

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA H 32.5 L 23.6	CHITTAGONG H 33.2 L 23.8	SYLHET H 32.7 L 23.4	RAJSHAHI H 31.6 L 23.7	KHULNA H 34.2 L 25.2	BARISAL H 33.1 L 24.2	RANGPUR H 32.2 L 24.6	COX'S BAZAR H 32.8 L 24.2
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Rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country till 6:00pm today. Light fog may occur at places over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:26pm and rises on tomorrow at 6:00am.

WILL IT EVER END



OCTOBER 4, 2015



OCTOBER 22, 2015

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

The footpaths in front of the emergency gate of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) are again filled with illegal shops, right, yesterday. The Dhaka South City Corporation evicted the hawkers only on October 4, left, two days after The Daily Star had published a photo of the shops but they were back in business a few days later. Three months ago, on June 24, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) also evicted them, to no avail -- they set up their shops within a few hours. In April last year, they even clashed with DMCH security guards during yet another demolition drive. There are allegations that the hawkers keep on occupying the place because of their links to politically influential people.

Cops claim crimes halved in Dhaka district in a year

136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka March 2017

Based on recorded cases; 'success' attributed to tele-policing; expert calls it inconclusive

RASHAD AHAMAD, Savar

The number of recorded cases in Dhaka district has nearly halved in the last one year, a "success" which police attributed to a new initiative known as tele-policing.

However, a criminology professor of Dhaka University (DU) doubted their "achievement", saying police often were unwilling to register cases.

Data show that 2,683 cases were filed from January to September in 2014 but the figure dropped to 1,441 in the corresponding period this year.

Police officials said not only did the recorded crimes fall but the total law order situation had improved because of the initiative under which people can directly report a crime to police by phone.

Md Habibur Rahman, superintendent of police (SP) in Dhaka

district, said tele-policing kept them close to people of different walks of life.

It is part of community policing, he said, adding that under the new initiative police arbitrated in disputes, took more preventive measures, and made quick responses to people's concerns.

"Police are directly communicating with people avoiding middleman or brokers -- we distributed visiting cards, academic calendars, class schedules where people can get the phone numbers of police high officials," he said.

They also have an easy access to police stations, he added.

The official said now people from different places informed them over the phone about the law and order situation in their areas.

In non-cognisable offences, police call both parties and settle

their disputes, he said.

Early this month, Savar police mediated in a land dispute between two businessmen in Hemayetpur.

Giasuddin, a transport businessman and one of the two parties, said he had a dispute over the purchase of 11 decimals from Lal Chan Mia.

But when he went to sue Chan Mia, police took a complaint instead of a case and mediated in the dispute, saying a case would drag along for at least two years and affect both of them financially.

The SP, Habibur Rahman, said, "The most important thing about tele-policing is the trust of people; if the community people do not trust police, nothing is possible."

He said police officials were asked to earn people's trust through their activities and behaviour.

When police highlight their "success", Prof Zia Rahman, founding chairman of the criminology

department at DU, said that in many countries, recorded crimes reflected the law and order situation but "we have to remember our police have the practice of refusing to register cases."

"If police are not underreporting, that is good and that is an indicator of the professional development of the force," he said.

Drawing on his experience, an inspector of Ashulia Police Station, who wished anonymity, said police used to coax people into filing cases in the past but now if a case was lodged, police officials had to face questions from the higher authorities about whether the dispute could have been settled otherwise.

Mohammad Rasel Sheikh, senior assistant superintendent of police at Savar Model Police Station, gave an idea of how the situation improved in the area. Formerly eight teams of police used to patrol at night, which

now increased to 20, he said.

He said it became possible because the fall in recorded crimes saved police much time. "It's true the number of police personnel is insufficient but the few of them are ensuring security because they do not have the pressure of case investigation in Savar Model Police Station," he said.

"Traditionally we saw police took action after the incident occurred but now we are acting before an incident happens."

For example, he said, about 300 Bede youths, who used to be involved in drug trading in Savar, were rehabilitated in driving, tailoring, and garment sectors.

Prof Zia Rahman said that in mediation police must get the consent of both parties.

In Dhaka district, there are seven police stations -- Savar, Ashulia, Dhamrai, Keraniganj,

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), a global organisation of parliaments, announced hosting the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka in March 2017.

IPU President Saber Chowdhury, an MP from Bangladesh, conveyed this to delegates attending an IPU Assembly in Geneva. Deputy Speaker Advocate Fazle Rabbi Miah is leading the Bangladesh delegation, says a press release from Geneva yesterday.

