

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 31.6 L 27.3	CHITTAGONG H 32.2 L 26.0	SYLHET H 30.0 L 23.6	RAJSHAHI H 31.7 L 26.0	KHULNA H 34.6 L 28.0	BARISAL H 32.2 L 25.5	RANGPUR H 29.2 L 24.0	COX'S BAZAR H 31.0 L 26.0
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Day and night temperatures may rise slightly over Rangpur division and it may remain nearly unchanged elsewhere over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:47pm and rises tomorrow at 05:11am. Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Mongla and lowest 23.0 in Mymensingh.

Safe food, iftar items demanded in Ramadan

DU CORRESPONDENT

All types of food including iftar items during Ramadan have to be free from adulteration, demanded some social and environmental organisations yesterday.

In this regard, they stressed effective implementation of the Safe Food Act, 2013 by the government.

At a human chain before the Faculty of Fine Arts of Dhaka University, Poribesh Bachao Andolon, Barsik, Jono Uddog, Green Mind Society, and Poribesh Unnayan Society made the demands.

The participants alleged that iftar items are fried in used and engine oil.

During the holy month of Ramadan, stale food items are ubiquitous, which can cause food poisoning, serious kidney and

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Rows of trucks illegally parked on a busy road seriously hamper traffic flow near Sayedabad bus terminal in the capital. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Secularism waning in Bangladesh

Seminar in memory of late National Professor Salahuddin told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In Bangladesh, where the mainstream language is Bangla, Muslims call water "Pani", a Sanskrit term, and Hindus use the Arabic word "Jol", a professor from West Bengal said yesterday, dwelling on the mixed culture of the Bangalee and secular history of the Indian subcontinent.

Prof Emanuel Haque of Bidhan Nagar Government College gave a slew of other instances making his point in a paper he presented at the three-day seminar titled "Dharmaniropekkhota O Samuhik Samajbikash" (Secularism and Collective Social Development).

Other speakers observed that secularism was losing ground in Bangladesh.

Inaugurating the seminar at Bangla Academy, Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman said the word secularism was not clearly defined in Bangladesh's constitution -- it neither referred to a "religion-less state" nor "state neutrality towards different religions".

Such debate does not help create a peaceful society with co-existence of all religions, he said.

The seminar was organised jointly by Bangla Academy, School of Liberal Arts and Social Studies at the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), and Mahmuda Khatun Siddiqua, Abdul Ahad O Hamida Khanam Smriti Parishad in memory of late National Professor AF Salahuddin Ahmed.

Talking about the weakness of the current education

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PROPOSED 8TH GOVT PAYSACLE Lower tier employees term it discriminatory

Vent disappointment about provision for doubling only officers' salaries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing deep grievance at the proposed 8th payscale at a press conference yesterday, government employees said virtually it would further deprive them financially let alone increase salaries compared to benefits offered to officers.

"It will just further widen the discrimination between employees and officers," said Md Hanif Bhuiyan, convener of Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Jatiya Oikya Forum that organised the press conference at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

It is absolutely an erroneous statement disseminated in the public domain that the scale will double salaries of all public servants, he said.

"The new payscale will double the salaries of only officers while 90 percent of the class III and IV employees, who constitute 80 percent of all public servants, will have no benefit," he said.

He demanded that the government immediately reviews the scale by June 21 keeping Tk 16,000 instead of the

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Road crash deaths elicit little public reaction

Seminar on prevention told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to high frequency of road accidents in the country, around 15 to 20 persons die every day, but it elicits little reaction from the public, said speakers at a seminar on prevention of road accidents yesterday.

They added that the civil society protests when a celebrity or an important person dies in a road accident, but it does not raise its voice when ordinary people die.

National Unity for Prevention of Road Accidents organised the seminar at the Central Public Library in the capital.

"Almost all families in the country are somehow affected by road crashes," said

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Dhaka gifts 2 elephants to Cyprus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has sent two elephants as a gift to Cyprus yesterday.

Five-year-old Bano Rani and seven-year-old Sona Rani were flown to Cyprus on a cargo plane of Etihad Airways from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the afternoon, Faisal Talukder, veterinary surgeon of Dhaka's Central Veterinary Hospital, told The Daily Star yesterday.

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