

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES

DHAKA
H 27.0 L 14.2

CHITTAGONG
H 26.4 L 14.0

SYLHET
H 28.2 L 13.9

RAJSHAHI
H 26.8 L 11.2

KHULNA
H 26.8 L 13.0

BARISAL
H 27.3 L 12.8

RANGPUR
H 25.8 L 12.0

COX'S BAZAR
H 28.2 L 14.6

Moderate to thick fog may occur at places over the river basins in the country. Night and day temperatures may remain nearly unchanged. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:24pm and rises tomorrow at 6:42am. Country's highest temperature 28.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 08.9 in Sreemangal.

Ershad sees JP's image crisis as opposition party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said the party's "image crisis" barred people and the media from thinking of it as the opposition party while it was one of the two reasons for which it could not do well in the December 30 municipality polls.

"We do not have organisational activities in all areas of the country," he said referring to the second reason for only one of the 73 JP-backed mayoral candidates winning the election.

Addressing JP's 31st founding anniversary in the capital's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, he, however, claimed the election was not held in a free and fair manner as JP-nominated candidates were intimidated in many

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For flower cultivators, winter is an auspicious season. This period is replete with social and national occasions like weddings and Victory Day celebrations when the demand for flowers shoots up. Flowers also grow bigger in winter, hence selling for a good price. In other parts of the year, 100 roses sell for Tk 150-200 while in winter it is as high as Tk 700-800, said Sanjoy Kumar, a farmer of Sadullapur village in Savar, outside the capital. MMA Salam, senior agriculture officer of Savar Upazila, said a cultivation boom happened in Savar in 2001. He said 1,500 people now grew flowers in 250 hectares of land in villages including Jirabo, Ashulia, Pathalia, Nobinagar, Sadhapur, Banktown, and Hemayetpur. Farmers said they cultivated 10-12 species including rose, gladiolus, and marigold. The photos were taken in Sadullapur village last week.

PHOTO: RASHAD AHAMAD



Two cable TV operators shot in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Miscrants shot two cable TV operators in the capital's Mirpur last night allegedly for dispute over business in the area.

Nur Mohammad alias Bijoy, 22, and Mohammad Abbas, 28, both are employees of Star Cable Network at Pirebagh in Mirpur, were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Nur was shot in the abdomen while Abbas in the left hand, said Assistant Sub-inspector Sentu Chandra Das of DMCH Police Camp.

Sentu said four to five men stormed into the spot and shot them while they were working beside a road.

Rehabilitate beggars

Prime minister asks social welfare ministry

UNB, Dhaka

Termining begging disgraceful, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the social welfare ministry to take steps for the rehabilitation of those living in the streets, buses, trains, railway stations and such other places, and put an end to begging across the country.

"The government will provide housing for those engaged in begging along with providing scope for employment for their livelihood. But, they won't be allowed to engage in begging... we'll have to take steps in this regard," she said.

The prime minister was speaking at a programme marking the National Social Services Day and Social Services Week 2016 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

The ministry's Department of Social Services organised the programme with State Minister Advocate Promod Mankin in the chair. Hasina regretted that begging has become a profession for some people. "They

(beggars) have leaders, they usually give a portion of their earned money to their leaders... these people engage in begging although we rehabilitate them."

"Whenever you see these people, you will take measures at once to rehabilitate them," the prime minister asked the ministry.

She also directed the authorities concerned to find out from which villages these beggars have come and where they live in. "If they do not have any homes to live in, the government will provide them with houses...we will give them loans for rehabilitation, if needed. We will give them food for six months," she said.

Hasina said the government would do all these things so that these people could earn their livelihoods. Earlier, the prime minister provided books in braille to two visually impaired students and prizes among some successful students of Shishu Palli.

Later, she enjoyed a colourful cultural function performed by children of Shishu Palli.

Two killed, 10 injured in road crashes

CITY DESK

A person was killed and 10 others were injured when a bus turned turtle as the driver lost control over the vehicle on Magura-Jessore road in Textile Mills area of Magura Sadar yesterday morning.

The deceased was Rakibul Islam, 28, of Umedpur village. He was a field officer of Markentile Bank.

Meanwhile BSS reports, Babu Rai Hemrom, 45, of Habibpur village was killed when he fell on the road from a running human-hauler in Ambari area of Parbatipur upazila in Dinajpur yesterday morning.

Poverty down, not inequality

CPD Executive Director Dr Mustafizur tells symposium

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Economic initiatives helped reduce poverty in Bangladesh but inequality could not be reduced as the two different concepts should be addressed in different ways, said Dr Mustafizur Rahman, executive director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), yesterday.

"Eliminating inequality from society is a big challenge. We need to find a solution to reduce it," he said while moderating a symposium, "Law, Inequality and Impoverishment", organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (Bilia) on its premises in the capital.

Laws can address certain micro issues but they are not adequate for solving problems



of inequality and impoverishment, elements actually affected by political power and economic issues, said Bilia Honorary Director Dr Shahdeen Malik.

