

WEATHER FORECAST



YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 27.9 L 14.0

MYMENSINGH H 27.0 L 14.0

CHATTOGRAM H 27.0 L 14.2

SYLHET H 29.8 L 17.7

RAJSHAHI H 26.8 L 8.2

RANGPUR H 27.5 L 11.7

KHULNA H 27.5 L 12.0

BARISHAL H 27.2 L 9.3

COX'S BAZAR H 28.2 L 15.8

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. Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the country during late night to morning. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:47pm and

JU authorities using CCTV to identify 'molester'

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities are using closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage to find a man who allegedly physically molested a female student on campus on January 22.

The incident took place inside the university's new arts and humanities building. The victim, a female student of the university was on the staircase with another female classmate, when a man came from behind. He hugged her and tried to touch her inappropriately, said the victim.

She has submitted a written complaint to the university authorities in this regard.

"The incident happened within 10 to 12 seconds. We also ran after him and screamed for help to catch him, but failed," she said, "How can someone dare to assault a female student in broad daylight on campus? If the culprit isn't punished, these incidents will never stop."

The written complaint has been handed over to anti-sexual harassment cell for further enquiry, said JU acting Proctor ASM Firoz Ul Hasan. "We have been trying our best to identify the man from CCTV footage and some still photos," he said.

"We have already filed a general diary with Ashulia Police Station and informed law enforcement agencies to help identify the culprit," he added.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during a photo session with high officials of police on the occasion of Police Week 2019 at her office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

2 journos jailed for entering exam centre without permission

STAR REPORT

A mobile court yesterday sentenced two journalists to one-month imprisonment each for entering an exam centre at Bhanga Government KM College in Faridpur without permission from the centre secretary.

They are Saifullah Shamim, Bhanga upazila correspondent of the daily Bhorer Dak and daily Alokito Bangladesh; and Rabiul Islam, upazila correspondent of the Daily Janata, reports our Faridpur correspondent.

The mobile court was conducted by UNO Muktadirul Ahmad.

"The deputy commissioner of Faridpur visited the centre around 11am and saw that the journalists were taking photos and speaking to the examinees inside an exam hall. She asked for their permission papers but they did not have any. So the mobile court handed down the punishment to them," he said.

Another mobile court in Madaripur fined two teachers Tk 20,000 each for running coaching centres defying a government ban after Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-8) detained them in the morning, reports our correspondent.

They are Jalal Uddin, assistant teacher of Kalkini Pilot Girls' High School, and Somotol Gayeen, assistant teacher of Syed Abul Hossain Academy.

Rois Uddin, company commander

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Stop dumping of industrial waste in waterbodies

Savar residents urge authorities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said that dumping of waste materials in rivers, canals and other waterbodies, in Savar -- by different industries including the newly relocated tanneries -- are causing severe pollution and posing health risks to residents.

The living conditions in Savar have deteriorated due to industrial pollution and indiscriminate waste dumping, they added, and urged authorities to take immediate steps to stop water and air pollution in the area.

Over 100 participants, mostly living in the Savar, participated in the discussion jointly organised by Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), rights organisation Nijera Kori, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and several local organisations from Savar including Nodi O Poribesh Unnyan Parishad (NoPUP) at Village Education Resource Centre.

Authorities are overlooking the pollution problem in Savar, speakers said, adding that indiscriminate

dumping of tannery waste is spreading toxic gas in adjacent areas.

On the other hand, the waste dumping zone set up at Aminbazar area beside Dhaka-Aricha highway -- where wastes from the City Corporation is dumped -- is also hampering the environment, they said.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bela said around 50 industries in Savar were polluting three rivers, fifteen canals and other waterbodies.

"Bela would go to court if the authorities do not solve the environmental problems of Savar," she also said.

Md Bosir Ullah, a resident of Savar's Shadhapur area, said, "Once we used to catch fish in Beel Baghil, one of the largest waterbodies in Savar. Now it is almost grabbed, and polluted water is spreading various diseases."

"We used to cultivate crops using water from this waterbody, but now we cannot use it as the water has become severely polluted," he added.

Abu Sayeed, a resident of Horindhara area said his family

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Abducted girl rescued, 1 held in Gournadi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Seven days into her abduction, a 12-year-old school-girl, was rescued by police on Monday night from Chandrahar bazar area in Gournadi upazila.

Police also arrested the abductor's accomplice Kaium Bepari, owner of a plumbing materials shop in the area, during a raid at his house in Chandrahar village of the upazila.

Police first arrested Kaium and rescued the girl from a location revealed by him during primary interrogation, said Mahabubur Rahman, investigation officer at Gournadi Police Station.

On February 2, the girl's father filed an abduction case against Kaium and Hero Chaprasi, the prime accused who is also an employee at Kaium's shop, with the police station.

The girl was sent to Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for tests and police were conducting raids to arrest prime accused Hero, said Golam Sorwar, officer-in-charge of the police station.

5 get life term for raping 2 sisters

STAR REPORT

A court in Narayanganj yesterday handed down life imprisonment to five persons for raping two sisters in 2010.

Narayanganj Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal Judge Mohammad Sheheen Uddin also directed the convicts to pay Tk 1 lakh each as compensation to the victims, reports our Narayanganj correspondent.

The sisters were raped by miscreants in Santinagar area of Sonargoan upazila on May 28, 2010. One of the victims filed a case accusing six persons the next day.

Of the accused, one was acquitted. The main accused, Sha Alam, 35, is in jail and four others are absconding. The acquitted is Nurul Islam.

Meanwhile in Noakhali, police yesterday arrested another female accused in a case filed over brutally torturing a 14-year-old girl. With this, five accused, including three women, were arrested, said police.