Russian and Israeli parliaments expressed strong interest to be the host but IPU Governing Council opted for Bangladesh. Lusaka, Zambia will be hosting the one in March 2016. An IPU team from its Geneva headquarters is expected to visit Bangladesh in the next few months to review facilities and logistics and also sign a host country agreement with the parliament. IPU has 167 member parliaments comprising over 45,000 lawmakers.

Girl raped in Keraniganj

UNB, Dhaka

A 16-year-old girl was raped by a man in Madaripur of Keraniganj on Wednesday.

Victim's father filed a case against Nazmul Jahan Ripon, supposedly a political activist, with Keraniganj Model Police Station. Ripon picked up the girl from Madinanagar area at gunpoint on Wednesday afternoon and took her to a house, according to the case statement. Locals spotted the girl lying on the roadside on Thursday morning and informed her father. Later, the victim's father took her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

What to do?

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breakers, sometimes built by the locals to prevent accidents, are often the cause of accidents.

Though DNCC started building a speed bump on the road, its officials could not be contacted immediately to know whether the location was appropriate for building one.

A DREAM SHATTERED

A meritorious student and the eldest of three siblings, Sharmin had made her parents dream big. She achieved GPA 5 in all subjects in the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination this year and was waiting to enrol in a graduate programme.

"She dreamt to be a teacher," said her father Sham Mia, a retired sergeant of Bangladesh Army.

But the scourge of road accidents that shatters the dreams of countless families in the country every year struck hers too.

The accident took place around 12:30pm on Wednesday, and the 18-year-old, who got married last year, succumbed to injuries in the evening at Dhaka Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

She was going to Government Titumir College to complete the admission process.

Meanwhile, police could neither detect the vehicle nor arrest the driver yet. A case was filed on Wednesday night against unnamed persons, said police.

Sharmin was buried at a local graveyard.

Most building designs

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tall buildings designed for situations when evacuation may not be safe or possible, and the required number of escape doors at garment factories as per Bangladesh National Building Code and Building Construction Rules.

There were 12 firefighting stations in the capital after Bangladesh gained independence and only one was established in the over four decades afterwards though the population multiplied many times, he said pointing at the fire department's inadequacy.

Mohammad Abu Sadeque, director of House Building Research Institute, said \$1 spent for any disaster preparedness would save \$10-worth damage.

In Dhaka city's case, he said more people would be killed in gas explosion fires than in building collapses during earthquakes and so gas transmission and supply pipeline joints should be made flexible.

Simple awareness messages on disaster preparedness should be disseminated in school curriculums, he said.

The club along with the fire service and Bangladesh Scouts launched a five-year awareness programme for disaster safety.

Senior Secretary to home affairs Md Mozammel Haque Khan, the fire service Director General Brig Gen Ali Ahmad Khan and retired civil engineering professor Shamim Z Bosunia also spoke.



President Abdul Hamid yesterday exchanges greetings and pleasantries during a reception to the members of the Hindu community at Bangabhaban in the capital on the occasion of Durga Puja.

PHOTO: PID



An exhibition of bonsai trees underway in the capital's WVA auditorium yesterday. Organised by the Bangladesh Bonsai Society, it will remain open for visitors till October 25.

PHOTO: STAR

Religion belongs to communities but festival

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Here the people of all religions are practicing their respective religious rituals and social programmes peacefully and amid fanfare," he said.

Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Pankaj Saran and Nepalese Ambassador Hari Kumar Shrestha also joined the reception.

Fines for illegal parking, speeding

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speeding.

"I am delighted to see the numbers of people present; if we remain disciplined and united, I believe, we will be able to make our roads safer and death-free," said Illias Kanchan, chairman of the organisation, which observes October 22 as "National Safe Road Day" at the Central Shaheed Minar. Kanchan started the movement, "We Demand Safe Road" after death of his wife Jahanara Kanchan in a road accident 22 years ago.

They call off hunger strike

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preferred facilities and seek relatives' assistance in hiring lawyers to seek revision of the El Paso immigration judges' "final removal order" on them.

However, conditions of the release were that, by today, they had to have some ID card, legal documents or passport authenticated by the embassy; credible sponsors; and those having participated in the hunger strike had to be physically fit.

The US authorities also demanded that all detainees be issued travel documents and "removal" of these illegals back to Bangladesh on a special chartered flight and threatened bringing special charges if the hunger strike continued.

The papers were scheduled to be available by yesterday and many provided names of sponsors while Shamsul managed others calling up Bangladesh community leaders. The ICE will verify the sponsors' status by today.