The inequality cannot be removed from society if there is prevalence of corruption, which, although being ignored, should be addressed, said Dhaka Law Report Editor Khurshid Alam Khan.

Dr Mostafa Haider, resident fellow, The Institute for Law and Policy, Harvard Law School, and Synthia Farid, doctoral candidate, University of Wilkinson Law School, USA, presented their research papers, "How Solving Global Poverty Legalises Radical Inequality" and "Rights to the City: A familiar Face of Deprivation", respectively.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over textbooks in braille to a visually impaired child at a programme organised by the Department of Social Services of the social welfare ministry at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday marking National Social Services Day and Social Services Week 2016.

PHOTO: BSS

BFUJ worried at job cuts in media houses

UNB, Dhaka

A faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) yesterday expressed deep concern over job cuts in various media houses, including The Independent and The Daily Inqilab.

In a statement, the faction's President Altaf Mahmud and its Secretary General Omar Faruk said journalists in the two media houses are being terminated indiscriminately without being shown any reason even though the owners avail themselves of all government facilities.

They urged the authorities concerned to stop such job cuts, pay salaries and other benefits regularly and give appointment letters to all journalists

Anti-terrorism campaign starts

Jamiatul Ulama collecting signatures of 1 lakh clerics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A campaign to collect signatures of one lakh Muslim clerics in favour of a fatwa against terrorism in the name of Islam started in the capital yesterday.

The campaign was launched by Bangladesh Jamiatul Ulama at Jamia Iqra in Khilgaon-Chowdhurypara area.

The fatwa, issued by different religious institutions, declared that Islam has no link to terrorism being committed at home and abroad.

A consultative meeting to decide on a strategy to combat terrorism was also held

there with Maulana Farid Uddin Masud, chairman of Jamiatul Ulama and imam of Sholakia Eid congregation, in the chair, says a press release.

Addressing the meeting, Maulana Masud said, Allah willing, the collection of signatures of one lakh clerics during the anti-terrorism campaign would prove that the ulama of the country were against terrorism.

More than 500 clerics signed on the inaugural day. Mufti Abul Quasem, Maulana Hussain Ahmed, Dr Mushtaque Ahmad, Maulana Yahya Mahmud

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Terrible toilets at JU

Lack of maintenance, repair work blamed

JU CORRESPONDENT

Sanitation facilities at Jahangirnagar University are in a terrible condition, particularly those for females, due to lack of proper maintenance and repair works.

The Daily Star found most of the toilets in different dormitories, at the Teacher Student Centre, medical centre, Zahir Raihan Auditorium, registrar building and other areas to be in a bad condition. Many of the doors were broken and the toilets dirty, smelly and damaged.

Not only students, visitors coming to the university also suffer due to bad sanitation facilities. Female visitors suffer even more as there are no separate toilet facilities for the public at the university.



the Bottala area of the university by the authorities. However, the toilets are now almost unusable due to lack of proper maintenance.

"Poor condition of toilets in the university adversely affects our health. Yet the authorities seem indifferent to the problem," said Hassan Al Mahmud, a second year students of anthropology.

Dr Mozeza Zohura, acting medical officer, said they have started repairing the toilets at the medical centre.

She, however, said poor sanitation has been causing health problems for the students.

Director of Teacher Student Centre Prof Khabir Uddin said they would hold a meeting with the vice-chancellor in this regard very soon.

Govt to set up domestic animal hospital in capital

BSS, Ctg

Housing and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain yesterday said that the government would set up a hospital for domestic animals in the capital.

"Necessary land would be provided for setting up the lone hospital for domestic animals in the country which would be set up in the capital's Purbachol area under the supervision and management of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU)", the minister said.

He came up with the declaration while addressing the two-day orientation programme at CVASU yesterday.

The minister also said the government would disburse loans among farm owners at only five percent interest rate for growth in cattle production.

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"ব্যঙ্গ-সৃষ্টিতে অসাধারণ প্রতিভার প্রয়োজন। ... বন্ধু আবুল মনসুরের হাত-সাফাই দেখে বিস্মিত হলাম। ভাষার কান মলে রস সৃষ্টির ক্ষমতা আবুল মনসুরের অসাধারণ। এ যেন পাকা গুস্তাদী হাত।"

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আজিজ সুপার মার্কেট, শাহবাগ: প্রথমা (৯৬৬৪৮২৫), পাঠক সমাবেশ (০১৯১৩০৩৪৪০)
কাটাঘাট: প্রকৃতি (০১৯২৭৩২৮৭২৩), বেইলি রোড: সাগর পাবলিশার্স (৯৩৫৮৯৪৪)
বিমান বন্দর: বুক ওয়ার্ম (৯১২০৩৮৭)। নরসিংদী: বই পুস্তক (০১৮১৮৫৩৪৮৯৩)
কুষ্টিয়া: বইমেলা (০১৯১১ ৫৭৫৬০৬)।
চট্টগ্রাম: বাতিঘর (০১৯১৩০৪৩৪৪), প্রথমা (০১৯১১৬৪৯৪২২)