there.

An assistant professor and two lecturers are teaching at the forensic department. Of them, Assistant Professor Dr AKM Shofiuazzaman is going to retire soon.

"I teach at least eight classes a week and I have to prepare forensic report of any murder or unnatural death at KMCH," said Dr Shofiuazzaman.

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**Another young life cut short**

CU CORRESPONDENT

For the last 12 days, a resolute Nusrat fought hard for survival at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Yesterday morning, the final-year honours student of Chittagong University lost the battle for life at the hospital's intensive care unit.

She was 25 years old. She left behind her husband and a four-year-old daughter.

Nusrat Chowdhury died due to internal bleeding in the brain, said her husband Fakhru Islam, quoting Dr Anisul Islam Khan, head of neurosurgery at CMCH.

The resident of Mirsarai upazila got admitted to CMCH after she was injured in a road accident in Bhatiyari area of Sitakunda.

The English major got badly hurt on January 21 when she was going to attend her final examination by a "Leguna" (human-hauler) around 9am. When she was getting off the vehicle, its driver suddenly sped up. Losing control, she fell on the road and injured her head, said her husband.

Locals rushed her to CSCR Hospital in the port city; she was later transferred to CMCH as her condition deteriorated.

Her namaj-e-janaza will be held in B Block area of Halishahar after Asr prayers. She will be buried at her village home in Mirsarai.



Nusrat Chowdhury

**ROAD ACCIDENTS**

**Two college students among seven lose lives**

STAR REPORT

Seven people, including two college students, were killed and another was injured in road accidents during the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Khulna, two college students were killed and their co-rider was injured when a bus hit their motorcycle at Narayanpur village in Batiaghata upazila yesterday.

Shohag Sheikh, 20, a student of Government PC College in Bagerhat; and Sakhil Sheikh, 21, of Government MM College in Jeshore were declared dead at Khulna Medical College Hospital, said police.

Mohajid Sheikh, 23, a student of Government MM City College, Khulna, was undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Police seized the bus but the driver fled. In Thakurgaon, two NGO workers were killed as a truck rammed their motorbike on Thakurgaon-Dhaka highway in Unotrishmile village of Sadar upazila yesterday.

Pareesh Chandra Barman, 52, from Keyarigaon village in the upazila, died on the spot and Mafizur Rahman Jion, 48, from Thakurgaon town was declared dead at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital, said fire service.

They were going to their workplace in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur.

In Chattogram, a motorcyclist was killed as a pickup van hit his bike from behind on Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway at Mansa intersection in Patiya upazila yesterday.

The deceased -- Sultan Ahmed, 30, from Boalkhali upazila -- was a garment worker in the city, said police. When police chased the pickup the driver managed to drive away.

In another incident, driver of a pickup van was killed as the vehicle flipped over on him in Banshabaria area of Sitakunda upazila yesterday.

The driver -- Abdul Hamid, 48 -- got off the vehicle on a road, said police. Suddenly, it started moving and Hamid tried to stop it by putting bricks under the pickup's wheels. Eventually, the vehicle flipped over, they said.

Hamid was declared dead at Sitakunda Upazila Health Complex. Police are investigating the incident.

In Joypurhat, a motorcyclist was killed when a speeding truck hit the bike on Joypurhat-Santahar road in Tilakpur village of Akkelpur upazila on Friday evening.

Shahin Hossain, 31, from Malancha village in Naogaon, died on the spot.

**'Robber' shot dead by homeowner**

2 'cattle lifters' beaten to death

STAR REPORT

An alleged robber died and one of his associates was injured in an exchange of fire with a homeowner, while attempting to commit robbery at his house in Tongibari upazila of Munshiganj early yesterday.

The homeowner's son also suffered bullet injuries during the incident, said police, adding that they are yet to identify the deceased.

Talking to our Munshiganj correspondent, Shah Mohammad Awlad Hossain, officer-in-charge of Tongibari Police Station, said a group of eight to 10 robbers attempted to rob the house of Golam Kabir Labu Siddar, a freedom fighter, in Outshahi area around 1:30am.

"Golam's son Konu Shikdar, 35, engaged in a scuffle with the robbers when they broke into the house. At one stage, Golam opened fire with his licenced pistol. In retaliation,

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An abandoned newborn being taken care of by patients' attendants, nurses and doctors at Chittagong Medical College Hospital yesterday. The baby was admitted to the neurosurgery ward by a couple on Friday afternoon. Doctors say she is suffering from backbone and spinal cord problems. The couple, who introduced themselves as her parents, has not been found since evening on that day.