The teenager from Char Nongolia village under Hatia upazila went missing around four months ago. On Sunday night, police recovered her in a critical condition from Chattogram, reports our Noakhali correspondent.

She is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Her mother alleged that she went missing after one of their neighbours, Rina Akhter, also an arrestee, took her daughter away, promising a job.

Quoting the victim, the mother alleged that criminals tortured her and threw hot water and acid on her as she refused to follow their orders and work as a sex worker.

Later, they left her near Kalurghat bridge in Chattogram.

Her brother filed the case with Sudharam Police Station, said OC Anwar Hossain of the police station.



A felled tree stands precariously balanced on another tree in Jahangirnagar University's Murad Chatter area, right above the path that students often take. This potential pedestrian danger has been in place for about 10 days on the campus. Contacted yesterday, the registrar office said they plan to take it down as soon as possible.

PHOTO: MD ASADUZZAMAN

EVICION ON KARNAPHULI 30 structures knocked down on second day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram district administration demolished at least 30 structures along Karnaphuli River and another 40 structures were removed by grabbers on their own, on the second day of the eviction drive that was launched on Monday.

The bulldozed structures, at Mazirghat of Sadarghat area, included various types of warehouses where rice, salt, and sugar used to be stored.

Tahmilur Rahman, assistant commissioner (Land) of Patenga who is supervising the demolition, told The Daily Star that on the second day they pulled down 30 structures.

"The grabbers also removed their illegal structures on their own before the eviction drive. In total, 70 structures have been removed on the second day [yesterday] in Mazirghat area,"

Tahmilur added.

The High Court in 2012 ordered the district administration to conduct a survey to assess how much of Karnaphuli River was grabbed, and prepare a list of the illegal grabbers. After three years of survey, Chattogram district administration submitted the report which contained at least 2,109 illegal structures built on one bank of the river up till 2015.

On August 16, 2015, the HC again ordered the same authorities to demolish the settlements within six months, with three months' time given to grabbers to remove the structures on their own.

The authorities could not comply with the order apparently due to a fund crisis, which prevailed for the next three years. Finally, the land ministry provided the necessary funding, allowing the authorities to go ahead with the eviction.

Authorities launch eviction drive on Khulna canals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna City Corporation (KCC) and district administration yesterday started an eviction drive to free 22 encroached canals of the city, a day after city mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque visited the canals and gave directives to free the water-bodies.

The drive stated at around 11am from both sides of Gallamari bridge area, where many parts of the 'Mayur Nadi' canal were grabbed. Many concrete structures, a portion of a kitchen market and some houses were demolished.

Khulna district administration, KCC, Water Development Board (WDB), Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and settlement department are jointly implementing the drive.

Md Zakir Hossain, executive magistrate of the district administration, led the eviction drive in presence of Debashis Chowdhury, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Batiaghata and Khan Masum Billah, executive magistrate of KCC.

Known as the largest freshwater reservoir of KCC, Mayur Nadi used to flow from Daulatpur to Alutola. Now, the 12-km waterbody lies neglected with rotten aquatic plants and waste.

Mother returns to baby at CMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mother of a newborn baby girl -- who was left in Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) on February 1 -- yesterday returned to the hospital and claimed custody of the child.

Sharmin Akter, a readymade garment worker, appeared at the hospital's neurosurgery ward with her father and claimed that she is the mother of the baby, said Akterul Islam, deputy director of CMCH, adding, "We asked her to provide proof [of her claim] and questioned if she is indeed the mother, why she had left the baby."

"The woman said her husband left her some eight months ago when she became pregnant. She used to live in the city's Pahartoli area with some of

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Selfie with accused!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A sub-inspector of Chattogram district police has come under fire after an accused of a case took a selfie with him and posted it on Facebook.

The police official is also the case's investigation officer. The incident took place on Sunday at Hathazari upazila when SI Tofayel Ahmed of Hathazari Model Police Station went to meet the accused, Habibur Rahman, who is now out on bail, for investigation purposes.

"He [Habibur] took the photo unbeknownst to me," SI Tofayel told The Daily Star yesterday. "I learnt about it when he posted it on Facebook."

The SI, however, admitted that he knew Habibur for a long time.

According to police, one Towhidul Alam filed the case accusing Habibur and five others on charges of attempted murder, theft and other charges with the police station on December 28, 2018.

On Sunday, SI Tofayel went to Enayetpur Bazar in Monia Pukur Par area as part of the investigation.

The SI said, "Habibur is out on bail in the case. He is also a cousin of Towhidul. The complainant [Towhidul] and Habibur had a longstanding feud over a shop in the bazaar."

"A brawl took place between the two a few days back and Towhidul filed the case," he added. "I went to the area to talk to Habibur regarding the case. While talking inside a shop, he took the selfie and posted it without my consent."

Habibur could not be reached for comments.

Additional Superintendent of Police (North) Mosiuddowla Reza said they are looking into the matter and action will be taken against the SI, if he is found guilty.

4 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed and 15 others injured in road accidents across the country yesterday, report our correspondents.

In Sirajganj, local Awami League leader Abdul Jalil, 54, died in a hospital after being hit by a truck in Chariashikar area on Bogura-Nagarbari road of Ullahpara upazila, said Shahin Reza, sub-inspector of Hatikmural Highway Police Station.

In Gopalganj, two persons were killed and 15 others injured when the driver of a bus lost control and drove the vehicle into a roadside ditch on Gopalganj-Kotalipara road under Sadar upazila.

The deceased were identified as Nurul Islam, 40, and Momena Begum, 25, said Md Monirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

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An excavator ploughs through illegal structures along Mayur Nadi canal in the Gallamari Bridge area in Khulna, as people gather to watch in the distance.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY