

WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	KHULNA	BARISAL	RANGPUR	COX'S BAZAR
	H 26.6 L 17.0	H 29.2 L 17.2	H 27.3 L 14.4	H 24.7 L 11.5	H 26.8 L 17.3	H 26.7 L 15.2	H 24.7 L 09.5	H 30.0 L 18.6

Mild cold wave sweeping over Rangpur division and Sreemangal may continue and spread to adjacent areas. Night temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:47pm and rises tomorrow at 6:38am. Country's highest temperature 30.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Sitakunda and lowest 08.3 in Dinajpur.

Rajuk drive frees more parking lots

Fines four buildings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Rajuk eviction team cleared the parking lots, illegally occupied for other purposes, in four commercial buildings on Mirpur road in the capital yesterday as part of its ongoing eviction drive.

The team led by Rajuk Executive Magistrate Md Nasir Uddin also fined the building owners a total of Tk 7 lakh for defying the approved building plan and using the designated parking spaces for business purposes, said AZM Shafiq Hannan, a Rajuk official.

The establishments fined included a private hospital, a building and two electronic products showrooms, the official added.

Rajuk following a housing ministry decision launched the drive simultaneously in Gulshan, Dhanmondi and Uttara on

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A woman being taken to a mobile court, inset, of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, by which she was fined for jaywalking in the capital's Bangla Motor area yesterday. The court jailed one person and fined 81 others between Tk 20 and Tk 200 each for such offences.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Stopping jaywalking turns out to be a difficult proposition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Minutes after a mobile court penalised scores of jaywalkers at the capital's Bangla Motor intersection, people were seen crossing the busy street, violating traffic rules yesterday.

It happened despite the presence of executive magistrates and officials of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's traffic division, and a footbridge located just above the intersection.

People were seen crossing the street amid fast-moving traffic on the busy Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.

The move came amid authority's repeated initiatives to stop jaywalking and aware dwellers to use footbridges.

Mohammad Moshir Rahman, executive magistrate of Dhaka metropolitan area, said the mobile court continued from 10:30am to 1:30pm and jailed a person for one week and realised Tk 11,118 from 81 others for various offences.

The jailed person, Mohsin, was given punishment for obstructing the government's duty, added Moshir.

"We fined the offenders between Tk 20 to 200 and warned jaywalkers not to violate traffic rules," he said.

Just after the end of the court, several were seen hurriedly crossing the street; Biplab, a private company employee at Eskaton area, was one of them.

This correspondent bumped into him near the police box at the intersection. Asked why he was violating the rule, he said he was in a hurry.

Another one said, seeing the stop signal, he took a chance to cross the road. The mobile court warned both of them

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Groom students as good citizens

PM urges teachers

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged teachers to pay special attention to their students so that they become good human beings and stay away from drug addiction and terrorist acts.

The prime minister said this while inaugurating the National Primary Education Week 2016 at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital.

Sheikh Hasina renewed her hope that Bangladesh will be freed from illiteracy soon, and attain hundred percent literacy rate.

"The country's literacy rate is now 71 percent due to the various steps of our government. Insha Allah, Bangladesh will soon be freed from illiteracy," she said.

The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education organised the programme with its Minister Mostafizur Rahman in the chair.

The prime minister handed over the National Primary Education Medal-2015 to 19 selected recipients as well as distributed awards of the Inter-Primary School Cultural Competition-2015 in seven categories and Inter-Primary Sports Competition-2015 in seven categories among the recipients.

Hasina called upon the teachers to take good care of all students so that they could become good human beings and citizens imbued with the spirit of the Liberation War and patriotism, and could know the real war history and move ahead with ideals on the right path.

"We don't want the children and students to get derailed and go to the wrong path like getting addicted to drug or militant act," she added.

She called upon all, including school committees, guardians and the well off section of society, to form funds

Bereaved but unvanquished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

She lost her husband only three months ago, reportedly to the wrath of extremists. But Razia Rahman, the wife of slain publisher Arefin Dipan, has courageously taken over his job.

Dipan, the owner of Jagriti Prokashani, was hacked to death inside his office at the capital's Aziz Supermarket on October 31 last year.

He was reportedly a victim of the religious extremists for publishing secular books.

Visiting the Ekushey book fair, the correspondent found Razia at the stall of Jagriti, overseeing all activities.

This year Jagriti brings out 19 books including poetry and novels. "A commemorative book on Dipan will be published," she said.

Jagriti used to publish 70 to 80 books annually earlier. On the fateful day, Dipan was found dead in a pool of blood on his office floor.

At the time of the killing, he had been proofreading a manuscript. The manuscript was stained with blood. Blood also spattered to the penholder and a jute sack beneath the table.

The manuscript, penholder and



sack were displayed at the stall.

Dipan's father Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Huq, who found his son dead first, attended the stall.

Meanwhile, on the fourth day of the fair, 93 new books were published.

A discussion on Bangla Academy's 60th anniversary was held, in which Prof Monsur Musa, Dr Bhuiyan Iqbal, and Dr Aminur Rahman Sultan spoke.

Dr Moniruzzaman presided over the discussion.

Speakers said it would be a big challenge for the academy to involve the future generation in practicing Bangla literature.

The fair will open at 11:00am today, with the first two hours till 1:00pm declared as children's hours to facilitate young readers to visit stalls and buy books.

A drawing competition will also be held on the premises of Bangla Academy at 8:30am.



8 MYMENSINGH WAR CRIMES ACCUSED JP lawmaker, son denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday denied bail to Jatiya Party lawmaker MA Hannan and his son Rafique Sajjad who are among eight Mymensingh men accused in a case over war crimes committed during the 1971 Liberation War.

Meanwhile, the tribunal directed prosecutors to submit an investigation report, if there were any, on April 4 in another case centring allegations of 1971 war crimes against eight Jamalpur and Mymensingh men.

BAIL DENIAL

Reasoning that investigations were ongoing, the three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque also directed the jail authorities to provide them necessary healthcare, Prosecutor Rezia Sultana Chaman told The Daily Star.

The duo's counsels, in the January 25 bail petition reasoned that Hannan was aged and, as a sitting lawmaker wanted to take part in an ongoing parliament session while the duo were not mentioned in the primary charges. Prosecutors opposed it.

Hannan is the alleged general secretary of Mymensingh district Peace Committee and a lawmaker of Mymensingh-7 constituency.

He and Rafique were arrested along with Khondakar Golam Sabbir Ahmed, Mizanur Rahman Mintu and

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Recipients of National Primary Education Medal-2015 with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital yesterday while she inaugurated the National Primary Education Week-2016. The Ministry of Primary and Mass Education organised the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

Errant owners of vehicles will be penalised

Says Obaidul Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alongside workers, transport owners will face punishment for legal violations from now on, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said yesterday, citing from a newly drafted law styled Road Transport Act.

He also said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would inaugurate the construction work of the metro rail project in the capital in the last week of March.

The minister was talking to reporters during a mobile court drive of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, which was going on in the capital's Agargaon area, against the CNG-run auto-rickshaws that do not use meters to charge fares.

Quader said, "As per the existing laws, only transport workers are punished for violating rules."

Giving an example, an official of the ministry told The Daily Star that owners would face punishment if accidents occurred because of unfit vehicles and unskilled drivers.

The minister said the law had been drafted and put forward for suggestions from stakeholders. "We will try to place the bill in parliament in the ongoing session. If we can't, we will do it in the next session."

Transport owners welcomed the decision but feared that owners might be harassed.

"We will surely obey the rules like maintaining vehicles' fitness, appointing skilled drivers, and giving training to drivers. But if an accident occurs due to the engineering fault of roads, who will be responsible then?" asked Faruk Talukder Sohel, managing director of

Sohag Paribahan Pvt Ltd, talking to The Daily Star.

Romesh Chandra Ghosh, managing director of Shyamoli Paribahan Ltd, added, "If any government official issues a licence to an unskilled driver through underhand dealings, the official should be brought to book."

About traffic congestion in the capital, the minister reiterated that the new law would have a provision limiting the number of private cars a family could own.

He said several lakh small and unfit vehicles run in the capital, and these could not be removed from the streets overnight. Besides, freeing footpaths from illegal structures is a major prerequisite to ease traffic jams, he added.

About the metro rail, Quader said

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